



# THE VISITOR

## Sunday, November 3rd

Remember to move your clocks back one hour!



### Worship Time Notes:

Month of November:

- BGUMC Morning Worship continues at 8:15 a.m.

December – May:

- BGUMC Morning Worship switches to 10:45 A.M. (our 6-month rotation with Janesville UMC) to allow time to assess weather, road conditions, and the church parking lot for all involved, including Pastor Kathy and her travels from Janesville.

the rest of the items until the colder weather returned in the fall.

As we checked back this fall, Bethlehem Inn is now able to take another dozen of the blankets. They then graciously suggested that we distribute the remainder through other local helping agencies who may have folks with immediate needs as winter sets in. Based on that selfless suggestion, all our remaining blankets have been, or will be distributed this fall as follows:

- 12 to Bethlehem Inn of Waseca
- 13 to South Central Human Resources in Owatonna – for use in their housing and residential programs
- 6 to an elementary school in Owatonna to help a family in the school’s care who is experiencing homelessness.

## News of BGUMC Blankets of Warmth & Care!

Thank you again to the people of BGUMC - and our friends, the co-workers of Nicole Wacek, at Steele/Waseca Co-Op Electric – who gave of their time, talents, and resources during Lent 2024 to make and/or gather the following items for distribution to people in need:



- 31 New or gently used backpacks
- 11 New or gently used blankets
- 34 Hand-made double-sided fleece-tied blankets and hand-sewn or crocheted quilts

In May, we delivered our first batch of backpacks - and 14 blankets - to Bethlehem Inn, Waseca. This faith-based organization provides short-term transitional housing for homeless women and children, as well as social service connections to empower these families to improve their lives and be able to journey toward a more stable future. Due to storage limitations at Bethlehem Inn, they requested that we hold

All remaining backpacks will be distributed to Bethlehem Inn, in small batches, as their supply runs short. Many of the folks who arrive there come with only the clothes on their backs. Something as simple as a personal backpack holds greater meaning than we can begin to imagine.

## Mission Opportunities at Blooming Grove UMC

Our Mission Team invites you to consider supporting one or more of the following mission opportunities in the weeks/months ahead. Specific info will be provided for each as their time draws near.







- **October 20<sup>th</sup> – November 10<sup>th</sup>**
  - ◊ Thanksgiving Basket Mission (full page flyer in this month’s Visitor)
- **Early December**
  - ◊ Adopt a Family
- **January & February**
  - ◊ Hurricane Relief through United Methodist Relief Agencies

# November 2024

**Blooming Grove**  
Morning Worship...8:15 am  
Sunday School...9:15 am

**Janesville**  
Morning Worship.....10:45 am

**Waterville Evangelical**  
Morning Worship...9:30 am

					1	2
					Pastor's Day Off	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><u>All Saint's Day</u></p> 		<p>VOTING DAY</p> 		<p>9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave/WV</p> <p>7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail</p>	Pastor's Day Off	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	<p>6:30 pm Worship Team at WV</p> 	<p>4-6 pm Free Diaper Give-away at WV</p>		<p>7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail</p>	Pastor's Day Off	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>2 pm Confirmation</p>			<p>11:30 Prayer Brunch at The Depot in Fari-bault</p> <p>5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper at WV</p>	<p>9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave/WV</p> <p>7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail</p>	Pastor's Day Off	<p>10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV</p>
24	25	26	27	28	<p><b>Parament Colors</b></p> <p>11/3 White (All Saints Sunday)</p> <p>11/10 Green</p> <p>11/17 Green</p> <p>11/24 White (Christ the King Sunday)</p>	
<p>2 pm Parish Wide Charge Conference at WV</p>			<p>7 pm Parish Thanksgiving Service at BG</p>	 <p>7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail</p>		

