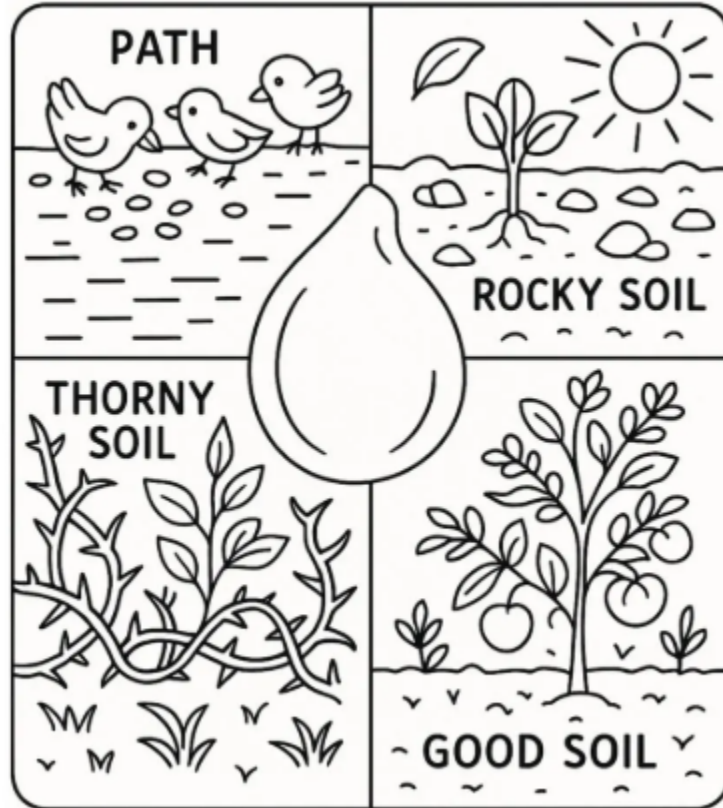


Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year A
July 12th, 2026



Pastor Diane Martinson
Director of Music Rowen Erickson

Worship Volunteers

Assisting Minister: Dawn Schroeder

Reader: Linda Wery

Altar Guild: Peggy Hansen

Communion Assistant: Peggy Hansen

Ushers: Julie Juranitch & Volunteer

Video Tech: Doug Scholes

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to say the **bold** words.*

HYMN SING

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.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, **Almighty God**, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13

¹Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed,

²O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

³When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.

**⁴Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.**

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,

O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

**⁶By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.**

⁷You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

**⁸Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

⁹You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

**¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.**

¹¹You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills gird themselves with joy;**

¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

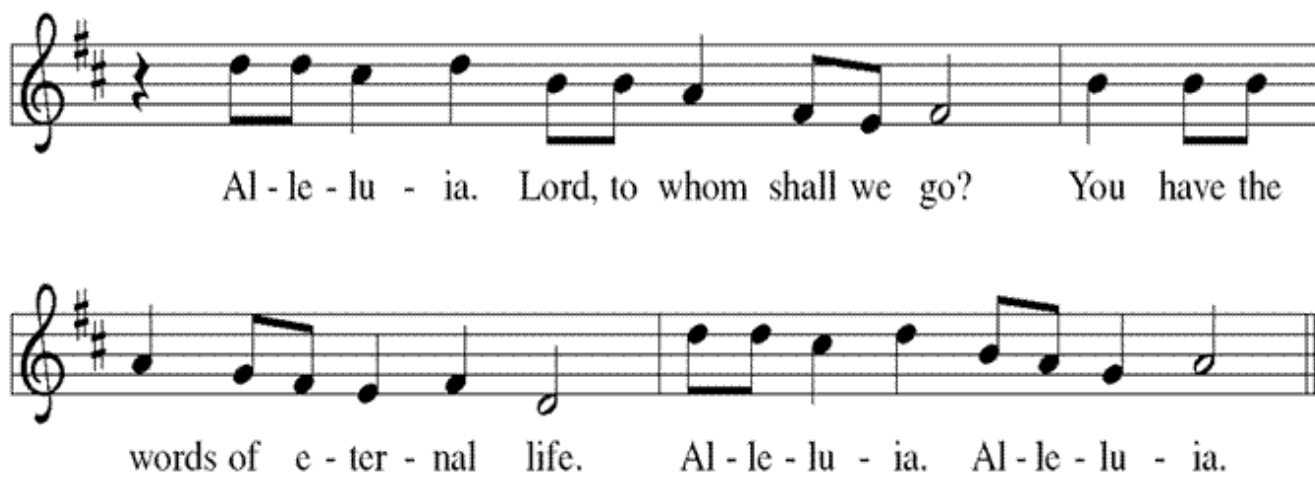
¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit

set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Diane Martinson

Please rise in body or in spirit.



