



*“<sup>4</sup>Then 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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”*

*~Genesis 45:4-5*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – February 24, 2019**

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The Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise if you are able when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – February 24, 2019**

*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.*

**PRELUDE:** *Werde Munter, Mein Gemute* – J.G. Walther

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

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

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who creates us and forms us,  
who redeems us and calls us,  
who unites us and sends us.  
**Amen.**

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Mighty and loving God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We seek our own way.  
We divide the body of Christ.  
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.  
Let the words of our mouths,  
the thoughts of our hearts,  
and everything that we do  
be filled with faith, hope, and love.  
Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives."  
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released.  
The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen.**

**\* GATHERING SONG #716: *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace***

### **\*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.**

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3:11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

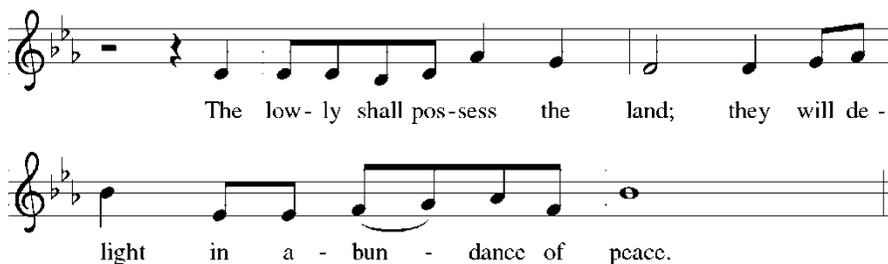
<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then 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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So 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. <sup>9</sup>Hurry 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. <sup>10</sup>You 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. <sup>11</sup>I 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.' " <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 37



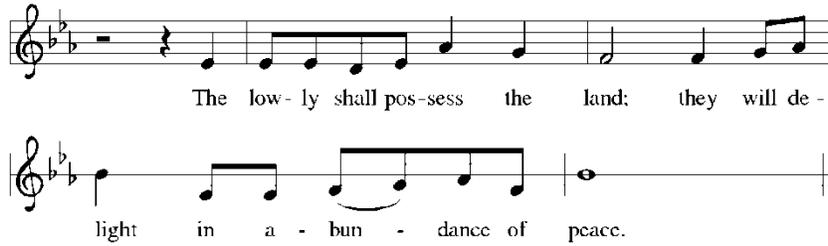
<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart's desire. R**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.



**<sup>6</sup>The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

**<sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on-| ly to evil. R**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

**<sup>10</sup>In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

**<sup>39</sup>But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

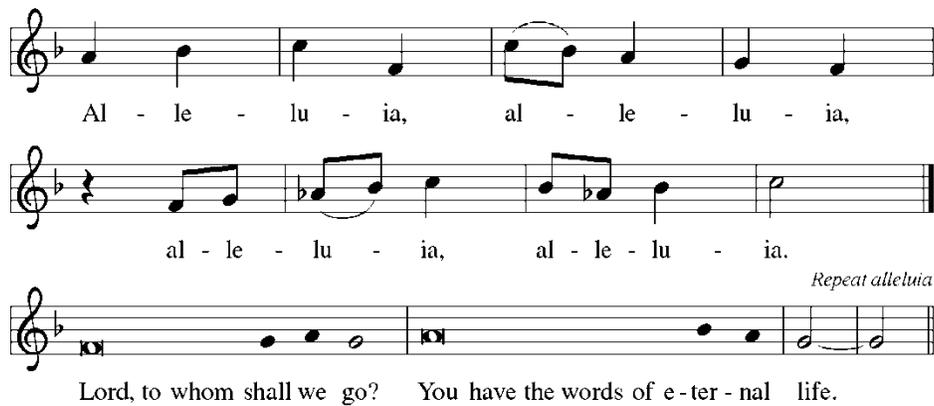
<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL: Luke 6: 27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:]<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

### \* HYMN OF THE DAY #700: *Bring Peace to Earth Again*

#### \*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 INTERCESSION**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. Grant reasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort the grieving especially, Nathan, Karen, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen; those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Encourage us by their example and lead us in faith until we are united at your unending feast. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #479: We Come to the Hungry Feast**

