



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity**

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

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 6, 2026**

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

GATHERING

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Come Now, O Prince of PeaceRoberta Rowland-Raybold
God, When Human Bonds Are BrokenMalcolm Archer
God, When Human Bonds Are Broken G. Winston Cassler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

✙ *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

All: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

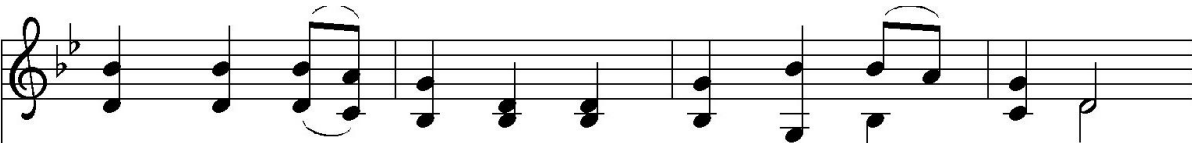
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

All: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

All: Amen.



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Glory be to God*



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The congregation sits.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

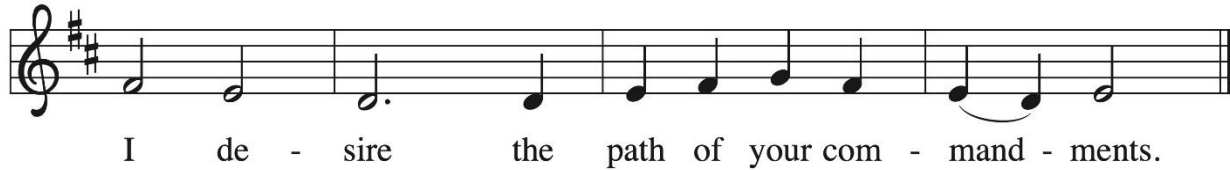
¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses*)

Refrain:



Verse:



³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

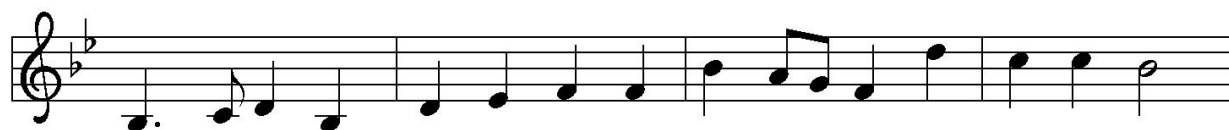
L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

Refrain:



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

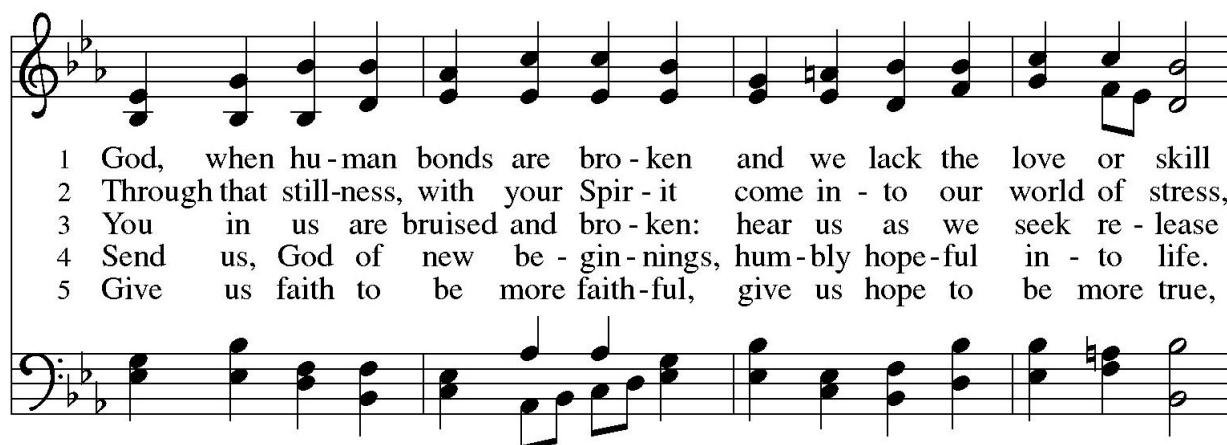
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation sits.

SERMON

Silence is kept for reflection.

The congregation stands.



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
 Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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.**

The congregation sits.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Hear us O God,

All: **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE 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 Plates at the entrance to worship or in the narthex. Or scan the QR Code.



