

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113 | www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Reconciled and Restored



Restored to New Sight
Traditional Worship Service

March 15, 2026

8:30am

Bethany Retreat

Pack your bags for a weekend of faith, fun, and community! Our all-ages Bethany Retreat will be held at **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, May 1-3**, and everyone is invited. We'll explore our faith formation theme of identity, belonging, and purpose through worship, Bible study, large group games, special music, and camp-style activities for every age. It's a chance to experience all the best parts of camp with your Bethany church family.



Register here!



Holy Week at Bethany:

Journey with Jesus

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Palm Sunday 3/29

8:30am and 10am

Festival Worship with Palms

The Crucifixion of Our Lord

Good Friday 4/3

12pm Tenebrae Service

7pm Tenebrae Service with

Dubios' Seven Last Words

The Last Supper

Maundy Thursday 4/2

7pm Worship Service

with First Communion Milestone

Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Saturday 4/4, 5pm

Easter Sunday 4/5

8am, 9:30am, 11am

Festival Worship Service

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Robert A. Hobby

WELCOME

Pastor Gary Sandberg

RECONCILIATION AND RESTORATION

We are but clay pots, easily fractured. In our brokenness we reach out to God, joining in a confession of our sins.

God of Reconciliation,

we confess that our good intentions don't always become faithful actions.

We turn inward and are more attentive to our own needs than the needs of our neighbors.

We cling to burdens you never asked us to carry alone, instead of bringing them into your care.

Open our hearts to your ways of mercy, truth, and shared life, so that we may be reconciled to you, to one another, and to the world you love.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Beloved of God, hear this Good News: by God's abundant grace your sins are forgiven. You are held, restored, and made whole.

As we are reconciled to God, we are drawn into reconciliation with one another. So let this settle among us now, and let it shape the way we live, as we share a greeting of peace with one another.

BLESSING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you.

GATHERING HYMN**Be Thou My Vision**

ELW #793

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

GREETING*Pastor Nate Preisinger*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LENTEN PSALM

Psalm 63



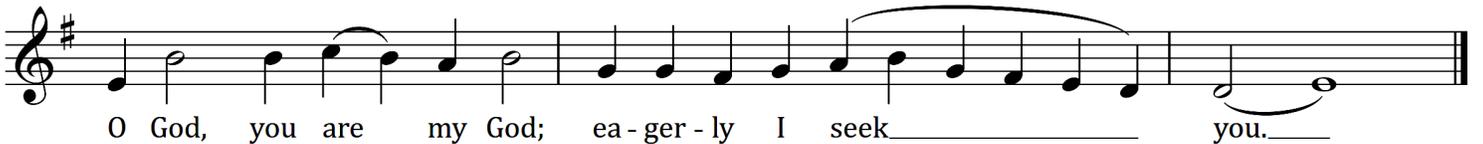
¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;

my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.



⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

✠ WORD ✠

As we prepare to hear God's Word proclaimed, you are encouraged during this time to consider places in your life where you need, or desire, to engage in Reconciliation, whether in your own spirit, or in a relationship. You are invited to write this down on a Reconciled and Restored sheet in your pew. You may then place your sheet in the offering plate later in the service. Do not sign them. They will not be read by staff. This is for your personal offering to God.

This week you might consider how you wish to be reconciled when you admit to what you have chosen to not see in yourself, or others.

LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Marie Friedemann

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN VERSE



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

John 9

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

²⁴ A second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Gary Sandberg



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
 let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

CAMPAIGN MOMENT

Jeff Finnin

Dear Heavenly Father, as a congregation united in faith, guide us through this campaign, inspiring us to share our gifts of generosity. You bless us with these gifts, a church community, and a wondrous ministry. With a firm foundation in place, guide us to wield these tools to build Bethany's future as we reflect your image of bountiful love, kindness, and strength. **Amen.**

✠ Offering ✠

OFFERING

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, place your offering in the silver plate as they are passed
- Unlock your phone, hold near NFC card (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear



*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.
Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.
In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.
Thou spreadest a table in my sight, thy unction grace bestoweth,
And O the transport of delight, with which my cup overfloweth.
And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd may I sing thy praise within thy house forever!*

✠ Meal ✠

PRAYERS

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Nate Preisinger

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

THE 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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

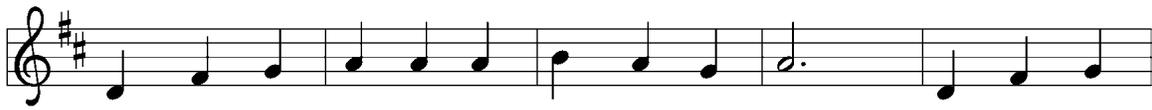
LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

