

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



**GATHERED
IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."**

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Holy Communion 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

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.

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 - *Flute Tune* Gregg Sewell

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.**

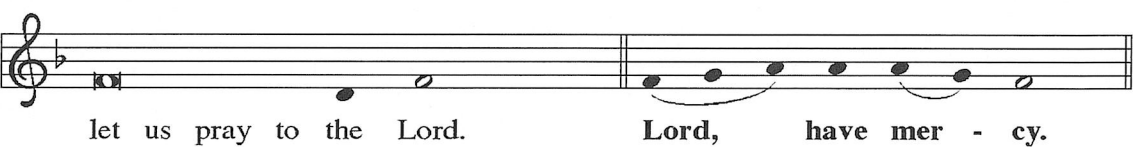
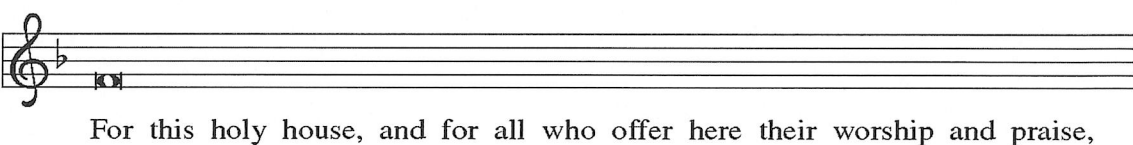
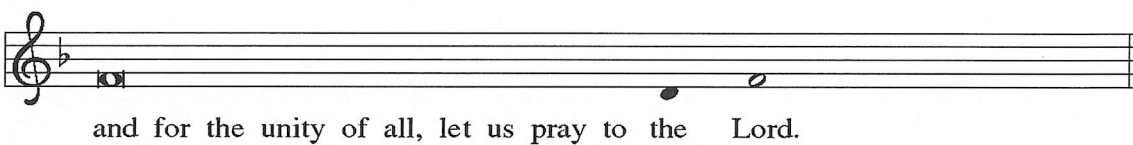
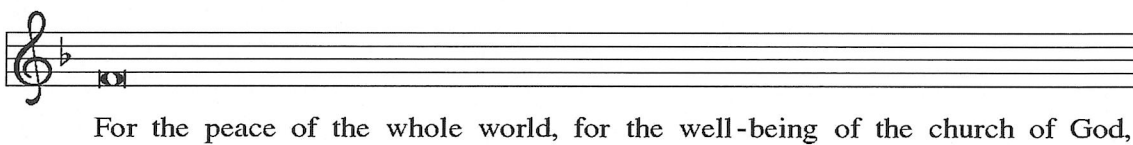
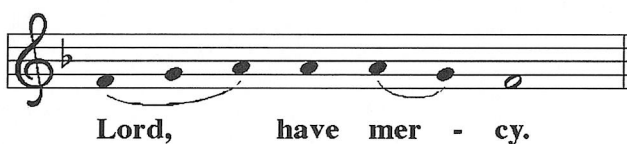
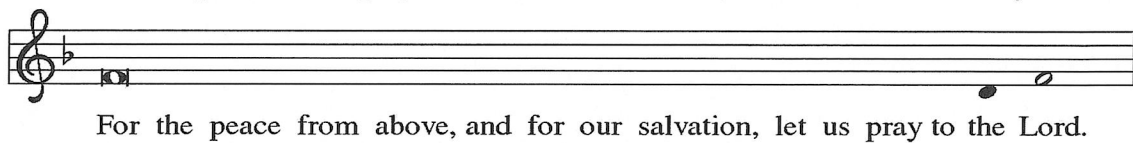
***PROCESSIONAL HYMN -**

