

You're Welcome...



Advent 3: December 14, 2025



Holy Trinity Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Luscombe

Organist and Bell Choir Director: Debbie Fortna

Choir Director: Deb Olson

Administrative Assistant: Sue Johns

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY E.L.C.A.

167 EAST MAIN STREET EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE 717.733.4134 Web: www.holytrinityephrata.org

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM



GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude: *Creatures of the Stars of Night*, arr. Howard Helvey

(Please stand)

The Liturgy for Holy Baptism

P. We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

The Entrance Hymn: #445 WASH O GOD, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS (stanza 1)

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow. Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

The Presentation

P. God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

P. Trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized?

Parents: I do.

P. Sierra, do you promise to nurture Mateo Christopher in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsor: I do

P. As you bring Mateo Christopher to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, to bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help him grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Sponsor: I do.

Congregation

P. People of God, do you promise to support Mateo Christopher and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C. We do.

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL (*entire congregation*)

P. Through baptism we are called out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

P. Therefore I ask you: Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

C. I reject them.

P. Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil? **C. I renounce them.**

P. Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbor?

C. I repent of them.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

C. I believe.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again; who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, who will come to judge the living and the dead?

C. I believe.

P. Do you 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?

C. I believe.

THE THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen

P. Mateo Christopher, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P. Let us pray.

P. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Mateo Christopher with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C. Amen

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

P. Mateo Christopher, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C. Amen

You Belong to Christ, Howard Hughes

CLOTHING WITH A GARMENT

P. You have been clothed in Christ. All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

PRESENTATION OF A CANDLE

P. Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen. Shine with the light of Christ.

WELCOME

P. Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

C. We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Hymn: #445 WASH O GOD, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS (stanzas 2 & 3)

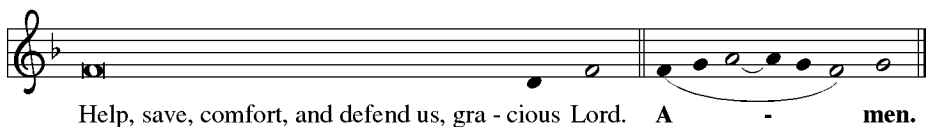
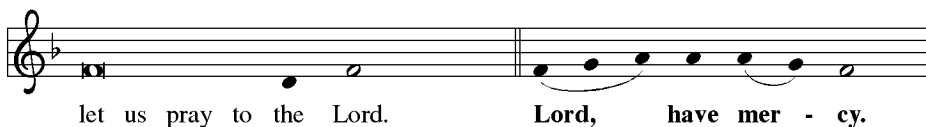
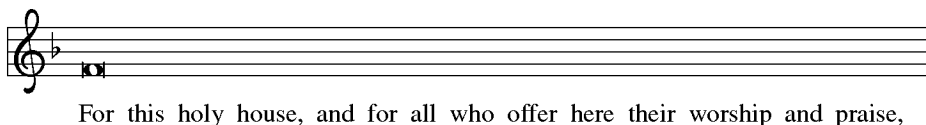
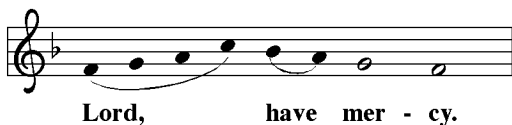
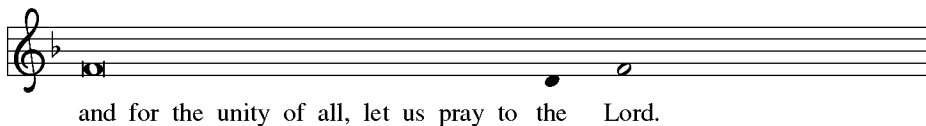
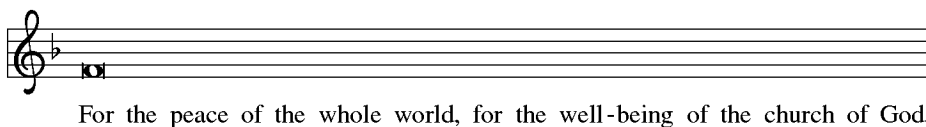
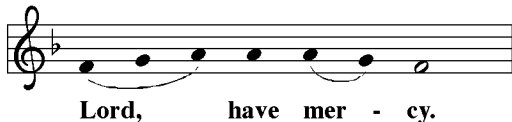
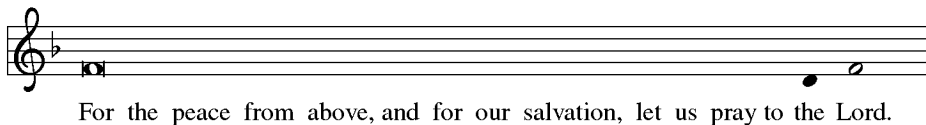
2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born. By your grace our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Apostolic Greeting

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

C. And also with you.

Kyrie



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P. We light three candles and know the time of holy birth draws near, whether we are ready or not. We welcome you, Emmanuel, God with us, and pray for your living presence to stay with us.

