

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30th, 2026

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

.PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

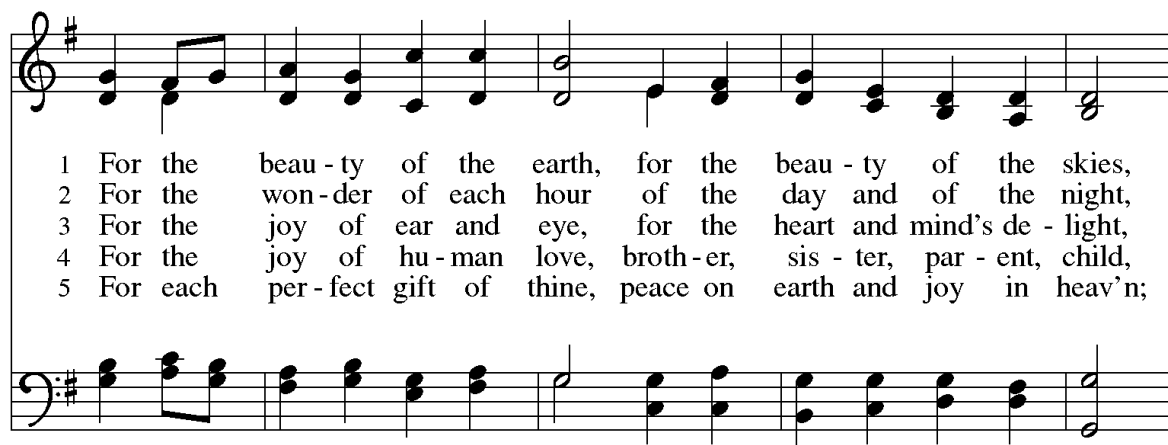
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

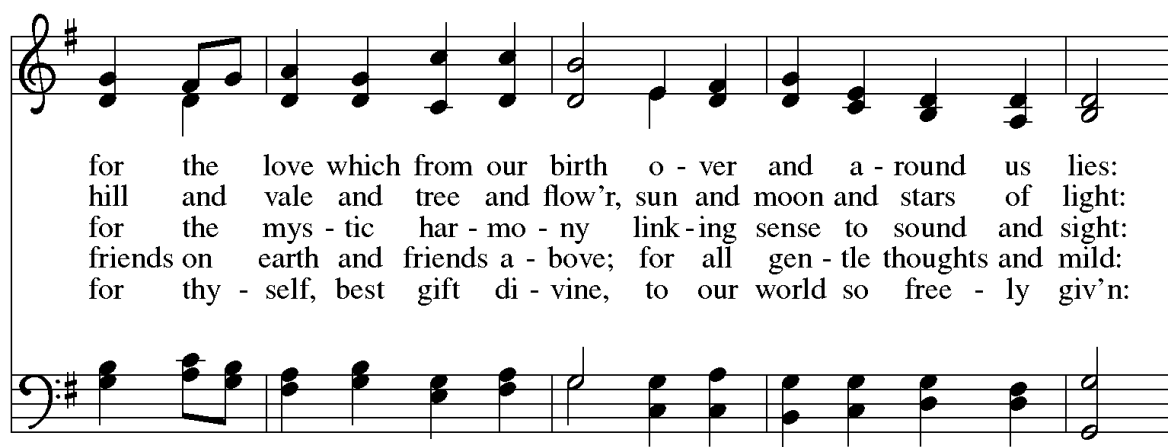
Rest in God's love.

Amen.

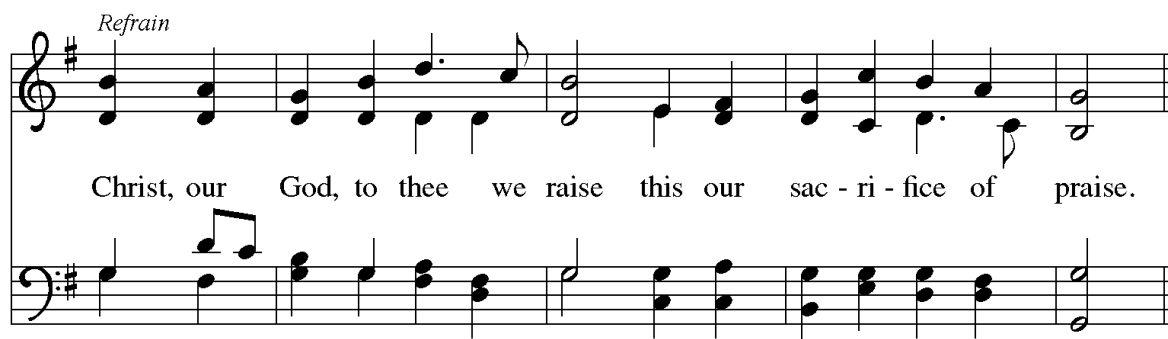
For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah:

O Lord, you know;

remember me and visit me,

and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;

know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,

and your words became to me a joy

and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,

O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,

nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,

for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,

my wound incurable,

refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,

like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and | have not faltered.
² **Test me, O | Lord, and try me;**
examine my heart | and my mind.
³ For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.
⁴ **I have not sat | with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with | the deceitful. R
⁵ I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.
⁶ **I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O Lord,**
that I may go in procession | round your altar,
⁷ singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.
⁸ **Lord, I love the house in | which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- | ry abides. R

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation

The musical score is written for two systems of voices, each with a soprano and bass line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and lyrics.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
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*GOSPEL – Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But

he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as -
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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***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.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Calm to the Waves

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, 'Peace, be still.'" and "Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still - ness, hear his voice."

