

Service of Holy Communion

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 19th, 2025



INTRODUCTION

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

P. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Congregation kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Congregation stands

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.

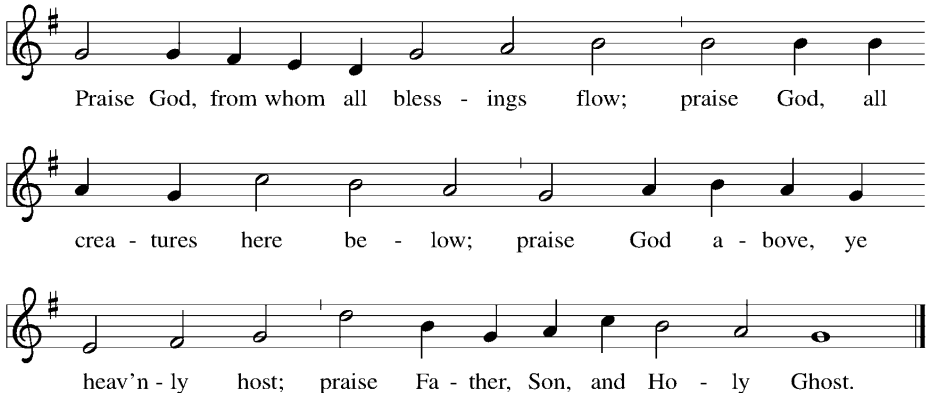
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

PSALM: Psalm 121 (*read responsively*)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

A. Word of God, word of life.

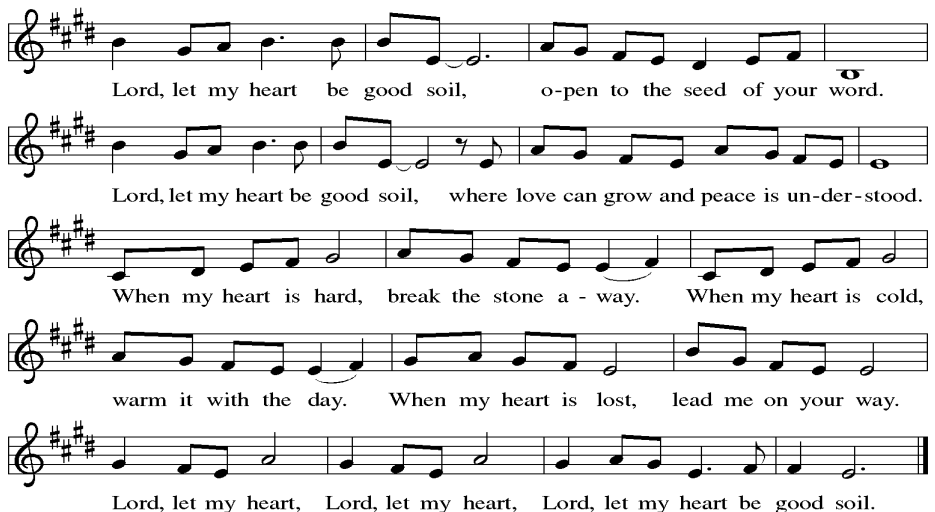
C. Thanks be to God.

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: Luke 18:1-8

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

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to God's chosen ones who cry to God day and night? Will God delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, God will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Pray Always and Do Not Lose Heart

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770

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. Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

A. We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer. We pray especially for...those we now say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts... God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Life-giving God, you free us by your word. Help us, by your Spirit, to be transformed to live your word of freedom honestly and uprightly in our teaching, preaching, and serving. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We pray for our Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P. We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, 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

My Only Hope Is You

Chris Lovejoy, arr Kris Crunk

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!

