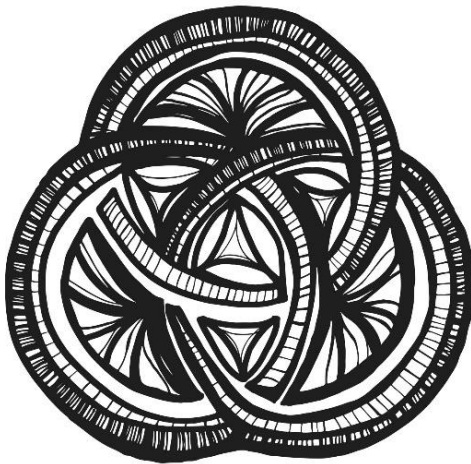


# *The Holy Trinity*

## *June 15, 2025*



### *Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)*

*10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134*

*"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"*

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

***Bold type indicates Congregational responses.***

*\* Congregation please stand as you are comfortable*

#### ***Introduction***

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world.

***Welcome to Worship at Lord of Love! We are the body of Christ, and we are not whole without you.***

**Visitors:** We're so glad you're here, and we'd love the opportunity to connect with you! Text WELCOME to 402493-2946 so we can follow up with you.

**Nursery:** The nursery (just off the Narthex) is open during worship. Please know that children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Quiet toy bags are available from the ushers.

**Offering:** An offering plate is at the back of the Sanctuary, and gifts may be placed there. Children may put their offering in the noise jar during the offering song.

**Communion:** Everyone is welcome at communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking a communion server. In the communion trays, the wine is red and grape juice is white.

**Prayer Requests:** If you have a prayer request, you can text PRAY to 402-493-2946.

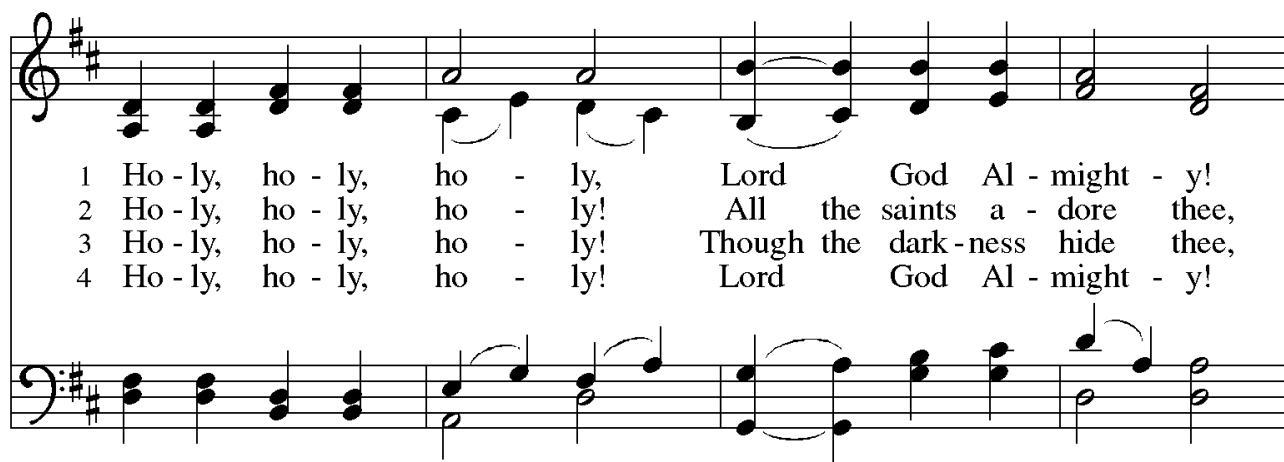
**Fellowship:** Donuts and coffee are available in the Narthex after worship. Please join us!

