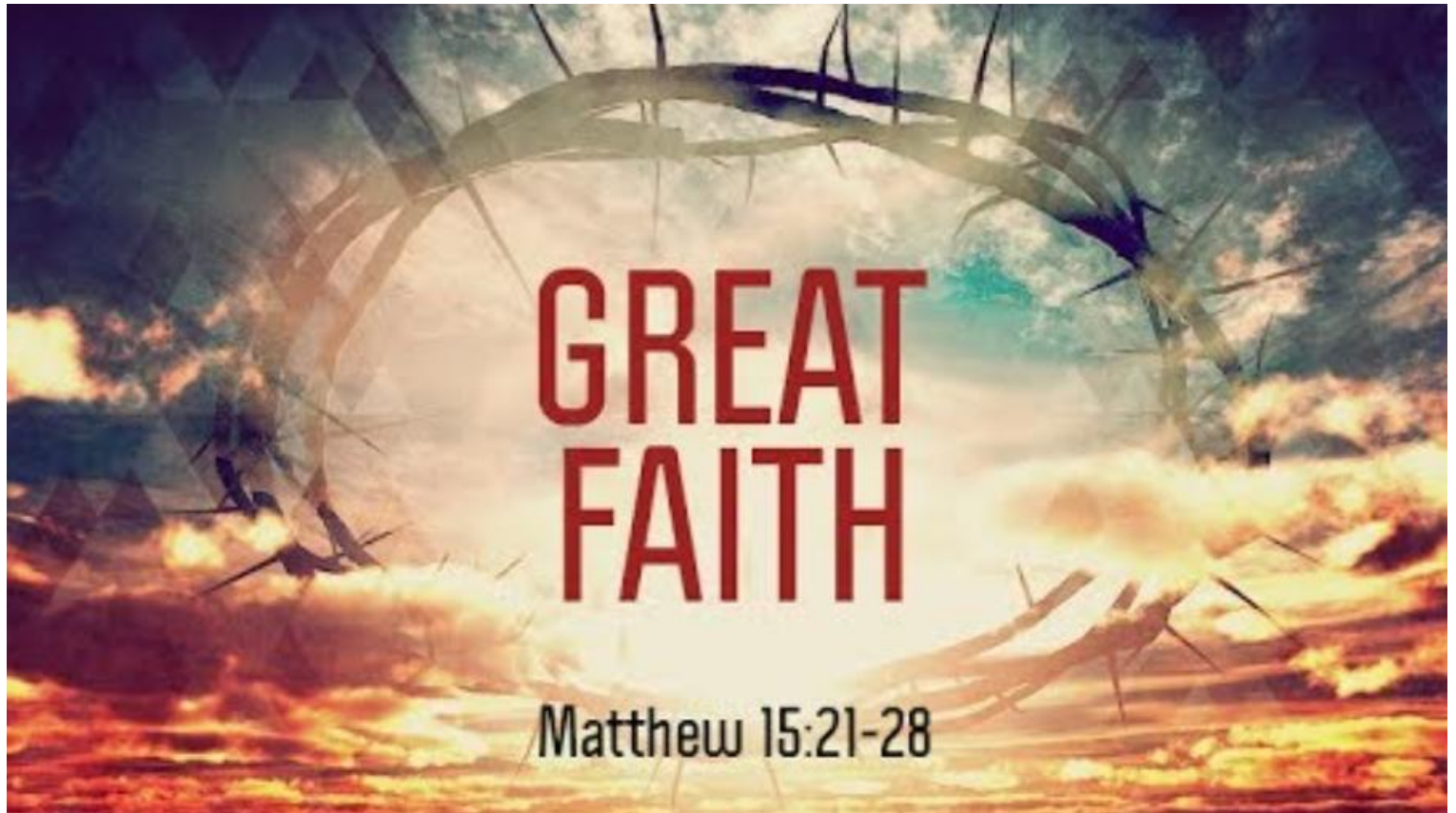


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Community of Faith for 242 Years
Sunday, August 16, 2026



1185 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
Pastor: Rev. Marie Meeks, Cell: 716-353-1610
Church Office Phone: 570-754-7350
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday
Church Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com
Website: www.SummerHillLutheran.org
Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill
YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@summerHillLutheran>

Sunday, August 16, 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost

*stand +kneel

Lay Leader- Brian Staller

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....“Just As I Am”
by William B. Bradbury; setting by Gordon Young

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

L - Blessed be the holy Trinity,✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C - Amen.

L - Let us confess our sin to God. 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.

L - 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. Rest in God’s love.

C - Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**.....“Gather Us In” (ELW 532)

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

***GREETING**

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

L - 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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.

For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L - Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C - **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67 (Read Responsively)

¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy, for you judge the
peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth. R**

⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

L - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

L - The gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY.....“All Are Welcome” (ELW 641)

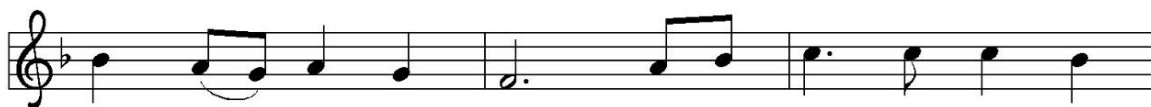
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

***APOSTLES CREED**

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.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L - With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

L - For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

L - For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

L - For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

L - For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

L- For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

L - Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

L - The peace of Christ be with you always.

C - And also with you.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L - 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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

SENDING

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

L - Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C - Amen.

***BLESSING**

L - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✚ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C - Amen.

***SENDING SONG.....“Jesus Shall Reign” (ELW 434)**

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

***DISMISSAL**

L - Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE.....“Hosanna To The King” -by Gene Clarke

* * * * *

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The bulletins are in memory of Stephen Sandler by Sallie Sandler.