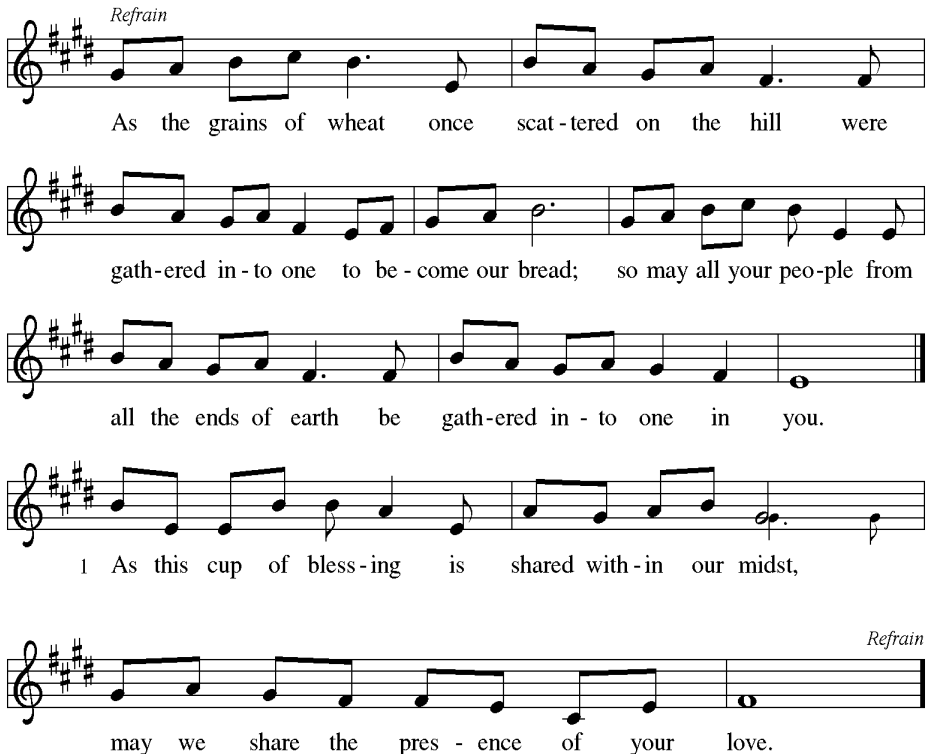
Scan to give
via Tithely



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,
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time*)

Congregation kneels or sits



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

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 Father, 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

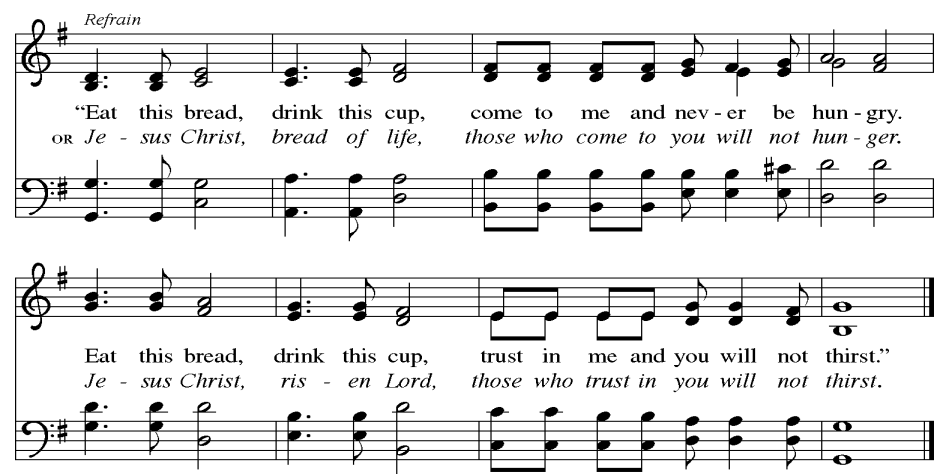
Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

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. Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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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

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress. ONE LICENSE, License #A-

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW 773

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements for October 19th, 2025

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.**

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.

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## Volunteers for Today’s Worship

- Lay Asst. Volunteer needed
- Ushers Volunteer needed
- Comm. Asst. Debbie Lennon
- Tech Fred Schoenagel
- Tellers Volunteer needed
- Refreshments Volunteer needed

## Volunteers for Next Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

- Lay Asst. Debbie Lennon
- Ushers Volunteer needed
- Comm. Asst. Volunteer needed
- Tech John Heeren
- Tellers Volunteer needed
- Refreshments Volunteer needed

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

### **THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR**

**Sunday, Oct.19:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Synod Wide Outing – NJ Gotham Soccer Game, 1pm tailgate, 3pm game

**Wednesday, Oct 22:** Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am

Cluster-wide Study, Zoom, 7-8pm

**Thursday, Oct. 23:** Pastor's Community Hours, Scout Goods, 1-3pm

**Friday, Oct. 24:** Trick or Trail, 2-7pm

**Saturday, Oct.25:** Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

**Sunday, Oct. 26:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, Generosity & Reformation Sunday, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Apple Picking, Loaves & Fishes, Ochs Farm, 4pm

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NEXT week on October 26th, Generosity Sunday, 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 we ask you to do two things:

First, to prayerfully discern either **making your first intent card** to HCLC, or if you've done so in the past, to **increase your giving** in a way that is faithful for your family.

