BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00 am Sunday, November 8, 2026

Pastor David Johnson



TODAYS REFLECTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy

▼ ***Prelude Reflections for Meditation***

▼ ***Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises***

▲ ***Opening Hymn***

"Give Me Jesus" page 9

▲ ***Confession & Forgiveness***

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence for reflection.
Holy God,

we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

▲ ***Prayer of the Day***

O God of justice and love, **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ ***God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSVUE)***

The First Reading is from Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light, as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

▼ ***God's Word from the Psalms (NRSVUE)***

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. **O Lord, make haste to help me!**
Let those be put to shame and confusion **who seek my life.**
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor **who desire to hurt me.**
Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" **turn back because of their shame.**
Let all who seek you **rejoice and be glad in you.**
Let those who love your salvation **say evermore, "God is great!"**
But I am poor and needy; **hasten to me, O God!**
You are my help and my deliverer; **O Lord, do not delay!**

▼ ***God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSVUE)***

The Second Reading is from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that

Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

▼ ***Children's Sermon***

▲ ***God's Word from the Gospel (NRSVUE)***

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13
Glory to you, O Lord.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

▼ ***Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life***

▼ ***Hymn of the Day***

"Give Me Oil In My Lamp" page 10

▲ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church*

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially for those we name before you now*) God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

▲ *Sharing of the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ *Offering and Presentation of the Gifts*

Mission Designation October-December - **Adopt-a-Family/Senior**

▼ *Offering Prayer*

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

▼ *The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

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, 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.

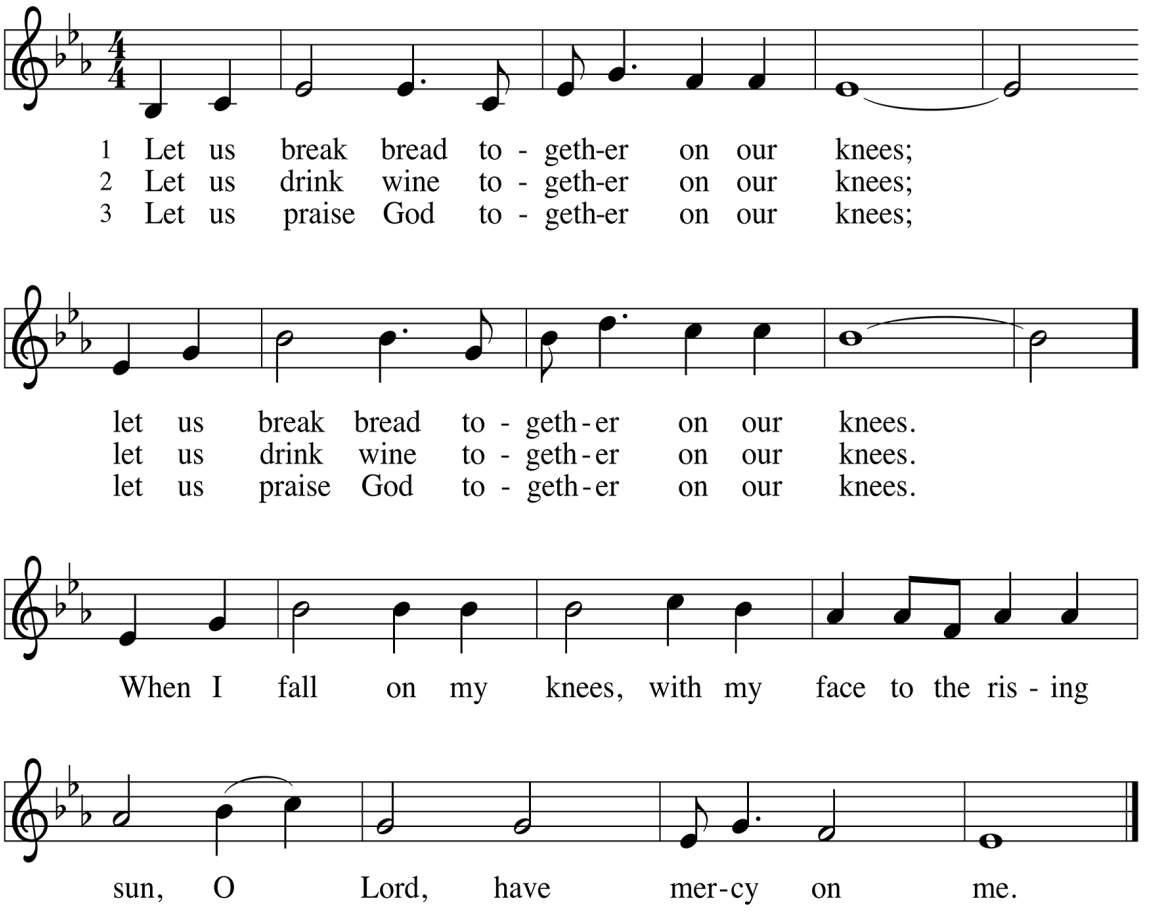
▼ *The Lord's Prayer*

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.

