

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026



**"GIVE...
TO GOD**

**THE THINGS
THAT ARE
GOD'S."**

MATTHEW 22:21, NRSV

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Holy Communion 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

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.*

PRELUDE -

The Cross of Christ Joyce Jones

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, we come to you open and willing to be in relationship with you again. You know our hearts and our innermost secrets. We call on you now to make us whole, refresh us, and bless us so that we may do your holy work in the world by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, and through our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

God of Grace, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent and we desire your will for our lives. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Restore our relationship with you. Uphold us and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

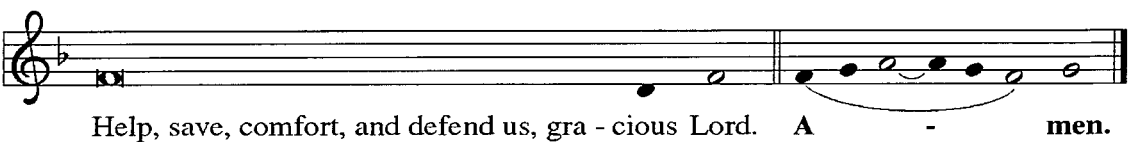
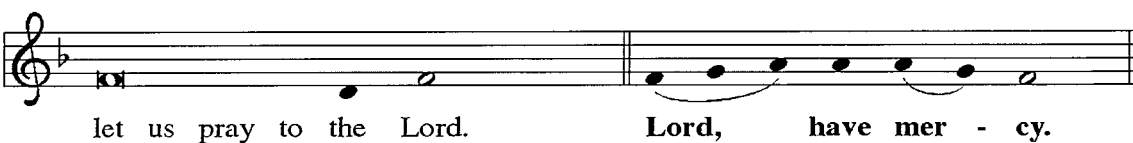
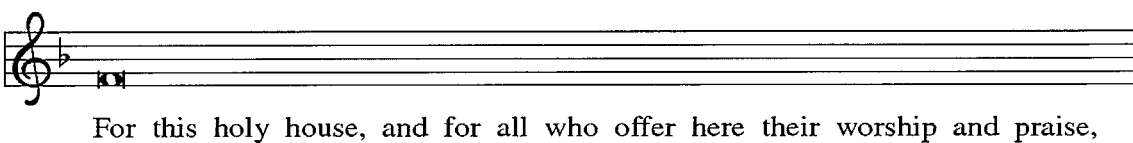
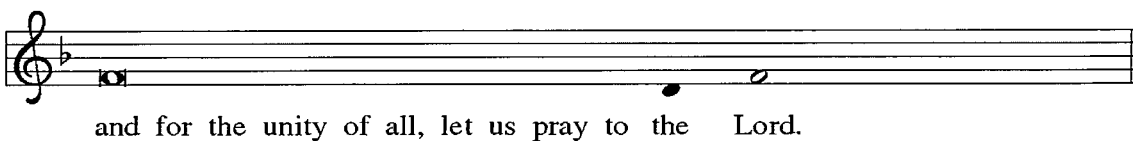
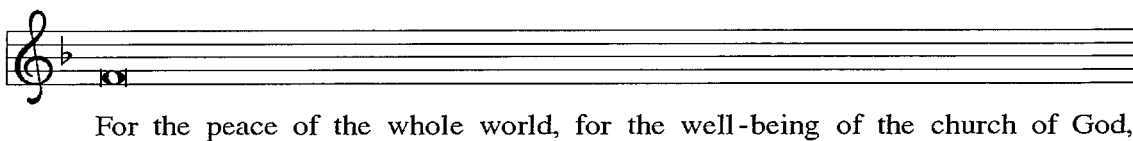
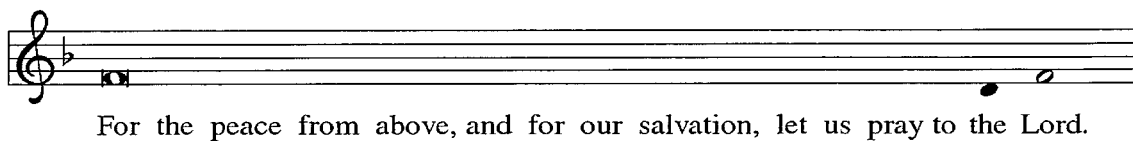
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN -

God Is Here Hymn #526

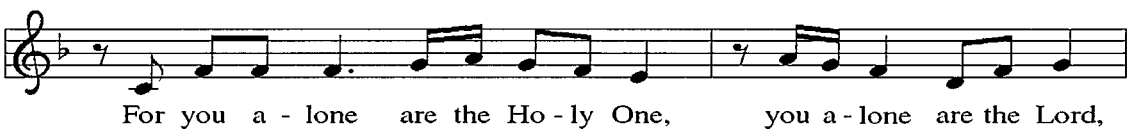
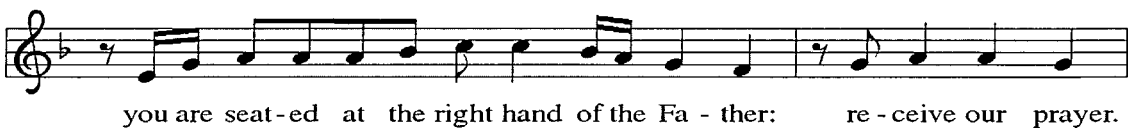
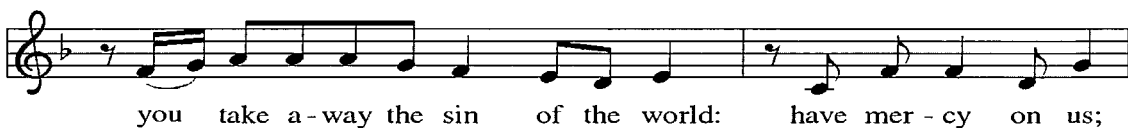
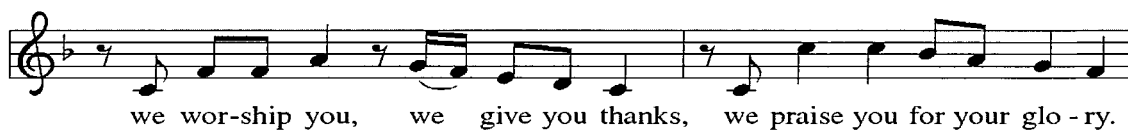
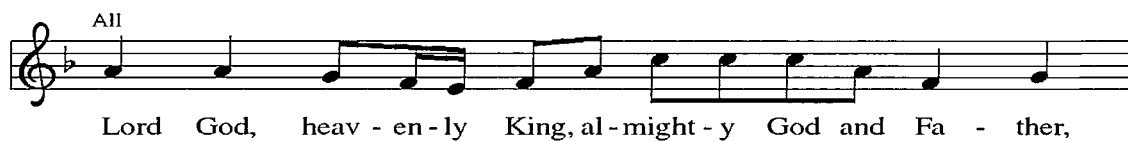
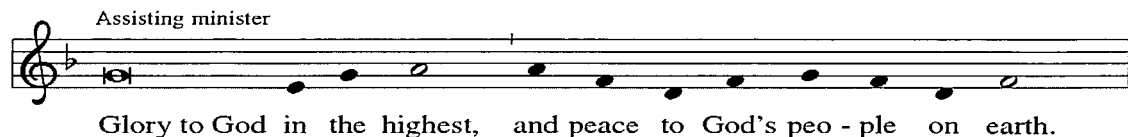
*GREETING

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 138



* HYMN OF PRAISE - *Glory to God* page 139



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,

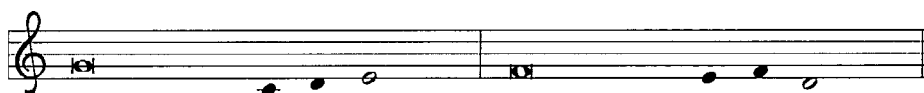
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Tone:



R:



As - crite to the LORD hon - or and power.

PSALM: 96:1-9 [10-13]

¹ Sing to the LORD ¹ a new song;
sing to the LORD, ¹ all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name ¹ of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from ¹ day to day.

³ Declare God's glory a- ¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹ mong all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised,**
more to be feared ¹ than all gods. R

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have ¹ made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your ¹ sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹ or and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹ holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the LORD. R

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹ all the earth.