#### ***Prelude***

#### ***Announcements***

#### ***Ring of the Bell***

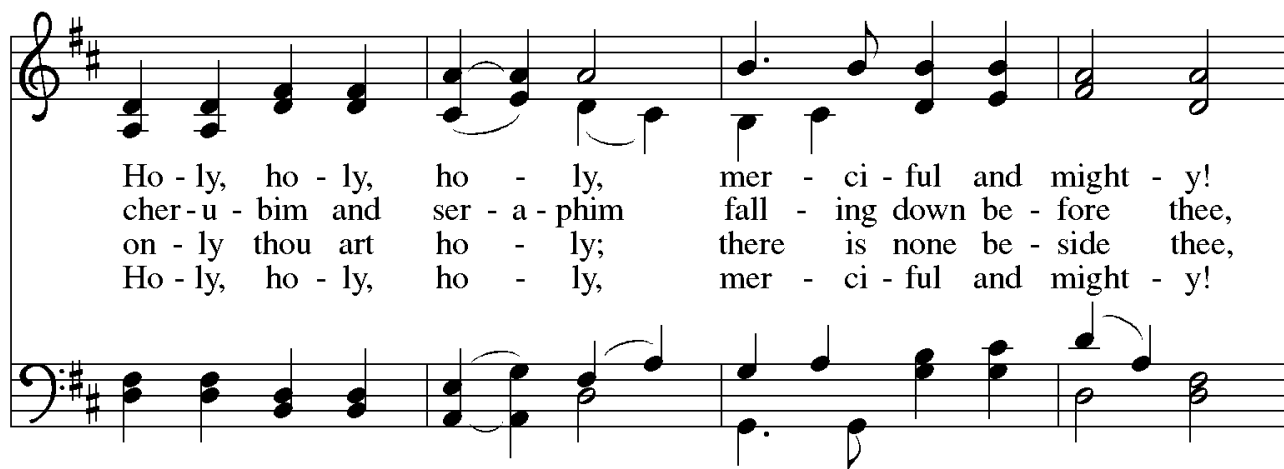
**\*Gathering Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"..... ELW 413**



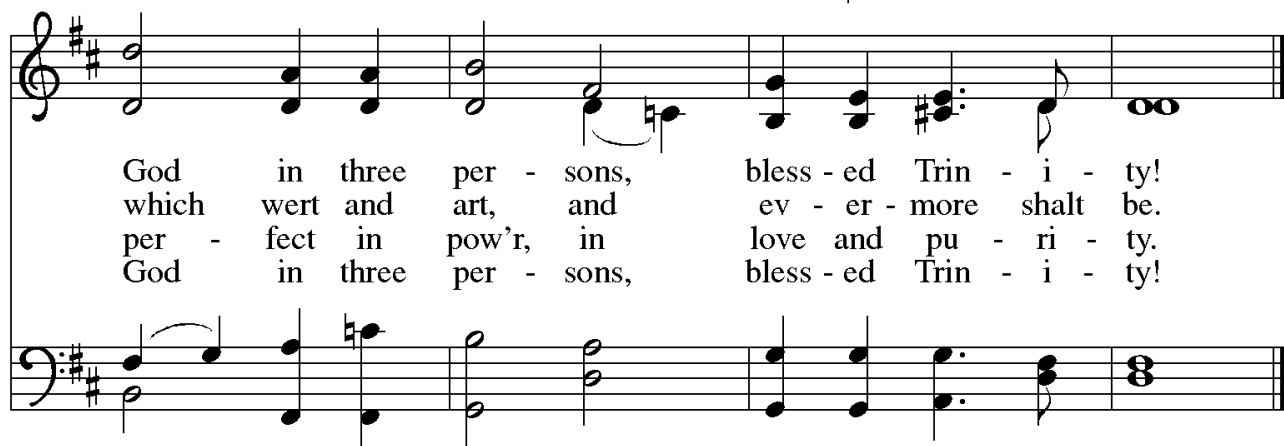
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

**\*Greeting**

P: 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.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Gracious God, left to ourselves we have taken matters into our own hands and, despite our best intentions, we have made a mess of things: our lives, the lives of others, and of your creation. In humility and with sorrow we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**We have caused hurt by what we have thought, said, and done.**

**We have looked away from injustice.**

**We have remained silent in the face of wrong.**

**We have done wrong.**

**Do not stand far off, O God.**

**Hear us when we call.**

**Enter into our conflicted and anxious lives and set things right.**

In Christ, God has set things right and forgiven your sins. God sent the Word made flesh to mend what is broken, to heal what is sick, to find what is lost, and to remove every obstacle that stands between us and God.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**.....The Lord of Love Liturgy, p. 5

**\*Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

**Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

***First Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31***

L: Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?

