

Service of Holy Communion

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026



INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

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. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin to God.

The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Freely receive this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

THE 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

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.

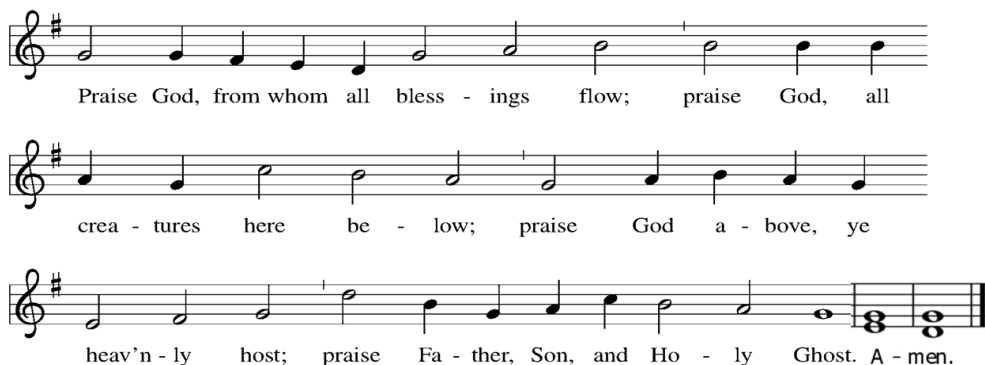
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GENEROSITY IMPACT MOMENT

Frank Urbaniak

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained
clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23 (*read responsively*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

A. Word of God, word of life.

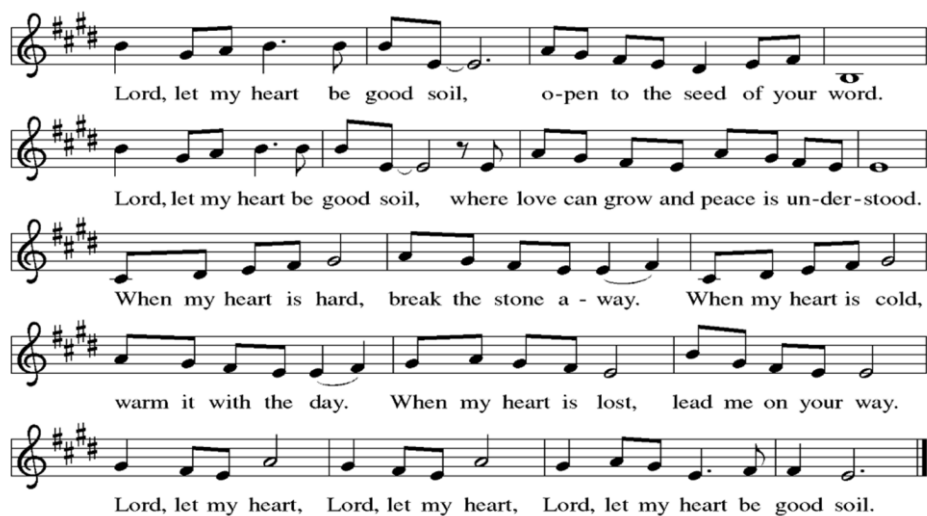
C. Thanks be to God.

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



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Do Them

Congregation stands

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. Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

A. Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storms and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering specially... those we name aloud... and those we hold in our hearts... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P. Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Come Thirsty

*Jeff Ferguson
& Regi Stone*

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give
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

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

Refrain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray...God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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: *(Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time)*



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra-zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra-zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation sits or kneels

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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. Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION SONG

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
or Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

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



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.** The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.** The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

DISMISSAL

A. Go out in joy! Be led forth in peace.

C. Thanks be to God.

Announcements for October 11, 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** worshipping 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 worshipping. 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.**

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**Altar flowers are in honor of Emilie Dupont's 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!**

**Thank you, Nancy Knecht for this morning's refreshments!!**  
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Volunteers for Today's Worship

Lay Asst.	Nancy Knecht
Ushers	Volunteer needed
Comm. Asst.	Volunteer needed
Tech	Mark Rossi
Tellers	Volunteer needed
Refreshments	Nancy Knecht

Volunteers Scheduled for Next Sunday

Lay Asst.	Pam Kucks
Ushers	-----

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, October 11: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal following worship

New Member Inquiry Class, 11:00am

Wednesday, October 14: Adult Ed, [Zoom](#), 10:00am

Thursday, October 15: Cluster Mental Health Study, [Zoom](#), 7-8pm

Saturday, October 17: Sisters in Prayer, [Zoom](#), 8:30am

Sunday, October 18: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal following worship

Sand Hill Road Clean-Up, 11am-2pm

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**Over the next several weeks our congregation will be focusing on financial stewardship for 2027.** We will reflect on the theme “Because of God’s Love...” and the many ministries of Holy Counselor that are possible because of your generosity.