- [¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The ¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- ¹ ples with equity.”**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is
therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- ¹ ing, O
LORD, for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth. **R]**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

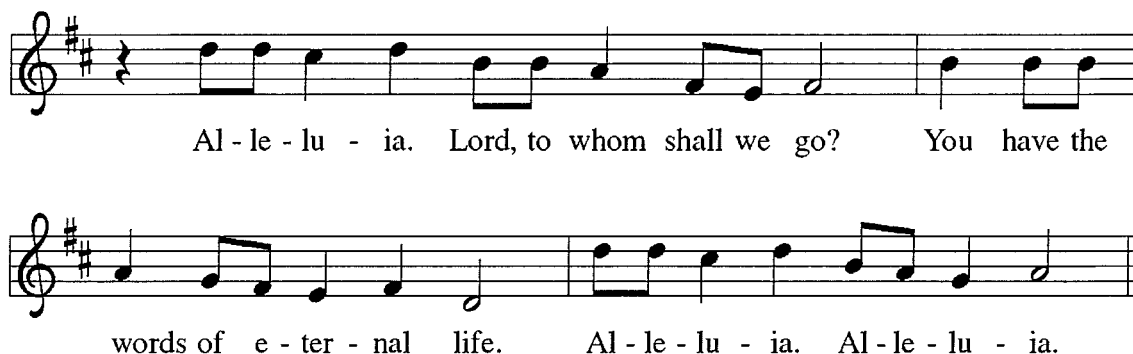
² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind

of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC -

The Twenty Third Psalm Albert Malotte
PJ Copenhaver, Soloist

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Page 142



*GOSPEL - Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd chapter.

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

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality.

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you

hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON The Rev. Althea Seidel

*HYMN OF THE DAY -

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good Hymn #871

***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: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** (After each 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 -**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Hymn #182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. You are our Creator and bless us with all that we have. We are thankful for many things in our lives. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need. Bless our time, our talents, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

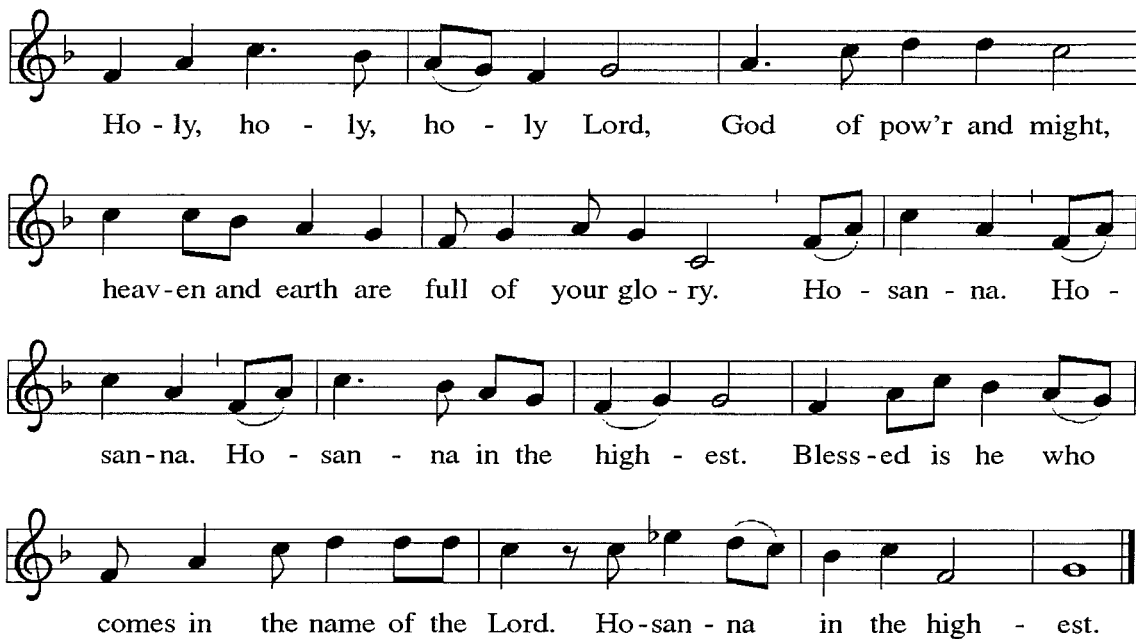
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who overcame death and the grave, and by his resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

***SANCTUS** - *Holy, holy, holy* Page 144



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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

***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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

***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

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Amen.**

***AGNUS DEI - (Lamb of God)** Page 146

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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 bring you peace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with your love. Strengthen us that we may share your love freely, as you have shared the gift of your grace and love with us. We ask all this in the name of Christ and through the Holy Spirit who refreshes us and guides us now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

*BLESSING

May God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer ✠, bless you and hold you close today and always. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN -

God of Grace and God of Glory Hymn #705

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Christ is with you! Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE -

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Kenneth D. Varner

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Althea Seidel

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music

Dan Shuman - Organist

Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director

Neal Galbraith - Lay Assistant

Barry Thompson - Lector

Sam Seiders - Acolyte

Betz Miller & Denise Rhoades - Greeters

 *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, who passed away on year ago on
October 14, 2025 by Paul & Barb Copenhaver

In memory of Betty Schriver by Richard Smith

In memory of Betty Schriver by Louise Lundquist

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:

Sunday, October 18 - Christian Education (all ages) 10:30 a.m.

