

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

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

Sunday, May 18, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Where Charity and Love Prevail	Robert Hobby
Ubi caritas et amor (Where True Charity and Love Abide)	Latin antiphon/Jacques Berthier/Taizé
A New Commandment (Sanctuary Choir)	Anonymous

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The congregation stands.

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. All: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

All: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

All: make us one as you are one.

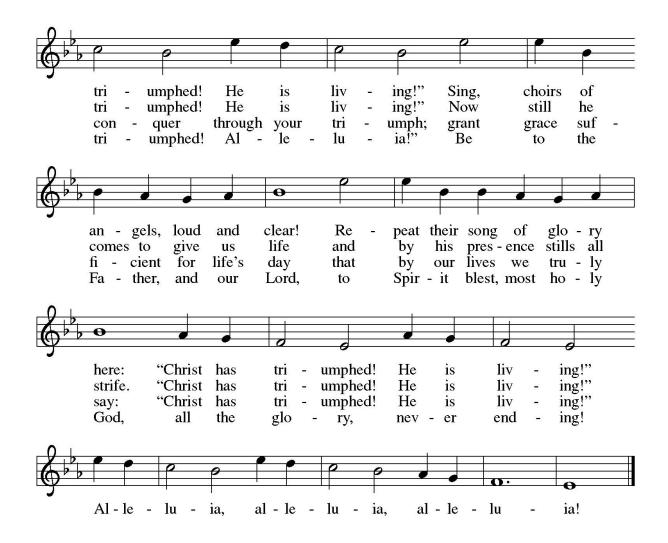
P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

All: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
All: Amen.

0 Now all vault of heav'n sounds the re 1 brings, 2 E ter nal is the gift he 3 Oh, fill Lord, with daunt less love; us, bring 4 A dor ing prais now we es 0 praise in of love still bounds: "Christ that a has with there fore our heart rap - ture sings: "Christ has set heart and will on things a bove that we with heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has and the

Follow the cross as the procession passes by.



Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt. Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- All: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: This is the Feast





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The congregation sits.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter: ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Love One Another

PSALM 148 (Congregation sings the refrain and **bold** verses.)



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights. ² Praise the LORD, [|] all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven. ³ Praise the LORD, [|] sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars. ⁴ Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens. ⁵ Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created, ⁶ who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R ⁷ Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps; ⁸ fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- ing God's will; ⁹ mountains [|] and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars; ¹⁰ wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds; ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world; ¹² young | men and maidens, old and | young together. R ¹³ Let them praise the name | of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven. ¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Halleluiah! R

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

The congregation stands.



Everyone will know that you are [|] my disciples* if you have love for [|] one other. (*John 13:35) Repeat Refrain.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 13th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.All: Praise to you, O Christ.

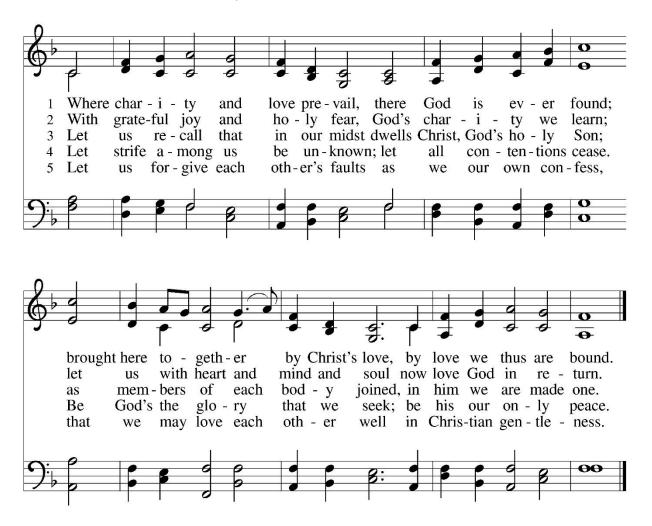
The congregation sits.

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

The congregation stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW 359



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY–FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842 Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved. 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.

The congregation sits.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P: Hear us, O God.
- All: Your mercy is great.

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.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plate at the entrance to worship or in the Offering Box on the table with the bulletins.

