

# The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Cocoa and Granada Avenues Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033 (717) 533-2467

### Sunday, May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

**GATHERING** 

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

#### **GATHERING PRELUDE:**

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

# All: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! ..... ELW 383



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho san-na! Cel e-brate this day of days!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of de-spair.
- 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won-der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed. Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare. Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown. Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend. Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal-ing leaves of grace a - bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known. strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er Je - sus is our God the First and with us. Sing Ho - san - na, Last is

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: TURNBULL, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962 Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music © 2006 Thomas Pavlechko, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

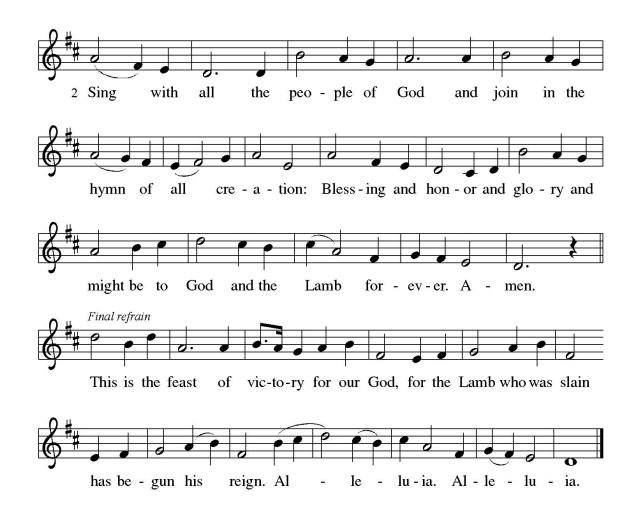
#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### All: Amen.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE:** This is the Feast





Word

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

#### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**Psalm 98** (Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses)

#### Refrain:



#### Verse:



<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,

whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands; lift up your voice, re-| joice, and sing. R

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,

the world and those who | dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers | clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness and the peo- | ples with equity. **R** 

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

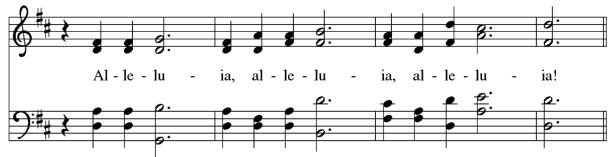
<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

#### Refrain:



Verse:



Those who love me will keep my word, and my Fa- | ther will love them,\* and we will come to them and make our | home with them.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:9-17** 

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

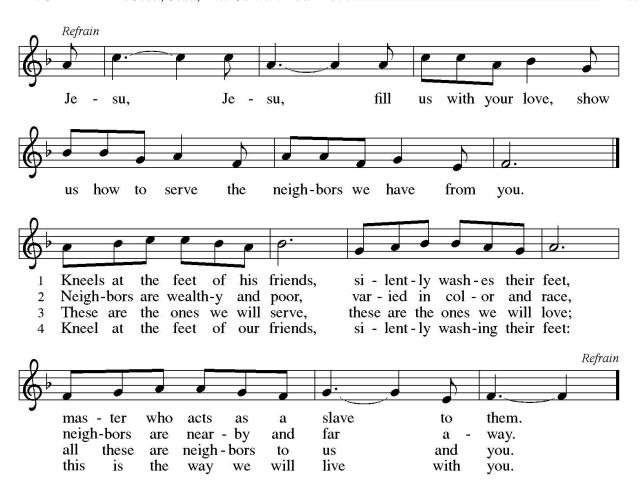
<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** 

Silence is kept for reflection.



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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#### 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please respond after each petition.

P: God of Grace,
All: hear our prayer.

**MEAL** 

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### SHARING OF PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

TABLE SETTING SONG: Be Not Afraid ...... ELW 388

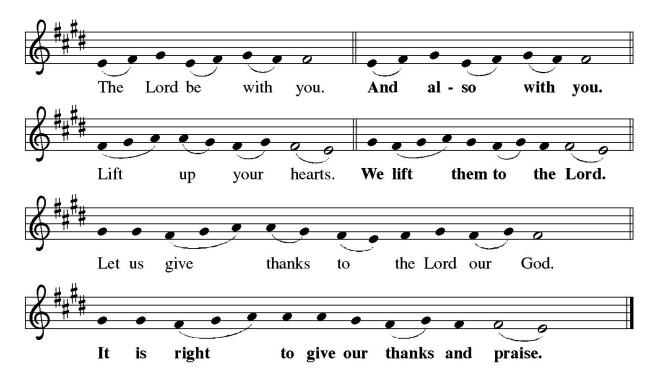
Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plates at the entrance to worship or in the narthex.