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

7	Thur	9:30 pm	Bible Study at Cool Wave
11	Mon	6:30 pm	Parish Worship team for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas at WV
17	Sun	2:00 pm	Confirmation
20	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Depot in Faribault
20	Wed	5:00 pm	Spaghetti Super at WV
21	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
24	Sun	2:00 pm	Charge Conference At WV
27	Wed	7:00 pm	Parish Thanksgiving Service at BG

### Prayer Brunch

At The Depot, Faribault  
Wednesday 20th - 11:30 am  
All are Welcome



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

15	Kaylee Krell
15	Paige Hohertz
19	Brady Nelson
22	Jason Kosel
23	Luke Mathern
24	Sheryl Brisel
25	Ollie Fyvie
26	Alex Morgan
27	Theresa Riecke
28	Isla Morgan
28	Andi Spinler
2	Cathi Gasner
2	Julie Sommers
5	Bryce Lisowski
6	Ron Engebretson
7	Quinn Christenson
11	Nolan Engebretson
11	Lisa Full

### Happy Anniversary

12	Jim and Chery Southworth
22	George & Margie Sharp
26	Don & Char Frankenberry



**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**at Waterville EUMC**  
**Prairie Lakes Parish**  
**Annual Charge Conference**

At this gathering, the three churches in our parish will care for annual items of business and celebrate the experiences and ministry that have taken place in and through our congregations in 2024.

Pastor Dean Wolf, elder and current pastor at Elysian UMC, will lead our time together. All persons from each of our three congregations are welcome to attend!

## Treasurer's Report

September 30—October 24, 2024



<b>General Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,200.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,200.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor's Salary	2,223.64
Telephone	55.06
Excel Energy	155.55
Lawn Mowing	950.32
Food Shelves	3,851.00
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 7,235.57</b>
<b>(Net Income: —</b>	<b>\$4,035.57)</b>

### Building Addition

<b>Income</b>	
Restoration	\$ 200.00
Run for the Loaves	35.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5235.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Loan Payment	\$ 5,045.06
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 5,045.06</b>
<b>(Net Income: —</b>	<b>\$4,810.06)</b>

Restoration Fund Balance	\$60,998.31
Building Addition Loan	\$215,560.58



*Join us for our Prairie Lakes Parish  
Thanksgiving Service*

Wednesday, November 27th

7:00 pm at Blooming Grove UMC

### Invitation from Waterville



**Spaghetti  
Dinner**

Join us for our Spaghetti Supper on Wednesday, November 20th, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. We're excited to offer you a tasty meal of spaghetti, breadsticks, and desserts for a free will offering. We hope to see you there!

**..Be ready, for in an hour  
that you don't expect,  
the Son of Man will come.**



**(Matthew 24:44)**

## **Get Ready**



*So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Matthew 24: 44 NIV*

What an amazing season it's been for our parish churches! Our June joint service was the kick-off at Blooming Grove followed by the July joint service in Waterville and the August service in Janesville with the season's wrap up at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm where we were joined by Peace United Methodist Church from Morristown. I am filled with awe at the way our parish people came together under the planning and direction of Judy Mahler to gather as a Pop-Up Choir for the four services. Each church hosted a time of food and fellowship where members of our parish become the community. Bravo to each one of you who stepped up to sing; who prepared and served food; who helped with the planning of the joint services; and who came to be a part of the Prairie Lakes Parish community worshipping and praising God's goodness and our unity. The planning was noted in a Facebook post by our Assistant to Bishop Lanette Plambeck—Carol Zaagsma. If you took part in the joint services, you saw the results of that careful planning—the getting ready—all to praise and glorify our Savior Jesus Christ. I sincerely thank each one of you who worked, sang, and attended!

Matthew 24: 44 tells us how important it is to be ready. Just as our parish was ready and enjoyed the best of the preparations, Christ calls each one of us to be ready for Christ. I believe we need to prepare ourselves each morning as we welcome a new day. We need to be ready for each opportunity that comes our way to share Christ's love and compassion. Friends, we are fast approaching our Thanksgiving celebrations that leads us into the Advent 2024 season. Just as we carefully prepare home and food for our Thanksgiving celebrations—we are called to focus our faith journeys on our Savior who gave his life so that we can know the safety of our eternal home.

