Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

April 28, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.



Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Service of Word and Sacrament

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 (\pm), you are invited to make that same sign upon yourself in remembrance of your baptism.

We welcome Pastor Deborah Wissner as our Guest Preacher today. We welcome Deacon Linda Kempke as Interim Director of Choirs.

▼ GATHERING **▼**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy + Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

*Kyrie



*Thanksgiving for Baptism

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Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism,
the water of new life.
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Water is poured into the font.

We thank you, risen Christ,

for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ,

that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

*Gathering Hymn No. 619

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!



- 5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Wondrous vinegrower,

you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace.

Lead us today and every day

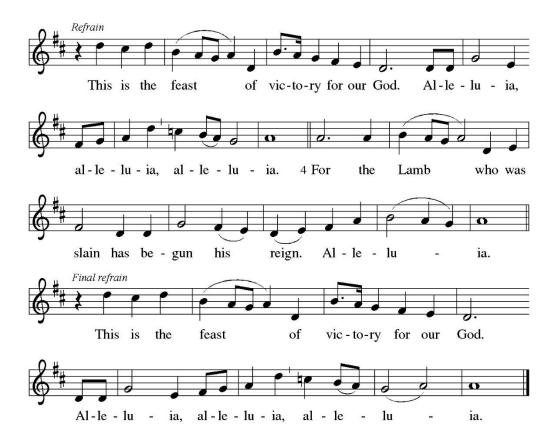
to the font of new beginnings.

Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever.

*Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast





₩ WORD ₩

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

A reading from Acts.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So Philip got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹The eunuch replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25–31

Antiphon sung by choir at beginning and end.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.



Assembly sings verses in bold print.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

 $^{27}\mbox{All}$ the ends of the earth shall remember and turn 1 to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

 $^{28} For \ dominion \ belongs$ 1 to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people ¹ yet unborn, saying to them, "The ¹ LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

A reading from 1 John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent into the world God's only Son so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because we have been given of God's own Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as the Son is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²My Father removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit my Father prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer for Understanding

Come, Holy Spirit,

that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world.

Amen.

Message

Pastor Deborah Wissner

*Hymn of the Day No. 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised



Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © John B. Geyer.

*The 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, 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.

*Prayer of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. We pray for all those on our prayer list, especially...Sandy, Ruth Hervol's family, Sylvia and Dick... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

₩ MEAL **₩**

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace of Christ with one another.

Offertory Anthem

Thou Art the Vine

Andrew Carter

Thou art the vine, we are the branches and are thine; Thou art the vine, And we a part in your design; Alleluia!

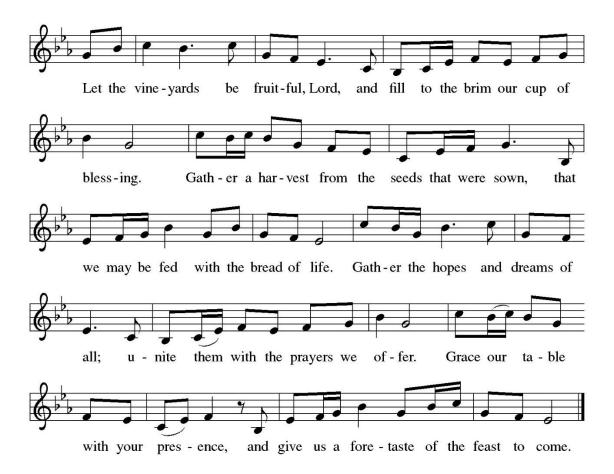
Thou art the root, and we the tendrils and the shoot; Thou art the root, and we the tenders of the fruit; Alleluia!

God give us grace within this place to grow anew in all things true; Alleluia! Our voices raise in endless praise: Alleluia!

Thou art the life of every tree; Come, Holy Lord, and spring me; Alleluia! May nature's voice with us rejoice: Alleluia!

Thou art the vine, we are the branches and are thine; Thou the art the vine, and we a part in your design: Alleluia!

*Offertory Hymn No. 184 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Offertory Prayer

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

*Invitation

Christ comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine to nourish our faith.

The uncontainable presence, grace, love, forgiveness and mercy of Christ come to us in this simple meal that spans all time and space.

All of God's children – regardless of denominational background – are welcome and invited to share it with us.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

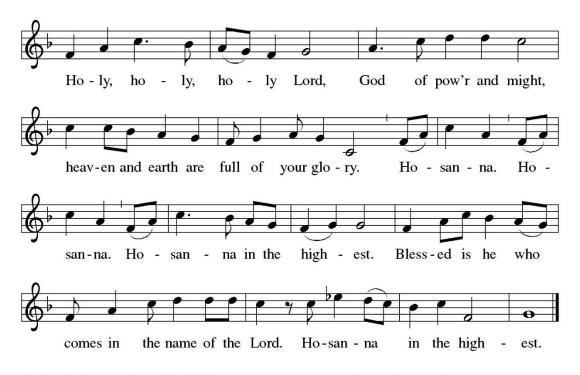
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
that we should at all times and in all places,
give thanks and praise to you, O God,
for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb,
who gave himself to take away our sin,
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter,
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels,
cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn, singing:



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*Prayer at the Table

Blessed are you,

O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting,

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness,

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,

gave thanks; broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,

gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life

Aa we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life:

pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones

of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



*The Lord's Prayer

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

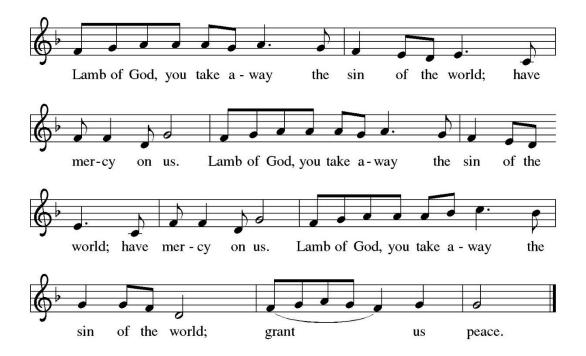
Amen.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Lamb of God



*The Communion

Those celebrating with us from your homes: please share the bread and wine or grape juice with one another using these words: The Body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. An **Amen** or **Thanks be to God** is spoken in response to these gifts.

Those celebrating with us in person: Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and an individual cup of wine or white grape juice from those serving. Please return to your seat by the side aisle.

Hymn No. 366

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done



Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

★ SENDING ★

*Prayer After Communion

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us,
and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this holy meal,
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

*Blessing

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

*Sending Hymn No. 661 I Love to Tell the Story



Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

*Dismissal

Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad. Go in peace.

We go to connect people to Jesus through love and the Word of God.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*Postlude

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Your tithes and offerings are important to our ministry. On-line donation options are available at holytrinityakron.org/donate or by contacting Financial Secretary Jim Minisall at 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 April will support Teacher Appreciation Week and the Leadership 360 Retreat at Robinson CLC. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10, and Holy Trinity wishes to recognize and celebrate the teachers and staff at Robinson CLC. Also, Holy Trinity plans to again co-sponsor the Leadership Retreat for student leaders at Robinson CLC. Student leaders have spent the school year doing various projects and activities to demonstrate leadership within the school. This retreat is their final event where they will hear from community leaders, participate in break-out sessions, and be reminded of the importance of being a student leader. Holy Trinity helps to provide t-shirts, lanyards, goodie bags, and lunch for all the students. Your support of this month's Love Offering will benefit these two endeavors. Thank you for your generous support!

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This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, 4/28	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
	11:00 a.m.	Invite-Welcome-Connect Kick-Off Luncheon -	
		Chapel Lounge & Room 202	
	4:00 p.m.	Arts @ Holy Trinity Concert - Sanctuary	
		~ reception immediately following in Chapel Lg.	
Tuesday, 4/30	6:00 p.m.	Call Committee Meeting - Library	
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Derbytown Chorus</i> - Fellowship Hal	
Thursday, 5/2		Morning Devotions- Facebook Live	
	6:30 p.m.	Trinity Bells Rehearsal - Sanctuary	
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Room 202	
Friday, 5/3	9:00 a.m.	Faith 5 Fridays - Zoom	
Saturday, 5/4	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study - Church Office	
	10:00 a.m.	Isaiah 43 Event- at Zion Lutheran, Canton, OH	
Sunday, 5/5	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
-	10:45 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship - Chapel Lounge	

In Our Prayers...

<u>April 28:</u> Sandy Plummer (member), Family of Ruth Hervol (member), Sylvia Hackbarth (member), Dick Willett (member).

<u>April 21:</u> Penny Porter (cousin of Deb Ickes), Karen Isaiah (friend of Frederica Cohen), Alicia Boyd (friend of LJ Kimble), and David Probert (brother of Danny Probert).

<u>April 14:</u> The family of Michael Thrall (Gene Thrall's son) and Judy Hendrick (grandmother of Hannah Miller).

<u>April 7:</u> LaVerne Mansour (member), Pat Keller (member), Iva Johnson (member), and John Shea (husband of Steve White).

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
Care & Fellowship	Rachel Núñez	(330) 634-6597
Faith Formation	Amanda Archbold	(330) 322-6554
Finance	Lesli Eisenhart	(330) 696-7460
Invite-Welcome-Connect	Sandy DeLuca	(330) 703-4870
Outreach & Social Concerns	Gregg Loesch	(330) 733-4081
Personnel	John Stefanik	(330) 666-3579
Property	Kevin Heckel	(330) 283-2866
Worship	Frederica Cohen	(330) 535-3037

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Interim Director of Choirs	Linda Kempke	lkempke@gmail.com
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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
Communion Assistants	Deborah Ickes &	678-353-7444
Communion Assistants	Marcy Nagy	330-858-4995
Council President	John Guran	330-606-3915
Meditation Memorial Garden	Nan Riemenschneider	330-239-1086
Men's Bible Study	Jack Harig	(330) 644-9862
Well's bible Study	Tom Baumgardner	(330) 603-3691
Parish Nurse Ministry	Sally Richenbacher	330-650-1175
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
Warriors Journey Home	Jack Harig	330-644-9862
Women's Bible Study	Rachel Nunez	330-634-6597

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

