# THE PARISH CONNECTION



# Tri-County Lutheran Parish Issued on May 26, 2021 Holy Trinity Sunday

Parish Connection (with letter from Vicar Care)	pp. 2-17
Devotions & Prayers	pp. 17-20
Sermon by Pastor Sam	pp. 20-22
Bulletin	pp. 23-34

#### **From Vicar Care**

May the love of El-Shaddai, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and the light of Christ be with you all!

These two weeks in our church year are some of my favorites. Last week, we celebrated Pentecost. It is my all-time favorite holiday in our church. While folks may know Pentecost as the Sunday where folks speak different languages during the Acts 2 reading, where we wear red, where we may sing "happy birthday" to the church, where there is tricky pronunciation in our first reading...it is a holiday that in some ways defies language. It is a holiday filled with metaphor-where the Holy Spirit comes *like* fire, *like* wind, *like* tongues resting upon disciples. The Holy Spirit moves unexpectedly in ways we cannot understand. Pentecost is a reminder that there is so much we do not know about God.

This upcoming week is another holiday, Holy Trinity Sunday. While some preachers use this week as a teaching week, to describe the history of the doctrine of the Trinity, I invite you to rest in the mystery of the Three-in-One. Our minds cannot wrap around this holy mystery of the Triune God. The Italian poet Dante Alighieri described the difficulty of understanding the Trinity as "trying to square a circle," a geometric impossibility.

Our God is Three, and our God is One. Our God is flesh, and our God is Spirit. The early Christian community tried to capture the essence of the Triune God in doctrine and dogma--read through the Athanasian Creed for some confusing ancient philosophy! At the end of the day, and the end of our lives, we will never truly understand our God. To quote from the Psalms, such knowledge is too wonderful for us to understand.

The truth of the Triune God is one that cannot be understood in our minds but felt in our hearts. This God who is relationship, who dwells among us, who inspires love within us...this is a mysterious and hidden truth of our faith. This week, rest in the mystery of the Trinity, think about what it means that our God is Three and our God is One. Often folks find it difficult to hold both in tension--some people feel more comfortable thinking about the Threeness of God and others feel more at home discussing God's Oneness. Can we hold both together in our hearts?

May the Triune God bless us with knowledge of Godself, that we may deepen our understanding of the ultimate mystery that is the Trinity.

#### **News and Information**

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ( whiteginger20@gmail.com ) or Pastor Beth ( chellman4557@gmail.com ) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ( harryavery@yahoo.com ).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

# **Bible Study & Book Study**

#### **Bible Study Schedule**

May 31st/June 1st - No Bible Study for Memorial Day observance

June 7th (7PM) and June 8th (10AM) - Pastor Sam

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84463965481

June 14th (7PM) and June 15th (10AM) - Pastor Beth

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520

June 21st (7PM) and June 22nd (10AM) - Vicar Care

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942949555

June 28th (7PM) and June 29th (10AM) - Pastor Sam

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84463965481

July 5/6 - No Bible Study in observance of Independence Day

**Book Study Schedule:** Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Here is the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419

\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Sunday, May 30th Zoom service will be from St. Paul's in Oak Hill at 11 a.m.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82433424411

#### To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone for Worship

Use this Meeting ID: 824 334 24411

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88996300296# US (New York)

Dial by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 824 334 24411

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm\_Pr A - I1qlv8P J - g

# **Social Media Sharing**

Hopefully, you now understand the difference between our Facebook group and page. So, let's look more closely at the page. These are the public things that we really want you to share such as our worship services, special events, and other public information.

Why is this an important step? Because that is how we get the word out! When you share a post from our page to your newsfeed, all your friends will be able to see it. And when each Facebook user in the whole parish does it, that's a lot of free advertising. Even if you are going to worship in-person, please still share the zoom worship information. We have been getting some visitors on zoom because of this. It can be a first step to getting people to join us in person.

If you have questions or need more technical help, please just ask. Let's make the most of this free tool so others will know we are here.

#### SAVE THE DATE!!

Pastor Elizabeth George will be Officially Installed as Pastor of The Tri-County Lutheran Parish

Sunday June 13 at 3 p.m.

Please join us outside under the tents at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1010 Kinderhook St., Valatie NY 12184.

We need some help with setting up the tents at St. Luke's Saturday morning (June 12).

If you are able to help, please call the church office.

Join us as we Celebrate together, the Gift of Love and Leadership that God has sent us!!

