

Lest... you root up the wheat





PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Lay Minister: Glenn Stocker

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“Where the Love of Christ is Shared ”

Visitors: Please introduce yourself to the Elders. We hope you will fill out one of our cards in the pew so we can be of service to you.

July 23, 2023

About the Cover: The enemy seeks to undermine the Lord's harvest by sowing weeds that sap vitality from his crops. The devil is the enemy of this world who seeks to bar God's life-giving Word from His people. Yet the Lord had not given up on the harvest. His patience is greater than the enemy's deceit and will not jeopardize the full harvest of those in Christ Jesus, the Savior of the world.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 11

Awaiting God's Good Harvest

July 23, 2023



AS WE GATHER

To us in daily living it doesn't make sense that God allows evil to grow outside and even inside the Church. But as we await God's good harvest, we do so in hope, which does not depend on what our eyes see, but on the faith given us by the Holy Spirit. With faith, our ears hear God calling us His children and His listening to the Spirit's groaning for us. As precious wheat protected in God's barn, we can wait patiently for the harvest when by grace the "righteous will shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn:

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB 904

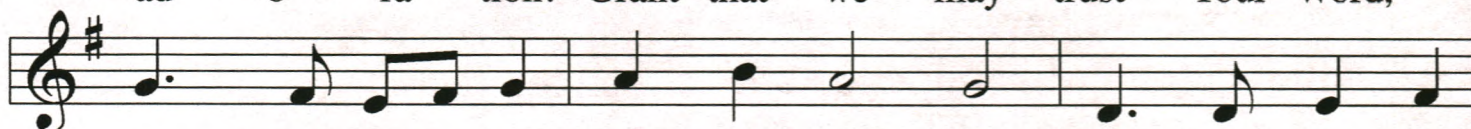
904 BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD



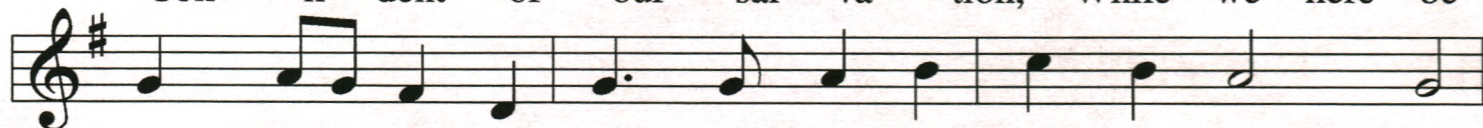
1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
 △ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
 Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
 Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
 low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1-3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; (sts. 1-3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-
 Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.
 Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625-73, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Lay Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8–9*

Lay Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lay Minister: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lay Minister: The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. As a servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore I announce the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

Lay Minister: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lay Minister: For peace and salvation from God above, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lay Minister: For peace in this sin-sick world, growth in the Church, and unity among its members, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lay Minister: For this holy house, ourselves, and all who worship here, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lay Minister: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Lay Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lay Minister: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, who has ordered all things for our good,

People: grant us faithfulness and patience as we endure the evil around us, until we rejoice at Christ's coming at the end of time;

Lay Minister: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 44:6–8*(No one compares to God.)
Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus 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.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;

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

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:18–27* (The Holy Spirit intercedes as we wait for the end of this troubled world.)

EPISTLE

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL AND VERSE *Romans 11:33, 36; Matthew 13:35b*

Lay Minister: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

Lay Minister: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

People: To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Lay Minister: Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;

People: I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43* (The parable of the wheat and weeds)

Lay Minister: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to

him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

Lay Minister: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

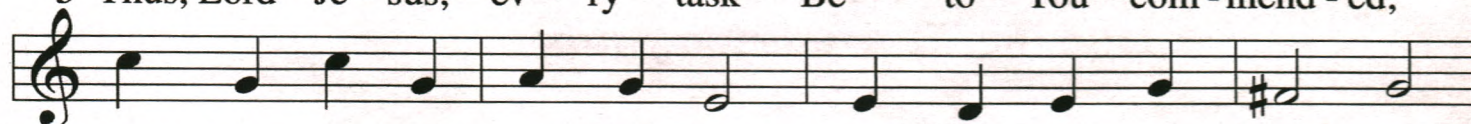
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB 869