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!

With your support you are helping to spread God's love by Building a Culture of Generosity!

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**Pastor's Community Office Hours: Pastor Peggy will be at Scout Goods THIS Thursday, October 23rd from 1-3pm for Community Office Hours.** All are welcome to drop in for a visit as she is present in the community.

**Trick or Trail:** We will be hosting a church table handing out candy at Vernon's Halloween Trick or Trail **THIS Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**. Set up begins at 2 pm and the last group comes through at 7pm. **If you'd like to dress up and hand out candy to the kids please email Pastor Peggy.** We are also looking for **1 more large bag of candy to be donated.** Please bring your candy donation to church by Wednesday. Thank you!

**Prayers for Porch Planks:** Please consider supporting the Parsonage Porch replacement fund ("Prayers for Porch Planks") which is displayed on the white board in the narthex. **A HUGE thank you to everyone for your generous support so far!!**

**Apple Picking:** The Loaves & Fishes are going apple picking **NEXT Sunday, October 26th at 4pm.** We will **meet at Ochs Farm in Warwick** to pick apples! They even have a little petting zoo. Let Pastor Peggy know if you plan to attend.

**Loaves and Fishes** is our **new**, more inclusive and rebranded **20 & 30-somethings group**. All **families with young children regardless of the adults' age are welcome, as well as our young adults**. Our primary goal is building connections and supportive bonds for families and younger adults in the church, while doing fun activities together. Events range from apple picking and bowling to playground meet ups. Let's join our Loaves (adults) and Fishes (children) together!

**Wine & Cheese Fundraiser:** Do you enjoy cheese? How about wine? Chocolate? All the above! Come enjoy **'Cheeses for Jesus! Wine Not?'** for a fun pre-dinner tasting on **Saturday, November 1st from 3-5pm**. Wine flights will be paired with cheeses and chocolates. Suggested donation of \$20 per person. We encourage **signing up in advance**, so we have enough wine for everyone! Designated drivers to and from the event are available for \$15 round trip. Registration is required in advance to take advantage of this service.

**Blessing of the Skis & Knees:** Save the date for **Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**. During worship we will have a Blessing of the Skis and Knees to kick off the winter ski season. Given our location to Mountain Creek, this is the perfect blessing for our neighbors too. **Invite your friends, bring your skis** and receive this unique blessing.

**Calendars coming soon:** Have you enjoyed the beautiful calendars created by Frank's photography and Pam's scripture this year? Good news! **Calendars for 2026 will be created and available soon**. They make great gifts in addition to beautifying your own home! Keep an eye out.

**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is low on **canned chili, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, canned corn, macaroni & cheese, boxed potatoes, mayonnaise, cereal, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper**. 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!



For God's Children of all ages!

# Worship Notes

Sunday's Date: \_\_\_\_\_



My Favorite  
Song:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



This week, I'm praying for:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



I'm curious or have a  
question about:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Today's Focus Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

I would draw it like:



## Word Count

How many times did you hear each  
of these words today? Make a tally.

grace: \_\_\_\_\_

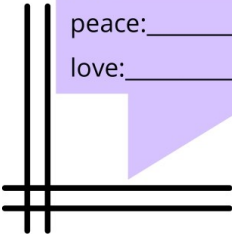
joy: \_\_\_\_\_

peace: \_\_\_\_\_

love: \_\_\_\_\_



Four vertical tally marks and two horizontal ones, representing the number 11.





### **Contact Information**

(973) 827-5251 office

[www.hc-lutheranchurch.org](http://www.hc-lutheranchurch.org)

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: [pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

Director of Music: June Tarantino: [music@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:music@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: [office@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Wynn White: [accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto: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

**Youth Representative** Kevin Drache

### **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.*