**The Parish Prayer Group** is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

We have reached out to many of the youth and parents in our parish regarding a Parish-wide Sunday School. From the feedback we received, we will be starting this in the fall, when we can hopefully have Sunday School in person! Please stay tuned for more information!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

Memorial Day! Come to Trinity in Castleton by 10 a.m. on May 31 to honor our veterans as they process by. Bring a sign, a lawn chair, wear your mask, and enjoy the company. Let's get a crowd to make some noise for our veterans!



# TOWN OF KINDERHOOK MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Come join your neighbors!

Fire Companies, Police, classic cars,

Scouts, town officials,

at our annual parade

(Valatie, Niverville and Kinderhook)

remembering and honoring the men and women

who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Step off is at 10 am!!!!

Follow the route -

beginning at Nursery Lane, Valatie
marching along Route 203
to Church Street, past The Grand Rehabilitation
Center,
ending at Martin Glynn Square.

A ceremony honoring local Purple Heart Recipients follows.

**Opportunity to Help!!!** Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in

becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: mmcps@tclparish.org , which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Karen Schubert 4schubertkara4@gmail.com (H) 518-731-1190

#### A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to **parishadmin@tclparish.org**. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voicemail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: parishadmin@tclparish.org

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

#### **Bible Study**

Have you ever said, "I don't know the Bible stories well enough to talk to people about faith"? Have you forgotten some of those stories you learned back in Sunday School? Or are you new to the faith and finding some of the stories confusing?

In Bible Study, we will be going back to the basics to examine some major Bible stories! We will listen to the stories, hear what God is doing in the story, see how these stories impact our own lives and make God's story our own.

The clergy team will take turns leading and hosting this new study so keep an eye on the Parish Connection for the appropriate link! We will be meeting on Mondays on Zoom at 7pm and Tuesdays on Zoom at 10am. For May 31st/June 1st - there will be no Bible Study for Memorial Day observance.

#### **Book Study**

The TCLP book study continues with Erika Lee's America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States. We are looking into the history of anti-Asian racism.

If you are interested, please join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Here is the link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419</a>

# **2021 TCLP Board**

Harry Avery	Chair	harryavery@tclparish.org
Jackie Menagh	Vice-Chair	jamspirit@tclparish.org
Teresa Avery	Recorder	harryavery@yahoo.com
Chuck Race	Treasurer	ctracejr@tclparish.org

# **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY -- May 30**

#### May 30 (Holy Trinity Sunday)

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie Vr. Care

Castleton & E. Schodack Pr. Dan Hahn

Chatham & Hudson SAM Duane Keeler

Athens & Oak Hill Pr. Sam

# **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH JUNE**

#### June 6

Stuy. Falls/Valatie Pr. Sam

Castleton Pr. John Knarvik

E. Schodack Pr. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Chatham/Hudson Pr. Beth Athens/Oak Hill Vicar Care

#### June 13

Stuy. Falls/Valatie Pr. Dan Hahn Castleton/E. Schodack Pr. Sam

Chatham/Hudson Ibrahim Pedrinan

Athens/Oak Hill Pr. Beth

#### June 20

Stuy. Falls/Valatie Vicar Care
Castleton/E. Schodack Pr. Beth
Chatham/Hudson Duane Keeler

Athens/Oak Hill Pr. Sam

#### June 27

Stuy. Falls/Valatie Pr. Beth
Castleton/E. Schodack Vicar Care
Chatham/Hudson Pr. Sam

Athens/Oak Hill Ibrahim Pedrinan

# **Congregation Announcements**

# **EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS**

Contact - Leslie Dumont lesliesd35@gmail.com

In-person worship 8:30 a.m.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leslie Dumont Term Expires 2023 President
Olivia Dumont Term Expires 2022 Vice President
Linda Frick Term Expires 2022 Co-Treasurer
\*Dick Frick Co-Treasurer
\*Chuck Albertson Secretary

Jennifer Dunn Term Expires 2024 Shirley McThenia Term Expires 2024 Pr. Sam Ex Officio member Pr. Beth Ex Officio member

#### **PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:**

Chair: Harry Avery (Chair)

Primary: Harry Avery

Alternate: Chuck Albertson

# **Committees**

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)** 

Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson, Phyllis Keeler

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)** 

Phyllis Keeler

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)

Karen Albertson

**HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)** 

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

**MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)** 

Will be from St. Luke's this year.

