

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Buffalo, New York

Sunday, July 23, 2023 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Celebrating our 145th Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 10:30 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 creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.
We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions, interpersonally and structurally.
We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

Visitors interested in membership may talk with a Council representative at the Council desk, contact the Church office or indicate on the blue Welcome sheet.

We invite you to share your story and your worship experience! Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity. You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo, on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff

Large print bulletins are available at the entrance ways

INTRODUCTION

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy. **PRELUDE** *Invocation, Cantilene, and Toccatina* from *Douze Courtes Pieces pour orgue* Op. 43

Rachel Laurin (b. 1961)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

For CARDIAC EMERGENCIES: Our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is located in the Sacristy on the wall near the window. Look for the First Aid and AED sign near the top of the door to the Sacristy. Exit the Sanctuary next to the Angel Lectern. The Sacristy will be the first room on the left. Coming from other areas of our building, go up the stairs toward the Main Church and turn left.

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Oh, Worship the King "Hanover"



Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. Amen.

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Amen.

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



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

The first reading for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost is recorded in Isaiah, the 44th Chapter.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

God is My Shepherd Op. 99 No. 4 from Biblical Songs

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Tyler Huk, tenor

God is my shepherd, I want for nothing. My rest is in the pleasant meadows, He leadeth me where quiet waters flow. My fainting soul doth He restore, and guideth me in the ways of peace, to glorify His name. And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander, my spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still. Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

The second reading for today is recorded in Romans, the 8th Chapter. ¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

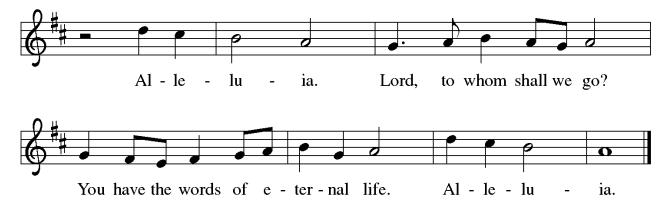
²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30 The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew



²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

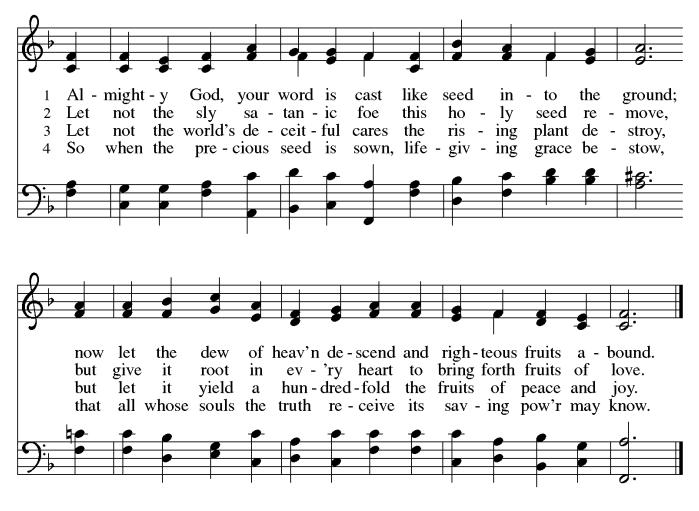
THE SERMON

The Rev. Richard Neal

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast "St. Flavian"



Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt. Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

APOSTLE'S 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 PASTOR AND PEOPLE

The scriptures assure us, O God, that in your presence all things hold together. But sometimes we wonder. We live with contradictions too difficult to figure out, and we ask "why?" We entertain theories and theologies to explain what we don't know, and in the end, like Job, find we have spoken of things too wonderful to understand. Give us faith that will not shrink when challenged nor tremble when overwhelmed, that when in danger knows no fear and in darkness remains confident despite our doubt. Confident that you receive our joys and concerns, help us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Watch over all your children, especially Dylan and Isabella and name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to embody the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

THE OFFERING

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

My Master Hath a Garden

Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975)

Tyler Huk, tenor

My Master hath a garden, full filled with divers flowers, where thou may'st gather posies gay, all times and hours.

Here nought is heard but paradise bird, harp, dulcimer and lute, with cymbal, and timbrel, and the gentle sounding flute.

