

Banning United Methodist Church

13th Sunday After Pentecost

September 7, 2025

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Marilyn Casey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Casey

INTRODUCTION

Kay Hobert

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Casey

L. To God be the glory for God has done great things for us!

P. We come to offer praise and thanks for the many blessings that God has poured into our lives.

L. Lift high the cross and remember the path that Jesus chose.

P. We come ready to follow wherever God may lead us, and to share God's love with the world.

L. Let us worship our Creator who continues to mold us as clay in the hands of the potter.

P. With grateful hearts we worship our Creator who holds us with hands of compassion.

OPENING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

UMH #159

†OPENING PRAYER (Congregation in Unison)

Marilyn Casey

Creator God, You are the source of life and blessing. It is You who made us and not we ourselves. You made us in Your image. You formed us and shaped us as the potter molds the clay.

Shape us, we pray, into holy and useful vessels. We thank You that you nourish us by Your ever-flowing Spirit.

Enable us by Your grace to offer You, our praise. Grant that we may lift You up and magnify You not only with our lips but in every moment of our lives. Help us to lift high the cross, and hold firmly to the cross that our lives may be fruitful, our labor productive, and our service useful, in communion with Jesus, our brother, and with Your divine spirit. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Marilyn Casey

Jeremiah 18:1-6 NRSV

¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²"Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

GOSPEL READING

Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway

Luke 14:25-33 NRSV

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower,

does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The Way of the Cross!” Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway

HYMN OF RESPONSE “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” FWS #2129 Insert

PRAYERS Marilyn Casey

CHILDREN IN PRAYER (After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer Hymn “O How He Loves You and Me”

FWS #2108 Insert

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Marilyn Casey

OFFERTORY Cathy Mauge

†**DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #94
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Marilyn Casey
Lord, accept these offerings, given with joy as a token of our praise, that they may be used in service to Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II Hymnal Page 12

COMMUNION HYMN “For the Bread Which You Have Broken” UMH #614

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” UMH #295

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE Cathy Mauge