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

A: Let us pray . . . Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

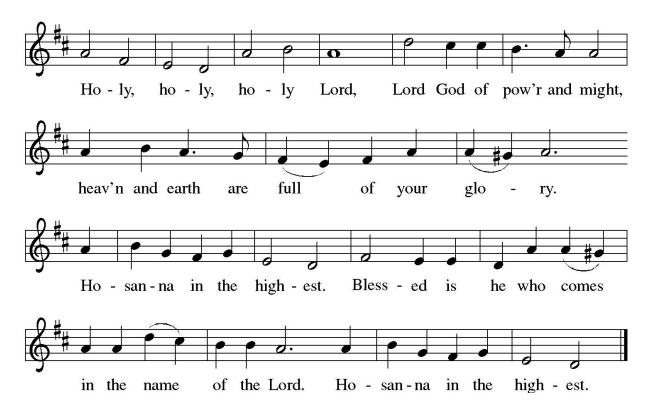
All: Amen.

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



#### **PREFACE**

P: ....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:



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### 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,

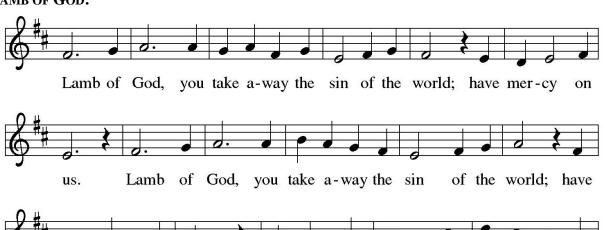
forever and ever. Amen.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of bread. Come and eat at God's table.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### LAMB OF GOD:





Lamb

**COMMUNION MUSIC:** (Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus ..... ELW 742

of

God,

you take a - way the

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

mer-cy

on

us.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray...Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

All: Amen.

**SENDING** 

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

#### **BLESSING**

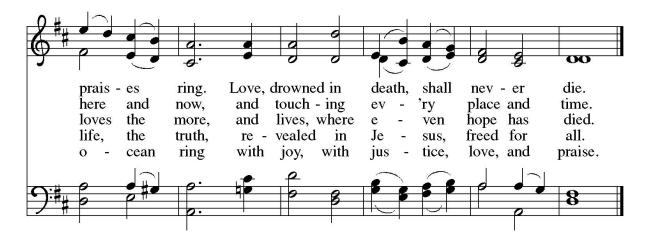
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

All Amen.





Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **DISMISSAL:**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

#### FLOWERS AND BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH

The altar flowers are placed in loving memory of their parents, Arlene and Ralph Gish and Dorothy and Howard Naylor by Howie and LeeAnn Naylor. The bulletin is given to the glory of God and in memory of Kaeli Brandt from Mommy, Grammy and Pop Pop (the Weaver Family).

#### **SERVING TODAY**

Reader:	Elizabeth Stuar
Assisting Minister:	Beth Dunham
Communion Assistants:	Jim Huebner and Deb Brooks
Crucifer:	Jordan Pau
Torchbearers:	Malory Fox and Teagan Haak
Livestream:	



Dear Lord Jesus,

When You walked upon this earth, You healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and raised the dead. Now we come to You on behalf of those who are in need today and pray that You would send them Your healing power. Hear our prayer for Your name's sake. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Prayer Concerns: Roberta Anderson, Bob Bettleyon, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Carole Bowman, Dennis Buchanan (Mary Ann Kelly's cousin), Bruce Bunting (brother of Susan Bianchi), Eric Chubb (brother-in-law of Susan Bianchi), Kinleigh Connelly (friend of the Eby family), Karen Savage Critchfield (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Theo Epitropoulos, Suzy Epler, Janice Geiling, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunhams), Bonnie Hess (friend of the Weavers), Glenn Hoffa, Ben Housman (husband of Anita Housman), Herb Huebner, Mary Huebner, Fred Isaacson (father of Heidi Eby), Jennifer Johnson (cousin of Derek Dunham), Nancy Miller, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Dona Pastuck, Tom Rieger, Michelle Spaeder (friend of Karen Kline), Pete Stone, Bob Trump, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Mike Welty, Don Yerger (brother of Pastor Brommer).

#### **DAILY PRAYERS**

Alex Chubb, Elaine Chubb, Virginia Frank, Rosa Vena Homisak (Bob Homisak's mother), Dennis Lubold, Ed Schaeffer, Bob Sibert, Irene Turzai, Melissa West (friend of Susan Bianchi), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all of our Homebound members.

**Members of Armed Forces and their families:** Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, Patrick Stewart, Tory Young

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at <a href="https://https

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives for racial equity and to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.



Thank you for joining us for worship today in-person and through livestreaming.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite all people, as well as young children who are not yet receiving the Sacrament to come forward and receive a blessing. Please ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free option. At Holy Trinity Lutheran

Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. At his table Christ grants us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. *May your hearts be opened, and your lives made new by his gracious love*. Please give your completed communion card to the usher during communion.

Holy Communion distribution today: The usher will guide you down the center aisle. Prepackaged Communion elements with grape juice are available on the small table. If your preference is regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver trays. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant on either side with regular wine. There will also be one assistant with non-alcoholic wine. Stand or kneel as you are able and remain at the rail for as long as you desire.

