



WEEKLY WORSHIP

love all ● live spiritually ● rejoice in hope ● show hospitality

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Week of August 16, 2026
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Community Prayer

God of the foreigner and outcast, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of Christ so to love the world that your name may be known throughout the earth. Amen.

*“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Here we can come together, people searching for healing and hope:

Many: here we are met by the One who would bless us with abundant life.

One: Here we discover the truth that God makes no distinctions among us:

Many: here we are welcomed and embraced by the One whose arms are open to all.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Proverbs 3:1-10

It's All About the Heart

The Book of Proverbs, traditionally attributed to King Solomon, David and Bathsheba's son, included some writings by other authors, too. It's one of the Wisdom Literature books in the Old Testament, and isn't a narrative, but a collection of teachings about how to live a faithful, wisdom-filled life. A bit like a divine fortune inside a fortune cookie. In Chapter 3, what stands out to me is how many references there are to the *heart*: "let your heart keep my commandments"; "write [loyalty and faithfulness] on the tablet of your heart"; and "trust in the LORD with all your heart." Perhaps the heart is the key to living a wise, Christ-shaped life. Join us Sunday and be filled with the Peace of Christ as we gather in his presence to worship God. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



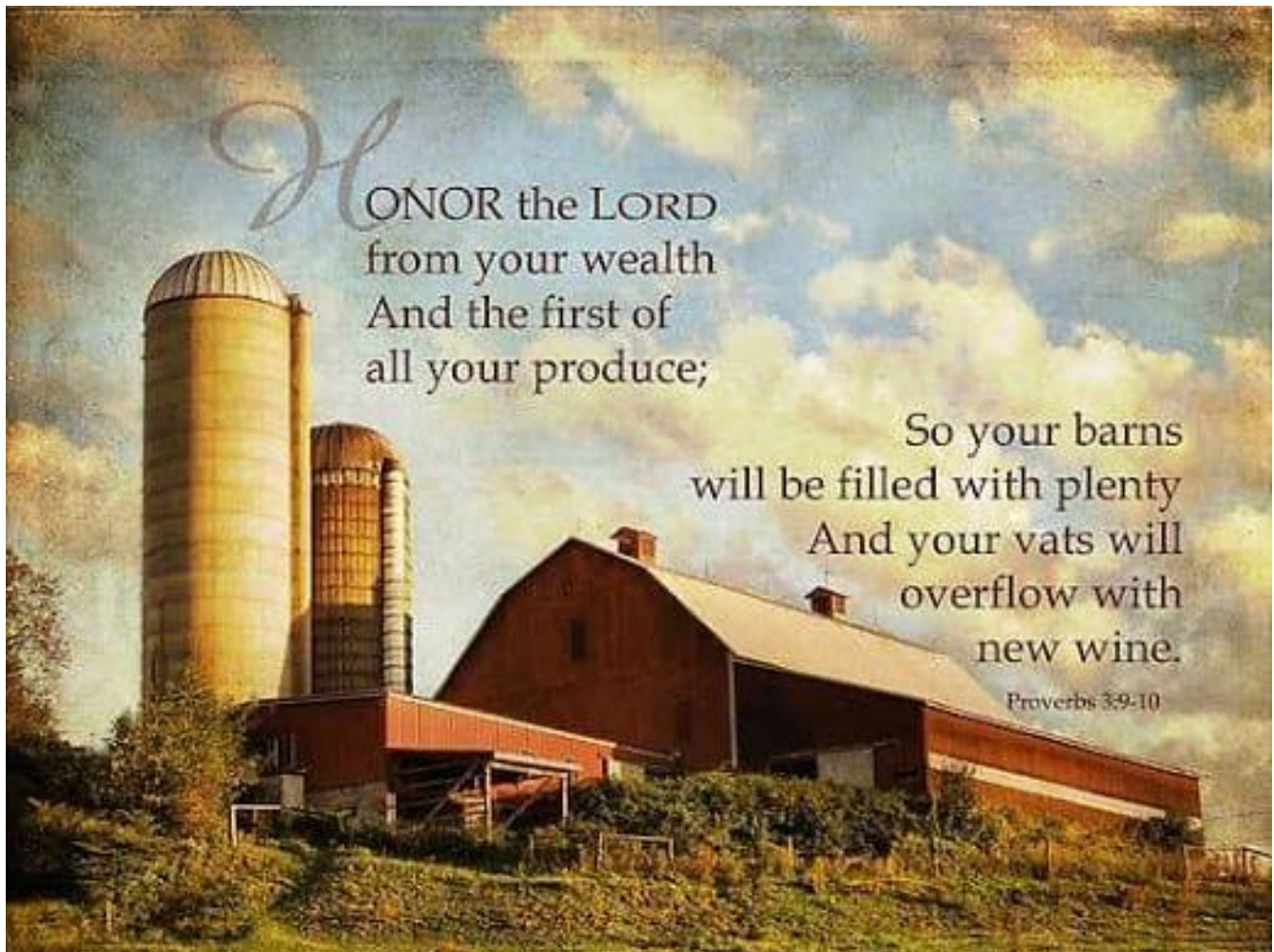
Scripture Reading

Psalms 133

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.”

Proverbs 3:1-10

“My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body. Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”



Prayers & Praises

August 16, 2026



Song of the Week

In Our Church

Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhardt
- Joan Dietrich
- Monte Dietrick
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for Rev. Bruce Frogge, Stephanie Frogge's brother, who is having serious health issues.

Prayers for Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ, in Oregon, continued prayers for healing and comfort as he goes through chemotherapy.

Prayers for healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Prayers for Marvin and Phyllis Thurber, who have moved to Salt Creek Senior Living.

Prayers for healing for Kristie Christianson's mom, Lucy Reuter-Masek, after a mild stroke.

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, for continued healing.

Prayers for Cec Burkhardt for continued healing.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelynn Long for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*

Our Timothy

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

In the Nebraska Region: Peru Community Church - Ray & Becky Girard

Our Global Ministries in: Morocco

"Omnipotent God, we pray to you for the Evangelical Church in Morocco (EEaM) in this time as it prepares for elections at all levels of the church, from local congregations to the executive committee of the EEaM. May the Holy Spirit guide the electors so that those who are elected act according to your will. Amen."

We Give Thee but Thine Own

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift
may be; all that we have is thine alone, a
trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true
receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to
thee our firstfruits give.

The captive to release, to God the lost to
bring, to teach the way of life and peace: it is
a Christ-like thing.

And we believe thy word, though dim our
faith may be; whate'er we do for thine, O
Lord, we do it unto thee.



For more information and stories
about our Global Ministry partners
visit www.globalministries.org



AUGUST

Call to Confession

One:

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like the disciples. Because of this, we come here today to remember that Christ is our Lord, and that he invites us to a better way—his way. Let us confess together our need for his saving presence in our lives.

Prayer of Confession

Many:

We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you sit beside those with no home. We applaud those who win the race, while you cheer on those who finish last. Forgive us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us. Warm our cold hearts with compassion for all of your children. Give us your grace, that we may faithfully proclaim you as Lord and Savior: the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

Here, face to face, God meets us. Here, face to face, we can speak the truth of our imperfect lives without fear. Here face to face, God forgives us.

Many:

Here, face to face, we meet the One who has great compassion for us, and who forgives us of every sin. Thanks be to God. Amen.



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