

4th Sunday after Epiphany February 1, 2026



Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Holy Communion 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our worship follows a traditional order inspired by scripture and rooted in ancient patterns. The full order for worship (liturgy) is found in this bulletin.

*Please stand as you are able. Spoken congregational responses are in **Bold**.

GATHERING

Worship begins with the organ prelude. It's a time for silent meditation as we turn our hearts and minds to God.

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls us by name and draws near to us with grace and love. **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

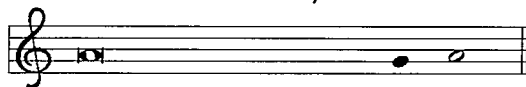
***GATHERING HYMN -**

As We Gather at Your Table Hymn 522

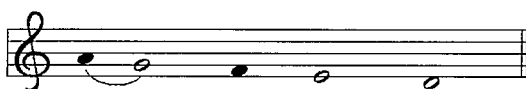
***GREETING**

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

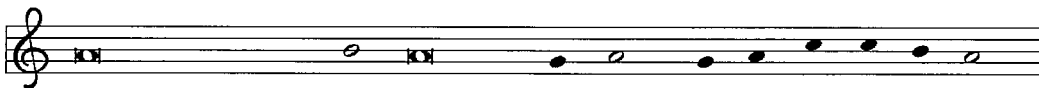
*KYRIE - Lord Have Mercy page 147



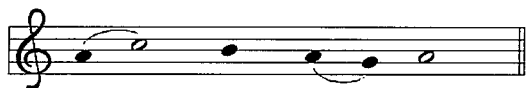
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



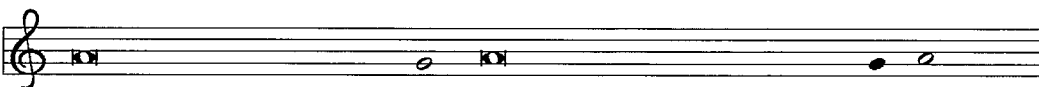
Lord, have mer - cy.



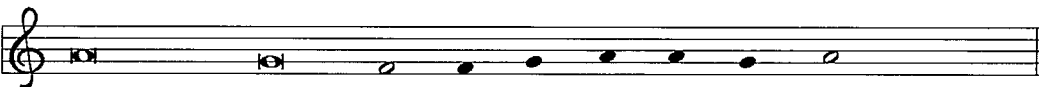
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



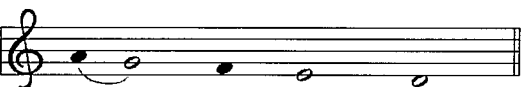
Lord, have mer - cy.



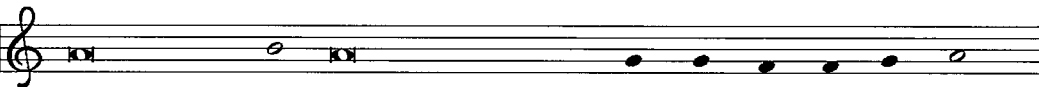
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." ⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 15 (*spoken responsively*)

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the
LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many

were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SENIOR CHOIR - New Promise Of Love Gilbert Martin

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Page 151



*GOSPEL - Matthew 5:1-12, 21-24

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord. (*spoken*)

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Althea Seidel

Hymn of the Day -

Let Streams of Living Justice Hymn 710

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** (After the prayer) **Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING - (*Offering plates are located in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.*)

***OFFERTORY HYMN -**

Good Christian Friends Rejoice Hymn 288, verse 2

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. God our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

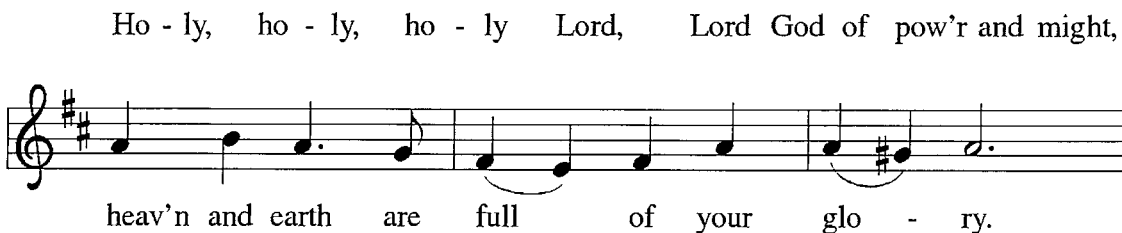
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everliving God. So, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** - Holy, Holy, Holy Page 153



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE 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

