

You're Welcome...



Christmas 1: December 28, 2025



Holy Trinity Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Luscombe

Organist and Bell Choir Director: Debbie Fortna

Choir Director: Deb Olson

Administrative Assistant: Sue Johns

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY E.L.C.A.

167 EAST MAIN STREET EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE 717.733.4134 Web: www.holytrinityephrata.org

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM

†††

GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude: *Away in a Manger*, arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

(Please stand and face the baptismal font.)

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P. 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

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

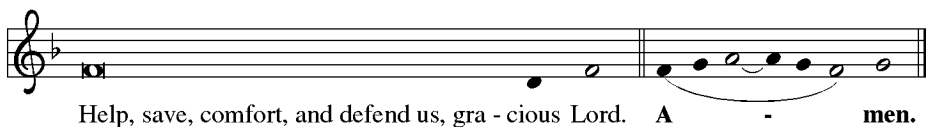
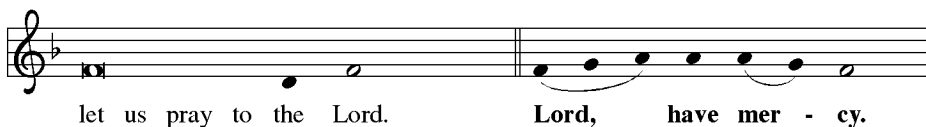
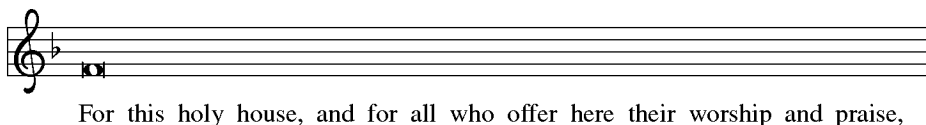
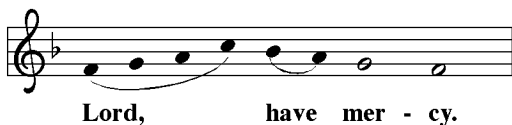
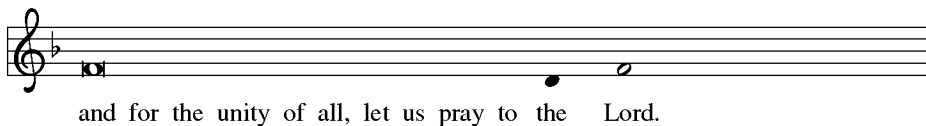
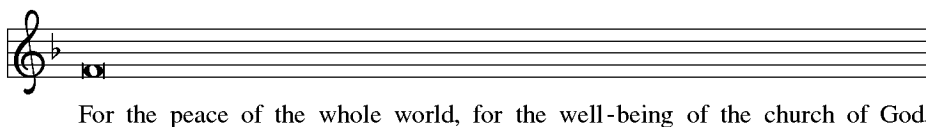
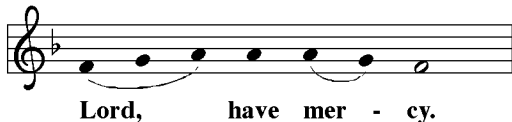
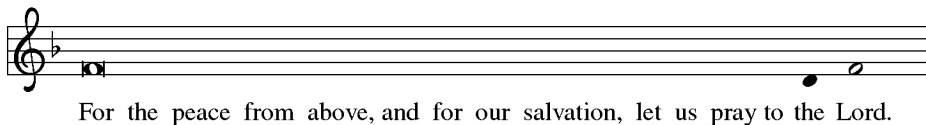
The Processional Hymn: #298 THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS

Apostolic Greeting

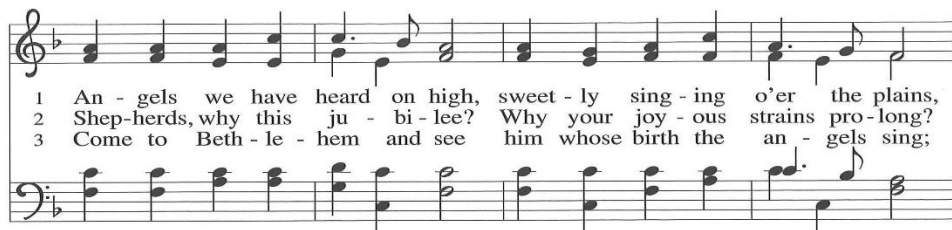
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