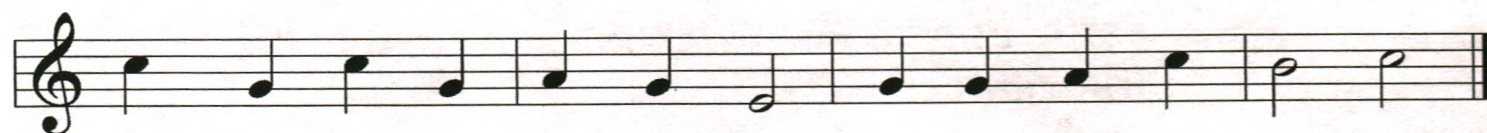
1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
 2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
 3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - larm you;
 4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,
 5 Thus, Lord Je - sus, ev - 'ry task Be to You com - mend - ed;



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
 On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
 In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
 Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.
 May Your will be done, I ask, Un - til life is end - ed.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
 Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
 All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
 Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;
 Je - sus, in Your name be - gun Be the day's en - deav - or;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
 Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
 Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
 You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.
 Grant that it may well be done To Your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Morgen- und Abend-segen, 1734, Waldenburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890-1950, alt.

Tune: Peter Frank, 1616-75

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005443

Tune: Public domain

SERMON:

"An Invitation From God"

(Matthew 22:1-14)

The Third Article Apostles Creed

Lay Minister: In the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess our faith in the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for us.

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lay Minister: What does this mean? (From Luther's Small Catechism)

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

OFFERING:

965 GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard-ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch-ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, c. 1740, London
Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lay Minister: When we look at the storms gathering around us, many people are in dire straits. Let us pray for them, for the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the human powers that be, that God would enable them to make and administer laws to order society within their borders and to establish peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Lay Minister: For the disenfranchised and homeless, the forgotten and oppressed, the unemployed and disheartened, that God would protect and defend them, open doors of opportunity for them, and move them to rely on Him for all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Lay Minister: For those near and dear to us in their illnesses, anger, grief, or despair, [*especially . . .*], and those whom we name in our hearts now [*pause for silent prayer*], that God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and renew them according to His gracious plan, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Lay Minister: For those who tend flocks and till the soil, who provide transportation and manage shops, who provide protection in their communities and defense of their nation, and who respond to sudden emergencies and work to increase health and wellbeing, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Lay Minister: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,

People: grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

“ Taught by Our Lord, Trusting in His Promises, We are bold to pray.”

People: 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;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and 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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Lay Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor
and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“ Battle Hymn of the Republic” (Next Page)

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

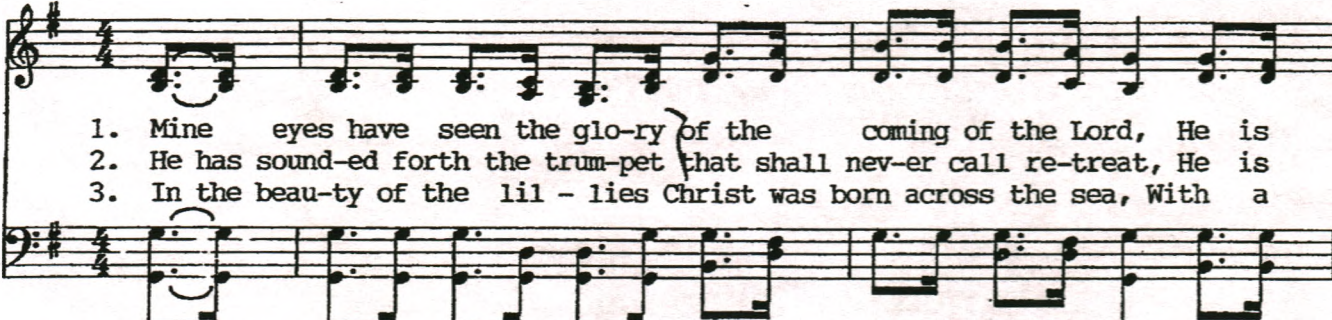
BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Julia Ward Howe