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need. The following responses will be used after each petition: **Receive our prayer.***

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, for our sister congregation Zion Lutheran in Woodland with their pastor Rev. Ken Scheck and for First Congregational, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. You are invited to share your offering as you enter the sanctuary. An offering plate is located in the center aisle near the back the sanctuary.

OFFERING PERFORMANCE: “Feather Theme” from Forrest Gump performed by Ronnie Cung

Eat This Bread
Jesus Christ, Bread of Life

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

Amen

*** WORDS TO LOVE BY**

Who is God? Do you want to know Him better? People have wondered about God for as long as there have been people. They wonder if God still cares about what is going on. Some people think if they get close to God they're afraid they'll have to give up their freedom.

There are many things we don't yet know, but there are many we do. Looking at nature, we can think God is a designer of order and beauty. And He must be pretty powerful. When we look at ourselves and see that we all have some idea about God and that means God put that idea in us!

God is more than an idea. He is more than a symbol for good or a "higher being." God is a very real spirit Being who has always existed in the past, who exists now, and will always exist in the future. God is personal. God is involved in our world. All we have to do is stop, look, and listen. God values you for who you are, not what you do.

One quality of God's nature that should make us treble is His justice.

One quality of God's nature that should give us comfort is His love.

Thank God that your salvation does not depend on you!

From: God is in the Small Stuff by Bruce and Stan

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you

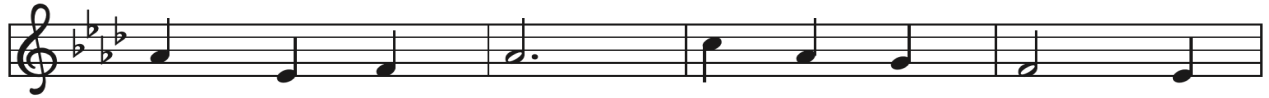
today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

God's Work, Our Hands v1, 2, 4

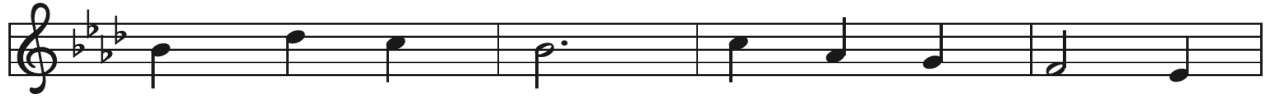
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1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2055 E. Columbia Avenue

Battle Creek, MI 49014

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tlcbattlecreek.org

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are strengthened in the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

As we worship, you're invited to light a candle at the cross on the left wall at any time music is playing or we are singing. This is a way of praying with our bodies and the elements – as we light a flame, we lift up our concerns, gratitude, or whatever else we carry in our hearts.

SAVE THE DATE: God's Work Our Hands Sunday is in two weeks (September 13). Plan on staying after church for a light lunch and then working on our two projects: Making cards for folks in nursing homes and assembling sack lunches for The Haven of Rest.



The Council has a goal of better advertising Trinity and all the things going on in our congregation. One way to reach this goal is to increase our presence on Facebook by having more folks see our posts. If you are on Facebook and you have not already followed Trinity, please do so and then "Like", "Comment" and "Share" our weekly service and any other happenings. THANKS!!

Contact Info: For emergency pastoral care contact:

Pr. Ed Ruble, St. Peter Lutheran Church

Cell: 269-569-4721

Email: pastor@saintpeterbc.org

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world.

Assisting in worship today:

Preaching: Tresa Garver

Assisting Minister: Laurie Swanson

Sound Board: John Kolodiziezyck

Streaming: Doug Martens

Music Director: Ronnie Cung

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

August 30 – September 6, 2026

TODAY: 11:00 am Worship, Coffee Hour

MONDAY: 10:30 Yoga

TUESDAY: 10:30 Yoga

WEDNESDAY: 12 AA

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 10:30 Yoga

SATURDAY:

NEXT SUNDAY: 11:00 am, Worship, Coffee Hour

Readings for next Sunday: Ezekiel 33: 7 - 11; Psalm 119: 33 - 40; Romans 13: 8 - 14; Matthew 18: 15 - 20

PRAYER REQUESTS Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing to office@tlcbattlecreek.org. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed:

August 23: Janelle: Linda Stacey, Ginesa, Battle Creek Family whose child died in an accident; **Gloria:** 63rd Anniversary; **Eileen:** David, Jennifer, Melissa, James; **Tresa:** Angela, Alyssa; **Eric:** Brenon

August 16: Janelle: Linda Stacey, Kellie & Michael, herself; **Eileen:** Family of Wendy Lewis, Jennifer, Jim, Judy, Niece Jennifer, Melissa; **Tresa:** JoAnn Rusan; **Wayne:** Pastor Rob and everyone in Hawaii; **Gloria:** Andrea

August 9: Ginesa: Linda Stacey; **Doug:** Farmers during the drought; **John:** People in Gaza and the West Bank; **Brandi:** Herself; **Tresa:** Thanks for materials moving forward.

August 2: Janelle: Gary & Andi Talent, Ginesa; **Tresa:** Angela; **Doug:** Ron & Sue; **Kendra:** Kathy; **Eric:** Brenon

The Franklin Food Pantry desperately needs to have its shelves restocked. The items needed are: Canned goods, soups, fruits, vegetables; also, cereal, juice, boxed milk, toilet paper and soap. Cash donations are also appreciated. Please drop off any donations at church placing them in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks!!