



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday- 7:00 P.M.
Service of Holy Communion

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.

Connection Card

The Connection Card insert gives you a direct connection to the leaders and ministry at Holy Trinity. Ask questions, share prayer requests, and find out more about the ministry here. Please return the top portion in the offering plate or to an usher.



Please see back page for AED Instructions

PRELUDE

O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde groß
BWV 622 from Orgelbüchlein

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

The service begins with the choir procession while the pastors, and congregation read Psalm 51 responsively.

Please stand as the procession enters the assembly.

THE PROCESSIONAL PSALM: Psalm 51:1–17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in
your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

- ¹⁵O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Wash me through and through, Part I (1980)
Text: Psalms 130 and 51, Book of Common Prayer, 1976

Peter Hallock
(1924-2014)

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
in your great compassion, blot out my offences.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

O let your ears consider well the voice of my complaint.
Have mercy on me, O God, for I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it?
Cleanser me from all my sin and wash me pure as the snow and make me to hear
of joy and gladness, that the body which you have broken may rejoice.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The first reading for Ash Wednesday is recorded in Joel, the 2nd Chapter.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;

 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

²a day of darkness and gloom,

 a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like shadows cast upon the mountains

 a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

 nor will be again after them

 in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,

 return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,

 for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

 and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,

 and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering

 for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

 assemble the aged;

gather the children,

 even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?" "

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

When I Was Sinkin' Down

Old American Hymn

Arr. Hall Johnson

(1888–1970)

When I was sinkin' down, oh my soul, beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
What wondrous love is this, oh my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of Bliss
to send His precious peace to my soul.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

The second reading for today is recorded in Corinthians, the 5th and 6th Chapters.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

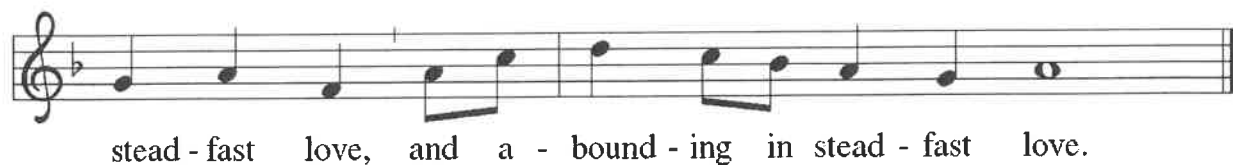
We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling “Thompson”

ELW 608

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. We invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

(Congregation is invited to kneel or sit)

Most holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole
company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own
fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven
others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We
have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your
Holy Spirit.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that
have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of
other people, we confess to you.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith
that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to
injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People may come forward to receive the ashes.

The Pastors mark the foreheads of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

Remember the shortness of life, that you may gain wisdom of heart.

ANTHEM

Thou Knowest, Lord

Henry Purcell

Text: Book of Common Prayer, Order for the Burial of the Dead

(1659-1695)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
Shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;
But spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
Thou most worthy Judge eternal,
Suffer us not at our last hour,
For any pains of death to fall away from Thee.

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture organic cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain. Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety. Grant that all who dwell in the dust of grief may know your presence there. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

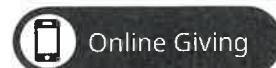
God of the cross, we give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth and have returned to you. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING



ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING

Steal Away

African-American Spiritual
Arr. Gwyneth Walker
(b. 1947)

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord a-calls me, calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees a bending, poor sinner stands a trembling, trembling,
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here.

I see the lightning, the thunder and the lightning, O Lord.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord calls me, calls me home.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.**

**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those**

treasures with others,

through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE 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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right ...