OFFERTORY HYMN: *Come Let Us Eat* ELW 491
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

The congregation stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: Let us pray... God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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.**

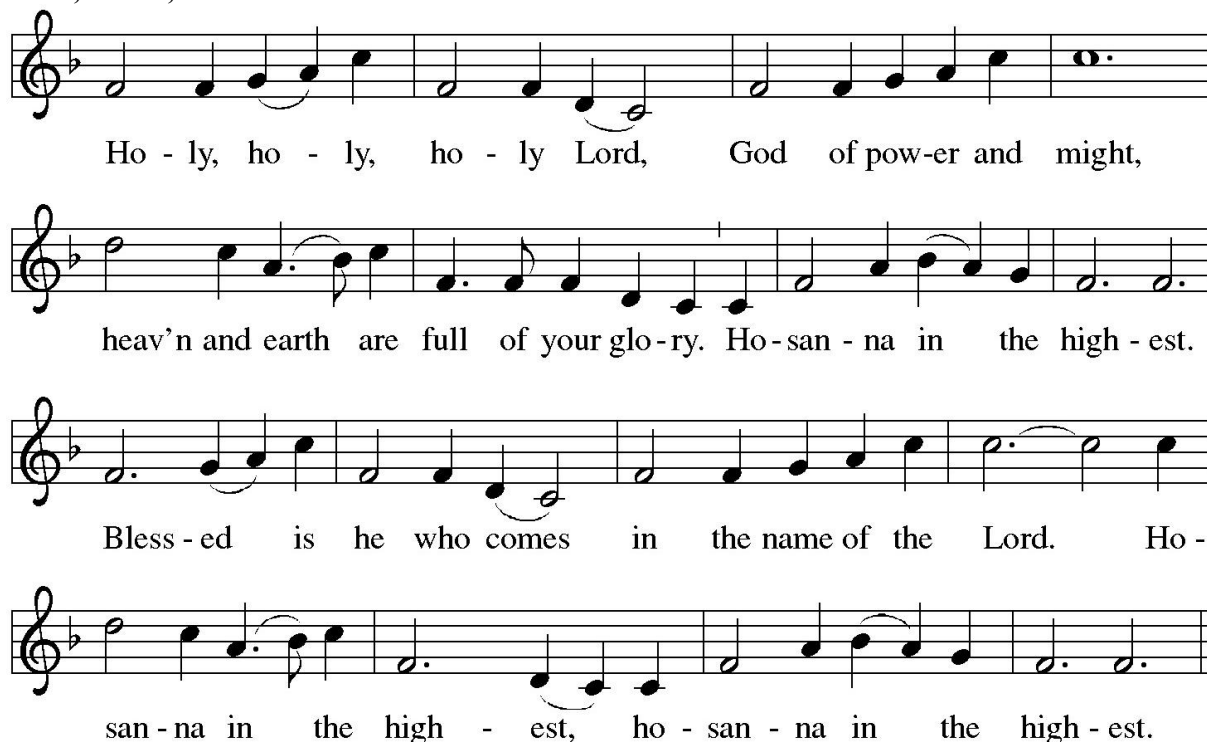
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign...
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And
believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great
and promised feast.

All: Amen. Come, Lord, Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to
the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

All: Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with
the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through
him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty
Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
 All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation sits.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION MUSIC: *When We Are Living* ELW 639

The congregation stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
 All: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

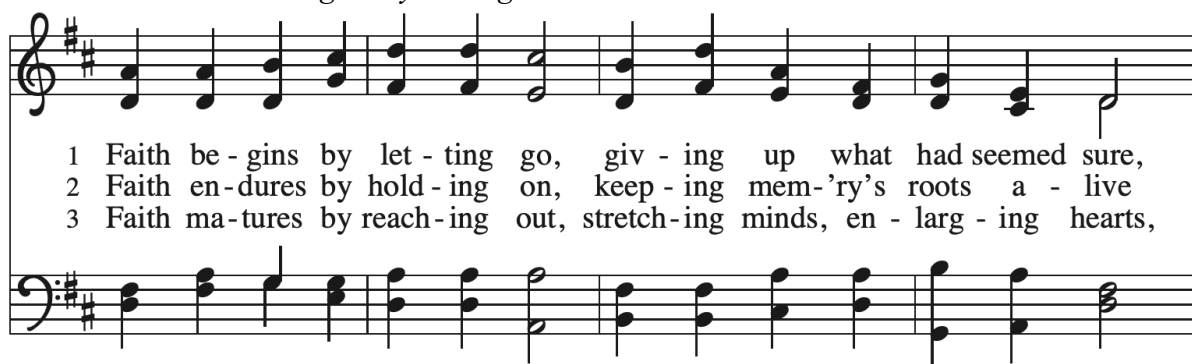
All: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