Here is the Messiah who has come to save the world. Come to the table;
taste and see the Lord. **Amen**

***AGNUS DEI - Lamb of God** Page 154

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward to receive Communion. If you are unable to come forward, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion at your seat. Children may come forward to receive a blessing. After receiving Communion, please do not hesitate to come forward to the altar for a time of prayer.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

***SENDING BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN -**

Rise Up, O Saints of God! Hymn 669

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Althea Seidel - Pastor

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music

Heather Buffington - Pianist

Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director

Scott Hower - Lay Assistant

Nancy Brightbill - Lector

James Engle - Acolyte

Lynn Kern - Greeter

Denise Rhoads - Greeter

♿ *Elevator access to upper and lower levels is located at rear entrance of church.*

📵 *Remember to silence cell phones & other electronic device*

A GIFT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN LOVING ✝ MEMORY OF:

In memory of Janice Copenhaver by Tim Huggins

In memory of Bill Godlevski by Lisa M. Scholes, OD

In memory of Bill Godlevski by Jane & Al Bender

In memory of Bill Godlevski by brother-in-law, Ken & Carolyn Umberger

In memory of Bill Godlevski by Charlene Hurst

In memory of Bill Godlevski by Bonnie & Gina Battistelli

In memory of Joette Hollinger by Tim Huggins

A GIFT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN LOVING ✝ HONOR OF:

In honor of Donna Thomas' 80th birthday which she will celebrate this coming Tuesday, February 3 and for all her service to her family, her patients, and her students by The Thomas Family

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:

Monday, February 2 - Praise Ringers 6 p.m.; Psalm Ringers 7 p.m.;

Property Committee Meeting 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3 - Senior Choir 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4 - Private Event 12 p.m.

Saturday, February 7 - Private Event 10 a.m.

PRAYER CONCERNS: If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

PRAYER UPDATE: We have been asked to keep Margaret Arnold, Barb Atwood, Terry Clearwater, Deb Dobson, Donna, George & Susie Eckert, Dan Fox, The Family of Bill Godlevski, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Jim & Judi Light, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Ed Ream, Marie Smith, Nancy Warner, and Mary Yeagley.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: If Church is going to be cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on our website page: www.trinityleb.org. Don't forget to refresh your browser when viewing the website. You can also find information on our Facebook page: facebook.com/htlclebanonpa. The decision will be made by 7 p.m. the Saturday prior to service.

CLEANING & HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS FOR AGAPE FAMILY SHELTER 2026: The Women of the ELCA's first service project for 2026 is collecting cleaning and household products for the Agape Family Shelter in the city of Lebanon from January 4, 2026 to February 18, 2026. Donations to be collected during this campaign include: paper towels, toilet tissue, Clorox wipes, 13 gallon tall kitchen trash bags, 33 gallon black drawstring trash bags, Lysol disinfectant spray (unscented, white can preferred), Pine Sol, Comet cleanser, dish detergents, sponges, scouring pads, paper plates, tea towels and HE laundry detergent. These "in kind" donations help to defray the shelter's maintenance costs thereby freeing up money for use to support programs to help their guests. The Agape Family Shelter provides a Christ-centered sanctuary for single women, pregnant women and mothers with children. Each woman who crosses their threshold is guided through an individualized plan for her future. From goal-setting and financial planning to parenting education and informal counseling, Agape Family Shelter empowers women with the life skills they need. We would like to invite the congregation to participate in this endeavor. Donations can be placed in the WELCA barrel located in The Giving Place through Sunday, February 15. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you. Karen Weaver, WELCA Projects Chair

CARE PACKAGE: We have TWO students in college this year, Brady Cassel and London Seiders. We will be collecting goodies to send to her around Valentine's Day. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the bin marked "Care Package." Please bring your donation by February 8. THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our neighborhood ministry needs your help! Volunteers are needed to stock the Share & Care box and hang clothing. The hours and commitment level are up to you! Prayerfully consider helping with this ministry. Please contact Stephanie for more information, 717-273-8567.

SPREAD SOME LOVE: We will be sending/delivering Valentine Cards to members who can't attend on a regular basis or who reside in a nursing facility. Cards are set up in Luther's Place. Feel free to fill them out, take home a list to send, or both! Volunteers will also be needed to distribute the cards. If you are able to help with distribution, please meet in Luther's Place after Worship Service on Sunday, February 8.