The congregation stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

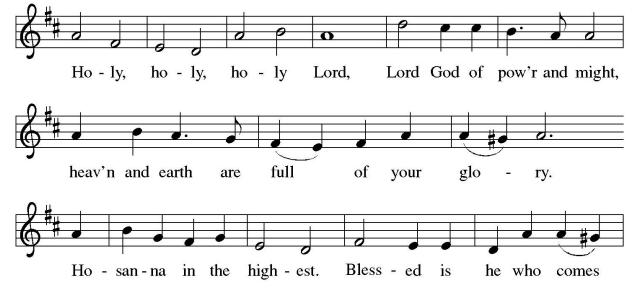
- A: Let us pray . . . Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.
- All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

- P: The Lord be with you.
- All: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- All: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

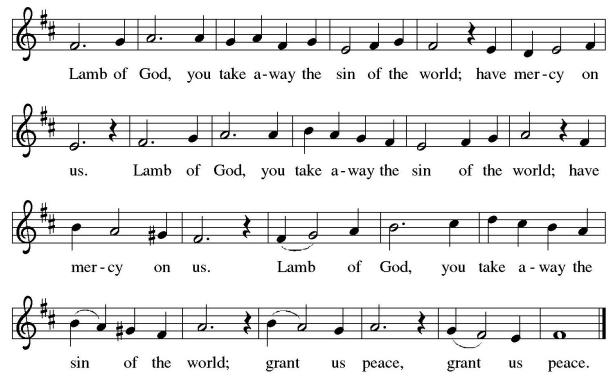
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation sits.

LAMB OF GOD:



COMMUNION MUSIC:

The congregation stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

- P: The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- All: Amen.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

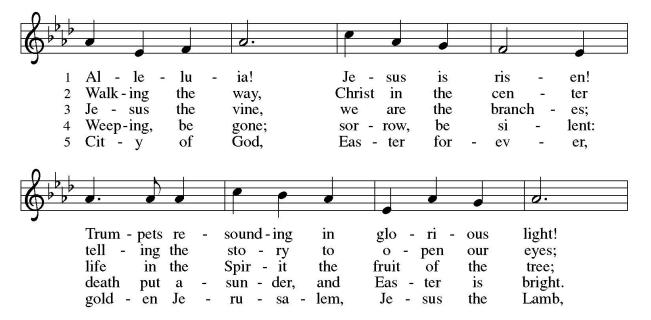
All: Amen.

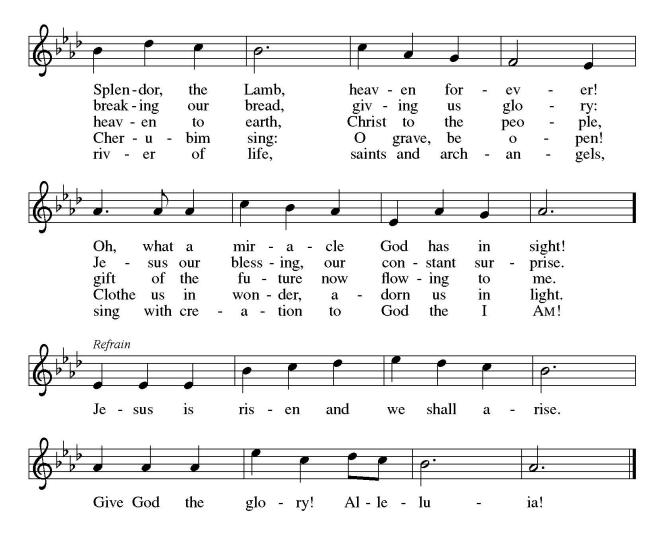
BLESSING

P: Let us pray...The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

All: Amen.

Follow the cross as the procession passes by.





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- A: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
- All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds) Christopher Chantelau

IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The bulletin is given in loving memory of Phyllis Poltrock, mother of Lynn Budgeon, on her 99th birthday with love from Lynn and Jeff Budgeon.

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Carol Bowman
JoEllen Myers
Barb Tump
Kiva Fox and Maddy Gniady
Kirk Sponaugle



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: Susan Bianchi, Jack Bishop, Lucy Campbell (daughter of Jacob and Sarah Campbell), Barbie (Hocker) Colestock (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Bill Fosnacht, Carol Longenecker, Terry Longenecker, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Wanda Oliver (friend of the Lechleitner's), Julia Padgett, Tony Primerano (friend of Steve Shuey), Chris Ruff, Joyce Schroeder, Jaci Walters, Nicolle Zambrana (daughter of Marilyn Layman), and Ed Zaenglein.