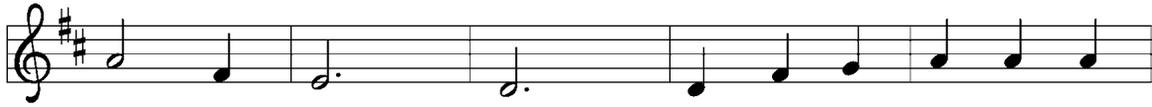
COMMUNION MUSIC
Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Paul Christiansen



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

POST COMMUNION RESTORATION

God of Restoration, at this altar you have provided a meal that transforms, unites, and heals us. Allow us to live as your forgiven people. We are but shattered clay pots; yet by your grace we are restored. **Amen.**

✠ Sending ✠

BENEDICTION

Pastor Gary Sandberg

SENDING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISSAL

Pastor Gary Sandberg

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

**Worship and encounter a God who loves us;
Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;
Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.**

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Austin C. Lovelace

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ◆ **Town Hall Meeting: TODAY**, 11:20am, Room 312 (rehearsal room). All are invited to join in to hear what is happening at Bethany. Updates on finances, engagement and the campaign.
- ◆ **Lost & Found Claim Day:** Have you lost a water bottle? Glasses? Come to the Fellowship Hall **TODAY** and check out everything that is in our Lost & Found. Take home what's yours. The rest will be donated.
- ◆ **All Lent Long - Walk the Labyrinth:** As part of your Lenten Spiritual Practice, you are invited to walk the labyrinth downstairs in in the Big Room - 412. Hours are posted at www.bethany-denver.org/Lent. Note that the start time is when the doors will be opened and the end time is when the doors will be locked. Please check in and out at the log at the top of the steps. If the SE doors are locked, enter the building through the office door. Call the office (303-758-2820) with any questions.
- ◆ **Winter Food Bank Collection Drive:** The food item for collection for now - Apr 12 is canned tuna or chicken. Please place your items in the crates on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd prefer to make a cash donation, these can be made by using the GIVE button on Bethany's website and choosing Integrated Family Community Services in the drop down menu.
- ◆ **Rejoicing Spirits: TODAY**, Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church, 21755 E Smoky Hill Rd. Aurora, 4:00-6:00pm. Dinner and worship! Rejoicing Spirits is an inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, families and anyone who seeks an open, joyful and creative worship experience. Please RSVP to pastor@lordofthehills.org. For more information regarding the Rejoicing Spirits experience or volunteering, please contact: Pastor Margot at pastor@lordofthehills.org.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Volunteers Needed:** Saturday, **Mar 21**, 10:00am-2:00pm, Arvada ReStore, 5045 N Robb St, Wheat Ridge; **Saturday, April 18**, 8:50 am – 4:30 pm, Griffith Station Homes, 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at kmdmpsy@aol.com.
- ◆ **Rejoicing Spirits:** You are invited to join in for World Down Syndrome Day at the “Lots of Socks” Sock Hop! This is a celebration of everything that makes us different, and yet the same. **Saturday, Mar 21**, 3:00pm–5:00pm, Fellowship Hall, FREE. The event will feature snacks, a photo booth, a DJ, and plenty of dancing. We encourage everyone to join the fun by wearing odd, unusual, or mismatched socks. When someone asks about your socks, it's a great opportunity to share facts about Down Syndrome and World Down Syndrome Day.
- ◆ **Vitalant Blood Drive:** Bethany will be hosting a blood drive for Vitalant on **Wednesday, March 25**, in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am–12:30pm. To schedule an appointment, visit www.donors.vitalant.org and use blood drive code 0377 or call 877-258-4825. Please contact Janet Mortinsen if you have questions.
- ◆ **First Communion Milestone Class: Sunday, Mar 29**, 11:20am-1:00pm, Great Hall. Open to children in 2nd-5th grades who have not yet celebrated their first Communion. Children and adult caregivers are invited to enjoy a light lunch together and to participate in engaging and creative cross-generational learning activities. The children will receive their first Communion at the 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service on Apr 2. Register at the event ad in Bethany News. Contact Deacon Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org for more information.
- ◆ **Easter flowers:** Help decorate the worship spaces for Easter by donating for flowers in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Find envelopes at the Mission Center desk or go to the giving platforms (www.Bethany-Denver.org under Give or via Bethany Connect app). Flowers are \$25. Deadline is **Mar 29**. Be sure to let the Office know what you want printed in the Easter bulletins! For help contact Office@Bethany-Denver.org or call 303.758.2820.
- ◆ **Easter decorating help needed:** If you like to decorate, please sign up to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter on **Saturday, Apr 4** at 9:30am. Go to the website and click on the “Sign Up Schedule” bubble. Thank you!
- ◆ **Outreach:** Looking for a service opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus? Bethany will work the Food Bank of the Rockies on **Apr 17**, 8:45am-12:00pm. Please contact Maren Diercks at Marendiercks@gmail.com or 720-238-2333 if you are interested. Reservations can be made through Bethany-denver.org at the ad for this event under News. You will be required to make an account at the Food Bank and will be sent directions.
- ◆ **Save the Date!** All-ages Bethany Retreat will be held at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, **May 1–3**, and everyone is invited! Pack your bags for a weekend of faith, fun, and community! We'll explore our faith formation theme of identity, belonging, and purpose through worship, Bible study, large group games, special music, and camp-style activities for every age. It's a chance to experience all the best parts of camp with your Bethany church family. We don't want cost to keep anyone away: if money is tight, simply pay the minimum. If you're able, you're invited to give a little extra to help make the retreat possible for someone else. Register on the Bethany Connect app or Bethany News on the website.
- ◆ **Outreach:** Save the date! A Volunteer Food Packing Event, with Feed My Starving Children will be held on Saturday, **May 2** at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden. Ages 4-100 are welcome to help! A sign-up link will soon be available. Please contact Bethany member, Nick Wellen at n.wellen@mac.com or coloradofeedinggodskids@gmail.com for more details.