Oh! Jesus, Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete, make Thou my heart Thy garden plot, true, fair and neat,

That I may hear this music clear, harp dulcimer and lute, with cymbal, and timbrel, and the gentle sounding flute.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY

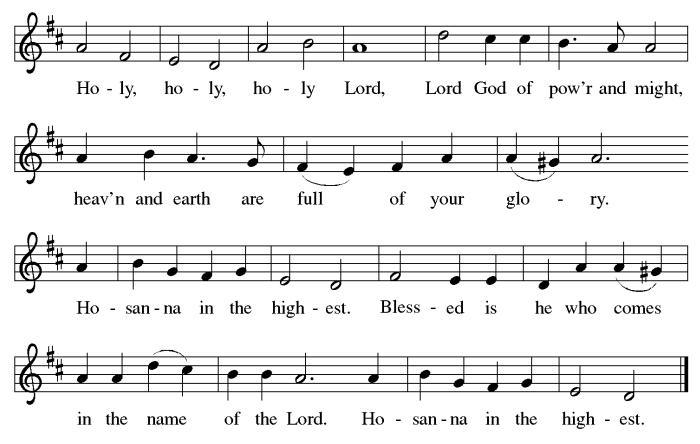
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow "Old Hundredth" Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. ELW 885

DIALOGUE 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 ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ, who called you Abba, Father.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,

you embraced a people as your own

and filled them with a longing for a peace that would last

and for a justice that would never fail.

In Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power for ever.

You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread . . . After supper, he took the cup, . . .

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

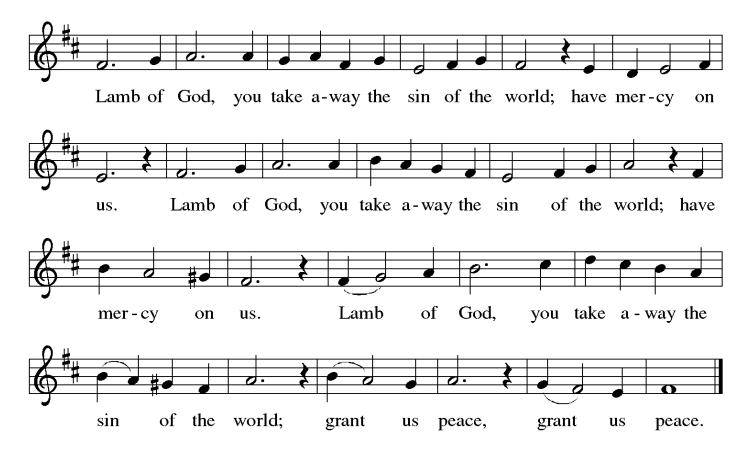
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood. As the grain and grapes, once dispersed in the fields, are now united on this table in bread and wine, so may we and all your people be gathered from every time and place into the unity of your eternal household and feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

THE AGNUS DEI



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Beginning with those seated closest to the altar, you are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the presiding minister. Receiving the wafer in your hand, you are invited to dip or "intinct" the wafer into the chalice. There is wine in the silver chalice and grape juice in the ceramic chalice. For those who prefer, gluten-free wafers are available by simply asking the Pastor as you are served. Portable communion cups are also available for those who are not comfortable sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion in-person. Adults or children choosing not to receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.

Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Sovereign and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER Let us pray together. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a broken and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes, in prisons, or in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we are one in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

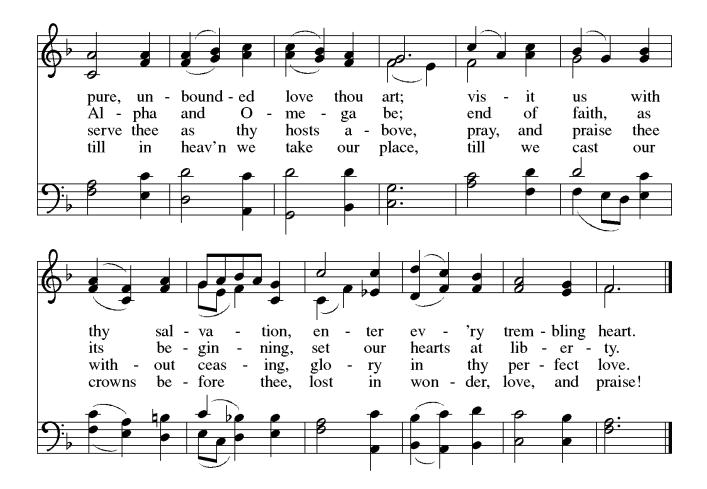
We invite congregation members to share this holy meal with those who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to join us in person. Communion elements and a simple printed liturgy are available on the altar for your use. If you take a bulletin from this morning's worship service, you will be able to easily share today's scripture and prayers with the meal.