C. Amen

Stanza 3 of “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*” (hymn 240) is sung:

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

The Prayer of the Day

P. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,

C. and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Temple Talk: Good Gifts, Norm Wangman

(Be Seated)

WORD

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:5-10 (sung responsively with the cantor)

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ¹is in them;**
who keeps promis- ¹es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

The Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C. Glory to you, O Lord, (spoken)

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look,

those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

The Sermon: Rev. Mark Luscombe

[Silence for reflection follows the sermon.]

(stand)

The Hymn of the Day: #264 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

The Nicene Creed

P. Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Prayers

A. In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

(please kneel or sit) (after each petition, please respond)

A. God of grace, **C. hear our prayer.**

P. Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C. Amen**

P. The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C. And also with you!

The Offertory: *Meditation on "Es ist ein Ros"*, arr. Howard Helvey

The Offertory: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The Offertory Prayer

P. Creator God,

C. You made the whole world, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Preface Dialogue: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

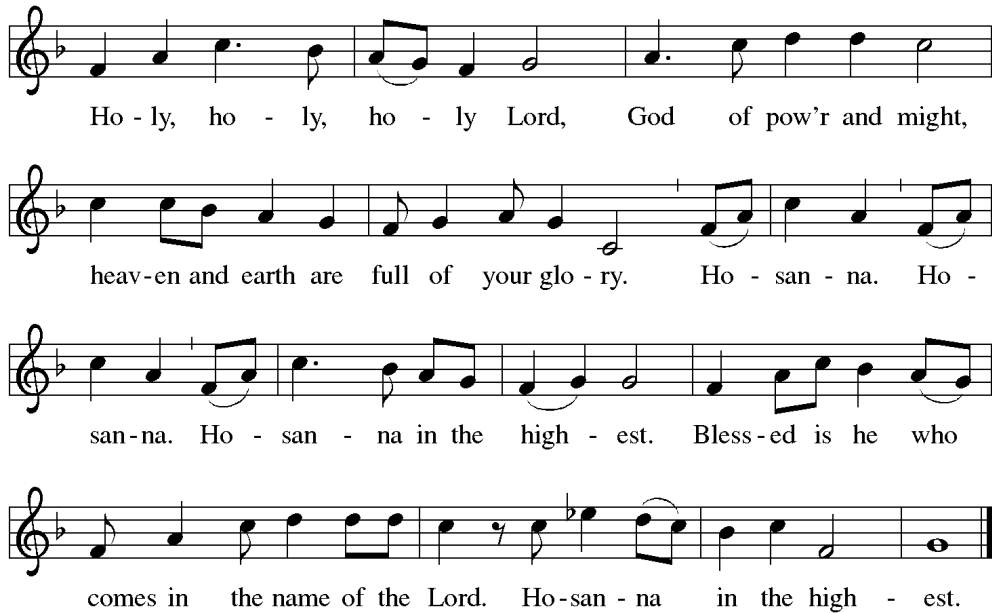
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Preface for Advent

P. "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus



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.

Eucharistic Prayer

P. Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty....Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C. Amen

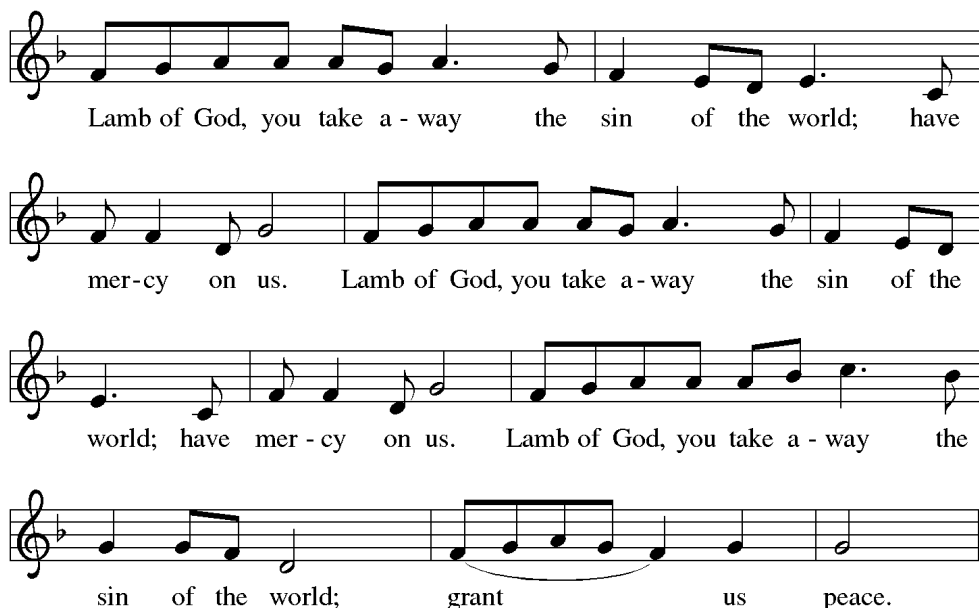
The Lord's Prayer

C. 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 Fraction

P. God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Agnes Dei – LAMB OF GOD



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 at the conclusion of this hymn.]

