



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Buffalo, New York

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Celebrating our 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

Service of the Word 8:30 a.m.

*Welcome to Holy Trinity!*

*Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.*

*Share your story!*

*Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity.*

*Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!*

*Find us on Facebook at:*

*Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo*

*Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.*

## **PRELUDE**

*Aus tiefer Not (Out of the Depths I Cry to You)*

**Jean Langlais**  
(1907 - 1991)

*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the gospel of John, a group of Greek people approach the disciples and say, “We would like to see Jesus.”

It’s a brief, beautiful moment that the text doesn’t spend a lot of time on, and yet, it always catches my eye.

It catches my eye, because the phrase, “I want to see Jesus,” feels like it should be my constant prayer.

Help me see Jesus. I’d like to see Jesus. Bring me closer to Jesus.

In the prayer of confession, we take a moment to recognize how much space exists between us and those words, trusting that even when we forget to seek out God, God is seeking us out. So join me in the prayer of confession today as we take one step closer to the Divine...

Let us pray together.

**Gracious God, we want to see you. We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus; but not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts.**

**Why do we feel so far away from that at times? What went wrong? Where did we lose our way? Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts?**

**We would be so grateful. Amen.**

Friends, despite our wonderings, despite our distractions, despite wrong turns time and time again, we are known and loved by God. Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea, God will never stop waving us home. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator. Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator. Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.

Today is a new day.

Again and again, we are forgiven; again and again, we are reformed. Thanks be to God. Amen.

# OPENING HYMN

*Thee We Adore, O Savior* “Adore Te Devote”

ELW 476

(vs. 1 & 2)



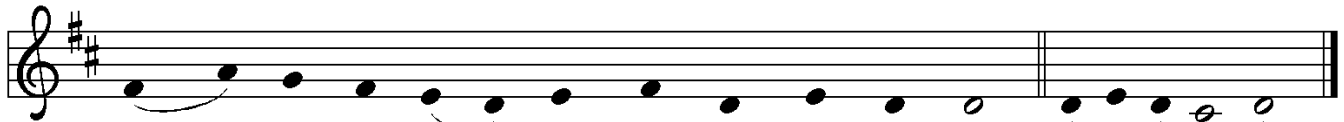
1 Thee we a - dore, O Sav - ior, God most true,  
2 O true re - mem - brance of Christ cru - ci - fied,  
3 Foun - tain of good - ness, Je - sus, Lord and God,  
4 Je - sus, by faith we see thee here be - low;



thy glo - ry clothed in bread and wine a - new;  
the bread of life to us for whom he died;  
cleanse us, O Christ, with thy most cleans - ing blood;  
send us, we pray thee, what we thirst for so:



our hearts to thee in true de - vo - tion bow,  
lend us this life then; feed and feast our mind,  
in - crease our faith and love, that we may know  
some - day to gaze up - on thy face in light,



in hum - ble awe, we hail thy pres - ence now.  
be thou the sweet - ness we were meant to find.  
the hope and peace which from thy pres - ence flow.  
blest ev - er - more with thy full glo - ry's sight. A - men.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227–1274; tr. Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844–1889, and James R. Woodford, 1820–1885, alt.  
Music: ADORE TE DEVOTE, plainsong mode V; Processionale, Paris, 1697

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **THE READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The first reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent is recorded in Jeremiah, the 31<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SOLO

### *Turn Thee To Me*

from the *Biblical Songs*, Op. 99 No. 8

Antonin Dvořák

(1841 – 1904)

Dr. Aurora Deeds, *soprano*

Turn Thee to me, and have mercy for I am desolate and sore distressed. Great are the sorrows of my heart; bring me out of my distress. Oh be merciful; look on my sorrow; see mine affliction and forgive me all my wickedness; oh, keep my soul in safety and deliver me. Let me never be confounded, for my hope is in Thee.

## GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to Saint John

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## **SERMON MEDITATION**

*Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

*(My Heart is Filled with Longing)*

Jean Langlais

(1907 - 1991)

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. We pray for our ecumenical and inter-faith siblings in VOICE Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities, and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray for those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts and our minds Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in your divine mystery you embrace difference in unity, and you call your people to live in peace with all. We pray for an end to racial and ethnic prejudice. Free us from the dread of difference. Free the church from constricting traditions. Free our society from centuries of violence against the other. Break down the walls that separate your people by color, culture, or religion. Call us to repentance for our sins of racism and prejudice, known and unknown. Transform discrimination into a passion for justice. Guide us to nurture a society that embodies reconciliation and cooperation among all. Hear us O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. We pray for your daughters and sons, including the children of our community and especially Jacob, Maxwell and Zachary. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with someone in your home, or share a message of peace via text, tweet, or post (or call someone after worship.)*

## **THE OFFERING**

*Thank you for your gifts and offerings which make our ministry possible. You may share your offering by clicking the “Contribute Today” link below this Livestream and on our Homepage, or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!*

# SOLO AT THE OFFERING

*Be Near Me Still* Op. 46 No. 1

Ferdinand von Hiller

(1811 – 1885)

Dr. Aurora Deeds, *soprano*

Lord! In my heart's deep love I hide Thee, be near me still! Thou tower of strength, whatever betide me, be Thou with me. O be my guard in life's bright places, lest pride prevail, when fear of self mistrust override me, be near me still. Like dew upon the vine Thy grace is, I'm not alone, but when I storm the heights, then guide me to do Thy will; Be near me still! O Thou my hope, my power unshaken, my soul's true sun, Till earth's dark days shall be forsaken, be near me still!