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S FEBRUARY MEETING: Join QAS on February 25 (RESCHEDULED FROM JANUARY) for a presentation by Chris Kemmerer on "Birding Pennsylvania's State Parks." Pennsylvania has one of the largest state park systems in the country. With 124 parks across 64 counties, the system includes geologic wonders, prominent moments in American history, old growth forests, tidal waterways, and Great Lakes access. This diversity is also represented in the flora and fauna. Join Chris Kemmerer, Education and Interpretation Section Chief for Pennsylvania State Parks, on a tour of the best birding spots in the PA's state park system. He'll highlight parks close-to-home near Lebanon, parks worthy of a daytrip and parks further afield that may require an overnight visit or two. You'll also learn a few other ways to engage with the PA State Parks beyond a birding adventure. Program starts at 7 p.m. in Luther's Place.

GOT LIDS?: Bring all of your soft plastic lids from yogurt, butter, and cottage cheese containers. These lids are approximately 5" in diameter. Other lids also work. Just bring your lid in and place it in the Luther's Place.



EXTENDED THROUGH FEBRUARY 8 - Every January, Holy Trinity highlights a ministry of the Global Church. This year's focus is on our ELCA missionaries.

Today, the Global Church has over 72 million Lutheran congruent in Europe and North America as well as Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our church's expansion is due to the work of Lutheran missionaries.

Holy Trinity has experienced the capabilities of our missionaries through Pastor Kate Warn. She helped us through our transition between pastors as our interim pastor from the summers of 2012 and 2015, while she waited a new call as missionary in Africa. She previously served in South Sudan and Sierra Leone.

Again, we are called to help support our missionaries by being part of the ELCA missionaries' story as they serv in Jesus' name around the world. Missionaries accompany neighbors as teachers, pastors, doctors, and more. God calls us into the world – together. Your gift makes possible the life-changing ministry of sharing God's love.

Global Church special offering envelopes can be found in your yearly envelope box, at one of the Welcome Tables, and/or in the pews. You can also make a donation by marking your offering. Thank you for your generosity.



RESCHEDULED

February 8

The meeting will be held following worship in the Social Room.

This is a constitutionally mandated meeting.
All members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. We do need
a quorum in order to conduct the business of the meeting.

We will be voting on an updates to our constitution.

Copies of the budget are available at either Welcome Table.



Sunday, February 8

Wear your jersey to Worship Service! We will be collecting donations of canned food and/or monetary donations.

To vote for your team, simply place your donation in your team's box. The boxes will be setup outside of Pastor's Office.

The winning team will be announced February 15.

All donations will benefit Lebanon County Christian Ministries.

LUNCH and LEARN

Grab your lunch and join us for a Lenten discussion. We will meet in the Social Room at noon February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24.

SOUP'S ON!

February 18

Join your church family for a soup supper before worship on Ash Wednesday. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Room. Service starts at 7 p.m. If you would like to bring a soup to share, bread, etc. please sign-up on the sheets located at both Welcome Tables. Bringing an item is appreciated but not necessary. We look forward to sharing this time of fellowship.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

There are many ways that we, as a congregation and as individuals, give back to the Lord. Many of us share our gifts, talents, and money in order to have our many ministries flourish. Your support, in whatever ways it is shared, is always appreciated.

Scan to donate online:




Church Treasurer's Financial Summary - November 2025

	Month of November	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	\$25,566	\$258,462	\$283,943
Expenses	\$(20,953)	\$(281,133)	\$(282,940)
Net Income	\$4,613	\$(22,672)	\$1,003



I am in the process of organizing the next disaster response trip, the 26th trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Team. It will take place April 26 – May 2, 2026. It will be a return to the western North Carolina region devastated by Hurricane Helene last fall. There will be a trip planning meeting on **Sunday, February 1st, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz.

The second opportunity is an invitation to anyone interested in hearing about our most recent trip to North Carolina. Also on February 1st, our disaster response team will be gathering to tell our stories and show our pictures from the work we did and the experiences we had in North Carolina in November. The presentation will take place in the Community Room at 7:00 p.m. We thank everyone who supported our work and invite them to come and see what they helped make possible. If you have any questions, please let me know!

	<p>Rev. Glenn A. Beard, Jr., MDiv, BCC Vice President, Church Relations & Spiritual Care Coordinator, Lower Susquehanna LDR Network Phone 717.626.1171 ext. 1669</p> <p>LutherCare 600 East Main Street, Lititz, PA. 17543 LutherCare.org</p>
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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Holy Trinity Lebanon PA www.facebook.com/htlclebanonpa

Pastor Althea Seidel: pastoralthea3@gmail.com • cell: 484-345-0399

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.,
also available by phone, email, text message, or appointment

Stephanie Kaylor: stephanie@trinityleb.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.