

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalm 100:3



August 20th, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.

We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an *AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation* - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

Good Shepherd is a Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use facility.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship-**ELW (red book)**, All Creation Sings-**ACS (purple book)**

Behold, I Make All Things New Liturgy (**blue booklet**)

Page numbers (p.) in front of the blue booklets, (#) in back of ELW and ACS
congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC: "The Hills of Anacapri" – Claude Debussy

PRAYER BELL - WELCOME – ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING HYMN:** ACS 993 God Is Here Today (sung once in English, then once in English or Spanish)



Dios es - tá a - quí, tan
God is here to - day; as

cier-to co-mo el ai - re que res - pi - ro, tan
cer - tain as the air I breathe, as

cier-to co-mo la ma - ña - na se le - van - ta, tan
cer - tain as the morn-ing sun that ris - es, as

cier-to co-mo que le can - to y me pue-de o -ír.
cer - tain when I sing you'll hear my song.

Text: Javier Gacias Mateo, b. 1956; tr. C. Michael Hawn, b. 1948

Music: DIOS ESTÁ AQUÍ, Javier Gacias Mateo

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CONFESSION-FORGIVENESS Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. *Silence is kept for reflection.*
Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.

**We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.
We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God's mercy is showered upon creation, and upon you. God's forgiveness is for all people, and for you. You are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen

***GREETING:** 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-HYMN OF PRAISE:** P. 2-5

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray... **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 45:1-15

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] ¹Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he

fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,

when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³**It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.**

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

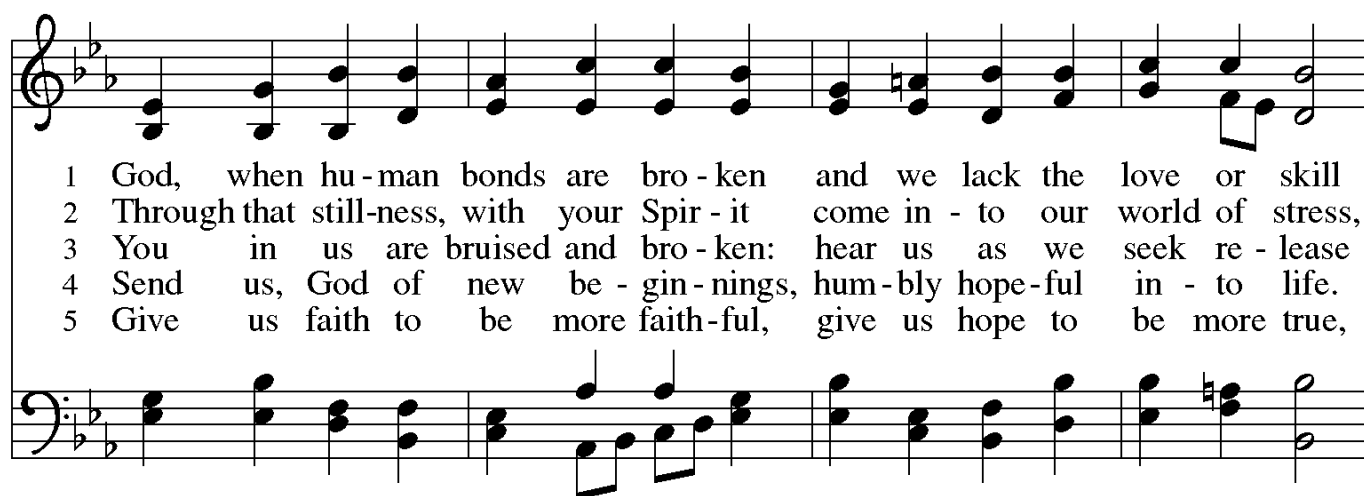
[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

- Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 603 God, When Human Bonds are Broken

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless - ing: make us stron - ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (*During the end of the hymn of the day, those being welcomed will come stand in front of the altar facing the congregation. Shepherds go to the lectern where they will take turns presenting the new members.*)

Luther Snow: Welcome Brad, Shelley and Holly Hurst.

Jane Jakoubek: Welcome William Kurth and Amelia Kurth.

We rejoice to welcome you. Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's 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.

In baptismFriends in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place? *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.* People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome these new members. **We rejoice with you in the new life in Christ that we share. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

***PEACE:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary. Bows, signs, fist bumps, handshakes, are all honored!

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***OFFERTORY SONG:** Create in me a clean heart ... P. 8

***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray...**Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** P. 10

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** P. 11

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION-THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

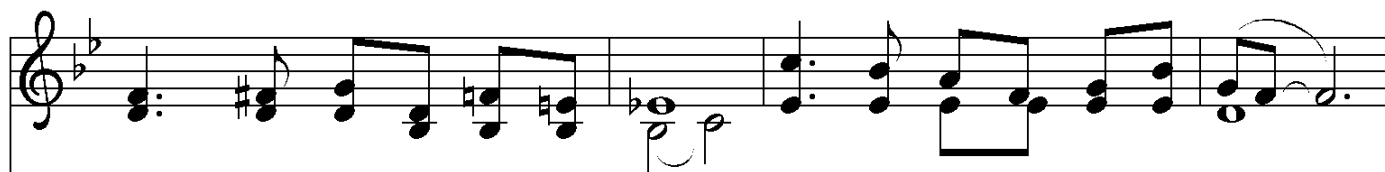
Our Father, who art in heaven...

HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will direct you out of your pew, up the aisle near parking lot and to the altar rail where you can hold out your hands to receive gluten and dairy free bread. The plate of cups will then be offered for you to select wine or grape juice. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by placing your hands in front of your heart. If you need an individual, pre-packaged serving of bread and wine, please request that of your server. Place wine/juice cups in the basket by the altar as you return to your pew.*

COMMUNION HYMNS: P. 12 Lamb of God,

ELW 697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee, ELW 483 Here Is Bread

Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*



Text: North American traditional
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



Refrain

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

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SENDING

TABLE BLESSING - PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING- SENDING SONG:** ELW 863 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art (vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—
3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,
4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!

How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!
thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!
bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.
for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.
On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER BELL – POSTLUDE: “A Breeze from Alabama” – Scott Joplin

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY – USHERS: Kim & Cheuang Kavan;
CANTOR: Megan Buckingham; READERS: Harland Nelson, Brian Solberg; ASSISTING MINISTER:
Stephanie Hoff; FELLOWSHIP: Kathy & Jim Buzza, Sarah Olson, Bev Nelson; ORGANIST &
PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; PREACHER & PRESIDER: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson

GREEN FLOCK MEETING: The Green Flock will be holding a meeting **directly after worship today** in the Gathering Space.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS NEXT SUNDAY, August 27. As students, teachers, and staff return to school, all are welcome to bring backpacks, bags, computer cases etc. to worship for a blessing during worship. You'll get a special gift for the year ahead too!

RALLY SUNDAY for kids and parents. Youth and Sunday School students will have games and fun as we launch a new program year. Please register for programming at tinyurl.com/gs-rally-sunday-2023 . Parents and Sunday School helpers please meet Kelli in the Gathering Space at 10:45am for a brief orientation about schedules and programming.

GATHER BIBLE STUDY will be held at Wellington Place across the hall from Ginny Olson's room on **Tuesday, August 22nd at 2:30 PM**. Carrie Solberg will lead. For details, a copy of the study, or to arrange a carpool, contact **Bev Sheridan** at sherida701@gmail.com .

CUTTING GARDEN FLOWERS: Anne Clausen and Cheri Lane are 'harvesting' the flowers and providing bouquets for the sanctuary vases every Sunday in August as well as the small bouquets on the Garden Produce Table for as long as there are blooms to share.

MEAL TRAIN FOR ERICA YANEF AND FAMILY: A Meal Train has been set up for Erica, Nick, and Aemon Yaneff following the birth of son **Bowen Hall**, born on July 11. To sign up to **donate a meal** or provide a **monetary donation** for meals for the Yaneff family, go to tinyurl.com/yaneff-family-meal-train .

DISCIPLESHIP IN A DEMOCRACY DISCUSSION: **Rev. Dr. Anthony Bateza**, Reformation scholar at St. Olaf College and co-chair of the ELCA's Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith, will lead a workshop on what Lutherans can do to help in our democracy will be held **Sunday, August 27th, 11:30 AM** at **First Lutheran Church**. A free-will lunch will be served. For more information and to register, go to tinyurl.com/lutheran-democracy-decorah .

2024 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING REGISTRATION DUE SEPTEMBER 3rd: Decorah area ELCA churches set **September 3rd** as the due date for registrations for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 16-20, 2024. This deadline allows for Early Bird registration, which reduces the cost per person and provides more housing options. All students entering Grades 8-12 in the 2023-24 school year can participate, and kids that aren't members are welcome too! A **completed registration form and \$250 deposit** (with check made out to Good Shepherd) should be turned into the church office by September 3. The projected overall cost per person is \$1400, including deposit. Fundraisers hopefully will cover the additional cost. Registration forms are in the Gathering Space and were sent via email. Contact **Kelli** at kelli@goodshepherddecorah.org with any questions.

THE WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS PICNIC will take place on **Sunday, September 10th** from **5-6:30pm**. This year we'll be able to feast under our new pergola and celebrate our commitment to caring for creation. The picnic is a whole congregation effort! Sign up to help today, online under the signup tab on the website or on the tables in the Gathering Space.

