

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Buffalo, New York

Sunday, September 10, 2023 Fifteenth 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 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

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.

PRELUDE

Aria

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether "Union Seminary"

ELW 470



Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.
Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Let us humble ourselves before God, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

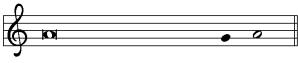
Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

GREETING

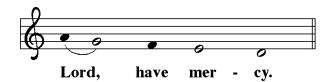
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

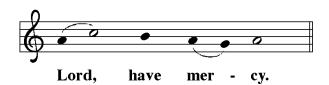


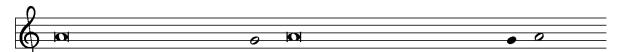
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



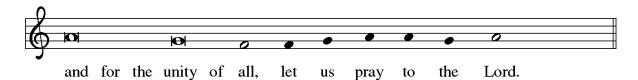


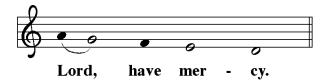
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

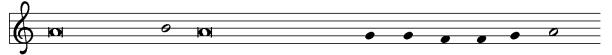




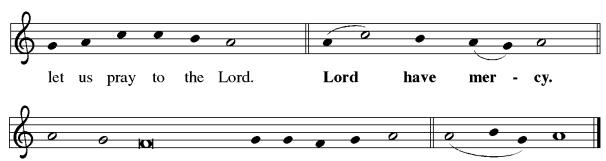
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







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.

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.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

The first reading for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost is recorded in Ezekiel, the 33rd Chapter.

⁷So 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. ⁸If 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. ⁹But 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.

¹⁰Now 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?" ¹¹Say 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.

THE SOLO

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace from Prayers and Blessings

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

Timothy Flynn, bass Shannon Levine, cello

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The second reading for today is recorded in Romans, the 13th Chapter. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The 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, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near.

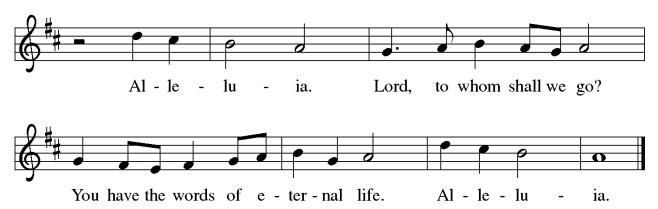
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

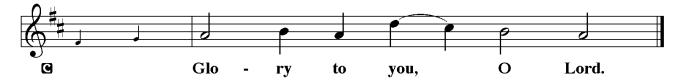
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

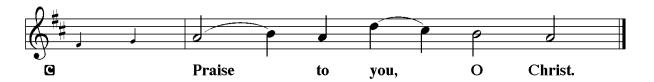
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷If the member 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.

¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹Again, 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. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

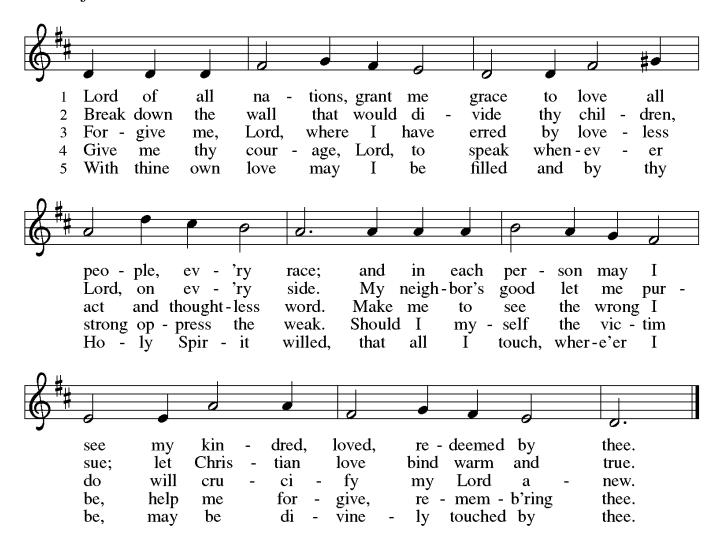
The Rev. Richard Neal

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace "Beatus Vir"

ELW 716



Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.