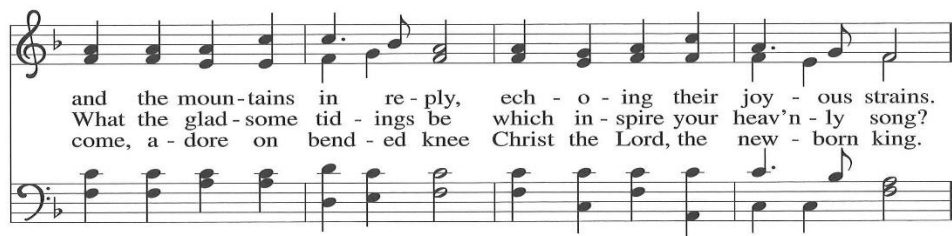
Kyrie



Hymn of Praise: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



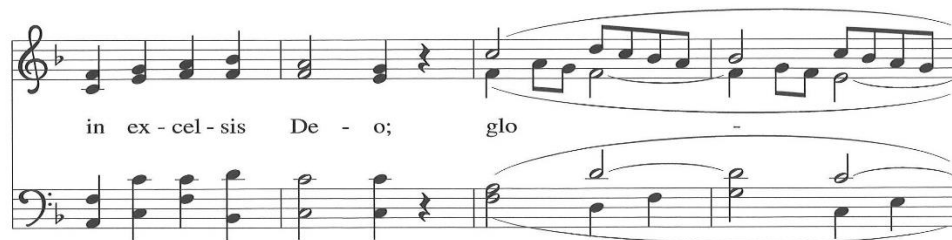
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



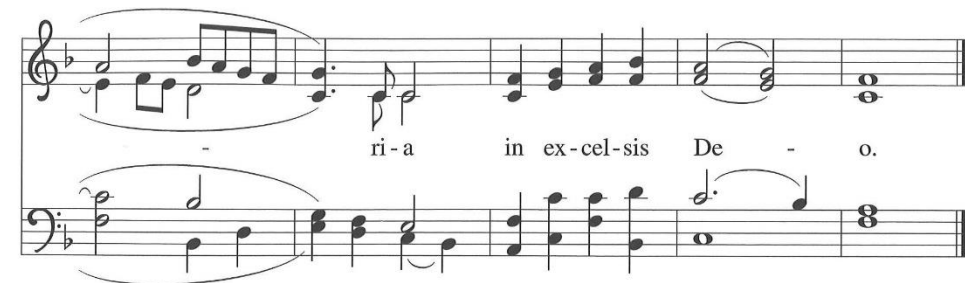
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
 Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Prayer of the Day

P. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers.

C. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Be Seated)

WORD

The First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 (sung responsively with cantor)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;**

sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**

and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**

giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,**

tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

⁹mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,

princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens, old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies

and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

(stand)

The Gospel Acclamation



Matthew 2:13-23

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C. Glory to you, O Lord, (spoken)

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away

to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

L. The Gospel of the Lord

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

The Sermon: Rev. Karen Minnich-Sadler

[Silence for reflection follows the sermon.]

(stand)

The Hymn of the Day: #296 WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

The Nicene Creed

P. Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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

The Prayers

A. Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

(please kneel or sit)

(after each petition, please respond)

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

P. With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C. Amen

P. The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C. And also with you!

The Offertory: *Still, Still, Still*, arr. Paul Manz

(stand)

Offertory Carol: # 294 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (stanza 3 only)

