

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19th, 2026

Service Music: ELW, Setting 8 (ELW, page 184)

Year A, Lectionary 16 (ELW, page 42)



It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God and look to God for mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: We confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. **C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 399 *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life*

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -
 2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you
 3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -

a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
 free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
 com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
 wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
 cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

GREETING

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

C: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A: Christ is in our midst.

C: He is and ever shall be.

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

This Little Light of Mine

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;

let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 86:11-17 (*read responsively with refrain*)



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore. [R]**

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes. [R]**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your
servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see
it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me
and comforted me. **[R]**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that

very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to **St. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 693 Come Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

APOSTLES' CREED

A: In prayer and devotion, we confess our faith with the whole church.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share the peace of Christ with one another by shaking hands or with a word or sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A: God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us.
God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all.
God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. Bring peace in war-torn areas, especially **Ukraine, Venezuela, Iran and the surrounding region.** Keep safe those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony, Chris, Eli, Nathan, and Tyler.**

A: God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. We pray for those in our congregation*. We also pray for friends and family of our congregation, especially **Amanda, Annette & Rick, Brenda, Donna, Drew, Emmett, Hattie, Jason, Karen, Lylah, Mark, Michelle, Pat,**

Phil, Sloane, Stacy, Steve, and Wally.

God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters.

God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. We give you thanks for the saints who have passed, especially **Mary Magdalene, Birgitt, and James**, whom we commemorate** this week.

God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

A. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**See page 19 for congregational members.*

***See page 16 for commemorations.*

OFFERING

your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: ELW 185 Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me

with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,

and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

COMMEMORATION

With the church around the world, we will celebrate the feast day of St. James the Apostle on Saturday, July 25th. The Christian Education Committee will host our celebration at the pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park in Bettendorf. St. James' feast day is held on July 25th because he was martyred on this date in the year 44 AD.

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his martyrdom is the only one of the twelve apostles recorded in Holy Scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

This celebration will be in place of our usual Saturday Service. We will casually gather around 5:30 p.m. and convene with a service at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck to follow. Contact Justina Pessein with questions at (563)940-3782.

SENDING

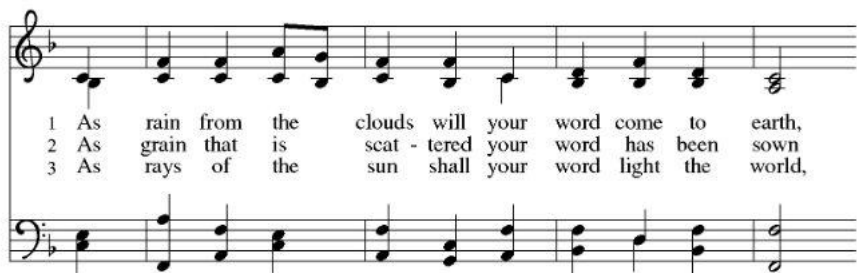
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

TEMPLE TALK

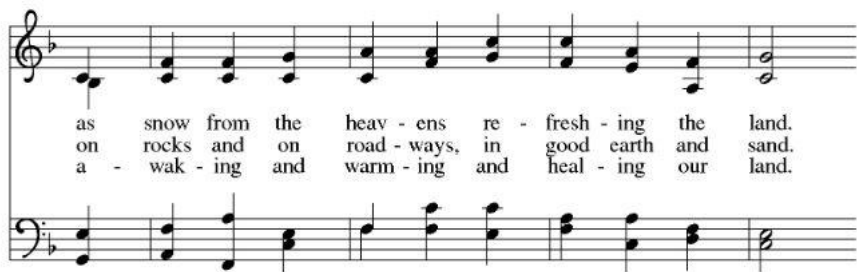
SENDING BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **C: Amen.**

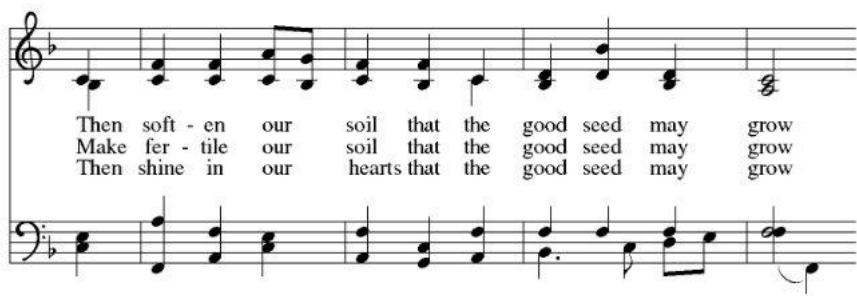
SENDING HYMN: ELW 508



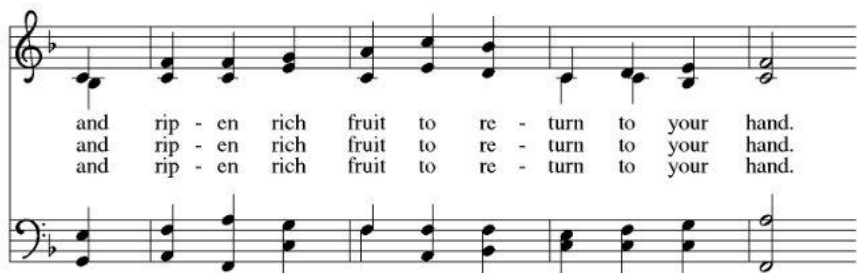
1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.