Monday, October 19 - Praise Ringers 6 p.m.; Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.; Psalm
Ringers 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20 - Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.; Senior
Choir 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21 - Mentor A Mother 5:30 p.m.; WELCA
Meeting 6 p.m.

Thursday, October 22 - Executive Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.; Church
Council 7 p.m.

PRAYER UPDATE: We have been asked to keep Barb Atwood, Terry Clearwater, Monique Derfler, Deb Dobson, Donna, George & Susie Eckert, Dan, Dan Fox, Fran, Moe Gockley, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Jennifer, Joan, Asher Johnson, Jane Kalbach, Joe Kalbach, Bart Keip, Donna Kullman, Jim & Judi Light, Ann Mark, Robert Moore, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Robert, Margaret Reese, Pastor Althea, The Family of Betty Schriver, Sam & Marie Smith, Betty Troxell, Rick Warner, and Mary Yeagley.

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.

DATABASE HELP NEEDED: Do you have some spare time to give of your talents? We are in need of help with our Archives & Artifacts database. If you can type, this is an opportunity for you! The hours are flexible. If you have questions or are interested, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

CAN YOU SPARE A SUNDAY?: Help is needed with the Youth Sunday School Class. There is a sign-up sheet in Luther's Place. Sign-up when it works best for you. Only want to teach once a year? That's ok. This is extremely flexible. Clearances do need to be on file in the Church Office. If you need help with that or if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie. All materials will be prepped and ready for you. You simply need to follow the instructions. Please prayerfully consider helping out. Thank you!

EGG CARTONS: Cartons are needed for various non-profits. Please bring them in and place them in the bin in The Giving Place.

CLOTHING DONATIONS: Did you know that we open up the Church once a month for a community clothing giveaway to those in need? Donations of clothing, blankets, shoes, towels, you name it are accepted year round. Please bring your items and place them in the cart located in the Giving Place. If you would like to help with the distribution or have questions, please contact the Church Office.

CHURCH ENVELOPES: 2027 offering envelopes are here! Please stop by Luther's Place to pick your set up today! If you did not receive a box and would like to, please contact the Church Office.

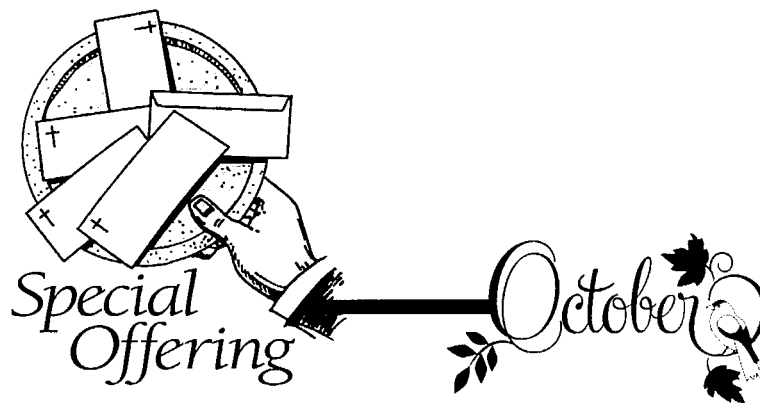
MAKE IT A HABIT: Be sure to stop by Luther's Place every Sunday! All sign-up sheets, correspondence, and more has been moved to Luther's Place. Stop by today!

GREETERS & LECTORS NEEDED: This is a simple way to help out! Arrive on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and greet anyone who enters the Narthex door. Lectors are also needed. The text is given ahead of time for you to get comfortable. Sign-up sheet is located at the parking lot Welcome Table. Questions? Please contact either Denise Rhoades or Stephanie Kaylor.

BAZAAR: Plans are underway for the 2026 Holiday Bazaar! Mark your calendars for November 14th. Donations for the White Elephant, Jewelry, Book, and Plant booths can be brought to the Church anytime. Questions, please contact the Church Office.

REFORMATION SUNDAY: Make plans now to stay after worship service on October 25 for a Reformation Day event! We will start off in the Sanctuary with a lesson, "How God Speaks to Us in and through the Structure and Symbols of our Place of Worship and Liturgy." The lesson will be presented by Rev. Althea Seidel and James Dibert, M.A. Following the lesson, we will gather in fellowship for a potluck in the Social Room. There is a sign-up sheet in Luther's Place. We hope to see you there!

