



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 18

August 3, 2025



The Parable of the Rich Fool (1627 AD)
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669 AD)

Rembrandt lived in the Dutch golden age—an age of exceptional wealth acquired through burgeoning global trade. In a critique of his contemporaries, he shows a well-dressed man surrounded by his account books, counting his money late into the night—not knowing that this night will be his last, and that he can't take it with him.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.
Becklin*
SENIOR PASTOR

*Deaconess Deborah
Matern Graf*
DEACON FOR
FORMATION
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron
Lee Wentz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER

Dave Troche
SEXTON



*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

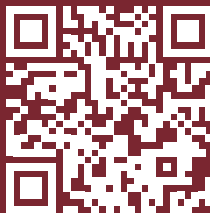


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.



WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

*After the prelude,
please stand in body
or spirit and face the
processional cross.*

*All may make the
sign of the cross, the
sign that is marked
at baptism, as the
presiding minister
begins.*

*Silence is kept for
reflection.*

PRELUDE

Introduction & Rondo

Evan Derr, saxophone

Leroy Ostransky

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.
Amen.

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

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us. We confess
that we have turned from you and
given ourselves into the power
of sin. We are truly sorry and
humbly repent.**

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 † Jesus Christ, your
sins are forgiven.

**In your compassion forgive us our
sins, known and unknown, things
we have done and things we have
failed to do. Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit, so
that we may live and serve you in
newness of life through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God strengthen you with
power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.
Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*We praise God
throughout this
service using
Setting Three from
Evangelical Lutheran
Worship.*

*Continue to follow
the processional cross,
turning as it
passes you.*

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

*Continues on the
next page.*

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*This prayer relates
to the readings
appointed for the day
and asks for God's
help in applying them
to our lives.*

Please be seated.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Benevolent God, you are the source,
the guide, and the goal of our lives.

Teach us to love what is worth
loving, to reject what is offensive

to you, and to treasure what is
precious in your sight, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be

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

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
**you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**

My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

**I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**

One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
**for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.

**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from
generation to generation,
though they had named lands after themselves.

**Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming

on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand
in body or spirit to
welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,]
“Teacher, tell my brother to divide the
family inheritance with me.” But he said to
him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or
arbitrator over you?” And he said to them,
“Take care! Be on your guard against all
kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist
in the abundance of possessions.” Then he
told them a parable: “The land of a rich man
produced abundantly. And he thought to
himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no

place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will
do this: I will pull down my barns and build
larger ones, and there I will store all my grain
and my goods. And I will say to my soul,
Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many
years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God
said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your
life is being demanded of you. And the things
you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So
it is with those who store up treasures for
themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

Please stand
in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

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

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

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

1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;

que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estrillo
pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

Text: Frances R.
Havergal, 1836-1879,
adapt.; Spanish text:
Vincent Mendoza,
1875-1955

Music: TOMA
MI VOLUNTAD,
William Dexheimer
Pharris, b. 1956

Text © 1999
Augsburg Fortress

*Together, we confess
the faith of the
Church.*

APOSTLES' 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.**

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*After the final
petition:*

**Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

*The offering, bread,
and wine are
brought forward
and the altar is set.*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Élégie

Alexander Glasunow

Jessica Manning, viola

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have
made is good, and your love
endures forever. You bring forth
bread from the earth and fruit from
the vine. Nourish us with these

gifts, that we might be for the world
signs of your gracious presence in
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ Vickie Unruh
- ♦ Raymond Donald Diesinger (Donnie)
- ♦ David Unruh
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Carol Batdorf

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Barbara Lykens
- ♦ Jessica Manning
- ♦ Avery, Jennifer & Kevin Mazur
- ♦ Laura, Lindsay, William, & Allison McCanney
- ♦ Tama & David McConnell

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Nancy Souders-Negri & Fred Negri
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ Yadar (friend of Pat McMahon)
- ♦ Cathy Kirckoff (sister of Pat McMahon)
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl (Amy Barrett's sister)
- ♦ Susan Templin (Robin Oberholtzer's cousin)
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Noah Kaufmann (friend of Pr. Hans)
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Danielle Andress (Sonon/Mazur family member)
- ♦ Carlton Palmer (friend of the Norton's)
- ♦ Nancy Nagle Christine Motley Raymond Donald Diesinger (Donnie) David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh) Carol Batdorf