<sup>\*</sup> Non-elected council member

# ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE

Contact -- Karen McIntyre klym61@hotmail.com

# In-person worship 10:30 AM

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021**

Tim McGlauflin Ted Fiebke Karen McIntyre Mike Schunk Karen Lasher

Janis McGlauflin Dana Berntson Sharon Smith Gail Paone

#### **Council Officers**

Karen McIntyre -- President

Ken Schomaker -- Treasurer (not on council)

Sharon Smith - Secretary

Sharon Campbell is the new financial secretary (not on council)

### TCLP Board Reps - Tim McGlauflin, Jon Strodl

# **Reader during Worship**

5/30 TBA

# **EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S**

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

# In-person worship 11 AM

# **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Pat Brundage President

Dick Fitzgerald <u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)

Debra Garrison Secretary

Linda Baker

Kirk Dixon Sexton Page 12 of 34

# **ZION, ATHENS**

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

# **In-person worship 9 AM**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
Gethen Proper	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
Carol Serazio		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
John <u>Wais</u>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

**Financial Secretary needed!** Please see Bill, Gethen or anyone on the Council.

**TCLP Board Reps**: Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

# Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

#### ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact - Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

# In-person worship 11 AM

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jackie Menagh President 518-634-2026 home -- leave a message

(TBA) Treasurer

Sally Lord Secretary

#### TCLP Board Rep - Jackie Menagh

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever. As discussed at our Annual Meeting in March, we are very short on our budget each month and will need to start dipping into our savings to pay the bills unless giving increases. Hopefully, once we return to full attendance at in-person worship things will improve. Until then, please continue to mail in your offering. Thank you!

# CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact - Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

In-person worship 9:30 a.m.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jeanette Wilber President

Kurt Hoelter Vice President

Heidi Brennan Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Cate MacPherson

Richard Mac Donald (Mac)

Henry Bartel

Patty Bervy

# TCLP Board Reps - Jeanette Wilber, Patty Bervy

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal!

Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

#### ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

Contact - Charles Mayrer 518-479-3640 or cjmay33@gmail.com

# In-person worship 11 a.m.

# **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Charles Mayrer President

Brian Schell Vice President

Charles Senrick Treasurer

Cathy Teeter Secretary

Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.

**OUTREACH:** Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com

518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504 (not on council)

# TCLP Board Reps - Brian Schell, Charles Senrick

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

# TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact - Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Nicole Gardner scullynik@yahoo.com (H) 518-336-4077 (C) 518-312-8603

# In-person worship 9 a.m.

#### **Council Members**

Anne Philipp President

Eric Knodler Vice President

Elaine Dickson Treasurer (not on Council)

Rik Cosgrave Financial Secretary (not on Council)

#### **TCLP Board Reps** -- Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email scullynik@yahoo.com.

**Financial Secretary Needed** Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. If interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

\*\*\*\*\*

# What would you like to see in "The Parish Connection?" Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

**Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS**: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm. Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: **parishadmin@tclparish.org** and she can help direct you to the right person!

### **CONTACT US:**

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (Parish) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whiteginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (Parish) Phone - 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (Intern Supervisor) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail -- p astordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: https://www.tclparish.org

CHATHAM WEBSITE: https://www.chathamlutheran.org

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <a href="https://">https://</a> www.slelc.com

\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayers and Devotions for Holy Trinity Sunday--curated by Vicar Care

"Don't start with the One and try to make it into Three, but start with the Three and see that this is the deepest nature of the One."

#### --Richard Rohr

# A Blessing from St. Augustine

Grant, O God, of your mercy, that we may come to everlasting life, and there beholding your glory as it is, may equally say:

Glory to the Father who created us,

Glory to the + Son who redeemed us,

Glory to the Holy Spirit who sanctified us.

Glory to the most high and undivided Trinity, whose works are inseparable, whose kingdom without end abides, from age to age forever. Amen.

# From "Some Thoughts on the Holy Trinity" by Nadia Bolz-Weber (found on sojo.net)

So let's get right down to it, shall we? Here we go: God is three persons and one being. God is one and yet three. The father is not the son or the Spirit, the son is not the father or the Spirit, the spirit is not the Father or the Son. But the Father Son and Spirit all are God and God is one. ... So, to review. 1+1+1=1. That's simple enough.

It's no wonder that so many of the early church councils were called to try and make sense of the Trinitarian formula. The church took its time coming up with the doctrine of the trinity ... much ink and much blood has been spilled on the matter, but it's hard to see what there is to actually celebrate on this "Church Doctrine Sunday." Where's the good news in that? God as bad math?