DAILY PRAYERS

Roberta Anderson, Virginia Frank, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunham's), Dennis Lubold, Nancy Miller, Ed Schaeffer, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), 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, Tory Young

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at <u>htluth@comcast.net</u> or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 God's 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 <u>htluth@comcast.net</u> to arrange to pick up elements or have them delivered to your home.

<u>Office Hours</u> The office will be open this week Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. -3 p.m. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: <u>htluth@comcast.net</u>; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org. **In case of emergency** please call the church office and follow the prompts for emergency contact information.

Sunday School Information: All classes will meet from 9:00am-9:45am. **Children's Sunday School** meets in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). **Confirmation Sunday School** for Grades 6-8 meets in the youth room. **Sunday School** for Grades 9-12 meets downstairs next to the Youth Room. **Adult Discussion** meets in room #16. Sunday School will break for the summer beginning on May 25th.

Please welcome Pastor Carol Bowman as she leads us in worship today. Pastor Mills is away to attend her son's performance with the NYC Master Chorale and will rejoin us next week. Thank you, Pastor Bowman, for sharing your time with us.

The first step in the Call Process is filling out the Ministry Site Profile, a multiple page summary about Holy Trinity and what we are seeking in a new pastor. Therefore, we need help from the Congregation so we can represent our Church fairly. The first step is a survey that the Call Committee assembled, which will help us to answer the questions of the Ministry Site Profile. For those subscribed to Holy Trinity's email list, you should receive an email shortly. You can also find the link to the survey on our website by clicking on the Call Process Update link. Hard copies of the survey are available and can be returned to a box in the Narthex. Every confirmed member may complete a survey. Please prayerfully complete the survey by TODAY, Sunday, May 18th.

Update-Interim Pastor & Supply Pastors-The Executive Committee has met with a potential interim Pastor who would be available to start on June 9th on a full-time basis and continue until we call a new Pastor. The Executive Committee will recommend the candidate to the Council for approval at their May 20th meeting. Our current "bridge" Pastor Jan Mills will end her time with us on May 25th. The following will be providing worship leadership over the next few weeks:

May 25th-Pastor Jan Mills' last Sunday with us as she will be returning to the highways with her RV. She will be joining the "Nomads" a faith based organization comprised of RV owners who travel to various parts of the country doing service projects.

June 1st-Pastor Larry Hummer will come to our rescue to fill one of the open Sundays between interim Pastors.

June 8th -Pastor Beth Martini, Assistant to the Synod Bishop, will join us to lead worship on Pentecost and "Affirmation of Baptism" (Confirmation) for five of our youth. June 15th-New Interim

Graduate Information Needed We love to recognize our high school and secondary school graduates. Please tell us where you are graduating from, what your degree is in (if you graduated from college), and your future plans. Email the church office (<u>htluth@comcast.net</u>) or call 717-533-2467 by today, Sunday, May 18th.

Attention ALL HTY: HTY Mini-Golf Night is TODAY from 5 - 7:30pm. This event is open to ALL HTY (Grades 6 -12) and their friends. The night runs from 5 - 7:30pm and it's at the Challenge Family Fun Center in Hummelstown. The cost is \$8.00 a person (exact cash please). We are starting off with a pizza picnic dinner (provided by us), then we are playing a round of mini golf. There is snack bar there, if after golf, you want to purchase a sweet snack or something. This cost would be additional and on you. You are responsible for getting yourself to and from this event. See you there!! Hey HTY, this is a GREAT EVENT to bring friends too!! Nuff said. <u>NOTE</u>: THIS IS A "SHINE ONLY" HTY EVENT. PLEASE CHECK YOUR E-MAIL LATER TODAY IF THE WEATHER LOOKS QUESTIONABLE.

Birthday Blessings! Dottie Kieffer will be celebrating a 90+ birthday on May 28th. Cards can be sent to Dottie at 66 Leearden Road, Hershey, PA 17033. Happy birthday, Dottie!

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 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^{th} of the month.

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 need to read the 1st and 2nd reading and the Psalm. The lists are available on the bulletin board.

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You are Welcome Here!

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 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.