**On Generosity Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>,** each friend and member of HCLC will be invited to **submit an intent card** as we pray over our intentions for the coming year. As you hear people provide their Generosity Impact Moments during worship in the coming weeks, **we ask you to do two things:**

- **First,** to prayerfully discern either **making your first intent** to HCLC, **or** if you’ve done so in the past, to **increase your giving** by 1 or 2% of your household income.
- **Second,** consider **making your gifts using Tithely or Venmo** to help the church with sustained giving. We can help you set this up—just let the church office know!

**Every gift makes a difference in the life of the church and our ministry together! Because of God’s Love...joy abounds and community thrives!**

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Church Road Clean-up: As part of the Clean Communities Project, the Vernon Twp DPW will pay HCLC to pick up garbage on Sand Hill and McPeck roads. **Volunteer** to help with the Road Cleanup **NEXT Sunday, October 18th from 11am-2pm** (any time available during those hours is appreciated). Please see Diane Rossi if you are available to help!

Auction of the Gifts & Oktoberfest Dinner: **Do you have a special gift, talent, or item to share?** Maybe you sew, organize well, or are a talented photographer. Or maybe you love to cook, have a vacation house to lend, or have another idea altogether! Share your talent, gift, or donation item for the Auction of the Gifts & Oktoberfest Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, October 24th from 5-8pm. Here's how it works:** you donate your gift and then the item is auctioned off to the highest bidder while we all enjoy dinner, community, and laughter. **Come to dinner** and have a fun evening regardless of whether or not you're bidding. Contact Diane Rossi to donate your gifts today!

Cluster-wide Mental Health Study: Our cluster-wide study series started Thursday. The sessions are called **Mental Health & Radical Hospitality**. The group meets on [Zoom](#) from **7-8pm on Thursdays, October 8th-29th**. All are welcome to participate. Reach out to Pastor Peggy with any questions.

Trick or Trail: We will be **hosting a church table** at Vernon's Halloween Trick or Trail at Maple Grange on **Friday, October 30th**. Set up is between 2pm-3:30pm and the last group comes through at 7pm. If you'd like to **help with set up and/or dressing up and handing out popcorn** please email Pastor Peggy. We are also looking for **6 large boxes of microwave popcorn** to be **donated**. Please bring your popcorn donation to church by Sunday, October 18th and place it in the church kitchen by the microwave.

Toddler Family Park Play: Families with kids age 5 and under are invited to join us at **Franklin Pond Park** on **Sunday, October 25th** anytime between **4-6pm**. As our church family continues to grow, we want to build strong bonds and support one another. **Pack your own dinner** to eat at the park. Connect with Lynn Ludlow for more details.

All Saints Sunday: On **Sunday, November 1st**, we will remember all the Saints who have died and honor their memory during worship. If you have a loved one who has **died in the past year** whose name and dates you would like listed in the bulletin, **please email Pastor Peggy** to include their printed information **by Monday, October 26th**.

Pastor's Community Office Hours: Pastor Peggy will be at the **Tuscan Café** in Warwick **Tuesday, October 27th from 12:30-2:30pm** for Community Office Hours. All are welcome to visit as she is present in the community.

RaiseRight Gift Cards for Shopping/Gifts/Holidays: As you are preparing gifts for the upcoming holidays, we want to remind you of our ongoing program RaiseRight! You can **purchase gift cards** to be sent to others **as gifts or** you can get gifts cards **for the places you are buying from** during this season. As well as for anytime you shop all year long! There are **2 ways to get cards:** You can do this **via the RaiseRight app** on your phone or via the order forms with a selection of cards that can be ordered through HCLC. The **Raiseright book is in the Narthex**. Share the forms with your family and friends too. **It works by** simply buying gift cards to stores where you already shop, you get the full value, and then the church gets a percentage back. **Download the RaiseRight app** & link to the church with **enrollment code: 53EB2E84IL3275** – our RaiseRight ID number. Speak with John Heeren for more information.

Food Pantry: Food items to help restock: 4-pack toilet paper, canned tuna, canned chili, canned corn, canned soup, canned green beans, canned fruit, mac & cheese, boxed potatoes, tuna helper, peanut butter, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, kid's snacks, toothpaste, shampoo. 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!

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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

Land Acknowledgement: *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.*