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.**

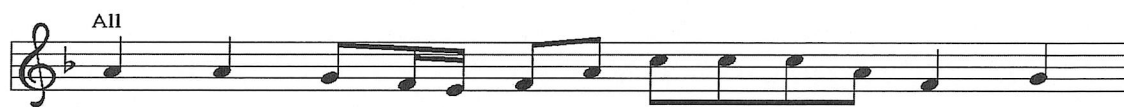
*KYRIE - *Lord, have mercy* page 138



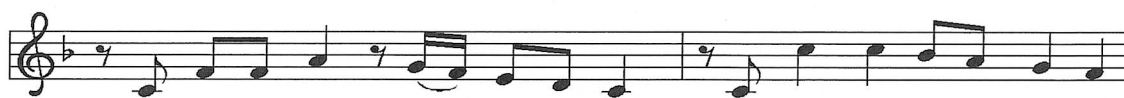
* HYMN OF PRAISE - *This is the Feast* page 139



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

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

Psalm 119:33-40 (*spoken responsively*)

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.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding 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 judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

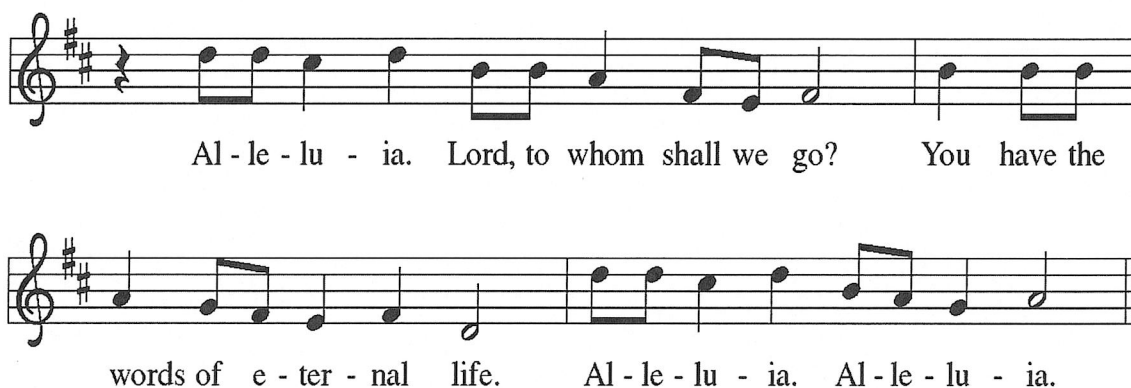
The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Page 142



*GOSPEL - Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

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

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. ¹⁶ But 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. ¹⁷ If 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. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, 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.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON The Rev. Althea Seidel

*HYMN OF THE DAY -

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken Hymn #603

***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 each prayer) **Amen.**

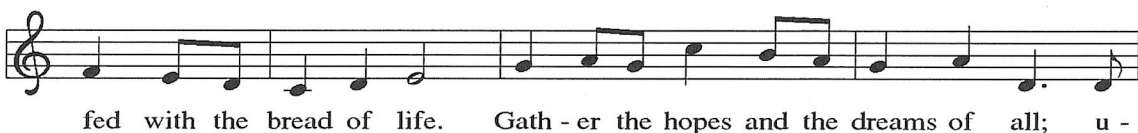
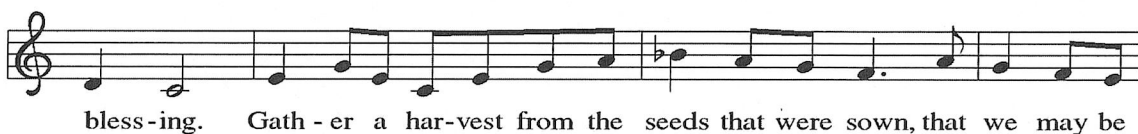
***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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



***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 the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing 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 -

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven Hymn #864

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE - *Majestic Postlude in G Minor* Garrett Parker

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PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Althea Seidel

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music

Dan Shuman - Organist

Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director

Scott Hower - Lay Assistant

Karen Fitting - Lector

Emily Engle - Acolyte

Connie Thompson & 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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:

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

Monday, September 7 - Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 8 - Quittapahilla Audubon Society Board
Meeting 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9 - Archives & Artifacts Committee 9:30 a.m.;
Social Ministry Meeting 6:30 p.m.

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

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.