Dear Bethany Family,

We find ourselves at an exciting moment in our shared life. Our church and eleven-acre campus have served us faithfully for decades, even as ministry has grown, changed, and expanded. Today, signs of aging are as evident as new opportunities for connection, learning, and service emerge. Thankfully, God is active at Bethany! We are embarking on a capital campaign to address our most pressing needs and to optimize our campus and facilities, and thereby our ministries, well into the future.

United in Faith: Building Bethany's Future is an invitation. It is not only about updating spaces and addressing long-deferred needs, it is equally about stewardship—about expanding the ministries entrusted to us. It is about cultivating spaces that better reflect our values and support those ministries: a campus-wide **Welcome**, places for Spirit-filled **Worship**, spaces for intergenerational **Faith Formation**, and **Outreach** that springs from our campus with impacts well beyond it.

We look forward with gratitude and hope. Gratitude for those whose faithfulness and hard work over the years still serve as our foundation; hope for lives to be transformed in years to come as an outcome of this initiative.

We ask you to engage this initiative with openness and prayer. Consider what Bethany means in your life. Reflect upon how God is inviting you to support Bethany's future. And trust that, as we move forward together, God will remain faithful to this community we love.

United in Christ,

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Jeff Finnin, President

Stephanie Davy, Campaign Chair



PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor Nate Preisinger
Deacon Debra Alba
Janet Mortinsen,
Director of Pastoral Care

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mary Brook, **President Elect**
Alison Biever, **Past President**
Pam Menter, **VP Personnel**
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Mary Knowles, **Secretary**

STEERING COMMITTEE

Terry Jeddelloh, **Gifts Co-Chair**
Tom Brook, **Gifts Co-Chair**
Leo Bruederle, **Events Chair**
Tracy Frombach, **Inspiration Chair**

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit
www.Bethany-Denver.org/UnitedInFaith





RECOGNIZE YOUR NEED TO GIVE

In a world focused on getting more, the Christian call to generosity invites us to see giving in a new light. Generosity begins with recognizing that all we have—time, skills, and resources—is a gift from God. This awareness frees us from fear of scarcity and helps us view what we hold not as possessions to protect, but as tools for building God’s reign of love and justice.

Scripture paints a clear picture of this joy. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we read, “God loves a cheerful giver.” The heart of generosity is not the size of the gift but the spirit in which it’s given. When we share freely, we reflect Christ’s love, strengthen relationships, and nurture a spirit of unity.

Giving also shapes our hearts. It builds gratitude and reminds us that we need one another. This connection blesses those who receive and deepens our own walk of faith.



Our call to give is not about buildings or budgets—it is about who God made us to be. We are created in the image of the generous One. Each act of generosity reflects the character of God within us and draws us closer to the life God longs for all people.