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Holy God, scripture tells us that your word is written on our hearts, but we struggle to hear it. Is it possible that we have covered up your words with our own self-narratives? Is it possible that we have erased your truth to write our own? Is it possible that we have forgotten your words entirely?

Take us back to the beginning. Remove the self-talk that distracts. Clear away the cobwebs of doubt. Show us how to look inside ourselves for your truth, and then write on our hearts once more. We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here. Speak now. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

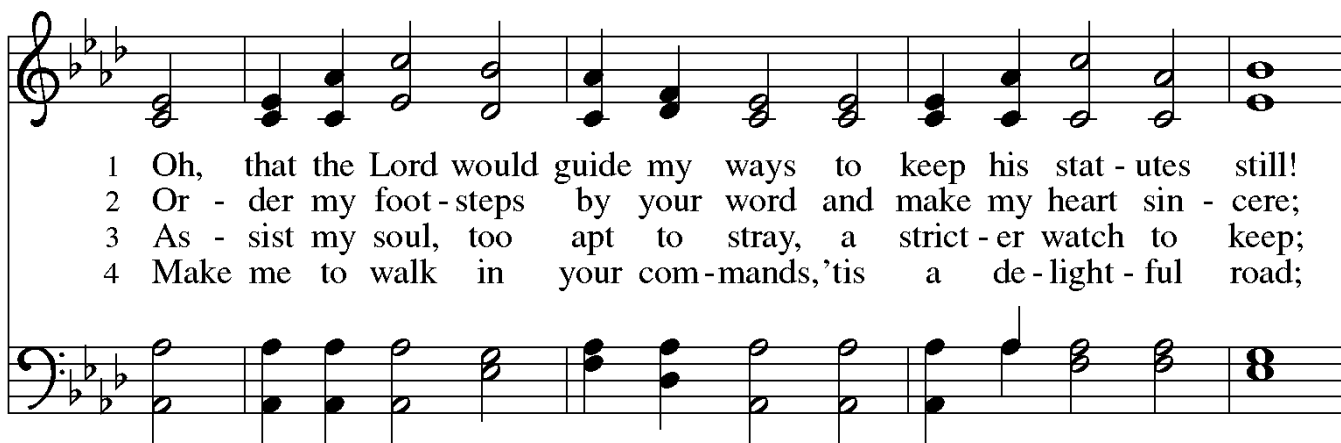
**Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* “Evan”

ELW 772

(vs. 1 & 4)



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of cousin JoAnne from Paul Biesinger; and In Loving Memory of our mother, Sally Patterson from Kathy Crissey and Family.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Jacob, Maxwell and Zachary Barney.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.



***Day “Buy” Day Thanksgivings  
March 2021***

*March 7      Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Pam Kattermann by The Rev.  
Neil Kattermann and Family*

Now you can honor special events and special people in your life!  
Send us a Day Buy Day Form with a check made payable to  
Holy Trinity for \$25 for each event you wish to honor.  
Proceeds will go toward the Education Committee and help sponsor the  
Confirmation Camp for youth here at Holy Trinity.



## Lenten and Easter Worship

### Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2

8:00 a.m. Holy Week Morning Devotions via Facebook

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion/stripping of the altar with Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano* (in-person / Livestream / Facebook)

### Good Friday, April 2

3:00 p.m. Family Service in Main Church (in-person / Facebook)

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service with Tim Flynn, *bass-baritone*, and Amie Vredenburg, *violin* (in-person / Livestream / Facebook)

### Easter Sunday, April 4

\*8:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion in Main Church  
(in-person / Livestream / Facebook)

10:15 a.m. Pre-service music

\*10:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion in Main Church  
(in-person / Livestream / Facebook)

\*Both services will be *identical* in music and celebration with soloists and brass quartet, featuring Dr. Aurora Deeds, *soprano*, Dr. Brian Zunner, *baritone*, and Maestro Jaman E. Dunn, *associate conductor of the BPO*. You will not miss any special music if you attend either service.

\*Reminder that seating will be limited.