49

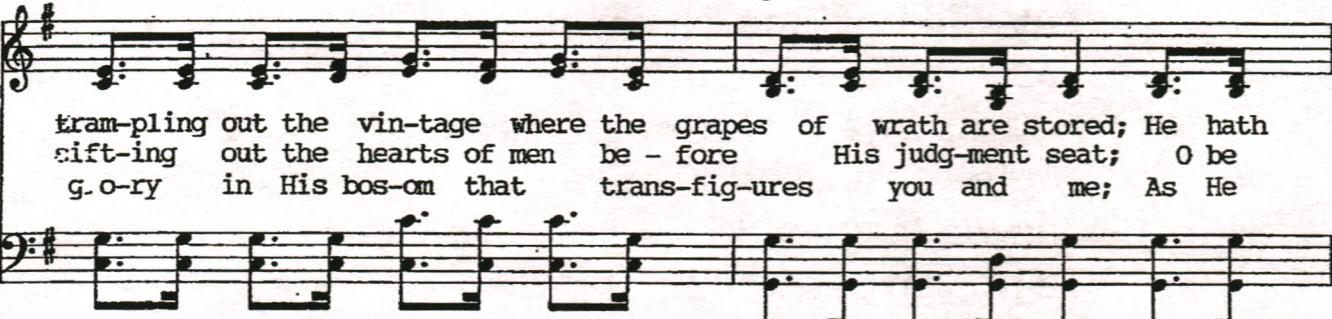
American Melody

G



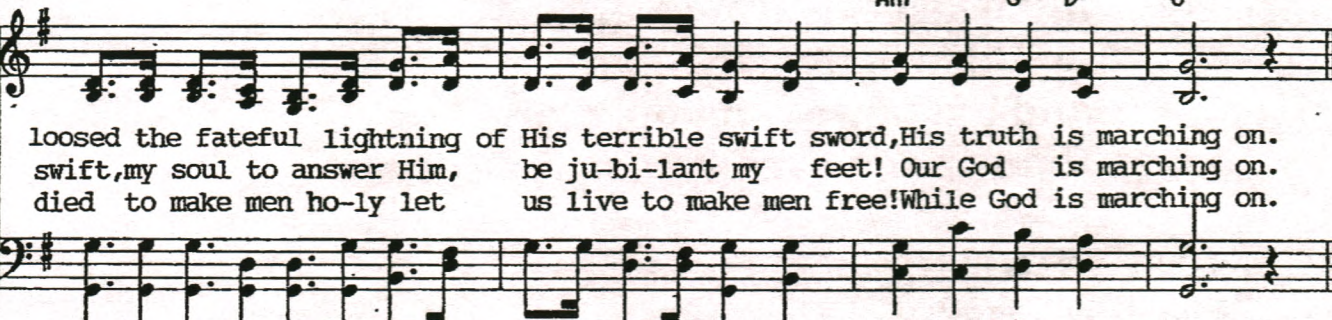
1. Mine eyes have seen the glo-ry of the coming of the Lord, He is
 2. He has sound-ed forth the trum-pet that shall nev-er call re-treat, He is
 3. In the beau-ty of the lil - lies Christ was born across the sea, With a

C G



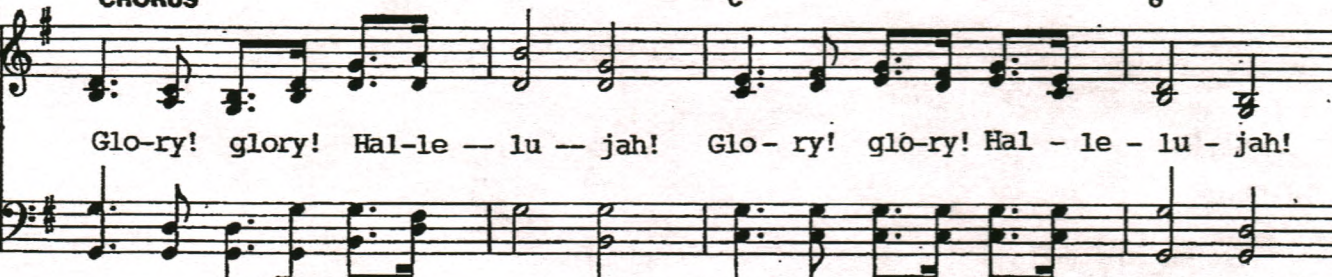
tram-pling out the vin-tage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath
 sift-ing out the hearts of men be - fore His judg-ment seat; O be
 g-o-ry in His bos-om that trans-fig-ures you and me; As He