COUNTRY STORE GOODIES: All the goodies are ready! Peach & Strawberry Jam are \$3 for an 8 oz. jar and \$5.50 for a 16 oz. jar. Chow Chow is \$4 for a 16 oz. jar, \$6 for a 24 oz. jar, and \$8 for a 32 oz. jar. If interested, Linda and Louise will be available Sunday mornings or contact the Church Office.

BINGO HELP NEEDED: We need your help spreading the word! There are flyers at each Welcome Table. Please grab some and hang them up in the community. The event benefits our outreach ministries. Stay tuned for more ways to help! Thank you!

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! We are also in need of help putting together a giveaway. Both jobs are sitting and 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!

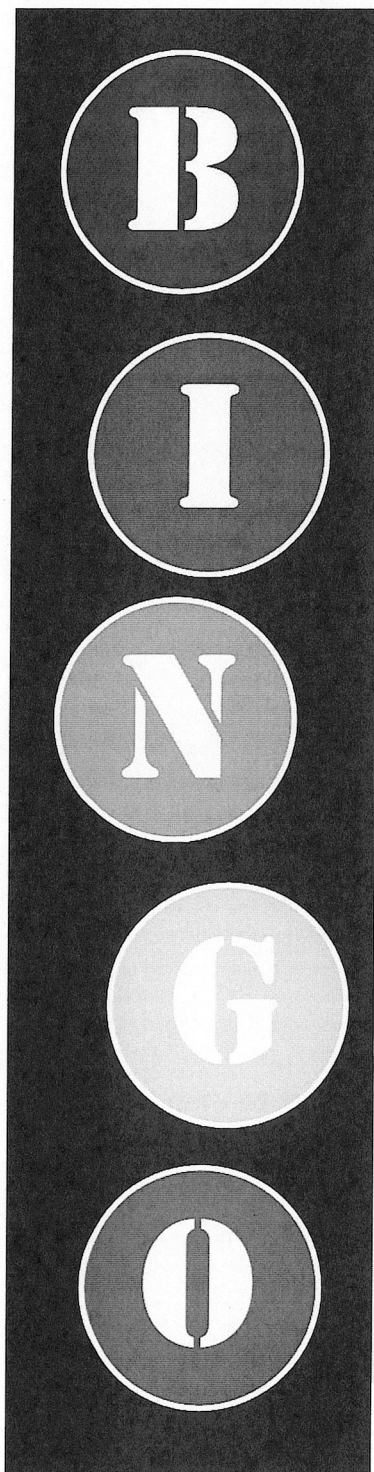
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BELL RINGERS TO BEGIN A NEW SEASON: Come join the fun and fellowship of ringing for the Lord. Please contact Heather Buffington (717) 926-3917 for more information and/or to let her know of your interest.



Praise Ringers (4th grade through adult - Beginner choir) No experience necessary. Want to just give it a try? Come for a few rehearsals before you make a commitment. Don't read music? Not a problem - we offer on-the-job training. Have a seasonal conflict like sports or band, etc? We'll work around it. Need a ride? We'll arrange one for you. Rehearsals are in Luther's Place on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00PM starting on Sept 14. Praise Ringers play in one church service a month, October through May.

Psalm Ringers (Experienced ringers) Rehearsals are in Luther's Place on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00PM starting on Sept 14. Psalm Ringers play in one church service a month, October through May, as well as occasional additional performances.



CASH PRIZES!

*Supporting Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's
Hunger Initiative and Pastoral Care Programs.*

SEPTEMBER 26

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
723 Lehman Street: Please use parking lot entrance.

Doors Open for Food &

Drink: 11:30 a.m.

Games Start: 1 p.m.

Regular Games Payout \$50

Special Games Payout \$100

Tickets: \$20 Advance

\$25 at Door

Seating is LIMITED!