This confusing doctrinal issue seems a bit too dry and distant to actually celebrate. But here we all are waiting, myself included, to hear the good news of nearly unexplainable doctrine.

Perhaps it would be easier for everyone if God were a bit easier to peg down, but that's not what is revealed in scripture. Here we have a hard to peg down God from the Beginning. Literally. The Genesis account does not say "Let me make humankind in my own image, but let us make humankind in our own image according to our likeness." This is not a "me" God, but a "we" God. God from the beginning is, not God as bad math, but God as community. The triune nature of God assures that God is in fellowship with God's self. In the Beginning is Creator, Word and Spirit all comingling to bring forth creation. Here God creates communally.

In the Trinitarian nature of God, individuality and communality are related in a beautiful life-giving dance of creation. Whatever names we choose to use Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Holy Parent, Holy Child and Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer and Advocate, the three aspects remain distinct while the identity remains one through mutual relatedness of giving and receiving. Back and forth together throughout time. Maybe this is not some dusty doctrine, but the holy fecundity of a God who pours out God's own communal self into the creation.

This image of the relational dance of God with God's self is wide enough to include us the created. Non-relational images of God do not allow room for us, but the mutual indewlling of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit offers us and all creation the divine space in which to live into the fullness of our identity as beloved children of God.

There is a beautiful artistic depiction of this welcome we have into the life of the Trinity in a Russian Orthodox icon originating from the 14th century. I encourage you to look at this Trinity icon – what you'll see is an image inspired by the Abraham story of the three visitors of God whom he welcomed. The three figures in the icon are depicted as angels seated at an altar table. They have identical faces but their postures and clothing differ as though we are looking at the same figure shown in three different ways. But it is the way in which the figures relate to one another which is so compelling. The father looks to the son gesturing toward this Word made flesh, Christ gazes back at the Father but points to the Spirit, and the Spirit opens up the circle to receive the viewer. Between the Spirit and the Father in the Trinity icon is an open space at the table in which the viewer is brought to sit in communion with the God head. Here we see an image of God's relational circle into which we are welcomed. The Father sends the Son the son sends the Spirit and the Spirit welcomes us to the table. It is a lush image of how God relates to God's self and to us.

A triune image of God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — Creator, Redeemer and Advocate is not "An Unknown God" like the statue Paul encounters in Athens, but is a God who is revealed in the Word and in the Meal shared among the beloved community through out the ages and in all places. This triune God made know through scripture and the prophets, the cross and the Gospel, the font and the table — this

God is the one who welcomes us into this sacred life of mission commanded by Christ in the gospel reading for today. Perhaps it would be a lot easier for everyone if we had a God who was a bit easier to peg down, but luckily that is not the case

Instead we have a triune God who is impossible to explain yet reveals God's self not in the minutia of doctrine, but in community, in bread, in wine and perhaps most wonderfully of all in water.

Because in the waters of baptism we swim in the crazy beautiful promises of the triune God who welcomes us into the swirling dance of God's love poured out for the sake of the world, so maybe the Holy Trinity is not such a dry dusty doctrine after all but is drenching wet with promise.

# Pentecost Sunday Sermon (5/23/21) led by Pastor Sam. Based on Acts 2:1-21

Do you ever look back on your life and wonder, "how exactly did I get here?" "How did I get to this place?"

If you have ever done this exercise, you will realize that it is a long series of events and choices and sometimes odd interruptions and random moments that determine our path through life - to get us to this exact place and to have us be our specific selves. It is rather like that "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" series of children's books. If you have never tried it, I encourage you to do it. You can start at any point in time, really, or you can start as early as you remember and move forward. Or you can start with now and move backward.

I'll give you an example, starting now and going backward. I am here because you all called me, by the grace of God. You were able to call me because I graduated seminary and passed through the candidacy process. If United Lutheran Seminary didn't offer the exact program I took, at that exact time, I likely would not have been able to go through seminary. Before seminary, I was a happy Synodically Authorized Minister, blissfully ignoring a call to ordained ministry. If my friend Melissa hadn't asked me if I could preside at her wedding (which I couldn't at the time, of course, and which in actuality never ended up happening), I wouldn't have started the discernment process.