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

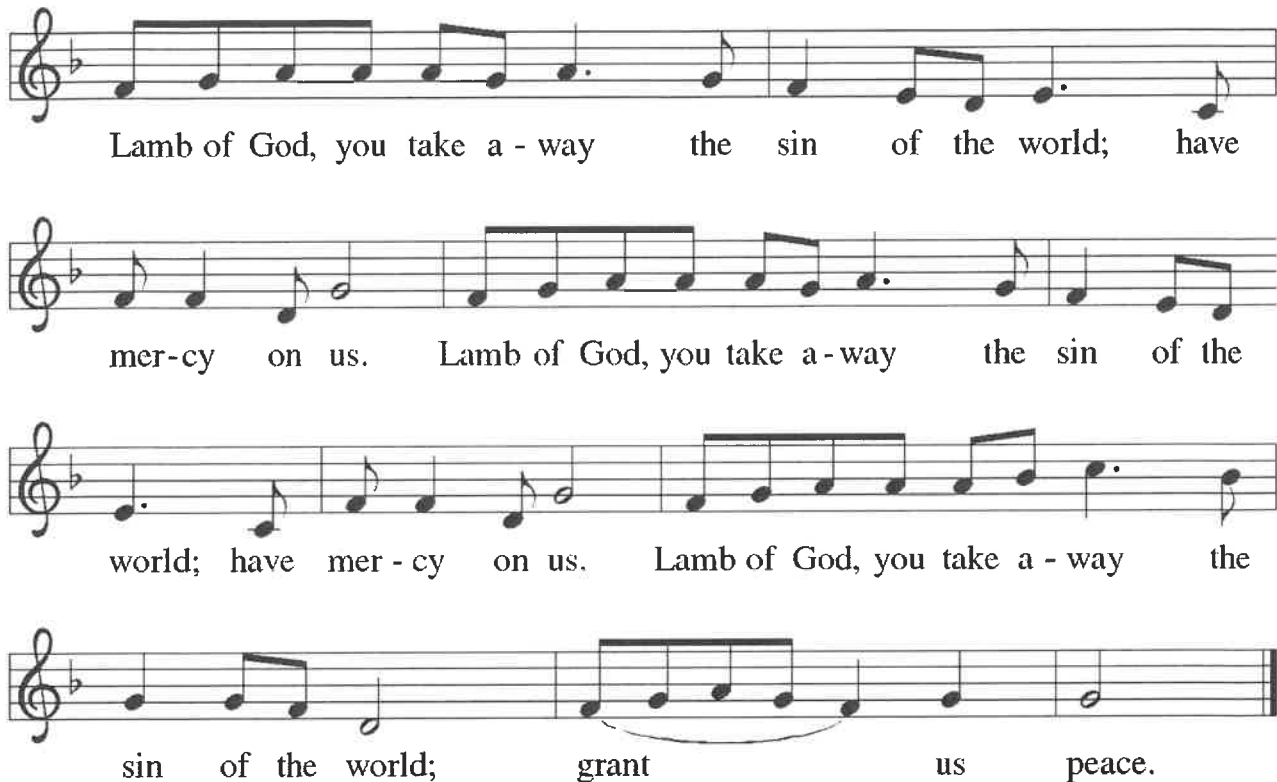
LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord. Communion is received by "intinction" - you will be offered the wafer (gluten-free is available) and you dip the wafer into either the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice).

Pre-filled communion cups are also available for those who prefer less physical contact. People who do not receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Please advise an usher if you would like the pastors to bring communion to you in your pew.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Prayer from Night Songs

Text: Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

H. Leslie Adams

(b. 1932)

Tyler Huk, *tenor*

I ask you this: Which way to go?
I ask you this: Which sin to bear?
Which crown to put Upon my hair?
I do not know, Lord God, I do not know.

Jesus, So Lowly

Text: Edith Williams, from *Songs of Praise*

Harold Friedell

(1905-1958)

Jesus, so lowly, child of the earth: christen me wholly, bring me new birth.
Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad; teach me that only love maketh glad.
Jesus, so broken, silent and pale; be this the token love will not fail.
Jesus, victorious, mighty and free; teach me how glorious death is to be.

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Christ, Our Hope “Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen”

ELW 604

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

*The services conclude with the ringing of the bells
throughout the season.*



Many thanks to

Reader

Ron Leiser

Acolytes

Natalie Leiser, Maia Leiser,
Killian Brown, Maddy Brown

Communion Assistant

Ron Leiser

Chancel Care

Vicki Oliver

Ushers

Jim Dunnigan, Ryon Fleming, Prudence Hollands,
Charmaine Kaltrider, Mary Kaufmann and Joe Kryszczuk

Why?

Exploring our purpose in this time and place.



HOLY TRINITY
BUFFALO

Lent 2025

Lenten and Easter Worship

Lenten Supper and Study (Thursdays 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10)

6:00 pm Soup and bread supper and discipleship conversation
 The same themes will be the subject of Monday Bible Study

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:30 am Service of Holy Communion with Chapel Choir
10:30 am Service of Holy Communion with Chancel Choir

Maundy Thursday, April 17

12:00 pm Holy Communion/stripping of the altar
7:00 pm Holy Communion/stripping of the altar w/Chancel Choir

Good Friday, April 18

12:00 pm Tenebrae Service
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service with Chancel Choir

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:30 am Festival Service of Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast by the Fellowship & Hospitality Team
10:00 a.m. Pre-service music
10:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion with Choir/Brass/Organ

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Linda Horton, *President*

Kathy Crissey-Biesinger, *Vice-President*

Karen Maricle, *Treasurer*

Christopher Huber, *Secretary*

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown, Gail Camilleri,
Christopher Huber, Karen Kolb, Todd Kroening,
Martha Kryszczuk, Sally Pellnat and Raúl Saona

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Linda Lipczynski, *Office Manager*

info@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Carol Littlefield, *Parish Accountant*

Andrew Kraus, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Charles Ryniec, *Steward of Buildings and Grounds*

Johnetta Kenner, *Security*

Kristen Pomietlarz, *Organist* | Justin Pomietlarz, *Choirmaster*

kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Erin Alexander, *Assistant Conductor, Youth Choir Director*

youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, *Lead Pastor*

pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor for Parish and Spiritual Development*

pastor.rich@holytrinitybuffalo.org

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.

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

