Sunday, September 7, 2025 13th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion * stand +kneel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – O God Beyond All Praising

Gustave Holst arr. Lloyd Larson

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 - God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C - Amen.

P- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- Most Merciful God,

C- we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C- Amen.

*GATHERING SONG – Earth And All Stars! (ELW731)



Earth and All Stars!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!Sing to the Lord a new song!Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

3 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song! Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song! Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!Sing to the Lord a new song!Daughter and son! Loud praying members!Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!

*GREETING (ELW p. 138)

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

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.**

*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



P - Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C - Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P- Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, 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: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

R - The Word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1 (please read responsively)

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!
 - ² Their delight is in the law | of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither; everything they | do shall prosper.
 - ⁴ It is not so | with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.
 - ⁶ For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

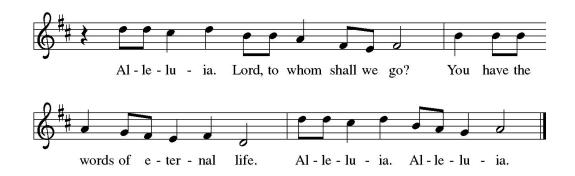
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.
- ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

R - The Word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

P - The holy gospel according to Luke.

C- Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who

comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY – Lift High The Cross (ELW #660)



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 Text and music 6 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

*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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

- P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence*.
- P We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

C -receive our prayer.

P - We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C - Amen.

*PEACE

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

P- The peace of Christ be with you always.

C- And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

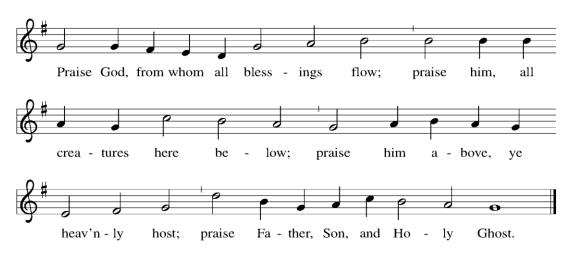
The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

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

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

Let us pray.

P- God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C- Amen.

*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.

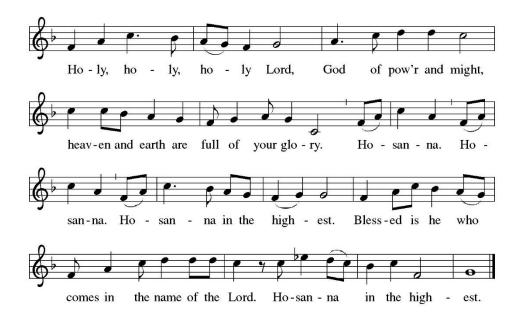
P- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P- 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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,

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

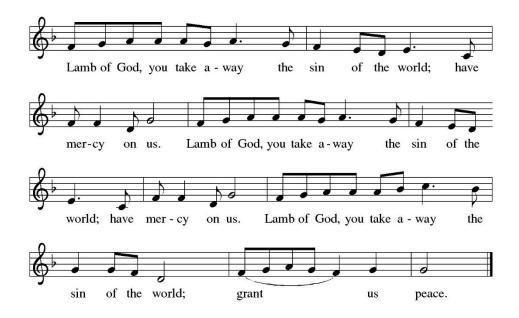
forever and ever. Amen.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

P- Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

*COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

P- The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *and each person may respond*

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

*TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds P- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C- Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

P - We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C - Amen.

SENDING

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

P - 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

P- Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. C- Amen.

*SENDING SONG – O God Beyond All Praising (ELW #880)

O God beyond All Praising



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- O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
- The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die, its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high; but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown: for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory.
- Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

*DISMISSAL

P- Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C- Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Lift High The Cross Sydney H. Nicholson setting by Larry Shackley

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Please sign the Friendship Register in your pew. Members with a change of address or visitors should complete the address section and telephone number. Visitors should also include the name and address of their home church so your home church can be notified that you 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 give names to the person leading service prior to start of service.

Reminder: Hospital visits -The church is NOT informed when someone is in the hospital by the hospital. The person hospitalized or a family member must call the church to let us know they want a pastoral visit. If leaving a message on the answering machine, please remember to leave the hospital name and the room number. Some hospitals will not give the room number to a visitor, expecting you to know that.

The One Rock One Community Music Festival is fast approaching on Saturday, September 13 and volunteers are needed! More information about the event can be found on the flyer on the bulletin board. If you would like to volunteer, you can register online: www.onerockonecommunity.org. If you are unable to help, you can still visit the event between 11 am – 6 pm at the Stop 'N Rock off of Route 895 in Rock, PA.

The next Faithful Fellowship will be held after the service next Sunday, September 14, 2025. Please join on attending and enjoying conversation, coffee and goodies.

The Summer Hill Youth Group will be hosting a movie night for kids and their families at 6 p.m. on October 18th. It will be held at St. Paul's UCC and the event is free. Invite your friends and join us for a movie and popcorn!

Attendance August 31, 2025 – 37 in person, 280 online views, 3 shares as of September 5, 2025.

The 2025 Weekly giving needed for budget is \$3,166.75.

"THE WEEK AT A GLANCE"

<u>Today:</u> 9 am Worship Service

<u>Next Sunday:</u> 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service

Faithful Fellowship in the Annex after the service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 18:12-23; 1 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5 Tues: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 19:1-15; 1 Timothy 4:6-16 Wed: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 20:1-18; Luke 18:18-30 Thu: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Timothy 1:1-11 Fri: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:1-10; 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Sat: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31; John 10:11-21

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Greeter:

5:00 p.m. Saturday — Marlene Troxell 10:30 a.m. Sunday — Helen Miller

Acolyte:

5:00 p.m. Saturday – Tobias Lileck 10:30 a.m. Sunday – Grayson Rollman

Lector:

5:00 p.m. Saturday – Marlene Troxell 10:30 a.m. Sunday – Debbie Hummel

Usher:

10:30 a.m. Sunday – Brian Staller

Communion Assistant:

5:00 p.m. Saturday – Marlene Troxell

10:30 a.m. Sunday – Jennie Raudenbush

Counting Team: Jennie Raudenbush and Brian Staller

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church Telephone: 570-754-7350

www.SummerHillLutheran.org — Church's website Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

Student Loan Committee email:

 $\underline{stpaulsummer hill.student loan@gmail.com}$

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Matthew Hayes, Director of Music	484-794-7902
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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



Keep in your prayers: Richard Paxson, Irene Peiffer, Betty Freeman, Mark Fidler, Helen Runkle, Arlene Moyer, 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 and Earl & Grace Paxson, Shirley Baker. Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Kristian Svenson, Mark Weinus, Jr., Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast.

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