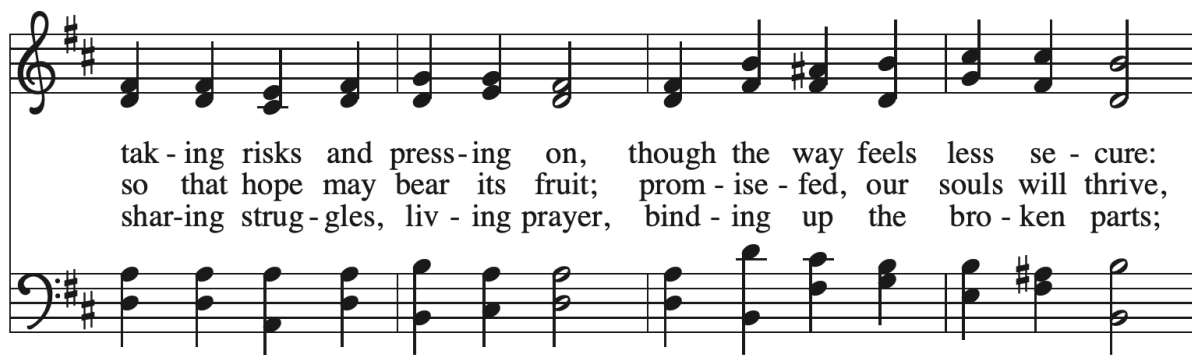
All: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen

SENDING HYMN: *Faith Begins By Letting Go*ACS 1004


1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
 so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
 shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Faith Begins by Letting Go* Timothy Albrecht

IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The bulletin is given in loving memory of Kaeli Brandt by Mommy, Grammy and Pop-pop (the Weaver Family).

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: Rev. Susan E. Scott
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Alan Hair
Assisting Minister: Beth Dunham
Reader: Shawn Sponaugle
Altar Guild: Betsy Phillippy
Communion Set-up: Mary Ann Kelly
Communion Assistants: Lisa Buettner and Joan Rizzo
Communion Presenters: Lisa Buettner and Joan Rizzo
Livestream Team: Kirk Sponaugle, Jordan Paul, and Adam Gardner

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Prayer Concerns: Joe Brittain (friend of the Dunham’s), Sharon Ellis (friend of the Dunham’s), Linda Goldhart (relative of the Bishops), Christine Hall, Ben Housman, Andrea Hospodar, Ann Jonell (friend of the Dunham’s), Matthew Kulbacki, Brian Lutz, Carol Miller, Donald Moyer (Donna Artley’s Father), Jessica Noeske (Derek Dunham’s cousin), Geri Phillips (Sister-in-Law of Sherry Welty), Chris Ruff, Edward Sellard, Josh Snyder (nephew of Linda Lubold), Kathy Spitler (cousin of Marilyn Layman), Vicki Sponaugle, Carolyn Underkoffler (Vicki Sponaugle’s Aunt).

DAILY PRAYERS

Michael Fox, Virginia Frank, Dean Huebner, Sharon Murray, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all our **Homebound members:** Shirley Espenshade, Bill Fosnacht, Herb Huebner, Evadne Kopp, John and Ruth Knol, Carol Longenecker, Dennis Lubold, Chip Murray, Tookie (Delores) Peterson, Joyce Schroeder, Kay Smith, Susanne Wiest and Nila Wiley.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, and 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.

Office Hours The office will be open this week Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. **The office will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.** To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org. **In case of emergency** Pastor Susan may be reached through the church office, on her cell phone at 717-497-1013 or via her email address at: sscott@htluth.org.

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.

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.



In an effort for transparency, Council would like to share an important **update regarding our 2026 Ministry Spending Plan.** As of the end of July, we are experiencing a year-to-date deficit of \$13,794. We recognize the congregation approved a full year deficit budget of \$14,348.00 for 2026. While a deficit is not unusual in the summer months, in the first three weeks of August the giving has been very low. We extend appreciation to everyone who has faithfully supported our ministry through regular giving. Your generosity has been meaningful and continues to sustain the work of our church. For those who may have missed opportunities to give recently, and for those who are able to contribute beyond their regular offerings, we encourage you to consider supporting our ministry to meet our financial commitments.

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.