DONATIONS NEEDED: We will be collecting items for Northwest Elementary School from October to November 15. Here is a list of the most needed items: loose-fitting, jogger style sweatpants for boys size 6-14 and girls size 12-16; plain colored, loose-fitting t-shirts for girls size 10-16; boys underwear size 10/12; Lysol wipes; headphones for work on Ipads (nothing super expensive, the kids are hard on them); tissues; glue sticks; Expo markers; boys and girls sneakers in any kid sizes. The school has plenty of hats, coats and backpacks. Please prayerfully consider participating in the Wish List Campaign. Your voluntary participation in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the Giving Place in the WELCA barrel.



October's Special Offering Supports Lebanon County Christian Ministries

Its Mission Is:

GIVE to the one in need of material assistance to keep a roof over their head, food in the fridge, shelter, and one who wants to move toward a sustainable future.

GO to the one who needs support and guidance, a helping hand when times are tough, and a warm, friendly face they can count on.

PRAY for the one facing eviction, homelessness, food insecurity, and those who want better for their family's future.

Its Ministries are:

Market on 7th: Empower the one who wants to provide nutritious food for their family.

Free Noon Meal: Nourish the one who needs a hot meal and a community to break bread with.

Shelter: Help the one who needs a safe place to stay while rebuilding their life at FRESH Start Emergency Shelter & Recourse Center.

uplift & uplift Lite: Help the ones who want to restabilize their household and work toward a better future.

Holy Trinity also supports LCCM by donating in-kind food items placed in the LCCM shopping cart in the Giving Place, by volunteering to help at its noon meals, at its shelter and on its Board of Directors.

Special Offering envelopes can be found at either Welcome Table or in the pews (green envelopes.) You can also mark your donation "Harvest Home."

NOVEMBER 1st IS ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: We will mark the day with a Remembrance Table and prayer. You are invited to remember with gratitude your loved ones who have joined the church triumphant by bringing a small memento or photograph to place on our Remembrance Table at the front of the sanctuary.

NEW MEMBER CLASS: Anyone interested in becoming a member of Holy Trinity should make plans to attend a meeting with Pastor Althea on November 8th following worship. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor directly.

HELP NEEDED: Single young woman is looking for a one or two bedroom apartment. She has two senior handicapped dogs. If you can help, please contact Vanessa Von Seggern at brooklyn26671st@gmail.com or 631-834-3654.

← **BE STRONG** ⇐
and
⇒ **COURAGEOUS.** →

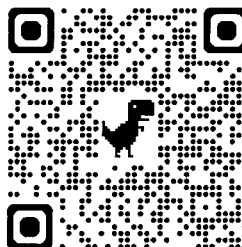
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever
you go

Joshua 1:9

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 - August 2026

	Month of August	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	\$19,424	\$166,137	\$216,838
Expenses	(\$16,486)	(\$211,324)	(\$223,780)
Net Income	\$2,938	(\$45,187)	(\$6,942)