Am G D7 G



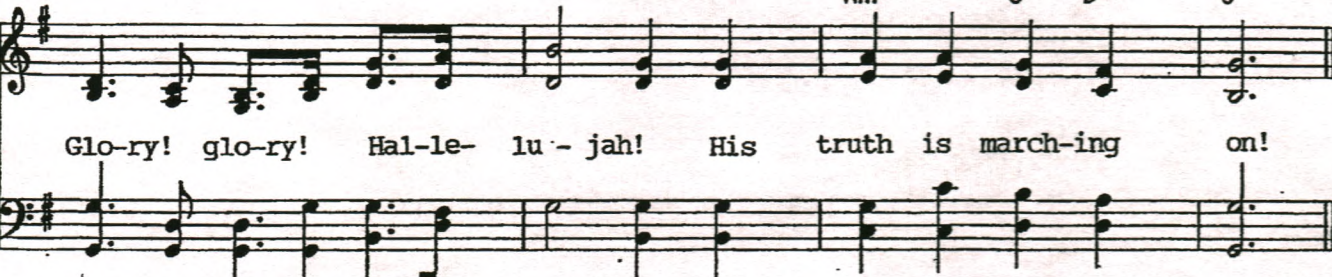
loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword, His truth is marching on.
 swift, my soul to answer Him, be ju-bi-lant my feet! Our God is marching on.
 died to make men ho-ly let us live to make men free! While God is marching on.

CHORUS C G



Glo-ry! glory! Hal-le - lu - jah! Glo-ry! glo-ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Am G D7 G



Glo-ry! glo-ry! Hal-le- lu - jah! His truth is march-ing on!

Membership Covenant

In order for the congregation and the Leadership to deal effectively with issues in the congregation, the following guidelines are to be followed:

- 1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.**
- 2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, leadership, committees, and congregational meetings.**
- 3. When members of the congregation express an opinion to leadership, the leadership person shall ask, "What would you like me to do with this information?"**
- 4. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a leadership team member, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next council meeting. The time and date shall be given.**
- 5. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the leadership member shall ask the member for permission to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the leadership member shall say, "I'm sorry, but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments."**
- 6. If permission is given, the leadership member shall report the information/opinion to the leadership team and use the members name.**
- 7. At his/her discretion, a leadership member may ask that the member refer this issue to another member for presentation.**
- 8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the leadership. Action may include: "Received as information," "Pastor and /or President to visit member and report at next meeting," etc.**
- 9. Opinions may be shared in writing with the council and shall be handled in the above mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed. While the covenant uses language regarding the leadership team, the same procedures apply to all boards and committees. May the Spirit give us grace to grow as a healthy congregation**

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

- Peace and Harmony in our Church
- Unspoken Prayers
- Sally Murray (Steve Hert's Aunt) is in the hospital with possible internal bleeding.
- Don Vahl is in the hospital with bowel blockage (Steve and Jody Hert daughter's father in law)
- Robert & Victor Lopez (Rick & Teri's Sanchez sons) to help resolve partner financial issues.
- Rick Sanchez is having issues walking & dizziness issues. Waiting for brain scan results.
- Wife of Co-worker of John Cox had open heart surgery.
- Family of Les Fosmire as Les passed away.(Shelley Smeback's Dad.
- Safe travel for everyone traveling.

For those battling cancer:

Mary Ackerman
Joe Koreis
Robert Phillips
Lisa McCloud

Rachel Snyder
Barbara Peter
Louise
Julie Colgan

Eric Ragot
Jaclyn Freeborn
Jackie Henneghan

Birthdays for Week of July 23 :

Beckie Place 7/23

Anniversaries for Week of July 23 :

None This Week

Attendance:

7/16/23: 53

Offerings:

\$ 2,206.00