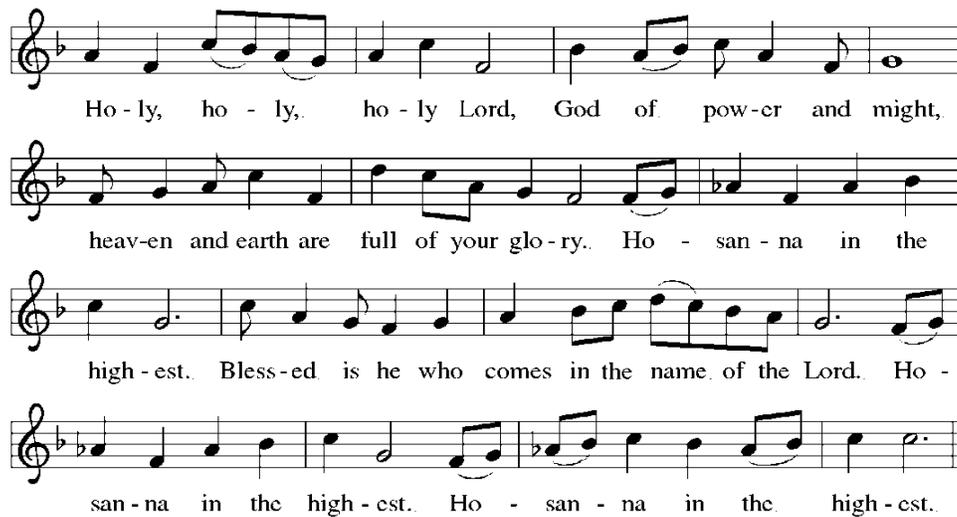
*Please stand for the final verse.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
God of all creation,  
all you have made is good,  
and your love endures forever.  
You bring forth bread from the earth  
and fruit from the vine.  
Nourish us with these gifts,  
that we might be for the world  
signs of your gracious presence  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O holy God:  
you are the Life and Light of all.  
By your powerful word you created all things.  
Through the prophets you called your people  
to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.  
He is your Light, shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

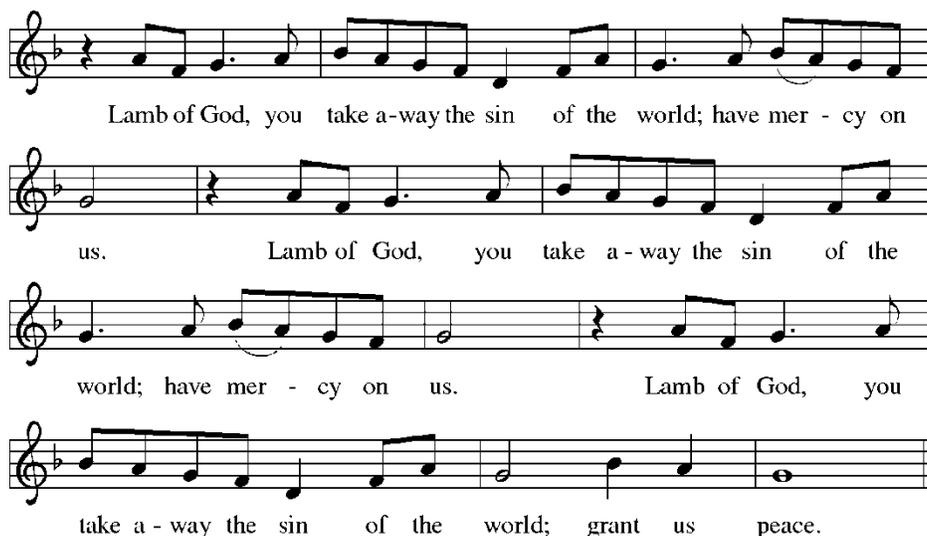
Come to the table where Christ meets you.  
Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available.*

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG: *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 SONG #605: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.  
**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,  
and shine brightly on your path;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #835: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High***

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE: *Von Gott Will Ich Nicht Lassen* – J.G. Walther**

### 8:00 am

**Assisting Minister:** Matt Claus  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Larry Werner

### 10:30 am

**Assisting Minister:** Missy Kramer  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** James Ward

**Attendance Last Week:** 52  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,362.64  
**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 23,538.36  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 19,756.42

**Attendance Last Year:** 49  
**Last Week's General Giving:** \$ 2,164.10\*  
**Last Week's Designated Giving:** \$ 205.90\*\*  
**2019 YTD General Giving:** \$ 17,989.86  
**2019 YTD Designated Giving:** \$ 2,425.42  
**2019 YTD Receipts:** \$ 20,415.28

#### **Special items included in totals:**

\*Rent \$ 500.00  
\*\*Benevolence \$ 113.90  
\*\*Food Bank \$ 21.00  
\*\*Mission Emphasis \$ 21.00  
\*\*Organ Fund \$ 50.00

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