*The presider greets the
assembly and invites
all to give thanks.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

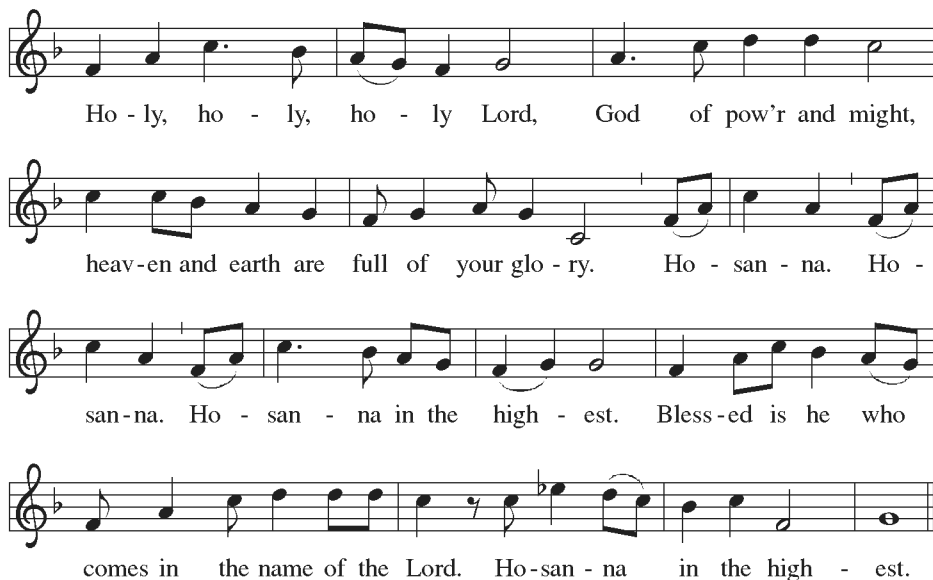
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:

SANCTUS



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*During the Words of
Institution, the bread
and wine are elevated
for the congregation
to revere and adore
Christ's presence in
our midst.*

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.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Andante Religioso

Georg Goltermann

Jessica Manning, viola

Break Now the Bread of Life

ELW 515



1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



Text: Mary A.
Lathbury.
1841-1913. alt.



Music: BREAD OF
LIFE, William F.
Sherwin, 1826-1888

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.



*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
O God, we give you thanks that
you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.
By your Spirit strengthen us to
serve all in need and to give
ourselves away as bread for the
hungry, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.

*As a sign of God's
blessing, you may
make the sign
of the cross.*

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

*Sending Hymn can
be found on page 18.*

SENDING HYMN

Build a Longer Table ACS 1062

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Courante *from Suite No. 1 in C Major* J.S. Bach
Jessica Manning, viola

*Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.*

SENDING HYMN

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin,
b. 1984

Music: NOEL
NOUVELET,
French carol

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Publications. Inc.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER
ASSISTING MINISTER
CANTOR
LECTOR
COMMUNION ASSISTANT
ACOLYTE
GREETER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin
Virginia Biniek
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Susan Pohl
Amy Norton-Ritz
William Norton-Ritz
Allison Kalbach

USHERS
MEDIA TEAM

Anita Dolak, Raye Watson
Grace Norton-Ritz, Abbie Smith,
Katherine Speece

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, David Himes,

Amy Stewart-Himes, Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Jill Hull & Don Bechtel

WORSHIP SPONSORS

These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.

VIRGINIA BINIEK
To the glory of God

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

6:30 PM

TRINITY SERVES AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by Evan Derr & Jessica Manning. Next week's special music will feature David & Amy Stewart-Himes.

A lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church, **Jessica Manning** teaches middle school orchestra in the Reading School District. She plays professionally in the Reading Pops Orchestra and the ChesCo Pops Orchestra.

Evan Derr is a 9th grader at Wilson High School and has been playing the alto saxophone since 4th grade. He loves playing his saxophone and participates in concert band, jazz band, and marching band, and earned second chair in junior county band the past two years.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, July 27: 73

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

TRINITY DAY AT KNOEBELS

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



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DONATE TO LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will support people affected by the catastrophic flooding in Texas and any other disasters that may strike this season.