November is a busy time in the church. Our Annual Parish Church Charge Conference will be held November 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Waterville EUMC. Our parish worship team will gather in early November to plan for our Thanksgiving and Advent seasons.

Let each of us be ready for the most important One of all! Remember, you are loved! God loves you; Jesus loves you; the Holy Spirit loves you and so does your pastor!

Happy Thanksgiving from Jerry and me.

***Pastor Kathy***

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**& Pizza Lunch**  
**At Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm**



This year's annual worship service at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm was great! 86 people of all ages joined together from the three churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish and Peace United Methodist of Morristown. Due to the brisk morning wind, we gathered for worship inside the Pizza Farm barn, a change that brought so much good with it: warmth, elbow-to-elbow camaraderie, acoustics that enabled the congregational singing to fill the room, and the opportunity to easily hear our pop-up choir, consisting of 18 members from all four churches, as they shared an integral part of the morning's message through song.

Our World Communion Sunday service was centered around the theme "Walking the Road of Faith Together: A Place at the Table for Everyone Born". Pastors Kathy King (Prairie Lakes Parish), Elden Eklund (Morristown Peace), and Carol Zaagsman (MN United Methodist Conference), along with Deaconess Cindy Saufferer, led us in worship, and called us together as "family" to gather at the communion table.

At the conclusion of worship, the sun came out in full strength, and the wind died down, allowing us to enjoy our delicious pizza lunch, games and fellowship on the pasture lawn.

We extend our thanks to Bill and Emily, of the Pleasant Grove Pizza farm, for their gracious hospitality in hosting our gathering. To quote Pastor Carol Zaagsman: "It was a beautiful morning with wonderful people, and a perfect way to spend an October day here in MN."





### *Mission Opportunity*

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> through  
Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Waseca Area Neighborhood  
Service Center & Food Shelf**

**Thanksgiving Food Basket  
Program**

Each November, the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf distributes Thanksgiving Food Baskets containing all the fixings needed to prepare a complete Thanksgiving meal to income-eligible families that might not be able to afford to buy these groceries on their own. In 2023, the Food Shelf distributed 200 Thanksgiving Baskets to income-eligible families. In 2024, they anticipate that the number needed will increase to 250.

Cost of each basket will be somewhere around \$30-\$40, depending on bulk pricing available at neighboring grocery stores and Walmart. Total cost for this special program will range between \$7,500 - \$10,000. Multiple organizations help with the funding.

**Help us raise funds between now and Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to support this important program! If you would like to contribute, please note “Thanksgiving Basket” on your check or offering envelope, and place your donation in the white “offering coffeepot” at the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be made out to Blooming Grove UMC.**

**In addition, add your loose change to the “Shaker Can” at the back of the sanctuary. All “Shaker Can” collections will go to the Thanksgiving Food Basket program as well!**

### ***Let’s make a Racket for Thanksgiving Baskets!***

Before or after church - whenever you make a contribution toward this project through our offering coffeepot, or Shaker Can - we invite you to give the “Turkey Caller Gobbler” (sitting on the back table) a big shake! Then watch each week as our Turkey Tracker in the south addition grows tail feathers – one for each \$20 raised!

### ***Thanksgiving Food Basket Program - Background Info***

Each Thanksgiving Food Basket will contain the items in the list below. Note: family size of 1-2 will receive a smaller meat option, and families with 4 or more will receive additional vegetables, biscuits, and gravy.