Continuing to look back a few more years, I went through a struggle in my faith journey when I lost my son, and if an invitation hadn't been extended to me to take part in a Mission in Transition team at that time, I might not have returned to church. I became a Synodically Authorized Minister in the first place because my pastor encouraged me to do so. She encouraged me because she realized I had found a home in the church. If my grandmother hadn't instilled a love of Jesus and a budding faith in me, I wouldn't have found such solace in the church after she died.

Now obviously there are lots of factors and events that I didn't mention. Moments when opportunities seemed to come from nowhere, and they seemed to come at exactly the right time. Moments when challenges or roadblocks came up and I had to switch paths, but then found those paths led back to the original path.

We can do the same thing with the life of the church, and this is a perfect time to do it, since Pentecost is really what we consider the birthday of the church. We are here because we work together with our sister congregations in the parish. No matter when it was founded or how, each congregation in this Lutheran Parish has a history of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our neighbors in need, or just as individuals being in community with each other in worship or in mission. Skipping back 500 years the denomination was formed after Luther boldly challenged the Catholic church to make some changes. Before that the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ was carried across Europe and Asia and Africa from its origins in the Holy Land. And if it weren't for the Holy Spirit, none of that would have been possible.

When we pray, we often focus on God and Jesus, and we sometimes forget that all-important third person of the Holy Trinity. If God is the Creator, and Jesus is the savior, then the Holy Spirit is the mover and shaker. Consider the first lesson from the book of Acts. When Pentecost came, the Apostles were all together and they were inside the house. Now, Pentecost for these Jewish Apostles, would have also been called Shavuot (sha-voo-owt) and it was a celebration of the arrival of the Torah from God. As a pilgrim festival, all Jewish men should have been celebrating it in the Temple in Jerusalem, but they did not. They are in the house all together when the Holy Spirit comes, following the command of Jesus

who told them to stay in Jerusalem until they received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

There they are in the house, spreading no gospel, baptizing no one, and making no new disciples. They are in this holding pattern and then the Holy Spirit makes this entrance! The tongues of fire land, and the Apostles are able to speak other languages. They go outside and those who have gathered from all the various places are able to hear the gospel in their own language.

The timing of this is no mere coincidence. The Holy Spirit comes at a time when all these pilgrims would have been coming to the temple for a high holy day. The Holy Spirit gives the perfect gift of language for the Apostles, so that those pilgrims listening can understand and receive the gospel message.

How much more difficult would evangelizing have been if they had not been given that gift of language?

How far would the Apostles have gotten without this Holy Spirit, this Advocate, sent by the father to guide them and move them into action?

How far would we get if the Holy Spirit didn't move and shake us as well? Because when you go back and look at your life's path, you will see those places where "random events" changed the course, or things just "seemed to line up for you" all of a sudden and that's where the Holy Spirit moved.

The church is here because of the actions of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Because those who heard the Apostles in all those different languages were taught about God's deeds of power. The church will continue to be here in the future as long as we continue to tell others, in ways they can understand, all about God's deeds of power. As long as we tell others about the gift of grace. As long as we tell others about the forgiveness of sins. As long as we tell others about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world.

We know how God has worked in our lives. We have a story to tell. We have the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, moving and shaking us to action, to go and tell that story! Happy Pentecost - may the spirit move you to share the good news! Amen.

# **Tri-County Lutheran Parish**

#### May 30, 2021, Holy Trinity Sunday

#### Based on the ELW, Setting 1, with Communion

**Worship Leader: Pastor Sam Perret** 

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82433424411

Announcements

(\*) notes where you may rise in body or spirit

#### **Gathering Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection**

\* Call to Worship

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### \* Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

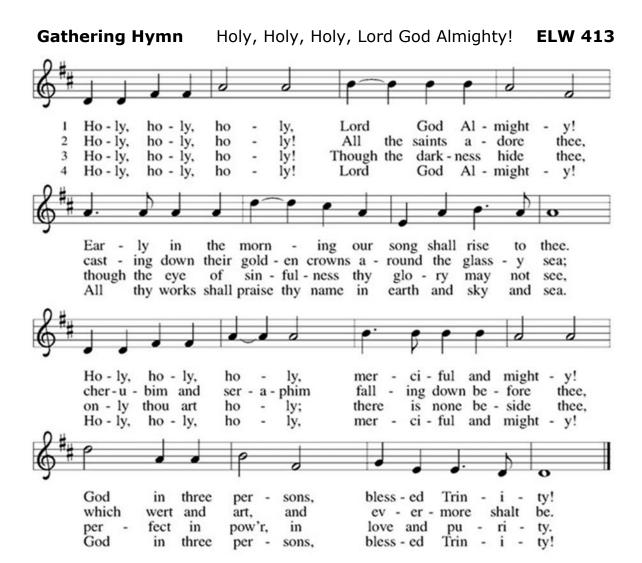
#### C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\oplus$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.** 



#### \* Greeting

L: 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.