Consecrated Communion Elements are available for "Live Stream" worship at home. Please contact the church office at 717-533-2467 or by email at <a href="https://https

The in-person church office hours this week are Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM—2 PM. On Friday staff will work remotely. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: <a href="https://ht

We welcome Pastor Larry Hummer as he leads worship today while Pastor Brommer is away this weekend. Thank you, Pastor Hummer!

**Pastor Brommer will be on vacation** from May 3-6. For emergencies during this time, please contact Rev. Kirk Kerns. He can be reached by calling the church office, 24 hours a day, and following the prompts for emergency contacts.

**Please welcome Deb Dillane**, our guest organist, as she shares her gift of music while Alan Hair is on vacation this weekend. Thank you, Deb!

<u>Sunday School Information:</u> Children's Sunday School meets on Sundays from 9:00am-9:45am in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). Confirmation Sunday School for Grades 6-9 meets on Sundays from 9am-9:45am in the youth room. Adult Discussion group meets at 9:00-9:45am in room #16 (near the restrooms). Today, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the last class for Adult Discussion until the fall. Please consider joining this time of learning and faith sharing.

**Blood Pressure screenings will be offered today!** Holy Trinity will offer blood pressure screenings the first Sunday of every month in the front of the sanctuary after the worship service. Screenings will be available today, Sunday, May 5, 2024.

**Bible Art Journaling** will be offered by Colleen Nielsen tonight, Sunday, May 5th at 6-7:30pm. All are

welcome to attend. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

The LAST HTY Night for the season is TONIGHT, May 5th!! If you are in grades 6 - 12, come out on for an awesome HTY night. It's all about fun, faith, fellowship, and wacky youth group games. Bring Friends! Do NOT bring Snacks! Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided. SPREAD THE WORD! DEFINITELY BRING SOME FRIENDS! C U Tonight!!

**Graduate Information Needed** We want to recognize our high school and college graduates. Please email the church office (<a href="https://htt

Susquehanna Chorale to Present A Thousand Beautiful Things The Susquehanna Chorale, under the artistic direction of Linda L. Tedford, will present its spring concert series, "A Thousand Beautiful Things", May 17-19. Concerts will be held on Friday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Derry Presbyterian Church in Hershey, Saturday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, and Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts (Parmer Hall), Messiah University, Mechanicsburg. Free parking is available at all locations.

The inspiration for the Chorale's 2024 spring concerts comes from Craig Hella Johnson's setting of the Annie Lennox piece, 1000 Beautiful Things. It describes the beauty of life and encourages us to savor those exquisite moments that cause us to pause and appreciate what we have. The program includes Handel's Sing Unto God, Thomas Tallis's If Ye Love Me, Mendelsohn's Richte Mich Gott, as well as Ola Gjeilo's Iam Sol Recedit and Lux Beata Trinitas. The Chorale will perform gospel spirituals such as Walk Together Children by Anthony Leach and a men's barbershop-style version of It is Well with my Soul. The plaintive sound of the oboe and cello will be interwoven throughout the concert and featured in the moving David's Lamentation and the well-known Gabriel's Oboe. The concert will conclude with the beloved favorites, When I Fall in Love and "The Impossible Dream" from Man of La Mancha.

Tickets may be purchased through the Susquehanna Chorale website at <a href="https://susquehannachorale.org/performances">https://susquehannachorale.org/performances</a> or by calling the Messiah University Box Office at (717) 691-6036, Option #1. Discount tickets are available for groups of 10 or more.

**Please send articles and announcements for the Newsletter to** Anita Housman, our Communications/IT Specialist. Please send articles to her at aahousman2@gmail.com. She is always gathering announcements and articles for the monthly newsletter. Just a reminder – submit articles for the newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Many thanks for your generous donations! We continuously express our thanks to all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving which allows us to continue to operate valuable ministries and pay for the ongoing bills at Holy Trinity. The Simply Giving program offers automatic withdrawals from your bank account or charges to a credit card; donated through our website (htluth.org) by clicking on the 'Give Now" button; donated by downloading the Mobile App "GivePlus Church" (be sure to select Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity) or by taking a picture of the QR code. Please contact the church if you have any questions about any of these methods.



**Readers, Greeters and Flower Deliverers for May and June** are needed to greet people as they come into church and deliver flowers after the service on Sunday. Readers are needed to read the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

reading and the Psalm. The lists are available on the bulletin board. Please sign up today or contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

## **Holy Trinity Staff**

Senior Pastor	. Rev. Cindy A. Brommer ( <u>PastorBrommer@comcast.net</u> )
Director of Music Ministries/Organist	Alan L. Hair ( <u>hairlooms2@aol.com</u> )
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Peter A. Fox (youthg@yahoo.com)
Director of Faith Formation	Colleen Nielsen ( <u>NielsenC@mhs-pa.org</u> )
Administrative Assistant	Elizabeth Stuart (