- Frozen turkey (around 10 lbs)
- Baskets with the 10 lb turkey include a disposable roasting pan and turkey bag for the oven
- Potatoes (either instant or a 5 pound bag)
- Canned vegetables
- Refrigerator biscuits
- Gravy mix
- Stuffing
- Dessert

Throughout 2024, the Food Shelf is assisting well over 500 families – an unprecedented increase – requiring a minimum of 15,000 pounds of food PER MONTH. Their budget is stretched to the max, with very few dollars left over to put toward purchase of the ingredients for the special Thanksgiving Basket Program. They are grateful for organizations who have offset a portion of these costs in the past – and this year, are requesting help from additional organizations. This will enable the Food Shelf to reserve as much of their available funds as possible for ongoing food assistance for their clients. If excess funds are donated beyond what is needed for the Thanksgiving Basket Program, they will be used to make ongoing food purchases for distribution through the food shelf.

Cindy Kolander, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, extends her appreciation for BGUMC’s relationship with their organization, and our support of their work. (They are still talking about the awesome September day of our BGUMC Run-4-the Loaves and BBQ Cook-off, and the financial support it provided for them!) She has now reached out to Brad Saufferer at BGUMC to invite us to join other local organizations in providing extra financial assistance to help to offset the costs of the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program.

***Thank you, in  
advance,  
for your enthusiasm  
and support!***



*Thanksgiving Baskets*

## The Stretch

### Thank You?

By Cindy Saufferer

Prairie Lakes Parish Love Through Justice Coordinator

I am going to be completely honest with you. I get very uncomfortable when I am sitting around a table or in a circle with a group and we are to share one thing we are grateful for. I don't know why. It causes me to consider the possibility that maybe I am not a grateful person. For what am I thankful? Do I live a life of gratitude and how does that show up in my life?

These questions settled on my heart recently when I overheard a young person say "Thank you" when handed a glass of water. A friend quickly leaned over and whispered, "You don't have to say thank you to her". It gave me pause. Of course you have to say Thank you! It is the polite thing to say! Hmm. Heart check. Am I saying the words because it is the polite thing to do? I am very good at being polite, most days, but shouldn't it be more? Gratitude is an emotion. Am I truly experiencing gratitude when the words are uttered?

Gratitude is a response to gifts which led me to ponder what I considered a gift. My list started very simply with the things that you might hear going around the Thanksgiving table. Family, friends, a house, good food. Beginning to struggle with my list, I looked up and out the window of our daughter's home. There was a squirrel in the very top, and on the smallest branches of a tree. Wonder and joy filled me as I watched the branch bend deeply, the squirrel gracefully using the motion to move to the next branch. Soon, the sun dipped behind nature's dance. The sky was painted with incredible pinks, blues, and purples. This was a gift freely given. My responsibility was simply to be present and to respond. Thank you!

Freely given, grace. Gratitude and grace come from the same root word, *gratia* in Latin and *kharis* in Greek. Grace begets gratitude which elicits response and response is where, I believe, the magic happens. Response turns "me" into "we", into relationship. My initial response to the squirrel was giggles, sharing my delight with everyone within earshot then sitting with them in the beauty of the sunset. My heart was filled with gratitude for life.

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, shared with Oprah Winfrey in an interview: "Right after the war, I went around telling people, 'Thank you just for living, for being human.'" He continued by saying "...every hour is grace, and I feel gratitude in my heart each time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile."

Life is the gift. Gratitude is not about stuff but about the incomprehensible that we all possess, being created in the image of God, unique in every possible way. Not what we have, but that we are. When we stop and consider God's grace enveloping the whole of our lives, how can our response be anything but gratitude. Let us be open and present to the grace that can be found in each moment, even the hard ones. Gratitude grounds our life in the world and is born out of the image we each carry. Maybe gratitude is the place where we will discover our truest and best selves, and it can begin with being truly grateful for the gift of a glass of water.



**Blooming Grove United Methodist  
Church  
Board Council Meeting  
Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary**



In attendance: Pastor Kathy, Brad & Cindy Saufferer, Brian & Carolyn Kanne, Michael Kanne, Judy Mahler

**Opening Prayer:** Cindy Saufferer

**Review of 7/10/24 meeting:** Minutes approved by consensus

**Financial Reports**

- Treasurer's Report: totals as of 10/9/24 – approved by consensus
- Financial Secretary Report: Approved by consensus

**Trustees Report**

- Problems with the lift. We received the license for the lift this week.
- Brad will check with Waseca Glass about repair of the round window. Kirchner's has changed hands, and he can't get anyone to come out.