Music: BEATUS VIR, Šamotulský Kancionál, 1561

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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

A mash-up of Charles Wesley's 1747 hymn and 1 John 4:16b, 21

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down, fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art; visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God.

Abide in us, Lord, that we may live in you.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest. Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God.

Abide in us, Lord, that we may live in you.

Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all Thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above; pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God.

Abide in us, Lord, that we may live in you.

Finish then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee. Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God.

Abide in us, Lord, that we may live in you.

The commandment we have from Christ is this, that those who love God must love their brothers and sisters, too. Hear, O God, the prayers we offer in our hearts' deep silence for our brothers and sisters here and everywhere. . . .

You are love, O God, and to abide in love is to abide in you.

Abide in us, Lord, that we may live in you. 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

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Timothy Flynn, bass

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

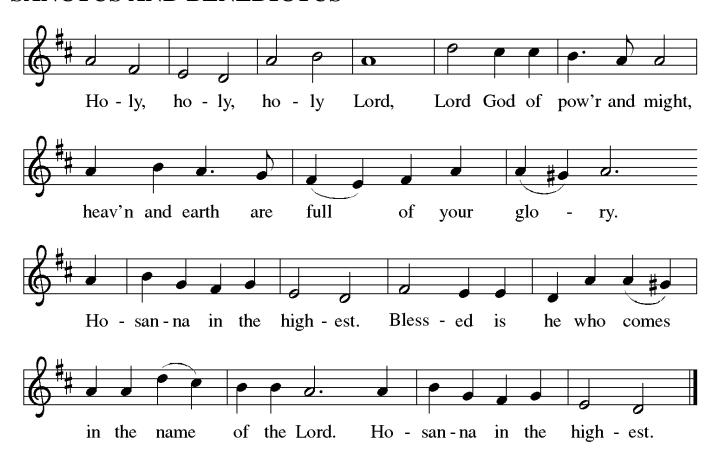
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

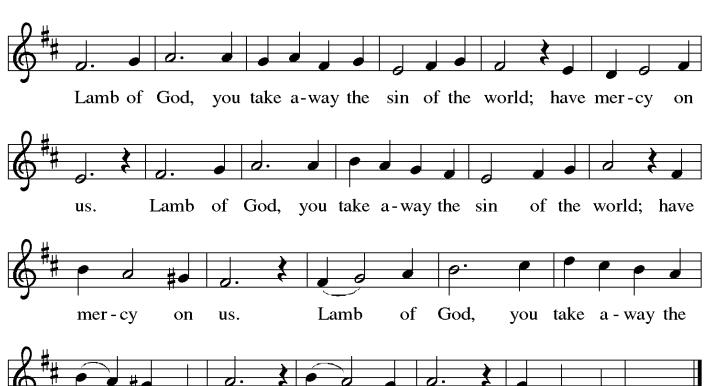
THE AGNUS DEI

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grant

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peace,

grant

us

peace.

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.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. 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. 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 of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing "Ar Hyd Y Nos"

ELW 543



for - giv - en,

and nour-ished, joy

at

peace

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and

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pure."

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Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Go,

Go,

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

my chil - dren,

my chil - dren,

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fed

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

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

We invite you to join us downstairs in Redeemer Hall for light refreshments and fellowship following the 10:30 Service.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, September 10, 2023 – Fifteenth 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 (MC)
- 11:30 a.m. Light Coffee Hour (RH)
- 12:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (CR)

MONDAY, September 11, 2023

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (FR)
- 6:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous (RH)

TUESDAY, September 12, 2023

- 12:00 p.m. Women at the Well (FR)
- 5:00 p.m. BPO Chorus rehearsal (MC)

WEDNESDAY, September 13, 2023

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CR)

THURSDAY, September 14, 2023

- 10:00 a.m. Watercolor Class (RH)
- 5:00 p.m. Choir Dinner (FR)
- 6:00 p.m. Chapel Choir (CH)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MC)
- 7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

SUNDAY, September 17, 2023 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR)
- 9:30 a.m. Flu Clinic (RH)
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday Roundtable (with Pastor Rich (FR)
- 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour (RH)



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer and reader is Dave Ulrich. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Tim Yap.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Linda Horton. Reader is Martha Kutas. Ushers are Ron Leiser, Mike Day, Alan Heiss, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Martin Wright. Acolytes are Brandon Howard, Henry Peterson, Max Peterson, Griffin Miller and Tony Lizauckas.