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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 THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith (*especially Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always, **And also with you.**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

OFFERING

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

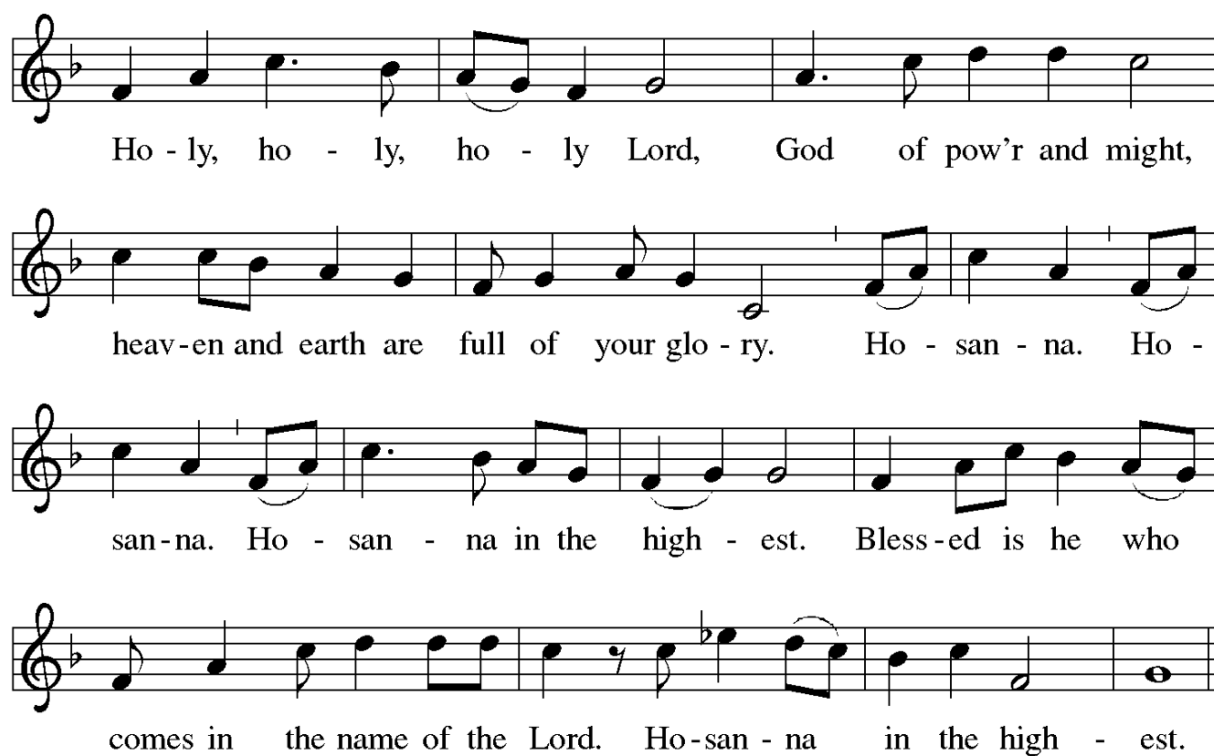
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, 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.

