

To Be Our Brother's Keeper

September 13,
2026



Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

Welcome, guests! We're delighted you could join us. If you have questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to help. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold text. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; only the pastor and elders will use it. Restrooms are to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: The Church fulfills her role as her brother's keeper. The privilege, responsibility and importance of this task all rest in the words from our Gospel lesson that follow Jesus' divine directive, "I tell you the truth..." The keys of the kingdom have been placed in our hands. It is our privilege and responsibility to bind and to loose—to be our brother's keeper—because Christ has appointed the Church to carry out that task on his behalf.

MORNING PRAYER: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#230

LORD JESUS CHRIST, BE PRESENT NOW

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; Our hearts in
2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise; Our souls to
3 Un - til we join the hosts that cry, "Ho - san - na
4 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
you in wor - ship raise. Make strong our faith; in -
to the Lord most high." Then in the light of
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



grace di - vine, And let your truth with - in us shine.
crease our light That we may know your name a - right
that blest place We shall be - hold you face to face.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise through-out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: *Lutherische Hand-Büchlein*, 2nd ed., Altenburg, 1648; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

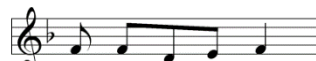
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

EZEKIEL 33:7 – 11

Since the time of Cain, man has hated being his brother's keeper. Are we any different today? Yet God tells us the task is not optional. No one wants to wake their next-door neighbor at 6:00 a.m. But if his house were on fire and you let him sleep, you are not just loveless and careless. You are a killer. Likewise, God places on us the heavy responsibility of being a watchman for our brother.

But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. When I say to a wicked man, "Wicked man, you shall surely die," if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life.

So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel. This is what you people are saying: "Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?" Say to them, "As I live, declares the Lord God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?"

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 51A



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.



Refrain

Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.
Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.
Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 13:1 – 10

Paul addresses the issue of government and the Christian's relationship to it. A Christian is a citizen of two kingdoms. The first part of this text is the definitive passage of Scripture on our role as citizens of an earthly kingdom. Yet the latter part of this lesson best fits the theme for the day. We owe our neighbor a debt of love.

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.

For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet (and if there is any other commandment)—are summed up in this statement: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor, so love is the fulfillment of the law.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (Philippians 4:4)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

HYMN OF THE DAY:

JESUS SINNERS DOES RECEIVE

#304
Vs. 1 – 5



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:15 – 20

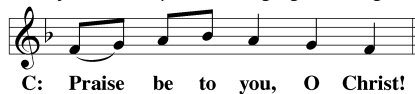
The importance of Christian discipline lies in the fact that the keys have been placed into the hands of the Church and in no other. The Christian and the Church are a fallen sinner's only lifeline. Satan tries to make Christian discipline seem like the height of hypocrisy or meddling. But his is a self-interested motive: he wants the fallen brother's sins bound like his for an eternity in hell. Only love could lead the Christian and the Church to go to a fallen brother.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*****Please Be Seated*****

SERMON TEXT:

MATTHEW 18:15 – 20

SERMON THEME:

WHAT DISCIPLINE MEANS

*****Please Stand*****

RESPONSORY HYMN VERSES:

#304

JESUS SINNERS DOES RECEIVE

Vs. 6, 7

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe—
Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave—
Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

*****Please Be Seated*****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love to our family members and neighbors.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly toward those who live in Redmond and its surrounding cities. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Please Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#532

GOD IS HERE! AS WE HIS PEOPLE



1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the
preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in
Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it
ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: IN BABILONE (87 87 D) *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradansen*, Amsterdam, c. 1710.