Since the pandemic started in early 2020, there have been more than 3,000 reported incidents of anti-Asian racism, according to Stop AAPI Hate, an initiative that tracks violence and harassment among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In January 2021 these violent attacks targeted the elderly. An 84-year-old Thai man was shoved to the ground as he was taking his morning walk in San Francisco. In the neighboring city of Oakland, a 91-year-old man was pushed down, which caused him to fall face first into the pavement. For a community whose elders are deeply respected and looked up to as the source of communal and filial unity and wisdom, this hits hard.

*The Asian and Pacific Islander Association of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America issued a statement on March 4, 2021 addressing the increase in violence directed toward Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The ELCA Conference of Bishops affirmed the statement on March 5, 2021. Read the full statement here: <https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8089>*

**NOTE:**

Link in this announcement (in case they are unlinked in sending the file) Stop AAPI Hate <https://stopaapihate.org/>



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS:** Our theme for Lent this year, once again comes from A Sanctified Art and is Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain. This theme will be incorporated into our worship liturgy, as well as items included in our worship space, and through a sermon series each week. We will also be providing a Lenten Weekly Devotional to incorporate into your prayer life. Please see the weekly email for the link. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please call the church office.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** The Worship Committee has once again arranged for lilies to be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday. Flowers are \$10 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms can be found in the next church paper, in the weekly email, or by calling the church office, and completed forms may be mailed to the church office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following date has one vase available - March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for these or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at [msmarylschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:msmarylschmidt@gmail.com) or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

**CHRISM MASS:** There will be a Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 30, at noon, via Zoom and live-streamed to [UNYS You Tube Channel](#).

**Zoom link for the service:**

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87388754266?pwd=RU5hRkFHRTFlpcWx2VXZiZ0pVWHdiUT09>). Meeting ID: 873 8875 4266. Passcode: 012534

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S 40 DAYS OF GIVING WALKING TO END HUNGER:** Get out those walking shoes, running sneakers or boots that were made for walking, and join Bishop John Macholz and members of the Upstate New York Synod as we walk and give to end world hunger. The Bishop is inviting participants to walk (or run) 40 miles in the 40 days of Lent and donate \$40 to ELCA World Hunger. Go to <https://upstatenysynod.org/new-events/2021/2/17/40-days40-miles40-dollars-walking-to-end-hunger> for more information. Log your miles at home each week. When you reach 40 miles, register your accomplishment at <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/3172318> to share your donation. You may also send a check to Holy Trinity with "ELCA World Hunger" on the memo line. Share your progress on social media using these hashtags #UNYSWalkingToEndHunger #40days40miles40dollars #ELCAWorldHunger. Join us for the ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving Campaign!

**PLANT SALE:** It's that time of year for the annual LYO plant sale! The pick-up date for the plant sale will be Saturday, May 15. Order forms can be found in the newsletter, in our weekly email, or by calling the church office. Orders are due back to the church by Sunday, April 4. The proceeds will go towards our mission fund which helps to support service events, such as the youth gathering, located in Minneapolis in 2022. Any and all orders are appreciated.

**FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Happy Hour** – Join us each Friday via Zoom at 5:00pm. We'll meet together through safe physical-distancing while being able to check in with each other and enjoy the company. Bring your favorite beverage to the computer. Zoom Meeting ID: 285 453 435. Password 299123.

**2021 LENTEN CONFERENCE COLLECTION:** You are invited to join the Niagara Frontier Conference in collection of Menstrual Hygiene Products for our local food pantries. All products we receive will be distributed between the food ministries of the Community of Good Neighbors, and the Network of Religious Communities Food Pantry. We have also been asked to help support Buffalo Seminary and their drive to benefit Her Drive and local shelters as well. While the Conference Collection is limited to menstrual hygiene products, Her Drive is accepting items such as gently used bras, menstrual products, contraceptives, dental care products, personal care items (including for natural curly hair) monetary donations, etc. for women (or anyone with a uterus). Gifts may be given in-person at Holy Trinity or by giving through Amazon (or another vendor) and sending to 1080 Main St., Buffalo, 14209. We hope you will consider donating for both of these good causes. There might be a friendly competition among conference congregations. Let's see how well we do!

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Each week via Zoom at 9:30 at

<https://zoom.us/j/427428740?pwd=Y1BZdUdLL3l4YU5QWnJUUTdkRlk4Zz09#success>.

Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195. During Lent Pastor Brenda will be leading us on a new, inspiring way to think about the stories in the Bible. We will be basing our lessons on the book *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. There is no need to purchase the book, we will mostly be following the reading guide.

**CRISIS SERVICES:** For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

# **HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP**

## **Congregational Council**

Barb Wozniak, President  
Emily Notari, Vice-President  
Guy Huber, Treasurer  
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Gary Herrnreiter, Eliana Perez,  
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

## **Staff Contacts for Programs and Services**

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Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster  
[kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org)  
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager  
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant  
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)  
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor  
[pastor.lee.miller@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:pastor.lee.miller@holytrinitybuffalo.org)

The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor  
[pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org)

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