

Service of Holy Communion

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17th, 2026



INTRODUCTION

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P. Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
Amen.

P. Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

God Is Here!

ELW 526

THE GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. 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.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own

authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

A. Word of God, word of life. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (*read responsively*)

¹ Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence**

of God.

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who rides the
clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of
God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have
made provision for the poor.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

A. Word of God, word of life.

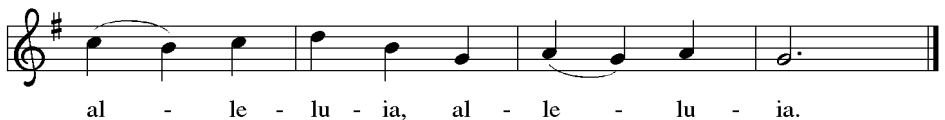
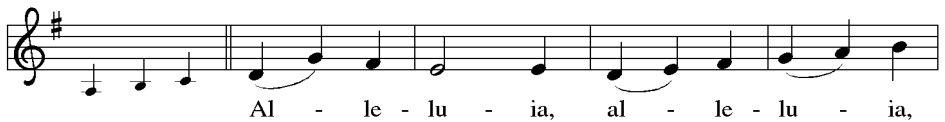
C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

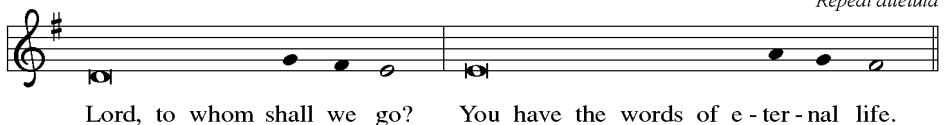
Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

P. The holy gospel according to John. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Be One

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

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 THE CHURCH

A. Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

A. O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. We pray especially for... those we name aloud... and those we hold in our hearts... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P. God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

Carry Me

Kyle Hill

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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via Venmo ↓



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Scan to give
via Tithely ↓



Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

Refrain/Estribillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas | *Last time*
y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
not a mite would I with - hold;
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
Refrain/Estribillo
pow'r as thou shalt choose.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF 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.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Congregation kneels or sits

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

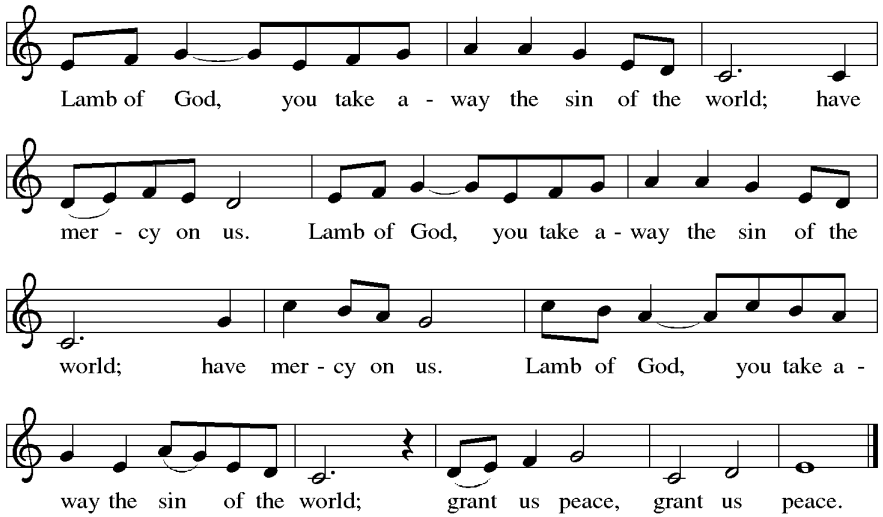
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION SONG



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, grant us peace.

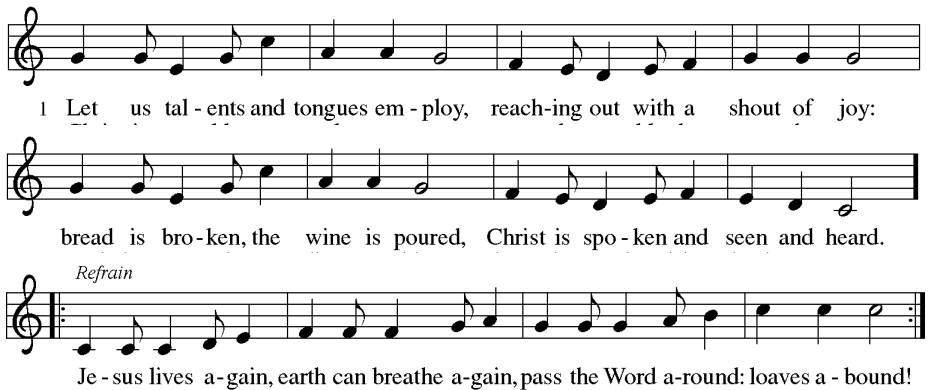
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Thine the Amen

ELW 826 v. 1-4

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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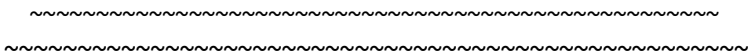
Announcements for May 17th, 2026

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God’s presence in our worship!