On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:  
“To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—  
when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world’s first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5**

L: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Verse (General)** ..... The Lord of Love Liturgy, p. 12

**\*Gospel: John 16:12-15**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Sermon**..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Hymn of the Day: "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity" ..... ELW 412**



- 1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
- 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
- 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
- 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter-weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.  
 then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.  
 set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.  
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,  
 The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;  
 We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
 Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.  
 when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.  
 go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!  
 to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. [www.selahpub.com](http://www.selahpub.com). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### ***\*Apostles' Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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***

L: Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Abiding God, your love pours into your whole church, creating faith and bestowing hope. Fill all the baptized with these good gifts in our various callings. Gather your church in every place and expression into the unity of your Spirit. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, your name is majestic in all the earth, and we are filled with awe at your creation. Renew this planet and all its wonders: springs abounding with water, earth and soil, beasts of the field, birds of the air, and fish of the sea. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you delight in the whole human race. On this week of Juneteenth, bring an end to racial oppression and heal the wounds of racial trauma. Grant us your wisdom, so that all people, especially those in authority, work for the life and freedom of others. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, your mindful care for us is everlasting. Give peace to all who are troubled, endurance to all who suffer, deliverance to all who are afflicted, and healing to all who are sick, we especially pray for those on our prayer lists and the names of those we lift up to you now... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Living God, your glory appears in our shared life. On this Father's Day, give to all fathers and father figures gentle hearts and strong spirits, heal the wounds in our families, and comfort those for whom this day brings pain. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, your hope does not disappoint. We give you thanks for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection (especially the Emanuel Nine, martyrs). Hold us in our grief, and bring us at last to fullness of life in you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **\*Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with one another.  
Please be seated.*

### **Offering**

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar during this song.  
Communion servers, please come forward during the offertory song.*

**Offertory**..... The Lord of Love Liturgy, p. 16

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,  
**strengthen us for work in the world, that all may come to know your grace and love. We offer to you ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use them as you will. Amen.**



### ***\*The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You, O God, create and sustain all that we see, all that we touch, all that we taste. You have blessed your people through all time with good gifts: gifts of kindness and compassion, gifts of celebration and silence. You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, the best gift of all, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, to experience our life and suffering, reaching out to us with your love, washing away our sins.

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 in remembrance of me."

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 in remembrance of me."

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### ***Communion Invitation***

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, all are welcome.

***Lamb of God***..... The Lord of Love Liturgy, p. 24

### ***Communion***

***\*Post-Communion Prayer***

P: Loving God, we give you thanks for this gift of yourself. Unite us with all those you love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***\*Benediction***

P: Almighty God, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Comforter, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

***\*Post-Communion Song of Rejoicing*** ..... The Lord of Love Liturgy, p. 27

***\*Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Ringling of the Bell***

***Postlude***

**Come, Join the Dance of Trinity**

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. [www.selahpub.com](http://www.selahpub.com). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hymns reprinted by permission under CCLI License #3067941 and One License No. A-732551. All rights reserved.

## Bishop Scott Alan Johnson's June Reflection

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." —Ephesians 3:20–21*

Beloved in Christ,

This month, we bring our year of "Cultivating Love" to a close. Our Assembly theme for 2025 is "Imagine? Imagine! Imagine..." and I am excited to imagine with you in the months to come.