BENEDICTION

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling "Hyfrydol" ELW 631 di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to 1 Love Spir - it Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing in ev - 'ry 2 to de - liv - er; Al - might - y, Come, 3 to let us all thy ish then new cre - a - tion, 4 Fin thy pure and spot - less thy hum - ble earth come down! Fix dwell-ing, all in us thy trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er let be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect us faith - ful Je - sus, thou all mer - cies crown. com - pas - sion, art find thy prom-ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning; tem - ples leave. Thee would be al - ways bless-ing, more thy we Changed from glo - ry - to stored in thee! in ly re glo - ry,



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

THE DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune from Douze Courtes Pieces pour orgue Op. 43

Rachel Laurin (b. 1961)

You are encouraged to take the bulletin home with you for future reference. Otherwise, please place them in the recycle bin at the entrance way.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Eighth Sunday after Pente	ecost
e of Holy Communion (CH	H)
y Roundtable (with Pastor	Rich) (FR)
e of Holy Communion (CH	H)
<u>MONDAY, July 24, 2023</u>	
lers Anonymous (RH)	
TUESDAY, July 25, 2023	
cil Meeting (FR)	
WEDNESDAY, July 26, 2023	
Meeting (CR)	
THURSDAY, July 27, 2023	
AL-ANON (RH)	
SUNDAY, July 30, 2023 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	
8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)	
9:40 a.m. Sunday Roundtable (with Pastor Rich) (FR)	
ce of Holy Communion CH	
CI = Crib Room FI = Fireside Room/Library PS = Pastor's Study SS = Sunday School	CR = Conference Room MC = Main Church RH = Redeemer Hall YR = Youth Room
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At 8:30 a.m. the announcer and reader is Dave Ulrich. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Max Peterson.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Fred Howard. Reader is Daniel Culross. Ushers are Jim Dunnigan, Ryon Fleming, Prudence Hollands, Charmaine Kaltrider and Joe and Martha Kryszczuk. Acolyte is Adrianna Wareham.

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Loving Memory of Dave Grabenstatter by his wife, Nanc and son Eric; and

In Celebration of our grandson Rowan's 13th birthday on July 27th from Ron and Donna Leiser.

Collection counters are Peter Bergenstock, Ron Pellnat and Sue Spindler.

The flag flying on our flagpole is dedicated in Honor of Larry Wozniak for his service in Vietnam by Barb Wozniak.

Council Treasurer, Fred Howard, will be at the entrance way to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Dylan and Isabella Parks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BURRITO PROJECT - CLOTHING DONATIONS REQUESTED: The Burrito Project team made over 100 burritos on the 4th of July. We were able to distribute all of them downtown that evening. Recipients were so pleased to see us on the holiday. We also handed out water, cookies, coffee, t-shirts and socks. Please consider donating items for us to distribute on August 1 or future months. Some of the items we need are: socks (white cotton preferred), t-shirts (all sizes), etc. Donations can be placed in the blue tote outside the chapel. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: PLEASE NOTE VBS HAS BEEN CANCELLED. Please call the church office with any questions.

HT WALKS TOGETHER: all are invited to join Uli MacDonald on Wednesday, August 2nd for an informal walk along Bird Island Pier that will lead us from Broderick Park to the Peace Bridge along the mighty Niagara River. We will **meet at 6pm at Holy Trinity** and carpool since parking at the park is limited. The walk should not take longer than one hour and going out to dinner afterward is optional. Please wear good shoes and arrive before 6pm so that we can leave on time.

GOLF OUTING: All are welcome to join us for the Annual Holy Trinity Golf Outing on **Saturday, August 19 at 1:00pm** at Pendleton Creek Golf Club. Cost for the day is **\$60** and includes cart, nine holes of golf and a BBQ Dinner. Checks may be made payable to "Holy Trinity Lutheran Church" and mailed/given to the church office. Please list the players/riders included in your group. Please see Guy Huber, Craig Johnson or call the church office to make your reservation.

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Jennifer Yap, *President* Kathy Crissey, *Vice-President* Fred Howard, *Treasurer* Linda Horton, *Secretary*

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown, Gail Camilleri, Christopher Huber, Karen Kolb, Pat Lonergan, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist ~ Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds Erin Alexander, Youth Choir Director youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Richard Neal, Intentional Interim Pastor pastor.rich@holytrinitybuffalo.org The Rev. Miranda Hammer, Part-Time Interim Pastor for the Nurturing of the Congregation pastormiranda@holytrinitybuffalo.org

> HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209 (716) 886-2400 phone/(716) 884-7505 fax e-mail: <u>info@holytrinitybuffalo.org</u> <u>www.holytrinitybuffalo.org</u>

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