Tickets available online at:

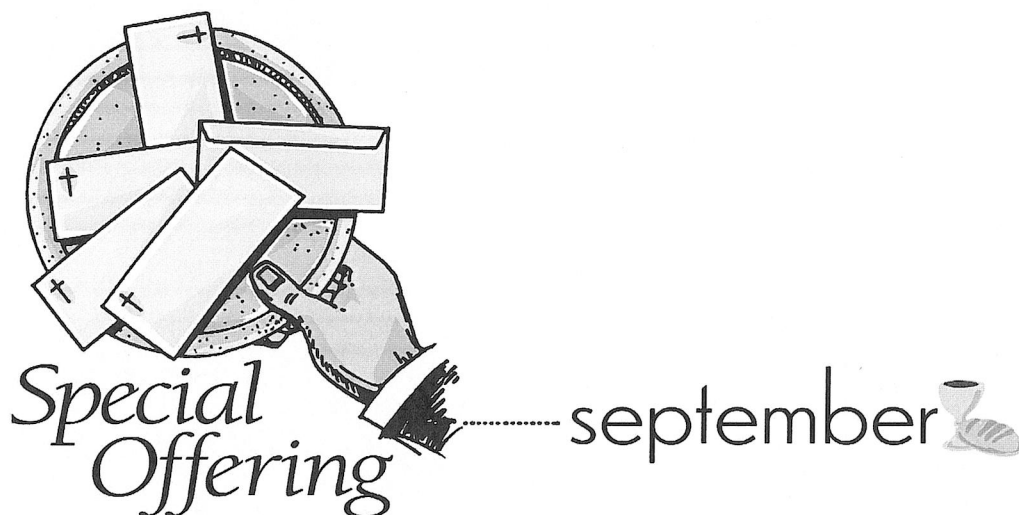
www.trinityleb.org

or by calling

717-273-8567.



Questions: stephanie@trinityleb.org



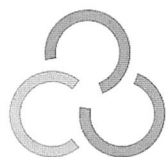
Lutheran World Relief

Faithful Lutherans have a long history of rushing aid to the front lines — near and far — when crisis strikes. From sending emergency supplies to delivering LWR Mission Quilts, your love has been reaching children, women and families in the direst situations. With your support, together, we will not abandon these neighbors now.

Your gift will deliver critically needed resources like medical care, food, water and essential supplies where they are needed most.

Special Offering envelopes can be found at either Welcome Table or in the pews (green envelopes.) You can also mark your donation “ELCA World Hunger,” “Lutheran Disaster Repsonse,” and/or “Lutheran World Relief.”

Thank you for putting your faith in action and sharing God’s love with your neighbors.

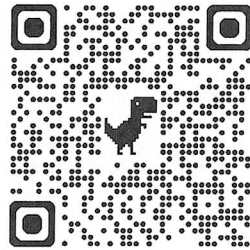


**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

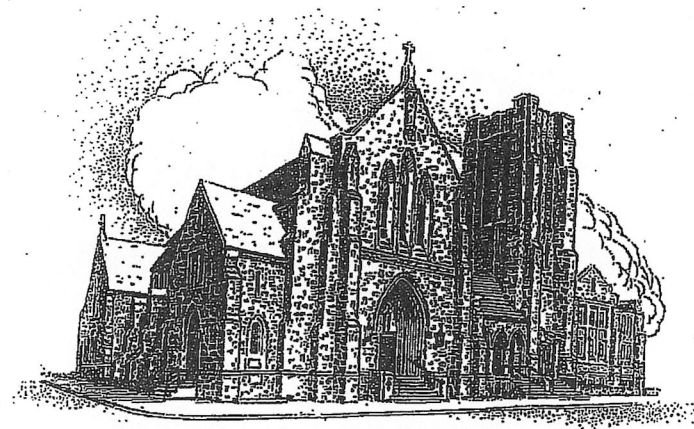
There are many ways that we, as a congregation and as individuals, give back to the Lord. Many of us share our gifts, talents, and money in order to have our many ministries flourish. Your support, in whatever ways it is shared, is always appreciated.

Scan to donate online:



Church Treasurer's Financial Summary - July 2026

	Month of July	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	\$15,954	\$146,713	\$190,858
Expenses	(\$27,157)	(\$194,837)	(\$200,431)
Net Income	(\$11,203)	(\$48,124)	(\$9,573)



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.