**Old Business**

- Still working on dealing with Workmen's Comp for Pastor Kathy.
- Run 4 the Loaves, rib cook-off, and tractor pull all held on the same day. It might make more sense to spread them out a bit.

**Team Reports**

**Education and Events**

- Judy provided an update from Patti. Sunday School is off and running. Not many kids, and we're patching together teachers as needed.
- They are looking at a very simple Christmas program, probably during the morning service on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Possible snow tubing in January, depending upon the weather.
- Just "Education" Team, as others plan events.

**PPRC**

- Judy reported that the PPRC will be meeting on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Waterville to set 2025 compensation.

**Communication**

- Nothing to report.

**Worship**

- We will be meeting in November to plan Advent and Christmas.
- The joint services were successful again. Everyone seems to enjoy them.

**UWOF**

- Cindy is now done as the state president.

**Mission**

- Waseca Food Shelf has contacted Brad with a request for funding for Thanksgiving meal kits.

- Blanket Distribution: Since Bethlehem Inn has such limited storage, they indicated that we should spread our blankets out to other organizations to get them to people in need. They have 12, and will take 12 more. Marlis took some for homeless families connected with her students in Owatonna. Bobbie is checking with South Central Human Relations Center. Bethlehem Inn will take our remaining backpacks.
- We will be meeting next week to discuss end-of-the-year missions.

**Pastor's Report**

- October 25<sup>th</sup> is required Boundaries training for Pastor Kathy and Cindy. It will be held at Hamline UMC in Minneapolis.
- Pastor Kathy on vacation Oct. 26 – Nov. 2 for Jeremy's wedding.
- Charge Conference: The DS is planning Cluster Conferences. The closest one to us will be at Centenary UMC in Mankato on Nov. 9. We can request to have our own Charge Conference, and Pastor Kathy has started this process.

**Nominations**

- Nominations are under discussion. We no longer need to provide a leadership list to the Conference. We will still have such a list for our own reference, however.

**Deaconess**

- Cindy told us about a Church & Society Book Grant available from the conference. She had a list of recommended books for book studies.
- There is also a possible grant for a project related to a book study.

**Miscellaneous**

- Michael reported that the new filing cabinet is in the building. He and Carolyn are working on updating the banner book that Emily (Nagel) started as a confirmation project. More pictures will need to be taken. It was agreed that the Christmas backdrop should be included.
- Brian asked about some regular mail that comes to the PO box. Faith UMC in Waseca sends a monthly newsletter, and we received an annual report from Ruth's House. The Mission Team will review that. Regarding the newsletter, we may contact them to see if there's an online version to save them paper and postage. We can also check it for any useful ideas for fund raisers, etc.

**Next Meeting Date:** January 8, 2025 – 7 pm

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Kathy



## Pastoral Care



**Note from Pastor Kathy King:**  
*Please call or text me if you would like me to visit or if there is a prayer concern that you prefer to keep private.*

- Char Frankensberry's brother, John, as he undergoes eye care for a detached retina.
- For those in our BGUMC family journeying through many weeks and months of ongoing health concerns.
- Our farmers, as they continue work to complete this season of harvest and fall preparation of the land for next year's plantings. Pray for their safety in all that they do. Please keep a watchful eye out for them as they move equipment and harvested crops along the roadways. Pray for their families who support them in these long days and nights.
- All those throughout the southeastern and eastern U.S. impacted by the far-reaching damage and catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Helene, including all those working around the clock in efforts to help.
- Trudi Remund-Fisher as she continues in her recovery surgery to repair her fractured hip.
- All in our faith community who privately hold heavy concerns in their hearts and lives. Help us to reflect God's love and care through our words and deeds that they may know BGUMC as a place of solace, comfort, trust, and support.