▼ *Invitation and Distribution of Communion*

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Let Us Break Bread Together



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ ***Post Communion Blessing***

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ ***Post Communion Prayer***

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ ***Closing Hymn***

" Shine, Jesus, Shine" page 11

▼ ***Announcements***
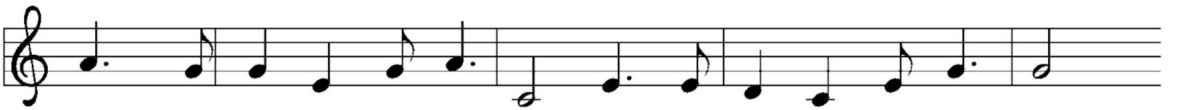
Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time

▲ ***Blessing and Dismissal***
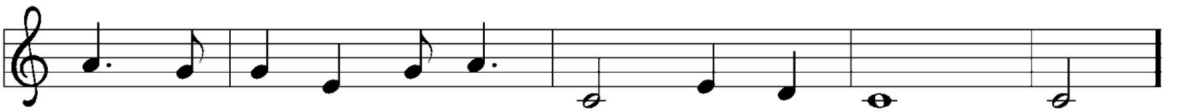
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Give Me Jesus
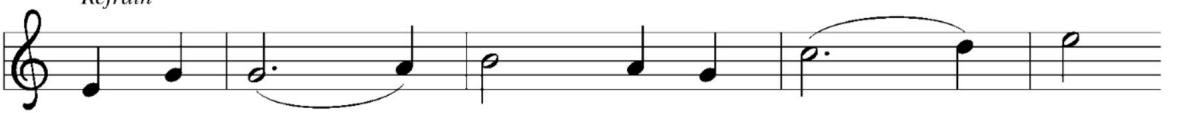


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,
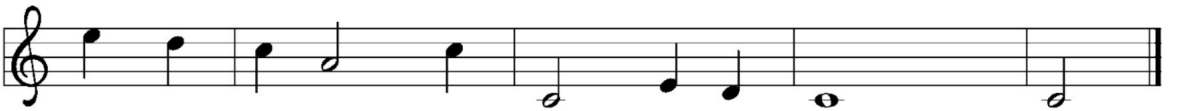


in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark. . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, ... when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain
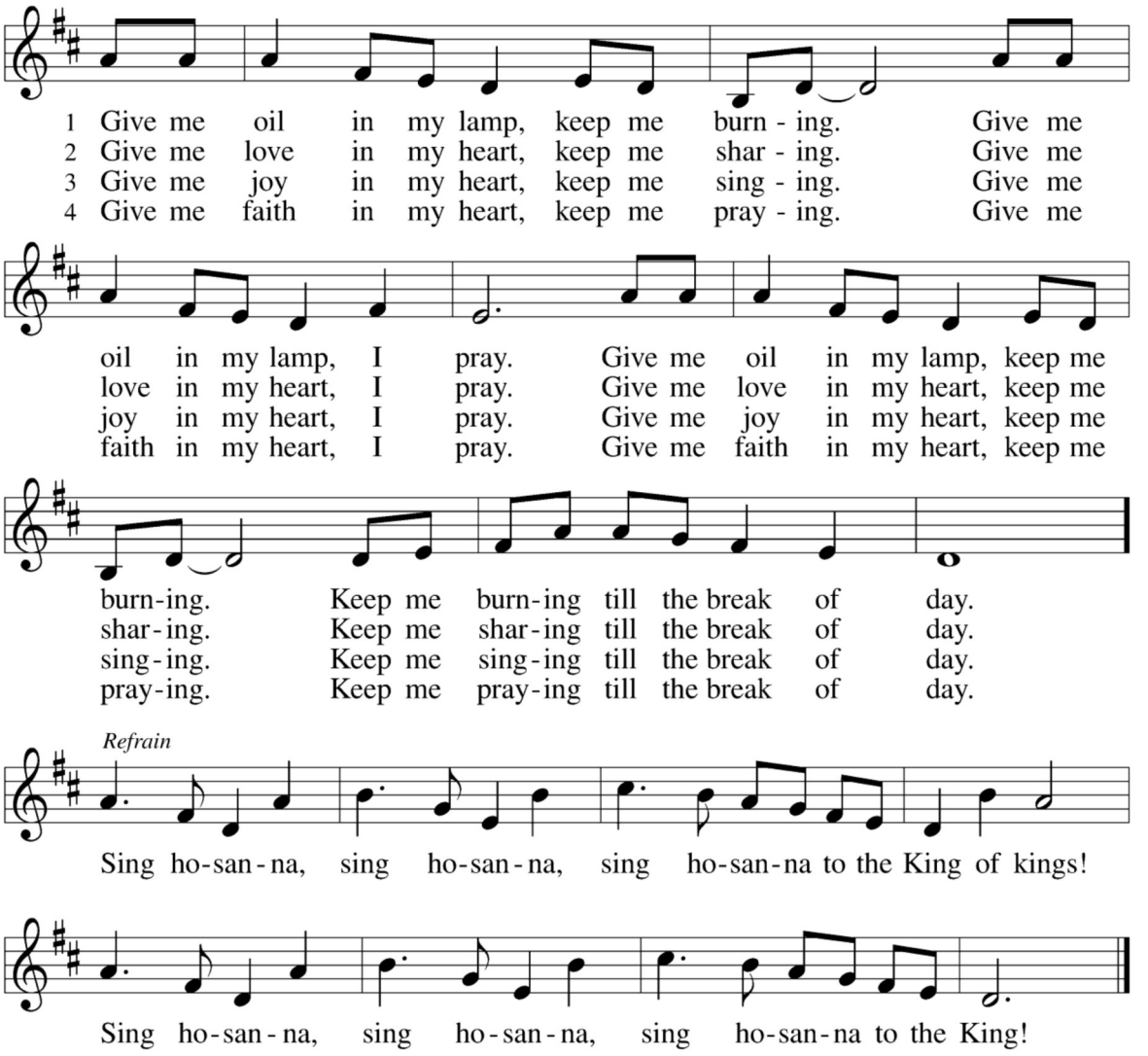


Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.
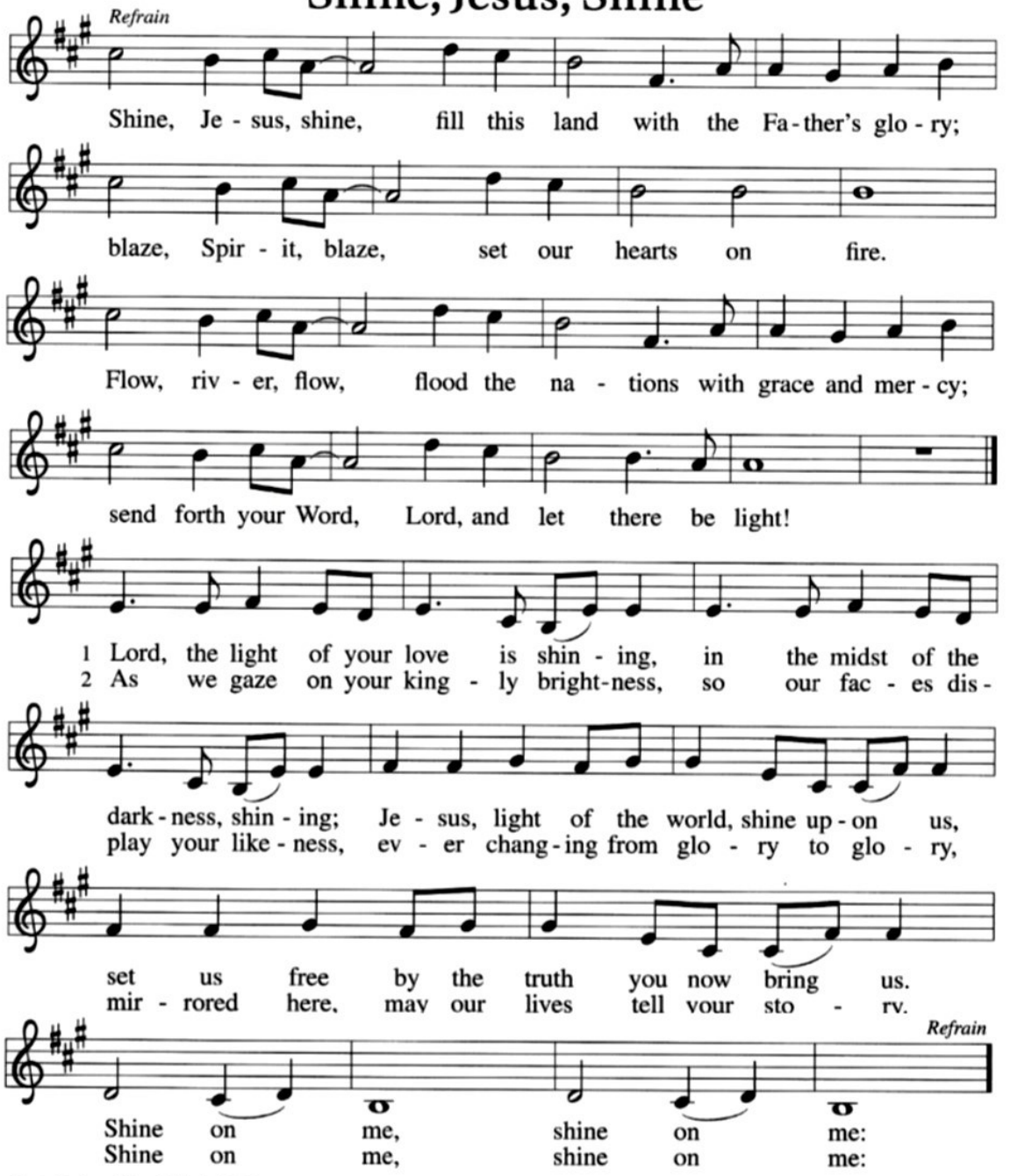
Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

Give Me Oil in My Lamp



Text: Traditional
Music: Traditional

Shine, Jesus, Shine



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick

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ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

norwaybethany.org: Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca: Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed
Maintenance chores around the facility
Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:30 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 11:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room 6:30 Pub Theology

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