

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**May 11, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

# Service of the Word

*In the bulletin: The asterisk (\*) invites you to stand as you are able.*

*Boldface type indicates the congregation's responses. At the sign of the cross (✠), you are invited to make that same sign upon yourself in remembrance of your baptism.*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J. S. Bach arr. Noel Rawsthorne

### \*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.**

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**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.**

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,

our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power

through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn No. 385**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One

who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,

and called to live the baptized life,

let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,

waters that make a people your own,

that restore to wholeness,

and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,

waters that strengthen believers

and give new life to beloved servants of your church;

waters that extend your boundless love

and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,

waters that open the hearts of believers

and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;

waters that set your people on a new path,

rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,

that our every day is shaped by these waters

that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**\*Canticle of Praise**

*Glory Be to God*

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Choral Anthem

*Behold the Shepherd*

Natalie Sleeth

## ✠ WORD ✠

### First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, Peter showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

### *Refrain*

*The psalm for the day is sung or spoken.*



The LORD is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>1</sup> comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever.

## **Second Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."



<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship God day and night within the temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

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.

**\*Gospel:** John 10: 22-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Judeans gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Rachel Núñez

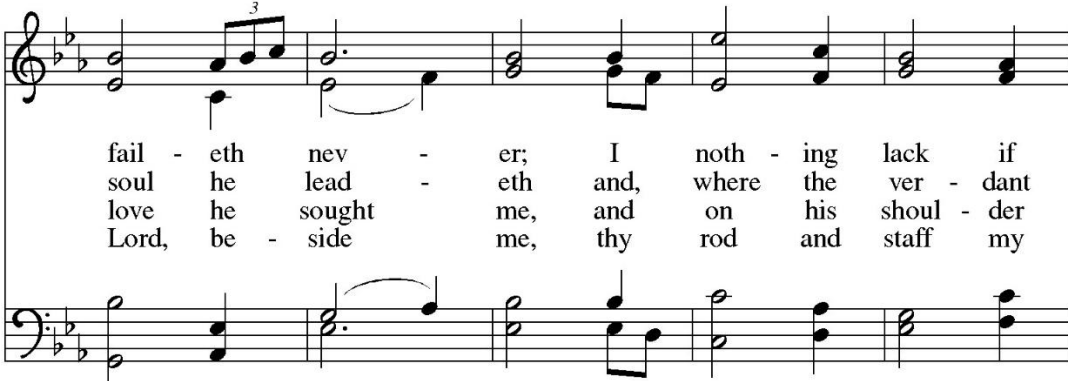
Director of Congregation Care & Connection

# Hymn of the Day No. 502

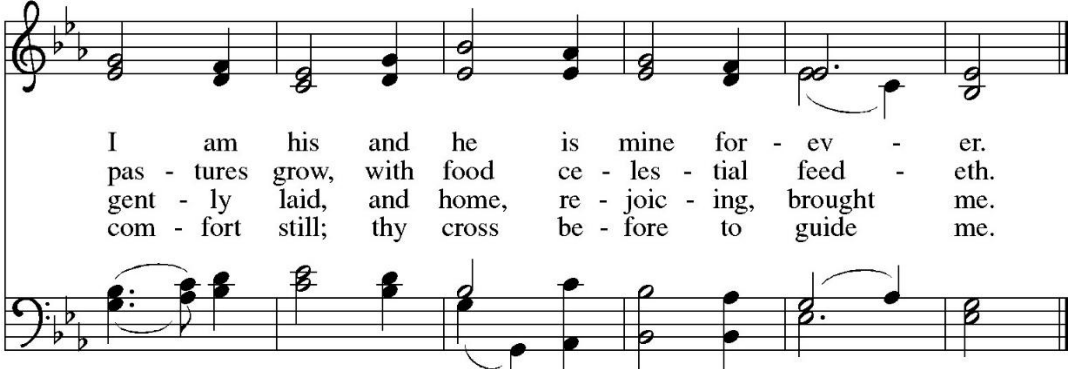
## The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877  
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

## **\*Nicene Creed**

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please be seated.*

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care. We pray for all those on our prayer list, especially, Pat, Sally, and Janeen. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share the peace of Christ with one another and then we are seated.*

### **Offering**

# Offertory Hymn No. 372

## Christ Is Arisen

1 Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on. So let our joy rise  
full and free; Christ our com-fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, then death were still our  
pris - on. Now, with him to life re - stored, we praise  
the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia! So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967  
Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN  
PM

## Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,  
for by your Word you made all things:  
you spoke light into darkness,  
called forth beauty from chaos,  
and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel  
to tell of your wonderful gifts:  
freedom from captivity,  
water on the desert journey,  
a pathway home from exile,  
wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,  
you speak to us and call us to witness:  
forgiveness through the cross,  
life to those entombed by death,  
the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God;  
rekindle your gifts within us:  
renew our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and deepen our love,  
for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God,  
draw near to all who call on you;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**



## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

### **\*Blessing**

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 give you peace.

**Amen.**

\*Sending Hymn No. 537

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of one sharp (F#) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. Each system has a Soprano staff on top and a Bass staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the staves, with two parts indicated by numbers 1 and 2. The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some rests. The final system ends with a double bar line.