We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,

for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

7/29 Bert Leder Celebration of Life at 11AM - There will be a dessert reception immediately following.

Attendance last week:

Saturday: 25 Sunday: 55 YouTube: 5 Total: 85

Year to Date Financial Summary:

Contributions: \$113,904.39 Spending: \$105,000.87 Balance: \$8,903.52

Birthdays this week: There are no birthdays this week.

Anniversaries this week: 7/22 Erik & Joleen Bakken

Flowers this week: The flowers today are given by Erik & Joleen Bakken

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

YouTube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjqnGF4g_QWtn_I2SqPL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS:

Mary Magdalene, Apostle. Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

Worship Assistants

July 19

Guest Speaker
Assisting Minister
Reader
Music Minister
Ushers
Altar Guild

9:00 AM Worship

Madeleine Schmidt
Ellen Hogbin
Angie Schmidt
Steve Abel
Pat Larson & Shirley Richlen
Shirley Richlen & Judie Brooks

July 26

Presider
Assisting Minister
Reader
Acolyte
Organist
Ushers
Altar Guild

9:00 AM Worship

Vicar Bryce Hewlett, SAM
Justina Pessein
Kaylee Pessein
Eli Pessein
Linda Gross
Ron Mekalson & Kelly Crooks
Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Jesus said, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' Matthew 9:13

During the month of July, come explore two significant statements on social teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). These gatherings will review the documents and provide time for reflection and conversation. Our goal is to deepen our understanding of these issues and how countless lives are impacted by them, so we can more deeply learn mercy and compassion for ourselves and our neighbors.

Copies of these statements can be found online and in the Connections Corner in the Narthex.

Monday, July 6th at 6:00 p.m. - *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (c. 2009, updated 2025)

Monday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m. - *Abortion* (c. 1991)

Trusting God to Meet us in the Hard Work of Discernment

The ELCA teaches that faith is active in love (Gal. 5:6), and love seeks justice in public relationships and social structures (Amos 5:24). In grateful response to God's grace, our church supports members' daily vocations, encourages learning and moral discernment, develops social teaching and policy, and bears public witness. In these efforts the ELCA seeks God's guidance amid the ambiguity of social life. We seek to welcome diverse gifts and perspectives in using resources that help us to talk and act well together.

Social teaching is our church's official teaching and policy. It also provides guidance for moral discernment and action for individuals in the ELCA. These statements address significant social issues (such as racism or genetics) and institutions (such as healthcare or economic life) and are adopted by a two-thirds Churchwide Assembly vote.

SUMMER FUN IN THE PARK

Saturday July 25th 5:30-10:00 p.m. St. James' Feast Day Celebration at Veterans Memorial Park

Join us for a Potluck to Celebrate our Church's namesake!

In place of Saturday Service.

Service at 6:00 p.m. / Potluck at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Justina Pessein with questions at (563)940-3782.

Wednesday, July 29th - Young Adult Gathering 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Gathering will be held at Devil's Glenn Park, Shelter 3, Bettendorf. Join us for a potluck followed by a short time of prayer and worship! Contact the office at 563-355-4161 for more details.

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Bev** Chappen, **Maxine** Duhm, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **Jeryl** Krumbholz, **Jim** Krumbholz,
LaVonne Mienke, **Shirley** Niewald

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), **Annette & Rick** (Steve & Sue Miller & Pat Sorenson's sister & brother-in-law), **Brenda** (Friend of Janene Anderson), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister), **Jason** (Sherry Germanio's son), **Karen** (Shirley's Aunt), **Larry** (family of Doug Larson), **Lylah** (friend of Noa), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari), **Michelle** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Pat** (Judy Larson's Sister-in-Law), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Sloane** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Stacy** (Fritz' son's cousin), **Steve** (friend of Pat Larson), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
LT. Chris Tribble USN (Erik & Joleen Bakken's friend).
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler McLaughlin, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

July / August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9AM Worship 10AM Council Mtg.		1PM Sarah Circle	6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC		5:30PM St. James' Feast Day Celebration @ Veterans Memorial Park
Bryce at Wartburg						
26	27	28	29	30	31	8/1
9AM Worship	6PM Adult Ed. Social Statement	No Quilting	11AM Bert Leder Celebration of Life 6-8PM Food Pantry 6-8PM Young Adult Gathering Deville's Glenn Park, Shelter 3	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Worship
8/2	8/3	8/4	8/5	8/6	8/7	8/8
9AM Worship	4PM Social Ministry Mtg.		6-8PM Food Pantry	11AM Service at BHCC 9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Worship
8/9	8/10	8/11	8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15
9AM Worship		4PM Property Mtg.	6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Worship