## St. James Lutheran Church Sixth Week of Pentecost July 20, 2025



#### St. James Lutheran Church

Presiding Minister: Bryce Hewlett, SAM Assistant Minister: Shirley Richlen

Reader: Diana Worley Acolyte: Dex Hewlett

Music Minister: Steve Abel

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Website: www.stjamesbett.com

#### **WELCOME!**

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

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider.

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

P: In the name of the Father, and of the 

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You may find a simple prayer helpful, such as: "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Lord, you see all things. I open my heart to you."

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,

and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life. Amen.

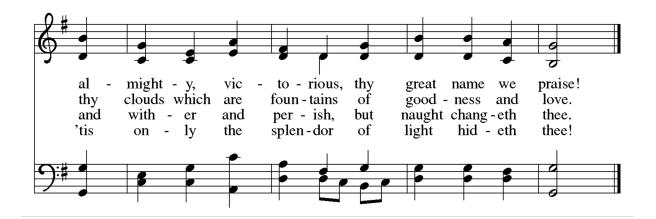
P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

### **GATHERING HYMN** ELW 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise





#### **GREETING**

P: 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.** 

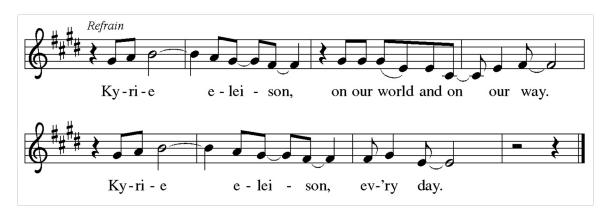
#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **KYRIE**

Kyrie Eleison means, "Lord, have mercy." This prayer has been repeated by the Church for many centuries to ask for God's blessing. When we sing it we join the whole Church in petition and praise.



**Leader:** For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Congregational Refrain

Leader: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Congregational Refrain

**Leader:** For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Congregational Refrain

**Leader:** For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Congregational Refrain

The assembly is seated.

#### **BLESSING THE CHILDREN**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

#### **WORD**

#### FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁶ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10a</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." A: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.** 

#### **PSALMODY:** Psalm 15 (read responsively)

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?
- <sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;
- <sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.
- <sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

#### SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-20, 23c, 28

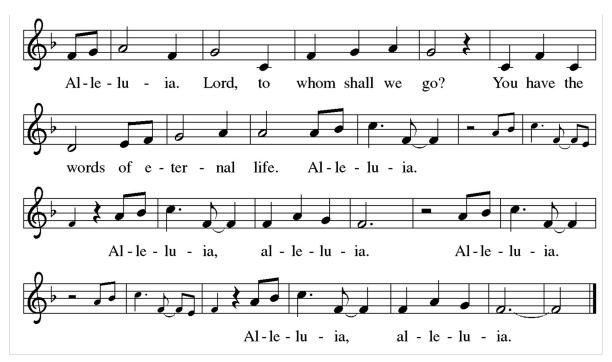
<sup>15</sup> [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

<sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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



#### **GOSPEL**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke 10:38-42

#### C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>38</sup> Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." 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 793 Be Thou My Vision**



#### **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.

Greet one another by shaking hands with a word of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

#### **PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A: Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.** 

A: Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. Make peace in places of conflict, especially **Ukraine**, **Iran**, **and the Holy Land** and bring mercy to each community.

We pray for the people of **Sudan** who are facing a hunger crisis due to famine. God of grace, **C:** hear our prayer.

A: Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair, especially Annette & Rick, Barry, Bev, Carol, Donna, Donnie, Drew, Ed, Emmett, Frieda, Hattie, Jason, Joseph, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Mark, Michelle, Michelle, Phil, Ruthann, Sandy, Sherry, Stan, Ted, and Wally. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

A: Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. We pray for the safety of first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony**, **Brandon**, **Eli**, **and Nathan**. We pray for **Noa and Kaylee** as they return from Lutheran Summer Music Academy. Keep them safe as they travel today. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer**.

A: Heal the land and waterways affected by flooding in Central Texas. Comfort families as they mourn the loss of loved ones. Aid search and rescue teams. Provide for those who have lost homes and for those who have lost means to provide for their families. Keep safe those who assist in cleanup efforts in the days and weeks to come. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.** 

A: For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. We give thanks for **Mary Magdalene**, **Birgitta of Sweden**, **and James**, **the apostle**, whom we commemorate\* this week. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer**.