The Distribution

(All are invited to come to the table for either the bread and wine, or grape juice, or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding the participation of children at the table. We use a cup to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please join in singing the hymns below during the communion.)

#254 COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

#715 CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

#248 PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

#250 BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

(stand)

The Blessing of Communicants

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen

The Post Communion Canticle



The musical score is written for a two-part setting, likely Soprano and Bass, in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.

And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!

Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;

but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

The Post Communion Prayer

P. Generous God,

C. we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world to be a sign of your reign. Amen

The Benediction

P. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

The Dismissal

- A. Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- C. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: *Memories of Winchester New*, arr. Mark A. Radice

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

<p>ASSISTING MINISTERS 9:00 John Fuehrer</p> <p>LECTOR 9:00 John Fuehrer</p> <p>COUNCIL TEAM 9:00 John Weiss, Bill Spitzer</p> <p>ACOLYTES 9:00 Norm Wangman</p> <p>AV Matt Shirker</p>	<p>ALTAR GUILD 9:00 Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart</p> <p>USHERS 9:00 Ron & Carlene Kerschner, David Kerschner, Rob Gilbert</p> <p>Launder Linens: Lori Spitzer</p> <p>Deliver Flowers: Jo Hurst</p> <hr/> <p>WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:</p> <hr/> <p>✠ Glory to God and in memory of Metra, my daughter’s birthday, and all of the birthdays of my family who are deceased; by Joyce Hooper.</p>
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Prayers of the People

Phyllis Doughty – 20 Martin Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522

Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522

Michael Williams – Neffsville Nursing and Rehab, 2829 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, 17601

Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert's mom

Adam D'Andre – friend of Lori Spitzer's parents

Melissa Hughes

Jake Hinkle – 4 No. Line Rd, Stevens, PA 17578

Rick Woerner – 280 Boomerang Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522

All people affected by war

Victims of natural disasters

Shut-ins of the Parish

President Trump and leaders of this nation, leaders and policy makers of every nation

All outreach ministries serving those in need



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please get in touch with the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish a name to be included on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please get in touch with the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstances, making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna

Emmalyn Mulvenna

Janet Brunner

Andrew Campbell

Michael Spennath

Tony Perella

Mike & Claudia Belden

Henry Perella

Peyton Harter

COL. Eric Bowers

Dan Wierbiki

Jacob Hinkle Jr.

Karen Woerner

Kim Harnish

Rick Gerhard

Wyatt Geisthweit

Les Doremus

Scott Hambleton

Jim Weik

Heidi White

Johnny White

Jacob Connelly

Sue & Denis Rowe

Crystal Perry

Hank & Pat Kajetzke

Terry Gehman

Jill Puleo

Brent Stever

Alan & family

Dori Hoch

Cindy Stahl

Martha Becker

Chris and Karen Payonk

Alysha Fassnacht

John Surdich

Ava Berkosky

Amy Pasili

Theresa Cimino

Eric Mortorell

Duke & Bonnie Leeper

Sheldon Garman

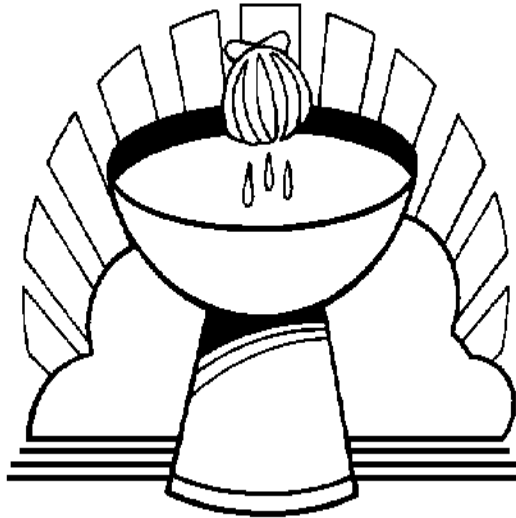
Devin Collins

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityephrata.org), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.





Baptized Today:

We welcome Mateo Christopher Profeto into the life of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. was born December 10, 2023. Matteo is the child of Cole Profeto and Hannah Brusk. May God embrace Mateo for all of time.