If today is your **first time** worshiping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the “Guest Book” on the table in the narthex and **take a welcome bag**. Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. **Large print bulletins are available.**

The **Pray-ground** is a special place to help **support kids and families** in worshiping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here. **Tips:** explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All. **Anyone on the altar is on camera.**



Volunteers for Today's Worship

Lay Asst.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Comm. Asst.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tech	John Heeren
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	<i>Volunteer needed</i>

***** Join us for refreshments after worship*****

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, May 17: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am – *Last day*

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Tuesday, May 19: Pastor's Comm. Off Hrs, Noble Pies, Warwick, 12:30-2:30pm

Wednesday, May 20: NO Adult Ed

Mindfulness Walk, Maple Grange, 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday, May 23: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Community Yard Sale, 9am-2pm

Sunday, May 24: Outside Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Pastor's Community Office Hours-May: Pastor Peggy will be at the **Noble Pies in Warwick THIS Tuesday, May 19th from 12:30-2:30pm** for Community Office Hours. All are welcome to visit as she is present in the community.

Mindfulness Walk: Join Pastor Peggy for a **mindfulness walk at Maple Grange Park THIS Wednesday, May 20th from 4:30-5:30pm**. We will meet in the first parking lot and determine our route based on the group. You're invited to **wear your 'Live Generously T-shirt'**. All ages are welcome!

Community Yard Sale: Want to sell some of your goods from your spring cleaning? **THIS Saturday, May 23rd** we will be hosting a Community Yard Sale in our parking lot from **9am-2pm**. Spots are \$30. You keep what you sell; you bring a table, chairs, tent, etc. Spots with table and chairs set up for you are \$50—limited number available. Call the office or **sign-up** on the sheet in the narthex **to reserve your spot**. Don't have anything to sell? Come shop! Contact Claire Speroni for more info.

Food Pantry Donation Drive: Please take a suggested donation slip from the basket in the narthex and **return your donated items by May 30th**. Thank you for your extra support for those who utilize our food pantry!

Outside Worship: Begins **NEXT Sunday, May 24th** and continues through Labor Day weekend. We worship outside weekly at 9:30 am, weather permitting. Please dress appropriately for the temperature. **If you are available to help** set up the equipment (electric piano, amplifier, speakers, canopy tents, etc.) please **arrive around 8:45am**. Thank you!

Vacuum Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to vacuum at church once each week **between May 24th – June 5th**. Please **sign up** on the chart. Our dedicated Debbie will be traveling, and we need some extra help during that time. Thank you!

Prayer Bead Making & Summer Worship Series: This summer we will have an 8-week **worship series** called 'All of Our Days', from June 22nd-August 9th **focused on prayer**. An element of the series is praying with protestant prayer beads. Everyone will get a set, and you can come make your own **after worship on Sunday, June 7th** so you have them beforehand. **Fun fact:** The modern English word bead is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word bede, which means prayer.

Vernon Day-Church Booth: **Vernon Day is Saturday, June 13th from 11am-4pm** with set up and tear down before and after. We will be having a church table! **If you are available to help volunteer at the table, please contact Emilie Dupont.**

Vacation Bible School: Tell your friends about our VBS: **God's Good Creation** this summer **July 20th-23rd from 1-4pm!** We hope the afternoon timeslot will allow for more participants. **Register today** at myvbs.org/hclclvernon

AED Donations: Our AED expired and a grant was obtained to help cover the costs of a new one! However, AEDs are quite expensive and the outstanding cost not covered by the grant is \$1,349.98. If you would like to **donate to help cover the cost of the new AED** please note 'AED' with your donation. Thank you for helping our church be a safe place if an emergency ever occurred.

Food Pantry: **Food items to help restock:** canned tuna, boxed cereal, canned chili, canned corn, canned green beans, peanut butter, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, 4-pack toilet paper and body wash. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be **placed in the blue bin** by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!



Contact Information

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The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

*As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow

President Nancy Knecht

Vice President Frank Urbaniak

Treasurer Claire Speroni

Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick

Financial Secretary John Heeren

Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince

Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel

Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