A: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.** 

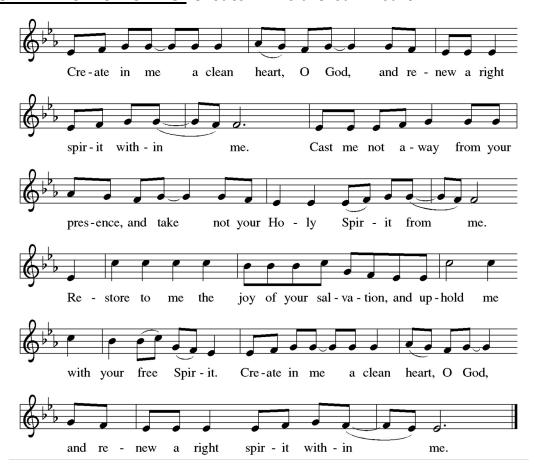
<sup>\*</sup>See announcement for commemorations.

#### **MEAL**

**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: Create in Me a Clean Heart



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P. 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.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

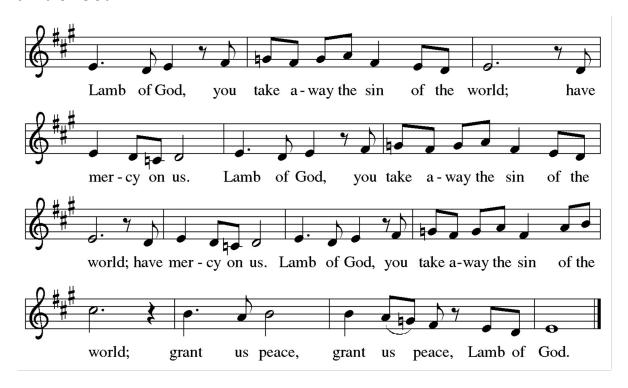
P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. All are welcome.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

#### Lamb of God



#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

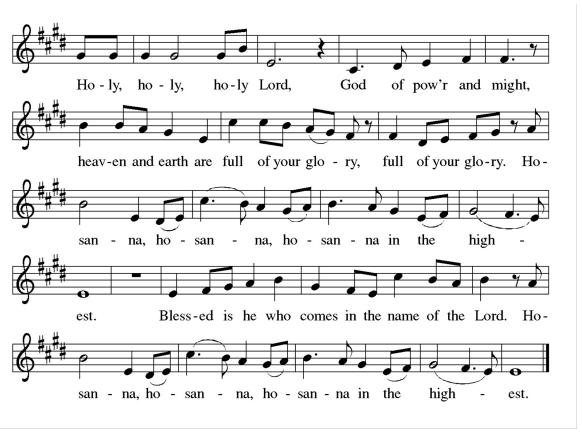
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with earth and sea and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

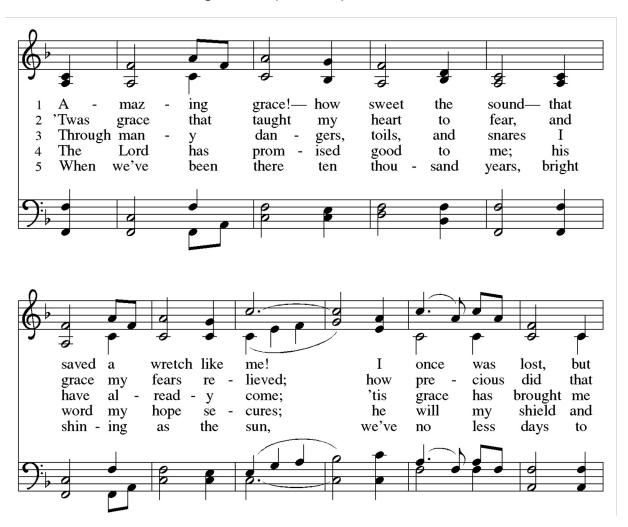
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

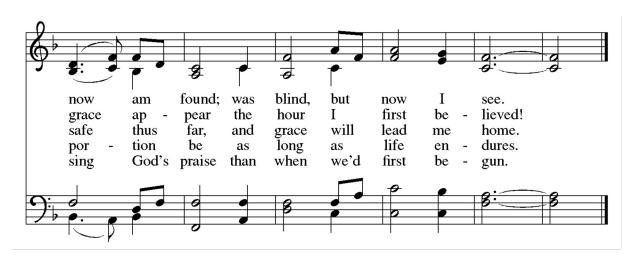
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

## **HYMN** ELW 779 Amazing Grace (favorite)





## HYMN ELW 751 O Lord, Hear My Prayer (sing 3 times)



The assembly rises in body or spirit.