# \* Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

#### First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

R: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

# <sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

<sup>11</sup>O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

#### **Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

R: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God.

#### \* Gospel Acclamation

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

\* Gospel: John 3:1-17

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, beginning in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

#### C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⑦Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ®The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹0Jesus

answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

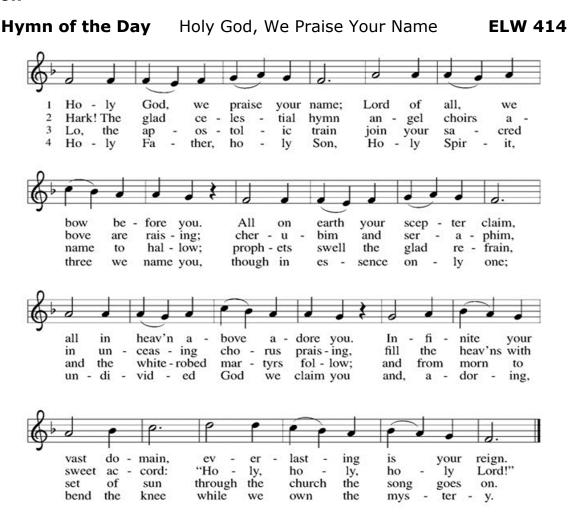
<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

L: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon



**Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection** 

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

#### \* Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### \* Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

#### A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Bless our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. We pray especially for (nations currently experiencing war or turmoil may be named). We pray for military personnel John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially those affected by the recent breakout of Covid-19 at the Barnwell Nursing Facility, Karen S., Sandy & Allan T., Michelle Josephson, Madison McDonald, Fred Dedrick, Myka Dassano, Riccarda Forster, Phyllis Keeler, Carol Rowell, Sandy, the Slater/Dickson/Bachman family, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. We pray especially for victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our parish that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We pray for the family and friends of Cpl. Clifford Johnson and Brian Novak. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.** 

#### \* Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

#### **Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection**

#### Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings given for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

#### \* Offertory

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

# \* Dialogue

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

#### \* Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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

C: Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

#### \* Thanksgiving at the Table

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

L: 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.

# \* Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### \* Distribution of Communion

### \* Post Communion Blessing

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

#### C: Amen

### \* Prayer After Communion

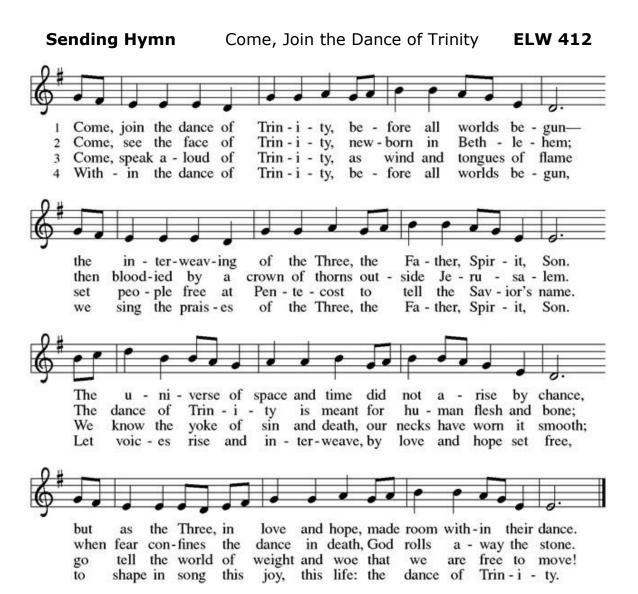
L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.** 

#### \* Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\pm$  give you peace.

#### C: Amen.



#### \* Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

L: And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA!!

#### **PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS**

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of Cpl. Clifford Johnson and Brian Novak.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Those affected by the recent breakout of Covid-19 at the Barnwell Nursing Facility, Karen S., Sandy & Allan T., Michelle Josephson, Madison McDonald, Fred Dedrick, Myka Dassano, Riccarda Forster, Carol Rowell, Sandy, the Slater/Dickson/Bachman family, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Phyllis Keeler, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.