Paul's word of praise which serves as our scriptural foundation for this year's Assembly is both a word of promise and a word of challenge. We are reminded that God's abundance doesn't depend on our planning, effort, or resources alone, but neither are we called to wait passively – we have work to do! By the Spirit, we are part of something larger and more surprising than we can imagine on our own – but together, with the Spirit's guiding, God's church can faithfully live into its new future together.

### **Imagine? Yes!**

We can be a church that tries new things. What's possible for your church? Partner with a local full communion partner? YES! Make faith formation the work of the whole church and not one person? YES! Try something new that doesn't work, but teaches you what might? YES! God is inviting us to experiment and grow. The churches of the Reformation are called to always be re-forming for the sake of the Gospel.

### **Imagine! WOW!**

We are becoming something new; not because everything is settled or secure, but because God is moving among us in ways beyond our imagining. This is the Church That Is Becoming — flexible, relational, Spirit-led, grounded in the love of Christ. This is what brings us together to imagine what may yet be revealed to us, and to give thanks for what has been.

### **Imagine... A-HA!**

Imagine a church that focuses on the good we can do in this moment, with whomever is present to be part of that work... Imagine a church that knows why the love of Jesus makes a difference, and is learning how to share that love in word and in action... Imagine a church that is brave enough to ask tough questions and grace-filled enough to risk bold answers with each other. Imagine a church that treasures our connections with each other, believing that we are truly **one church, better together**...

God is drawing us into all of this and more as we imagine together this year. I look forward to imagining with you, according to that wondrous power that is at work within us. We move forward together with faith and good courage, trusting in the One who is accomplishing immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

In gratitude and hope,  
Bishop Scott

### Questions to Ponder

1. What is life-changing at the heart of your Christian faith and in your church? What difference does Jesus make to you personally, to the life of your church, and to our world?<sup>[1]</sup>
2. What do you imagine for the future of your church? For your faith? What might your next faithful steps toward that future be?

Prayer O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Zscheile, Binder, Pinkstaff. *Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future*. © 2023 Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Teresa Pinkstaff. p. 10.

<sup>[2]</sup> *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 317. © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Synod Assembly Summary

The Nebraska Synod, ELCA gathered for its annual assembly May 30-June 1, 2025, in Kearney. The assembly worshiped, prayed, conducted business, and imagined



One Church,  
**BETTER  
TOGETHER**

together. The theme of “Imagine! Imagine? Imagine...” guided the flow of the assembly, inspired by Ephesians 3:20. With the spirit and movement of jazz music under the direction of Dr. Jon Ailabouni, the assembly began and ended with rhythm, joy, praise and improvisation. Young adult lay leader, Kate Reynolds, from Family of Christ Lutheran in Kearney preached for opening worship, and Bishop Scott Johnson preached for closing worship, connecting the dots of how as the Nebraska Synod we are one church, better together. The assembly gathered with the Nebraska Synod’s Companion synod partners from the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania with Bishop Fredrick Shoo, and from the United Evangelical, Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay, Pastora Presidente Mariela Pereyra. Alison Richard, Program Director for Companion Engagement provided a report on behalf of the ELCA Churchwide organization and moderated a panel discussion with the bishops. In conducting the business of the synod, the assembly reelected, Gwen Edwards, to serve a second term as Synod Council secretary. The assembly discerned and approved the 2026 Nebraska Synod Budget. It also adopted synod resolutions: “Working for Justice and Peace,” “Youth and Vulnerable Person Protection Policies and Safe Gathering Trainings,” and “The Meaning of ‘Israel’ in Scriptural Context.” Memorials to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly were adopted regarding congregational constitutions and “For an End to the Occupation of Palestine and Recognition of Palestinian Statehood in the United Nations.” A resolution regarding a “Bishop Election Process Option” was not adopted. Bishop Scott Johnson presented his annual report, naming some of the Spirit’s activity as signs of God doing a new thing. He invited the assembly to imagine and wonder what God might be inviting. As one church, better together, we look forward to more upcoming Synod on the Road Again weekends, as well as to next year’s assembly, May 29-31, 2026, in Kearney. Assembly Resources.