#### **BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.** 

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Nurturing God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **C: Amen** 

#### **SENDING**

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

#### **BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit 

→ bless you and give you peace. **C: Amen.** 

## **SENDING HYMN** ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Favorite)





### <u>AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION</u>

P: Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ in gratitude to God and service to others, all the days of your life? **C: I will, and I ask God to help me.** P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **C: Thanks be to God.** 

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Attendance last week:

Saturday 11

Sunday 59 YouTube 2

Birthdays this week:

7/26 Sherry Germanio 7/26 Shirley Niewald

**Anniversaries this week:** 

7/22 Erik & Joleen Bakken

The flowers today are given by

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 for livestream:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g\_QWtn\_I2SqpL5Q

<u>ELCA Churchwide SAM Survey</u>—The Southeastern Iowa Synod is partnering with colleagues at the ELCA Churchwide Organization's Research and Evaluation team. The research is focused on gathering congregational feedback regarding congregations being served by synod-authorized ministers (SAMs). The survey is intended to hear what the members of SAM-served congregations have to say. Feedback will be used to help shape how SAMs are used for the future of congregations. For questions, contact the office at 563-355-4161.

<u>Confirmation Classes</u>—An email was sent to the congregation with a survey about who would be interested in participating in Confirmation classes. For more information, contact Maddie Schmidt at 563-570-6354.

#### **COMMEMORATIONS**

## Mary Magdalene, Apostle Tuesday, July 22, 2025

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 Wednesday, July 23, 2025

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.

## James, Apostle Friday, July 25, 2025

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 death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

#### **Worship Assistants**

July 20

Presider

Assisting Minister

Reader Acolyte

Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild Counters

July 27

Presider

**Assisting Minister** 

Acolytes Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild Counters

August 3

Presider

**Assisting Minister** 

Reader Acolyte Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild Counters

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Shirley Richlen
Diana Worley
Dex Hewlett

Ryan Marten & Ellen Hogbin

Ron Mekalson

Ellen Hogbin & Terry Martens

Eric Bakken

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Judie Brooks

Rilynne Larson & Carter Royse

Fritz Voss & Judy Larson

**Deb Crooks** 

Audrey Lovell & Mary Meumann

Erik Bakken

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Tom Sladky

Mary Meumann Dex Hewlett

Jerry & Yvonne Nichols

**Deb Crooks** 

Audrey Lovell & Mary Meumann

Glenn Boyles

## **Prayers for Healing and Support**

#### **Congregational Members**

Ed Arp, Lynn Chamberlain, Bev Chappen, Sherry Germanio, Sandy Henry, Frieda Houldsworth, LaVonne Mienke

#### **Family and Friends**

Annette & Rick (friends of Sue and Steve Miller), Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin), Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Donna (Ed Arp's sister), Donnie (friend of Deb Crooks), Drew (Pat Larson's friend), Emmett (friend of Diana Worley), Hattie (Frieda's sister)

Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),

Joseph (friend of Bryce & Kim),

Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), Mark (friend of Jason Forari),

Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),

Michelle (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari), Myles (friend of Anna Forari),

Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), Ruthann (Justina's mom),

Stan (relative of Frtiz Voss), Ted (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law),

Wally (Frieda's nephew),

#### **Military Personnel**

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
Lt. Col. Brandon Sandoval USAF (Pat Larson's grandson)
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

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## **Notes**

## July / August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20 9AM Worship 10AM Council Mtg.	21	22 12-4PM Quilting	23 6-8PM Food Pantry	24 9-11AM Food Pantry	25	26 5:00PM Saturday Service
27 9AM Worship	28 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship	29	30 6-8PM Food Pantry	31 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BETT Health Care Center	8/1	8/2 5:00PM Saturday Service
8/3 9AM Worship 10AM Friendly Visitors Mtg.	8/4 4PM Social Ministry Mtg.	8/5 6PM Christian Ed. Mtg.	8/6 8AM Worship & Music Mtg. 6-8PM Food Pantry	8/7 9-11AM Food Pantry	8/8	8/9 5:00PM Saturday Service
8/10 9AM Worship	8/11 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship	8/12 4PM Property Mtg.	8/13 6-8PM Food Pantry	8/14 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BETT Health Care Center 6-8PM Kids Club	8/15	8/16 5:00PM Saturday Service
8/17 9AM Worship	8/18	8/19 1PM Sarah Circle	8/20 6-8PM Food Pantry	8/21 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30AM GANG 2PM Bingo @ Community Health Care	8/22	8/23 5:00PM Saturday Service