

You're Welcome...



Lent 3: March 8, 2026



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: Handbells- *Balm in Gilead*, arr. Patricia Cota

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

P. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C. Amen.

(please stand)

The Entrance Hymn: #533 OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

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.

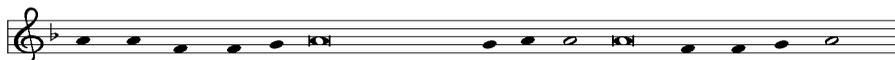
Kyrie:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



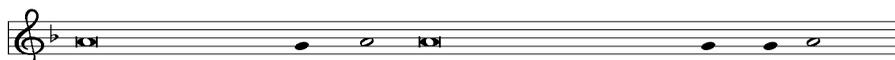
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



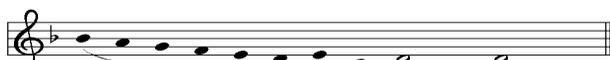
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

The Prayer of the Day

P. Merciful God, the fountain of living water,

C. you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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)

WORD

The First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95 (read responsively with the lector)

¹ Come, let us sing [|] to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of [|] our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence [|] with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the [|] LORD with psalms.**

³ For you, LORD, [|] are a great God, and a great ruler a- [|] bove all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns [|] of the earth;
the heights of the hills are [|] also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, [|] for you made it, and your hands have molded [|] the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship [|] and bow down,
let us kneel before the [|] LORD our maker.**

⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep [|] of God's hand. Oh, that today you would [|] hear God's voice!

⁸ **"Harden [|] not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah [|] in the desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors [|] tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had [|] seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that gener- [|] ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not [|] know my ways.'**

¹¹ Indeed I swore [|] in my anger, "They shall never come [|] to my rest."

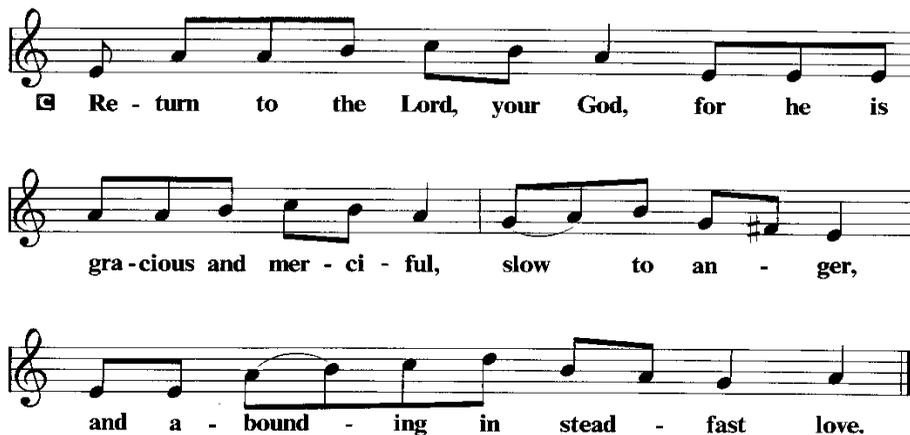
The Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Lenten Sentence



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger,
and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel Lesson: John 4:5-42

P. The Holy Gospel according to John.

C. Glory to you, O Lord (spoken)

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(please be seated)

The Sermon: Rev. Mark Luscombe

[Silence for reflection follows the sermon.]

(please stand)

The Hymn of the Day: #611 I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

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

The Prayers

A. Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(Kneel)

(after each petition, please respond)

A. Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

P. Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C. Amen

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

C. And also with you!

MEAL

The Offering: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, arr. Eugene Bradford

(please stand)

The Offertory: "Create in Me..."

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 Offertory Prayer

A. O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C. your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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.

Preface for Lent

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 in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P. Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P. O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