****Please Stand****

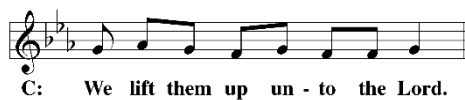
THE SACRAMENT



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

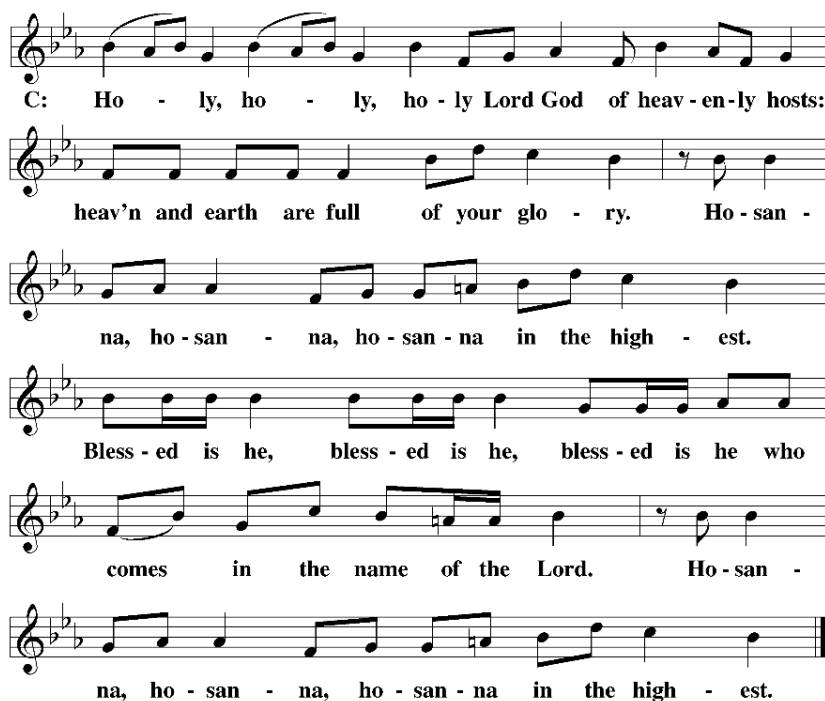


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

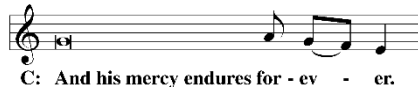
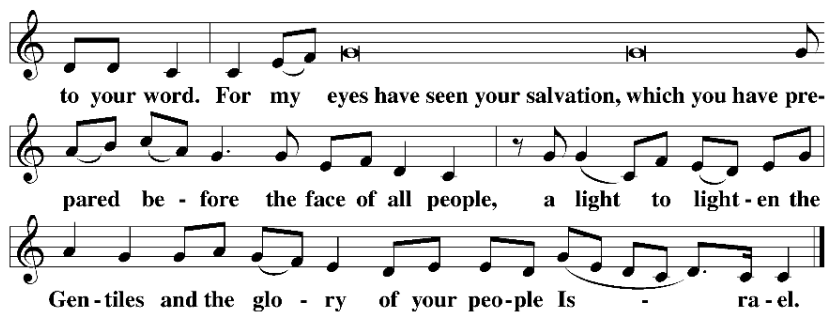
DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS





O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness, you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#391

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly
 2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the
 5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
 sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
 sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.
 Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.
 soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To you, O blessed Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Heiliges Lippen* . . . *Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the sole source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins forgiven for all people and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, when all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELS Website: The ELS website (<https://els.org>) has many great resources for our members. On the site, you will find news about the synod, call lists, resources such as devotions, Bible studies, evangelism and outreach ideas, and the quarterly publication “Lutheran Sentinel.”

Sunday School teachers: Do you have this overwhelming desire to teach children or be part of our congregation’s future? We potentially have three Sunday School students (3, 5, and 8); we need teachers. If you have taught Sunday School before and would like to help teach our children, or if planning and organizing is your thing. Please talk to Pastor Emmons; we need 3 or 4 people to help with Sunday School.

Information Meeting: The council would like to meet with the congregation assembly after our service to update everyone on the potential property in the Fred Meyers complex and receive feedback from all members.

Bible Information Class: We are still looking for participants for our Bible Information Class on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please consider attending our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we study Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi.

Midweek Bible Study: Our Tuesday evening Bible Study is at 6 p.m. We will meet at Gary and Lani Carroll’s home (3211 SW Umatilla Rd.) to study Isaiah, or you can join us on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Women’s Mission Rally: Mark your calendar for the West Coast Women’s Mission Rally, to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Klamath Falls, Oregon, September 25–26.

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