Sunday, September 21, 2025 15th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion * stand +kneel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace Sebastian Temple 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

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 – We Are Called (ELW 720)

1 Come! Live in light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God. *Refrain*

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2 Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain*

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

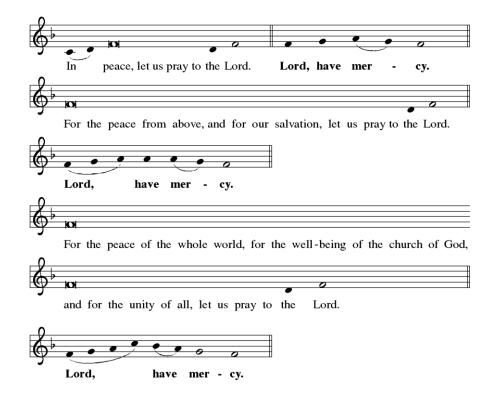
*GREETING (ELW p. 138)

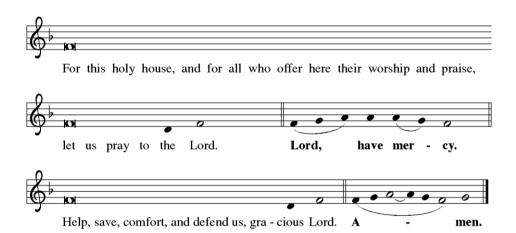
During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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- God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, 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: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
- ⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain,

and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

R - The Word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 113 (please read responsively)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD; praise the name | of the LORD.
 - ² Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down let the name of the | LORD be praised.

⁴ The LORD is high a- | bove all nations; God's glory a- | bove the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the ¹LORD our God, who sits en- ¹ throned on high,

⁶ but stoops | to behold

the heavens | and the earth?

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out [|] of the dust and lifts up the poor [|] from the ashes,

⁸ enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

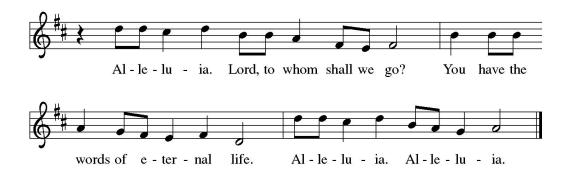
⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth. Amen.

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 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

P - The holy gospel according to Luke.

C- Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P - The gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY – Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

- Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

- Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*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 - O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*). May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints (*especially Matthew and all*) who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. 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.

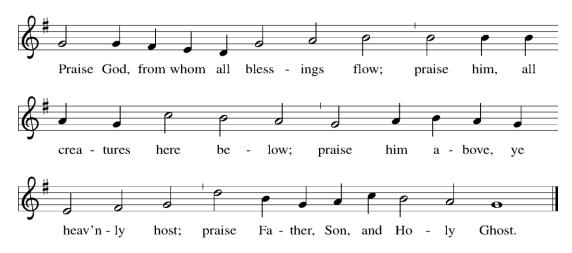
BELL ANTHEM - The Power of Your Love Geoff Bullock arr. Peggy Bettcher

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING (ELW #884)

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.

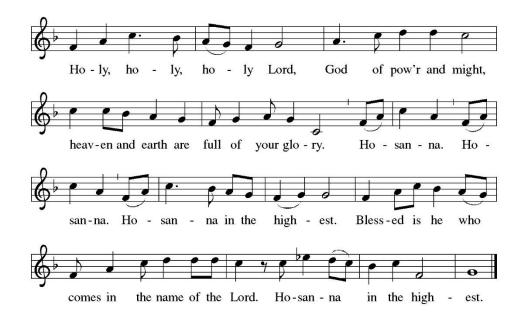
C- And also with you.

- 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, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, 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- Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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.

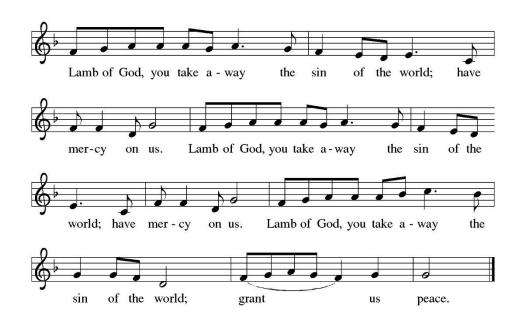
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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- The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \pm give you peace.

C- Amen.

*SENDING SONG – Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710)

Let Streams of Living Justice



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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- 1 Let streams of living justice
 flow down upon the earth;
 give freedom's light to captives,
 let all the poor have worth.
 The hungry's hands are pleading,
 the workers claim their rights,
 the mourners long for laughter,
 the blinded seek for sight.
 Make liberty a beacon,
 strike down the iron pow'r;
 abolish ancient vengeance:
 proclaim your people's hour.
- 2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
 Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
 O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.
- Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams, our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried; your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.

*DISMISSAL

P- Go in peace. Share the good news.

C- Thanks be to God.

Postlude – God Is My Strong Salvation

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Missed Last week:

Bulletins were in honor of Betty Strauch's birthday presented by her family.

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 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!

The Stewardship Committee is selling coasters of the Church's Stain Glass Windows. Order sheet is on the table in the Narthex. They are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Reminder: 2026 Budget Sheets are to be returned to the Finance Committee by Sunday, September 28. All budget worksheets are in the Committee mailboxes

Attendance September 14, 2025 – 39 in person, 283 online views, 3 shares as of September 19, 2025.

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

"THE WEEK AT A GLANCE"

<u>Today:</u> 10:30 am Worship Service <u>Thursday:</u> 6:00 pm – Bell Choir

Next Sunday: 9:15 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

75 & over Birthday Party after the service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon: Psalm 12; Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12

Tues: Psalm 12; Proverbs 17:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 Wed: Psalm 12; Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45 – 21:4 Thu: Psalm 146; Proverbs 22:2-16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15 Fri: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10 Sat: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 9:43b-48

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Greeter: Kathie Faust Acolyte: Tobias Lileck Lector: Michael Ziegler Usher: Kathie Faust

Communion Assistant: Holly Maldonado

Counting Team: Holly Maldonado and Jeff Freeman

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:

stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

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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



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