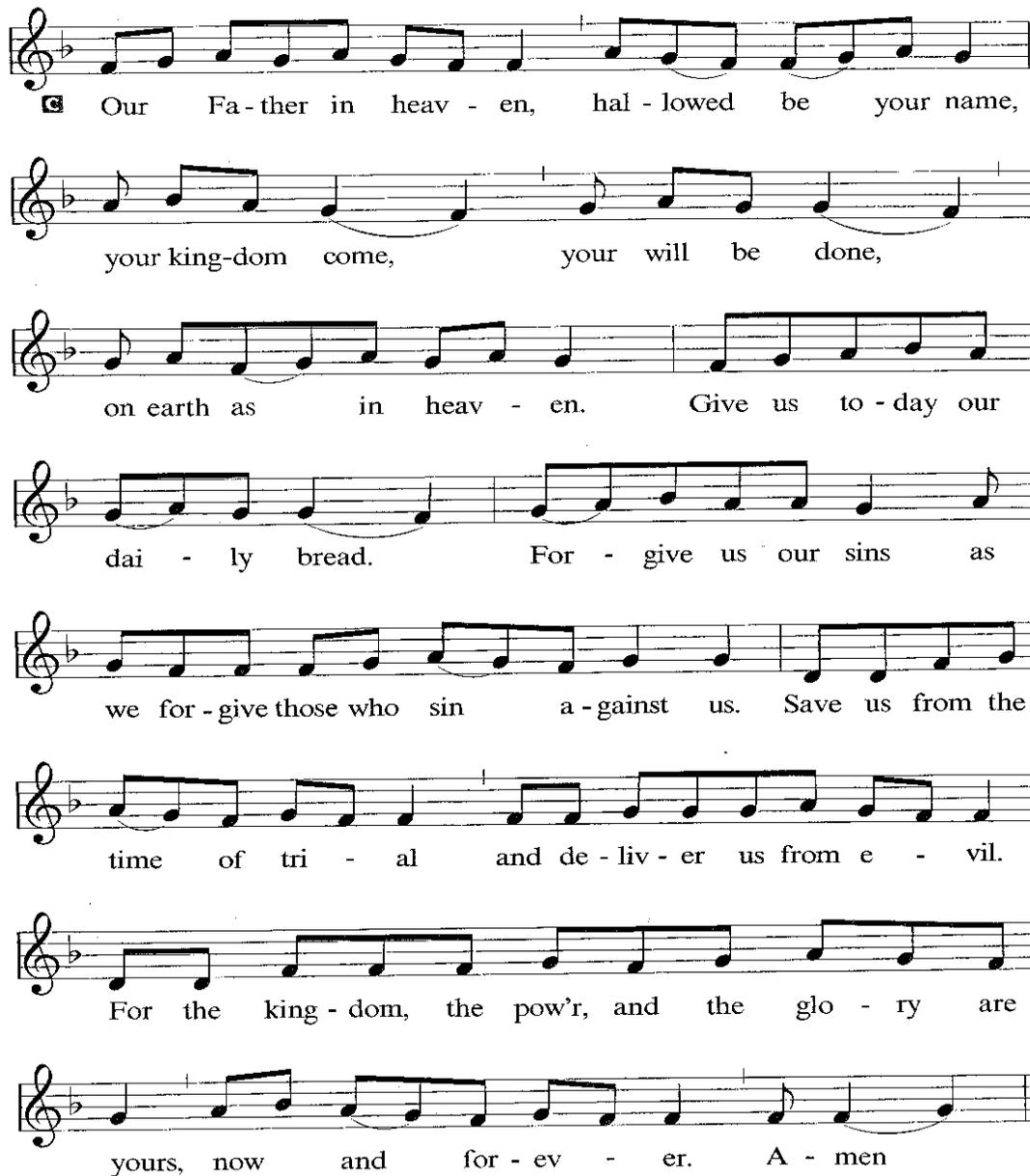
P. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C. Amen

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the
time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are
yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

The Fraction

P. Come to the table.

C. Where we feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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. A - men.

(please be seated)

The Distribution

[All are invited to come to the table, for either the bread, wine and grape juice or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation of children at the table. We use a glass to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful].

#484 YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

#658 O JESUS, JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

#618 GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER

#496 ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

The Blessing of Communicants

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

C. Amen

Post Communion Canticle

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,

That life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures Ev - er may your work e - rase;

Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,

Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, All my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

The Post Communion Prayer

P. God of our salvation,

C. we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Benediction

P. Receive the blessing of the Holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

C. Amen

The Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Live the good news.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: *Let the Trumpet Sound!* Lani Smith

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

ASSISTING MINISTERS

9:00 John Weiss

LECTOR

9:00 Lori Spitzer

COUNCIL TEAM

9:00 Bill Spitzer, Rob Gilbert

ACOLYTES

9:00 CH: Patrice Mull

AV

Launder Linens: Lori Spitzer

Deliver Flowers: Jo Hurst

ALTAR GUILD

9:00 Heather & Scott Zimmerman,
Kathy Shaeffer

USHERS

9:00 Dave Bowers, Bob & Ann Snader,
Tom & Kitty Dickersheid

**WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR
FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:**

† To the glory of God.

Prayers of the People

Kathryn Sweigart – 99 Bethany Rd. Personal Care Rm. 113, Ephrata, PA 17522

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

Ken Fortna Jr. – Debbie’s brother

Julia Perella – Judy Williams great niece

Terry Gehman – 11 Pleasant Road, Gordonville, PA 17529

Janet Wiest – 1125 Marilyn Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522

Kathrin Baltz – 10 Windolph Ct. Lititz, PA 17543

Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522

Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert’s mom

All persons affected by war and violence

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 Spenrath

Tony Perella

Mike & Claudia Belden

Henry Perella

Payton 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

Melissa Hughes

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.