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Thanks for the gifts of labor and love of family, friends and HTLC in my life by Guy Huber; and

In Loving Memory of our beloved Mother and "Grammy", Theresa Pomietlarz from Justin, Kristen and Lillian Pomietlarz.

Collection counters are Doug Alderdice, Neil Kattermann and Karen Kolb.

Council Secretary, Linda Horton, will be at the Main Street entrance to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Call Process Update/Congregational Meeting: Council met with a candidate and unanimously recommends them to the congregation. Please join us for a special worship service at 10:30 am on Sunday, October 15, followed by a Congregational meeting to vote on the official call. More details will be available soon.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will begin this Fall on Monday, September 11. Dave Ulrich will be presenting a multi-week series on **American Racism: Roots & Reality.** Sessions begin at 9:30am in the Fellowship Room. All are invited.

FLU CLINIC: The flu clinic will be held on Sunday, September 17 from 9:30am to Noon. If you are 65 or older, a specially formulated flu vaccine will be available at our flu clinic. Please bring your insurance card and photo ID. You will also need your doctor's name and address. There is no charge. Rite Aid will be running the clinic again this year. Get your flu shot early.

STEWARDSHIP MEETING will take place today in the Conference Room following the 10:30 service. All are welcome.

COFFEE HOUR: We will hold a light coffee hour today in Redeemer Hall following the 10:30 service and return to our full Coffee Hour next Sunday as we welcome back our choir and Sunday School students.

WATERCOLOR CLASS with our own Paul Biesinger begins this Thursday from 10am to Noon in Redeemer Hall. Classes are free but you will need to bring your own supplies. All are welcome.

BACKPACK BLESSING: The blessing of school backpacks for children and youth will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on September 17. Invite your children to bring their backpacks to worship that day. If they can't bring their backpacks or if they forget them, each child will receive a special blessing tag to take with them and attach to their backpacks. Extra tags will be available for you to take to children who are unable to attend.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Holy Trinity is collecting donations of school supplies for the children of PS 17 Early Childhood Center. Please look for the collection bin right outside the chapel where it will remain until today. Thank you for helping these amazing children!

CANDLELIGHT VESPERS - New Mid-Week "HT Together" Program: Please join us on Tuesday, October 10 for a new worship and fellowship program. Our goal is to hold this program on the second Tuesday of each month. We will start at 6:30pm with a brief (~20 minute) candlelight vespers service in the Chapel, followed by a variety of activities to choose from, such as a guided meditation, Bible study, service project, etc. and conclude by 8pm. We expect the activities to evolve based on the interests of participants. Please contact Pastor Rich for more information or to volunteer to lead an activity.

BURRITO PROJECT: Thank you to everyone who donated shirts, socks and other items in recent weeks, as our supply was very low. Starting in September, we will alternate hosting locations with Zion (Clarence). All are welcome to participate at either location. Please contact Jen Yap, Guy Huber or the church office for more information. The schedule for this fall will be:

- •Oct 3: meet at HT at 5:30
- •Nov 7: meet at Zion at 5:30
- •Dec 5: meet at HT at 5:30

YOUTH CHOIR! Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is welcoming the children of our congregation to join Holy Trinity's Youth Choir! The choir will explore songs of many different genres, styles and origins, to deepen our understanding and love of Christ through choral music. If you seek an enriching and positive experience for your young musician, consider joining us at our first rehearsal on Sunday, September 17th at 9:30am in the Music Room downstairs. Ages 5 and above are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary. Feel free to Choir Director Ms. Youth Erin Alexander contact our at youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org

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.

UPCOMING CONCERT

The Eastman-Rochester based choir, VOICES presents
 "Six Centuries of Psalms"
 William Weinert, conductor
 Sponsored by: Black Rock Controls LLC
 Friday, September 29 at 7:30 pm
Free admission with a goodwill offering to benefit the Buffalo
 Community Music School

"Six Centuries of Psalms" will feature psalm and related musical settings ranging from the Renaissance to the 20th-century. The Motet *Singet dem Herrn* of J. S. Bach will be featured, as well as music of Lassus, Schütz, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Distler, and Georg Schumann.

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* richneal@together.net

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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