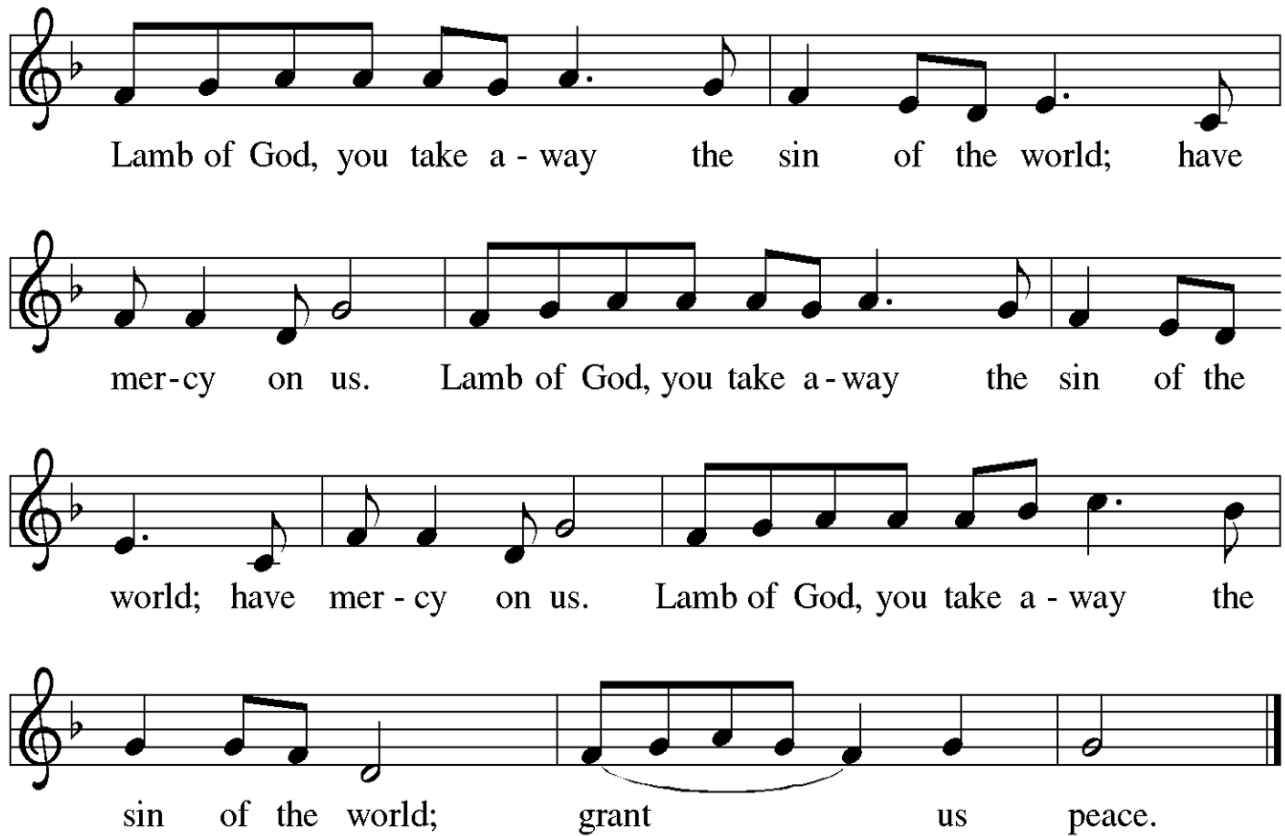
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Musical Meditation

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, **Compassionate God,**
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *On What Has Now Been Sown* Cranberry 550



- 1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
- 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
- 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

DISMISSAL

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

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 7/6/26	\$ 2,880.00
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$18,843.00
YTD Receipts through 6/30/26:	\$114,749.00

The Bethel Weekly

Volunteers Needed: Bethel is in need of Assisting Ministers, Ushers, and Building & Grounds committee volunteers. Please let Ashley know if you are able to help with these important ministries.

Joint Outdoor Worship and Picnic: will be July 19th at Resurrection. Bring a dish to share and a chair and welcome Pastor Melissa as our new part time Pastor. Please consider bringing a card or welcome notes for Pastor Melissa!

Bible Study with Resurrection: Pastor Melissa has invited us to join bible study at Resurrection. They meet on certain Wednesdays from 11:30am-1pm in the gathering room. There is a video and discussion following. Just bring your lunch with you and enjoy. Studies will be on July 15th & 29th, and August 12th & 26th.

Salvation Army Senior Meal: will be served July 20th. Please see the sign up sheet in the hallway for the items that are still needed.

Church History: There was a history council meeting this week and many boxes were sorted and organized. They found that there were a lot of duplicate copies of old directories and anniversary books along with photos. Please feel free to take ones you might be missing.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:

Fill The Manna Pack: You can pick up your manna pack bag at both entrances and in the lounge. Please use this bag to collect your donations at mealtimes. Fill your plate, fill the manna pack!

Aluminum Can Drive: Bring your empty aluminum cans to St John the Baptist Catholic Church (behind the building) at 2597 Glendale Ave in Howard. All proceeds from the can collection will go to FMSC. Collection will run through the end of July.

Let Me Be Frank Theater Show: On Thursday, July 23rd, Let Me Be Frank Productions will donate \$5 from every ticket sold for the opening night of their Dingaling Brothers Circus show to FMSC MobilePack. Tickets are available at meyertheatre.org, ticketstaronline.com, or by calling Ticketstar at 920-494-3401. Get your tickets now for an evening out and support our cause!

Sponsorship Packets: If you know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring our MobilePack, packets are available in the office. Any questions, please reach out to Peggy Hansen or Kathy Long.

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