Please sign the Friendship Register in your pew. Visitors, or members with a change of address, please complete the address section and telephone number. Visitors may also include the name and address of your home church so they can be notified that you have received communion.

Prayer Requests: Please email or call the church office with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. You may also give names to the person leading service prior to the start of the service.

TODAY, August 16, the Social Ministry Committee will meet in the Annex after the church service.

There will be a Stewardship Meeting following the 9am service next Sunday, August 23rd.

Bishop Fairwell Service: We will be hosting a farewell service for the Bishop here at our church on Saturday, August 29 at 1pm. If you are interested in attending, you can go on the Synod website to sign up. Please speak to Brian Staller for more information.

Sunday School News: We are excited to announce that there will be a new curriculum and new materials for the Sunday School program beginning in September. Please speak to Brian Staller, Charity Staller or Deb Hummel for more information.

The Saturday worship service in September will be moved from September 5 (the holiday weekend) to the second Sunday, September 12.

Mark your calendars! Dave Hartranft is coming back! He will return on Sat., September 12 at 5pm to worship with us and entertain us after the service, during our annual picnic. Please join us, and bring a friend.

You are invited to join St. Paul's UCC for their Rally Day picnic on **Sunday, September 13!** We will gather in the church picnic grove around 11:30am for food, fellowship, and fun! Hamburgers, hot dogs, and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring a favorite dish or dessert to share (although it is not necessary), along with a lawn chair, blanket, or kid-friendly outdoor games if you wish. We look forward to celebrating the start of a new year together. We hope you'll join us!

Check Out Our YouTube Channel: We're livestreaming our worship services on our very own YouTube channel: @summerHillLutheran!!! We'll share the livestream link on Facebook every week. You can chat, comment, and worship together live just like always. Our website features a direct link to our YouTube channel, where you can already find recorded services beginning in February, our past livestreams, and our scheduled upcoming livestreams. So head on over, click Like, hit Subscribe, and ring that little bell 🔔 to be notified when livestreaming begins! 🖱️ Check us out here: <https://www.youtube.com/@summerHillLutheran>

Helping Harvest donations take place the first Sunday of each month. This organization has put food trucks in areas to help the needy in place of the closed Pottsville Soup Kitchen.

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship: There are many openings available throughout the year to sponsor the fresh altar flowers and bulletins on a Sunday morning. Sponsorships can be in honor of, or in memory of someone. There are sign-up sheets for a few months at a time on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can also call the church office and speak to Kelly to be added at any time throughout the year. The cost of altar flowers is: \$17.50 to sponsor one vase, or \$35 to sponsor both vases. The bulletins are \$10 per sponsored Sunday.

Pastoral visits and home communions are available at any time. Please call the church office at 570-754-7350 or Pastor Marie at 716-353-1610.

Reminder for hospital visits: The church is not informed by the hospital when someone is admitted. Please call the church to let us know if a pastoral visit is desired.

Attendance on Sunday, August 9, 2026 – 43 in person; 235 Facebook views; 0 Facebook shares as of August 13

The 2026 Weekly giving needed for budget is \$2,951.25

Week of August 2 – August 8, 2026

Current	\$1,657.05
Benevolence/Synod	\$ 90.30
Local Benevolence	\$ 226.70
Special Offering	\$ 52.00
Building	\$ 10.00
Initial	\$ 3.00
Plate	\$ 47.00
Total	\$2,086.05

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

Sunday, August 16

9:00 AM -Worship Service (led by Brian Staller)

-Social Ministry Committee meets following worship

Wednesday, August 19

6:00 PM -Property Meeting/ Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, August 23

9:00 AM -Worship Service

-Stewardship Committee Meeting following worship

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, August 17: Psalm 87; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday, August 18: Psalm 87; Isaiah 43:8-13; Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday, August 19: Psalm 87; Isaiah 66:18-23; Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday, August 20: Psalm 138; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday, August 21: Psalm 138; Ezekiel 31:15-18; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday, August 22: Psalm 138; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Matthew 16:5-12

Sunday August 16 – 9:00 AM

Greeter: Kathie Faust

Acolyte: Tanner Gormley

Lector: Matt Platt

Usher: Kathie Faust

Communion Assistant: Jennie Raudenbush

Counting Team: Jennie Raudenbush & Troy Hollenbach

Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor	716-353-1610; Email: preachymarie@gmail.com
Matthew Hayes, Director of Music	484-794-7902; Email: stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com
Kelly Palerino, Church Secretary	570-754-7350; Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com
Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton	570-345-1279
Stacey Fidler, Church Sexton	570-754-7350
Eva Waldman, Treasurer	570-754-7350
Student Loan Committee email: stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com	



Keep in your prayers: Richard Paxson, Irene Peiffer, Betty Freeman, Mark Fidler, Helen Runkle, Stephen Curtis, John & Betty Strauch, John Strauch, Jr., Greg Phillips, Jerry Heffleger, Harry Russell, Neida Hayes, Helen Miller, Sheila Tryon, Sallie Ann Sandler, Tonia McKague, Robert & Joyce Zeledonis, Earl & Grace Paxson, Betty Fromm Yarnell, Wayne Brensinger, Ralph Hueske, Shawnette Keller, Brittany Gallagher, Kay & Jerome Hayes, Debbie Toro, Pete and Stacy Smulligan, Terry Tryon, Carole Wiscount, Carol Keesey, Elona Fromm, Nancy Sweitzer, Carol Boyer, Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner, *the Womer Family, the Stump Family, Bob Ebling*

Those serving in the military: Jacob Edwards, Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Mark Weinus, Jr., Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