REQUESTS  
FOR  
PRAYER

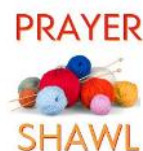
### Thank you to the Parish Pop-Up Choir

Thank you to all who have been able to sing together with our Pop-Up Choir in any of our three Prairie Lakes Parish Combined Worship Services during the summer and/or our Combined worship service at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. The gift of music - and community - that each choir member brings to each service holds great meaning - and is infused by something bigger than us all...the Holy Spirit is always swirling around!!! It is an absolute treat to sing together in rich harmony.

--Judy Mahler

## Prayer Shawl Thank-you

Thank you from Trudi Remund-Fisher, and Dick, for the prayer shawl (and all of the prayers) for Trudi as she recovers from surgery to repair her fractured hip.



### Thank you to Deb Miller

Thank you to Deb Miller, who created and led our morning worship service on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> while Pastor Kathy was on vacation!



**Congratulations** to Tess, Quinn and Maryl Christenson, Grandma Karrie and Grandpa Cris VanZuilen, and the rest of Tess and Quinn's family on the birth of their daughter. Louise Gene made her arrival on October 2nd and came in at 7 pounds 4 ounces, 20 inches long.

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at 8:15 A.M. Morning Worship  
All Saints' Day**



Remembering the saints in our families and congregation who have gone before us - and especially those whose lives we celebrated in 2024

### Worship Time Reminder:

Month of November:

- BGUMC Morning Worship continues at 8:15 a.m.

December - May:

- BGUMC Morning Worship switches to 10:45 A.M.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED to:  
Box 171, Medford, MN 55049

November 2024

**The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171  
Medford, MN 55049-0171**

Physical Location:  
43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052  
(NE corner of Waseca County)

Website: [www.bloominggroveumc.org](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)  
Email: [bloominggroveumc@gmail.com](mailto:bloominggroveumc@gmail.com)  
Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency  
and General Pastoral Questions:**

**Pastor Kathy King  
[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)  
507-382-2483**

**Join Us**

**If you are interested in  
becoming a member of  
Blooming Grove UMC,  
see Pastor Kathy.**



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:  
Pastor Kathy King at:  
[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)

**Visitor Staff:**

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator  
26651 Elmore Avenue  
Morristown, MN 55052  
(507) 339-3534  
[CherySouth@gmail.com](mailto:CherySouth@gmail.com)  
Judy Mahler, Editor  
Carolyn Kanne, Writer  
Brad Saufferer, Writer  
Patti Ellingson, Writer  
Cindy Saufferer, Writer

If you would rather read your copy of the Visitor online, (and in color) check us out at [www.bloominggroveumc.org](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

To unsubscribe or to be added to our email distribution list, contact [cherysouth@gmail.com](mailto:cherysouth@gmail.com)

**Litany for Thanksgiving: Psalm 100 amplified. United Methodist Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of the Raleigh episcopal area offered this prayer based on Psalm 100 for Thanksgiving. November 3, 2017**

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!**

We give thanks for this good earth, your gift to us and our home, and we pray for wisdom and gentleness to care for your creation, O God.

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

We gather with grateful hearts, remembering your mercy and strength, your justice and your compassion, your goodness and your grace.

**Know that the Lord is God.**

May we live what we know of you and strive for what you seek, O God.

**We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

In humility we pray for the entire human family, remembering those in need, and all who are alone, dishonored or excluded.

**Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.**

Move us through thanksgiving and praise to action. Use us to heal wherever there is violence and harm.

**Give thanks to God, bless God's name.**

May we embrace your just purpose, O God, and offer ourselves in prophetic witness.

**For the Lord is good;**

We pray for your goodness to flow outward, flooding this world with love.

**God's steadfast love endures forever,**

We pray for your loving purpose in every life this day and into the days to come.

**And God's faithfulness to all generations.**