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,  
 hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

### **\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

### *Sarabande*

Carl Bohm

*As the last act of worship, you are invited to remain for the Postlude.  
 If you do not wish to stay, please be respectful of those who are listening.*

+ + +

**Your tithes and offerings are important to our ministry.** On-line donation options are available at [holytrinityakron.org/donate](http://holytrinityakron.org/donate) or by contacting Financial Secretary Jim Minisall at [jminisall@holytrinityakron.org](mailto:jminisall@holytrinityakron.org). Or simply mail your offerings to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. Thank you for your generous and regular support.

**The Love Offering** for May will support Loads of Faith, a cooperative laundry ministry partnership Holy Trinity is entering into with Faith Lutheran Church, Fairlawn. Thank you for your generosity!

**Crowd Media Release Notice...** Please be aware that by attending our gathering in person, you consent to your voice, name, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, in photography and video for exploitation in any and all media, whether now known or hereafter devised, for eternity, and you release Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, its successors, assigns and licensees from any liability whatsoever of any nature. By participating, you agree to be subject to the foregoing.

### **Acknowledgements...**

Liturgical texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyrights 2025, 2022, 2019, & 2016. Alt, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003154.

Liturgical texts from: Feasting on the Word Year C, Volume 1, 2012; and Connections Worship Companion Year C, Volume 1, Westminster John Knox Press, 2021. Used by permission.

Choral Anthem: *Behold the Shepherd*, Copyright: 1984 by Hinshaw Music Co., Inc.

# This Week at Holy Trinity

<b>Sunday, 5/11</b>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship - Service of the Word</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Coffee Fellowship</i> - Chapel Lounge
<b>Tuesday, 5/13</b>	6:30 p.m.	<i>Worship &amp; Music Meeting</i> - Church Office
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Derbytown Chorus</i> - Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday, 5/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Morning Devotions</i> – Facebook
<b>Thursday, 5/15</b>	12:00 p.m.	<i>Altar Guild Meeting</i> - Room 202
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir</i> - Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	<i>Chancel Choir</i> - Sanctuary
<b>Friday, 5/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Faith 5 Check-In</i> - Zoom
<b>Saturday, 5/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	<i>Men's Bible Study</i> - Church Office
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Women's Bible Study</i> - Starbucks @ House 330
<b>Sunday, 5/18</b>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship - Pr. Deb Wissner</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Coffee Fellowship</i> - Chapel Lounge
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Trinity Book Club</i> - Scharf Library



**Altar Flowers**

*The flowers on the altar today are in memory of Fritzie Lindquist given by Alexa Sandmann.*

## May 11, 2025 Worship Stewards

Reader: John Stefanik

### *In Our Prayers...*

May 11: Pat Keller (member), Sally Richenbacher (member), Janeen Baumgardner (sister-in-law of Tom Baumgardner).

May 4: Jim Verbridge (husband of Pr. Becki), the family of William Kettler (brother-in-law of Diann Jenkins), Colin Richenbacher (grandson of Sally Richenbacher), and John Shea (husband of Steve White).

April 27: No additional prayer concerns.

April 20: Paul Anacki (member) and Dianne Bird (cousin of Frederica Cohen).

*The names of those making the request will be printed next to the name of the person being prayed for. We kindly ask those making the request to keep our prayer list coordinators updated as to the status of the person they are requesting prayer for. We would be glad to continue praying for individuals (adding them for another four weeks) upon request. If you have updates or additions to the prayer list, please contact Sally Richenbacher, Rachel Núñez, or Pastor Becki Verbridge.*

## ...Ministry Team Leaders...

Ministry Team	Team Leader(s)	Phone
Congregation Care & Connection	Amanda Archbold	(330) 322-6554
Finance	John Guran	(330) 606-3915
Invite-Welcome-Connect	Sandy DeLuca	(330) 703-4870
Meditation Memorial Garden	Sonya Nagle	(330) 410-4160
Outreach & Social Concerns	Gregg Loesch	(330) 733-4081
Personnel	John Stefanik	(330) 666-3579
Property	Kevin Heckel	(330) 283-2866
Worship & Music	Frederica Cohen	(330) 535-3037

## ...Our Staff...

Interim Pastor	Becki Verbridge	bverbridge@holytrinityakron.org
Director of Cong. Care & Connection	Rachel Nunez	rnunez@holytrinityakron.org
Dir. of Music Ministry	David Lines	dlines@holytrinityakron.org
Financial Secretary	Jim Minisall	jminisall@holytrinityakron.org
Communications Coord.	Sandy DeLuca	sdeluca@holytrinityakron.org
Parish Secretary	Annmarie Demko	ademko@holytrinityakron.org
Maintenance Coord.	Bruce Mansour	mansour@holytrinityakron.org
Sexton	Vince Simmons	

## ...Activity Coordinators...

Activity	Coordinator	Phone
Altar Guild	Deborah Ickes	(678) 353-7444
Assisting Ministers	Rachel Núñez	(330) 634-6597
Communion Assistants	Deborah Ickes	(678) 353-7444
Council President	Diane Chambers	(330) 388-5018
Men's Bible Study	Jack Harig Tom Baumgardner	(330) 644-9862 (330) 603-3691
Prayer Chain	Sally Richenbacher	(330) 650-1175
Readers	Nancy Riemenschneider	(330) 239-1086
Stewardship	Jack Harig	(330) 644-9862
Ushers	Gregg Loesch	(330) 733-4081
Women's Bible Study	Rachel Núñez	(330) 634-6597

50 N. Prospect Street Akron, OH 44304  
(330) 376-5154

