



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity**
Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 3, 2026**

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (Sanctuary Choir) Michael Larkin
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life..... Aaron David Miller/Nancy Raabe

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the ✝ cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from your sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,
All: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Making Their Way*ACS 979

Follow the cross as the procession passes by.

1 Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son, pil - grims, we jour - ney

heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,

Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,

the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003
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GREETING

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.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

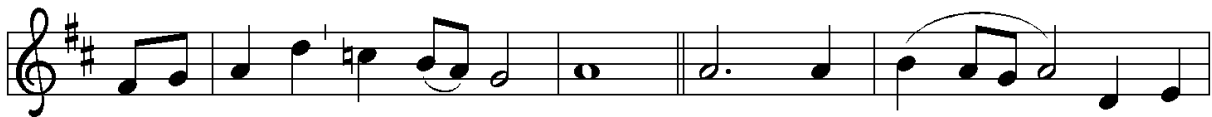


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

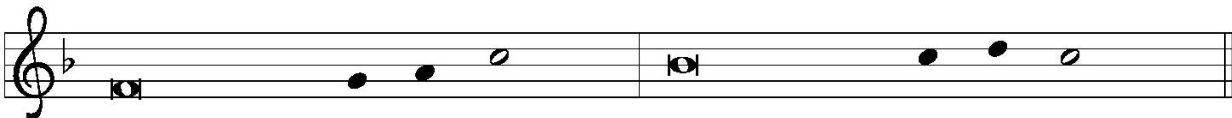
PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses*)

Refrain:



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

Verse:



¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

² **Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
for you are my tow- | er of strength. R

⁵ Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.” **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel,
Reading

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

Refrain:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Verse:

I am the way, the truth, ¹ and the life.* No one comes to the Father ex- ¹ cept through me. *Alleluia.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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: *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* ELW 816



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632
 Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music © 1911 Stainer and Bell, Ltd., 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ, UK. www.stainer.co.uk.

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

P: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

SHARING OF PEACE

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (verses 4 and 5)..... ELW 370*
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

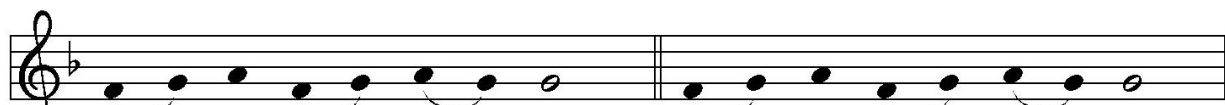
The congregation stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:


A: Let us pray . . . Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

All: **Amen.**


GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




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:


HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



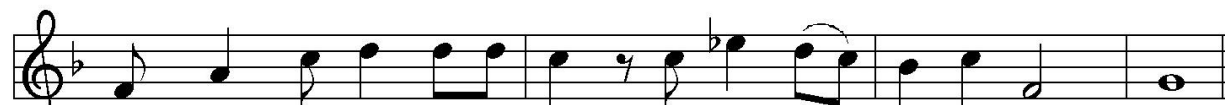
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 new life. Receive the risen Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The congregation sits.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *I Received the Living God* **ELW 477**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

The congregation stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.
All: Amen.

SENDING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray...Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
All: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and raise you to newness of life, now and forever.
All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! ELW 380

Follow the cross as the procession passes by.

1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.

from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
 Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:

bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*J. Bert Carlson

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:Rev. Pamela J. Carnes
Director of Music Ministries/Organist:Alan Hair
Assisting Minister: Beth Dunham
Reader: Elizabeth Stuart
Communion Assistants:..... Rodney Gross and Joan Rizzo
Crucifer:..... Sydney Keeler
Torchbearers:..... Malory Fox and Jamie Nielsen
Livestream Team:Kirk Sponaugle, Jordan Paul, and Adam Gardner

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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: Shirley Eckard, Barbara Ehrhart, David Ehrhart, Sharon Ellis (friend of the Dunham's), Roger Fletcher (friend of the Knols), Michael Fox, Bill Fosnacht, Herb Huebner, Father Michael Hutsko, Ann Jonell (friend of the Dunham's), Matthew Kulbacki, Penny Lutz, Jessica Noeske (Derek Dunham's cousin), Chris Ruff, Edward Sellard, Kay Smith, and Pastor Frank Terhune.

Bereaved: The Family of Bishop Guy S. Edmiston, Jr.

DAILY PRAYERS

Virginia Frank, Dean Huebner, Evadne Kopp, Dennis Lubold, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Brenda Stone (sister of Beth Hancock), George Trump, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all 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 htluth@comcast.net 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. 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 you prefer regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver tray. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer (ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free wafer option) or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant with regular wine and an 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 htluth@comcast.net to arrange to pick up elements or have them delivered to your home.

Children are always welcome in the worship space but if they need a break, the church nursery is available for parents and children during worship. A large screen monitor streams a live feed of the worship service each Sunday. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, in the classroom wing.

Office Hours 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: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org. **In case of emergency** Pastor Carnes may be reached through the church office, on her cell phone at 717-592-8690 or via her email address at: pstpammy@verizon.net.

Sunday School meets every Sunday from 9:00am-9:45am as follows: **Children’s Sunday School** for children pre-k thru 4th grade will meet in the Sunday School room. **Sunday School for grades 5-6** will meet in the art studio, **Affirmation of Baptism** for Grades 7-8 will meet in the youth room and **High School Bible Study** for grades 9-12 will meet in room #1. **Adult Discussion** will meet in room #16. Sunday School will meet for the last time before summer break on Sunday, May 17th.

Blood Pressure screenings will be offered TODAY, Sunday, May 3rd. Holy Trinity will offer blood pressure screenings on the first Sunday of every month in the front of the sanctuary after the worship service.

HTY “Outside” Night is TONIGHT from 5 - 7:30pm in the Youth Group Room and outside. Finish off the HTY season with a night of fun, faith, and fellowship! Meet in the Youth Group room at 5pm and dress to be outside for a while, if the weather is nice. We will have HTY regardless- rain or shine!!

HTY Mini-Golf Night is coming up FAST!! It is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th from 5 - 7:30pm at the Challenge Family Fun Center in Hummelstown. The cost for this event is \$10 per person. Please bring \$10 exact cash. This event is for ALL HTY (Grades 6 -12) and their friends. ALL other details are on the Mini-Golf flyer. Pick one up in the HTY room TODAY. PS This is a GREAT EVENT to bring friends to, plus it's our last HTY event of the season!!

Our fellowship luncheons for the year are coming to an end, and it’s time to start planning for next year! We will hold a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, May 17, directly following the church service in the Fellowship Hall. We’ll be discussing next year’s dates, food selections, and themes. All are welcome, come join us as we prepare for another year of meaningful fellowship and fun!

The **Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA** offers a wonderful variety of experiences for lovers of the outdoors at Nawakwa, Kirchenwald and The Wittel Farm. Flyers are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex or you can go to: www.lutherancamping.org to learn more. Please see Rodney Gross for any questions you might have.

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.



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.