

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Buffalo, New York

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Buffalo, New York

Sunday, July 30, 2023 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Celebrating our 145<sup>th</sup> 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 yellow 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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

#### **PRELUDE**

Wondrous Love from Three American Folk Song Settings

John Weaver (1937-2021)

Josh Corwin, viola

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

ELW 532





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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#### **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.

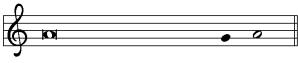
God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

#### **GREETING**

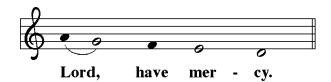
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

# **KYRIE**

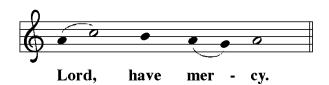


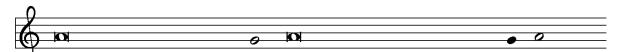
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



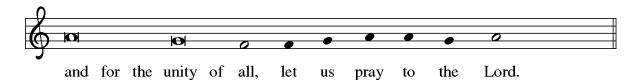


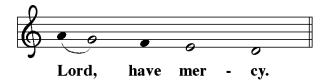
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





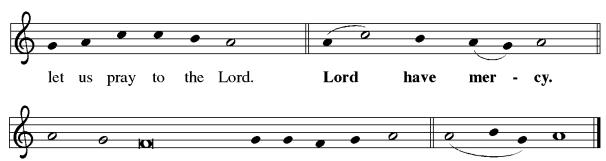
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







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



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

#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

# FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

The first reading for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost is recorded in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### THE SOLO

Eternity from Ten Blake Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Erin Alexander, *mezzo-soprano*Josh Corwin, *viola* 

He who binds to himself a Joy Doth the wingèd life destroy; But he who kisses the Joy as it flies Lives in Eternity's sunrise.

The look of love alarms,
Because it's fill'd with fire;
But the look of soft deceit
Shall win the lover's hire.
Soft deceit and idleness,
These are Beauty's sweetest dress.

# SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-35, 37-39

The second reading for today is recorded in Romans, the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter. <sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

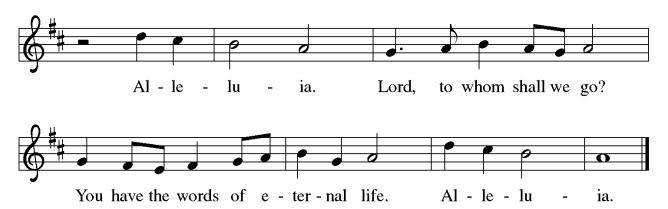
<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

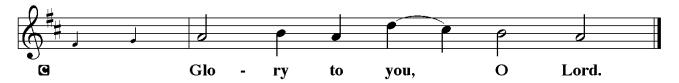
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



# **GOSPEL:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew



<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Please stand as you are able.

#### **SERMON HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision "Slane"

**ELW 793** 



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

#### **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

Holy One, we may convince ourselves we know how to pray, then something happens to shake our certainty – doubt or distraction arises, perhaps too much consciousness of ourselves and too little of you, or the awakening of a need too deep or painful for words – and our pretended eloquence gives way to sighs too deep for words. Remind us that our prayer is heard not because of the eloquence or length of all we say but because of the openness of our hearts to you. And help us open them now, confident that you both desire and welcome our joys and concerns for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

## A brief silence.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip with your grace those who proclaim the gospel that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Teach us to safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and equip advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, heal the sick and watch over all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs and especially Eliana and Constantino. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. 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.

Please be seated.

#### THE OFFERING

#### SOLO AT THE OFFERING

The Lamb from Ten Blake Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Erin Alexander, *mezzo-soprano* Josh Corwin, *viola* 

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee, Little Lamb I'll tell thee: He is called by thy name, For he calls himself a Lamb: He is meek and he is mild, He became a little child: I a child and thou a lamb, We are called by his name: Little Lamb God bless thee. Little Lamb God bless thee.

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"

**ELW 885** 

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.

#### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

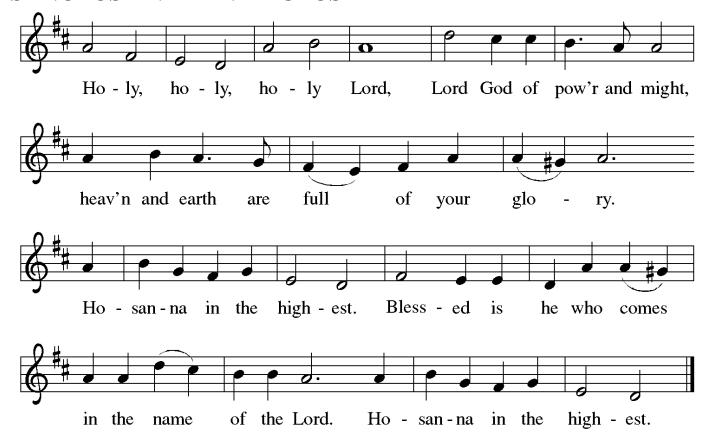
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

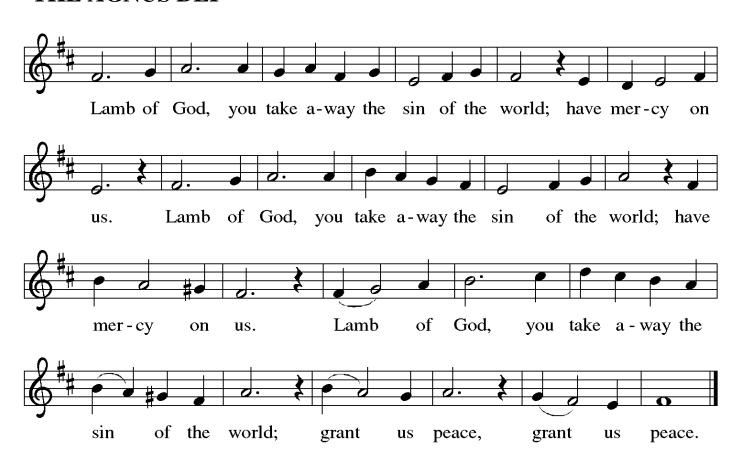
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### 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



Please be seated.

#### 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**

How Firm a Foundation "Foundation"

**ELW 796** 



Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

Foundation from Three American Folk Song Settings

John Weaver (1937-2021)

Josh Corwin, viola

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

#### SUNDAY, July 30 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)

9:40 a.m. Sunday Roundtable (with Pastor Rich) (FR)

10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)

## MONDAY, July 31, 2023

6:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (RH)

## TUESDAY, August 1, 2023

12:00 p.m. Needlers (FR)

5:30 p.m. Burrito Project (RH)

#### WEDNESDAY, August 2, 2023

7:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting (FR)

## THURSDAY, August 3, 2023

7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

## SUNDAY, August 6, 2023 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)

9:40 a.m. Sunday Roundtable (with Pastor Rich) (FR)

10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion CH)

 $\begin{array}{lll} CH = Mansperger\ Chapel & CI = Crib\ Room & CR = Conference\ Room \\ FR = Fellowship\ Room & FI = Fireside\ Room/Library & MC = Main\ Church \\ MR = Music\ Room & PS = Pastor's\ Study & RH = Redeemer\ Hall \\ SC = Sacristy & SS = Sunday\ School & YR = Youth\ Room \\ \end{array}$ 



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer and reader is Paul Kroll. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Brandon Howard.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Karen Kolb. Reader is Jen Yap. Ushers are Marty Bauer, Matt Brown, Carole Casterline, Roger Draper, Craig Johnson and Juan Perez. Acolyte is Max Hakansson.

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Celebration of my grandson Wesley's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday from Claire Carmer; and

In Loving Memory of Karl, our beloved brother by Guy Huber. Thank you for all your Wisdom, Strength and Love you provided all of us. We miss you.

Collection counters are Doug Alderdice, Darlene Carden and Neil Kattermann.

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

Council member, Karen Kolb, 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 Eliana and Constantino Perez.

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: In the midst of all the Buffalo summertime bliss, it may be hard to believe that kids go back to school in just a few weeks. Holy Trinity will be collecting donations of school supplies for the children of PS 17 Early Childhood Center. The school needs the usual back to school basics, as well as backpacks and headphones (Stores like Dollar General and Five Below have great deals on backpacks right now). Please look for the collection bin right outside the chapel where it will remain until Sunday, September 10th. Holy Trinity always outdoes itself, and PS 17 truly appreciates your generosity. Thank you for helping these amazing children start the year right!

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is available. 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 Mr. Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

#### 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> www.holytrinitybuffalo.org

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www.facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic



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