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP *Bazaar*

723 Lehman Street, Lebanon

Saturday, November 14th
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

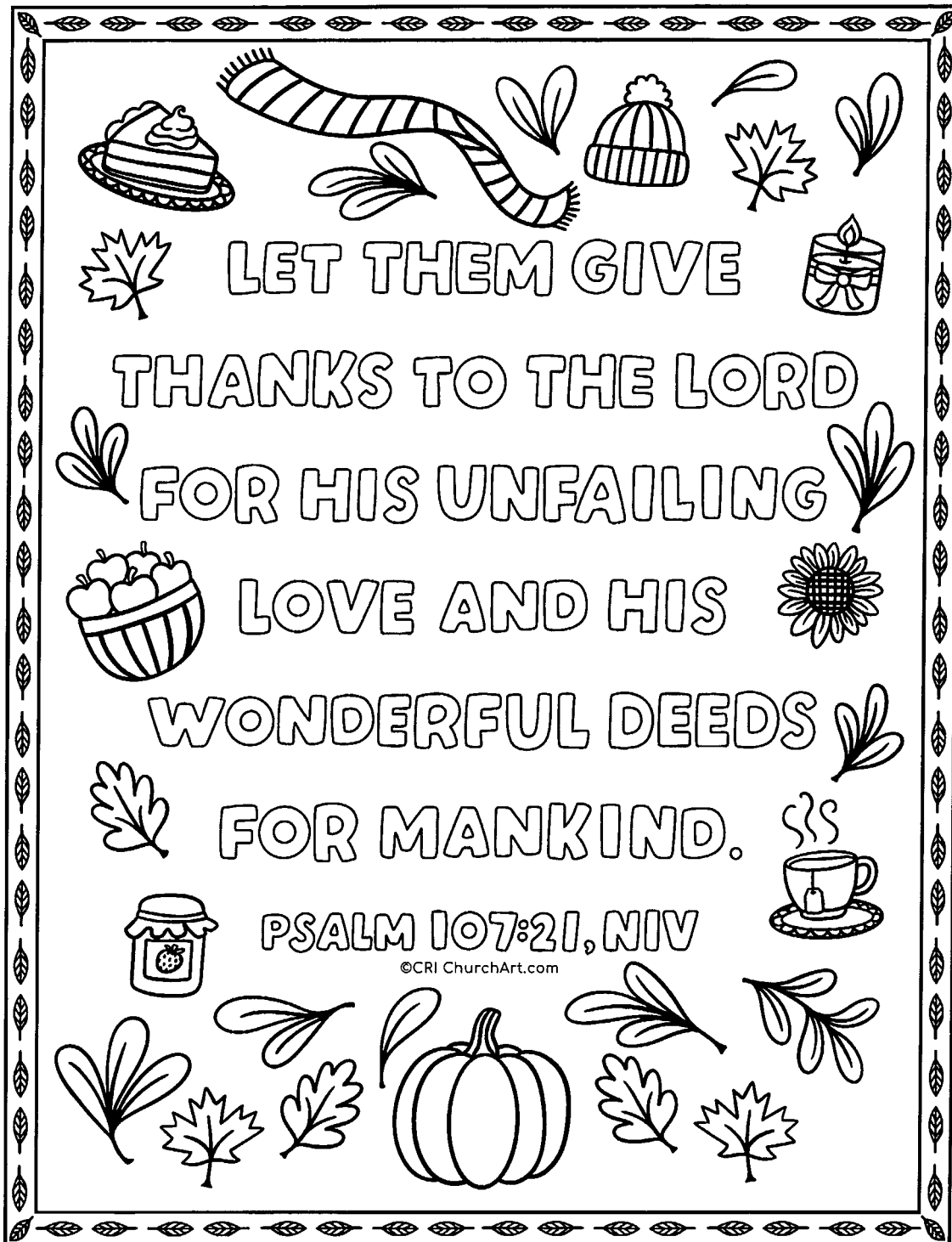
Please use back entrance at parking lot.

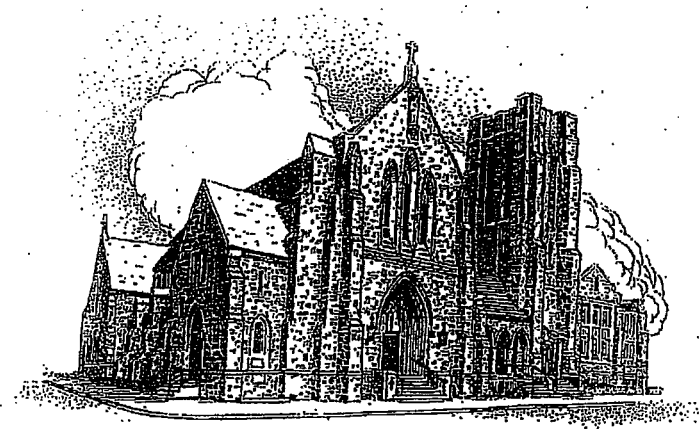
All your Favorite Booths: White Elephant,
Books and Puzzles, Homemade Jellies and
Chow Chow, Homemade Candy, Plants and
Garden, Homemade Baked Goods,
Jewelry, Totes, Handcrafted Christmas
Décor, Christmas Novelties, Raffle Baskets

Breakfast: Eggs, Pancakes, Hash Browns, Bacon,
Toast, Breakfast Sandwich, Drink

Lunch: BBQ, Hot Dogs, Chips, Homemade Veggie
and Noodle Soups, Desserts, Drink

SEE YOU THERE!!! Bring a Friend.





Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

723 Lehman Street, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17046

Telephone - 717-273-8567 www.trinityleb.org

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

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

Office Hours by appointment, also available by phone, email, or text message

Stephanie Kaylor: stephanie@trinityleb.org

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