OPEN HUB SINGING CLUB, an 8-week series of song circles, will begin **Sept. 10th**. All are welcome to experience joy in community through voice and song! Open to everyone regardless of singing experience. Registration and more info at CenterforBelonging.earth or call **Liz Rog** at **563-382-8013**.

TRANS MUTUAL AID SUPPORT: The Good Shepherd **Social Justice Team** is participating with **Iowa Trans Mutual Aid** to provide assistance to Trans and Nonbinary individuals in Iowa as they access gender-affirming care. Iowa Trans Mutual Aid helps facilitate life-saving care to those without the financial resources to access it on their own. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver (no minors are transported without parents) or could offer simple overnight accommodations to a parent and child, please call or text **Marty Steele** at **563-419-6163**. You can also contribute by providing a financial gift to the Iowa Trans Mutual Aid fund at iowatransmutualaidfund.org .

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BABY CARE ITEMS NEEDED: Donations are needed for Lutheran World Relief School Kits and Baby Care Kits! The items needed for **School Kits** are 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, boxes of 16 or 24 count crayons, blunt scissors, pencil sharpeners, 30-centimeter rulers, #2 unsharpened pencils, blue or black ballpoint pens, and 2 1/2 inch erasers. Items needed for **Baby Care Kits** are cloth diapers, small hand towels, infant sleepers, receiving blankets (up to 50" square), sweater or jacket, cotton t-shirts, and 4-ounce soap bars. A donation box is in the Gathering Space.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires on Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii. LDR provides for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction there, and is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead. To donate, go to community.elca.org/uswildfires .

DECORAH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS OF CANNED FRUIT AND PASTA: The Decorah Community Food Pantry welcomes donations of all varieties of canned fruit, pasta, and other shelf stable foods. These items are currently hard for the Food Pantry to obtain in quantity from the NE Iowa Food Bank. Donations can be dropped off 24-7 at 110 Railroad Street, as there are donation bins located just outside the Food Pantry door.

STEPHANIE HOFF'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: Our member Stephanie has Stage 5 chronic kidney disease and needs a kidney transplant. Information about Stephanie and living kidney donation is available at goodshepherddecorah.org/mystory/

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Tristan: 9:00-1:00 PM M-F

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

563-382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org goodshepherddecorah.org

Pastor Amy: Cell 563-419-0140 pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME GUESTS. THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE. All are invited to share in coffee, juice, and treats in the Fellowship Hall on the far side of the building.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE. The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags are available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works for you and your child. An Infant Feeding Chair is available in the music office (hallway outside of sanctuary) for more privacy if desired.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening congregation. A portion of the Statement is printed here each statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code.



at the annual developed sessions with the week. Find the full

We are in need of liberation from the sins of racism and white supremacy. (Romans 3:23)

PRAYER LIST:

Good Shepherd Family: Ingrid Callaghan, Ann Naslund, Mike Blair, Sue Blom, Marilyn Anderson, Ginny Olson, the family of Glenn Nelson, the Yaneff family, Kerry Johnson, Donna Bahr, Helen Hermeier, James Barth, Melanie Folkerts, Marion Hanson, Stephanie Hoff, Ed Hover, Harland Nelson, Janet Gall, Jutta Anderson, all residents and staff at Aase Haugen, Eastern Star, Wellington Place, Mosaic Homes, and Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, and those preparing for public ministry: Joseph Doegen, Kathryn Thompson, and Kristin Kopperud-Stinn

Relatives and Friends: The family of Katrinka Sieber, Arlene Lecander (mother of Tim Lecander), Lily Laursen (granddaughter of Reg & Jeri Laursen), Josh Flora (nephew of Melanie & Tim Folkerts), Bobby Lambert (step-nephew of Melanie & Tim Folkerts), Bob Fahrenkrug (grandfather of Sarah Wicks), the family of Amber Einck (friend of Jane Borelli), Maryn Olson (daughter of Ginny Olson), Noi Tran (Kim Kavan's mother), Karen & John Silseth (brother and sister in law of Kris Peterson), Frank Barth (James Barth's Brother), Sylvia Clisham (member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry), Parents of Dan Raney, Richard Caton (Brian's father), Ann Hovde Nelson (Daughter-in-law of Glenn Nelson and Jane Borelli), Sarah Jane, Tim and Sue Broderick (friends of Jerry and Ruth Bruce), Nathaniel Judisch (son of Dave and Gail), Robin Darland (Friend of Erik Berg), Dennis Martin (brother-in-law of the Slinds), Nathan Scheuerelein (grandson of Bonnie Flora), Lynzee Makowski (friend of Laurie Biedermann), Todd Hove (son of Gloria Hove), Aaron Buzza (son of Jim and Kathy), Marilyn Walli (Cousin of Marv Slind), Marian Brynsaas (sister of LaVerne Ramsey), Mary Beth & Bayo Oyebade and the Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria, and our Companion Synod in Hungary