The Offertory Prayer

P. God of heaven and earth,

C. from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen

The Preface Dialogue: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

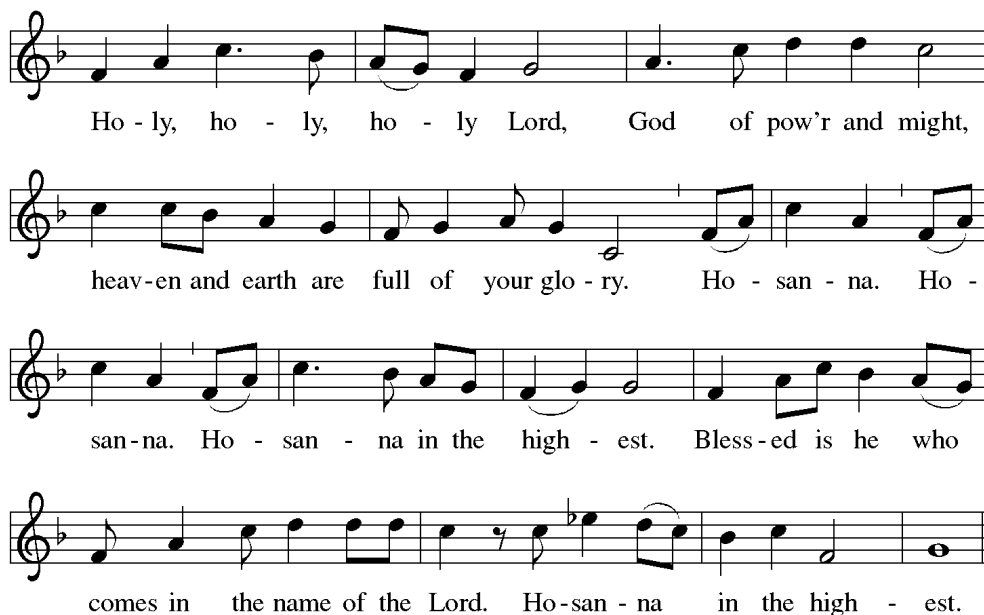
P. Lift up your hearts. **C. We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface for Christmas

P. "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....join their unending hymn."

The 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

P. Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.....Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C. Amen**

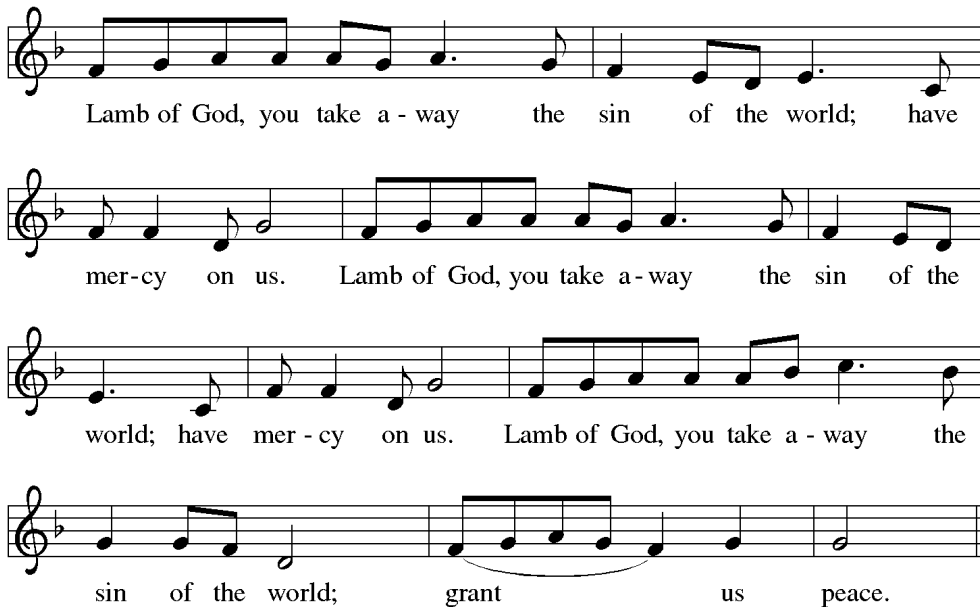
The Lord's Prayer

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

The Fraction

P. A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Agnes Dei – LAMB OF GOD



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.

[Please be seated at the conclusion of this hymn.]

The Distribution

(All are invited to come to the table, for either the bread, wine and grape juice or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation of children at the table. We use a cup to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful.

- #290 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
- #286 YOUR LITTLE ONES DEAR LORD
- #287 LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD
- #292 LOVE HAS COME

(stand)

The Blessing of Communicants

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

C. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer

P. Merciful God,

C. we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen

The Benediction

P. The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C. Amen

The Recessional Hymn: #288 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

The Dismissal

A. Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: *Good Christian Men Rejoice*, arr. Paul Manz

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

ASSISTING MINISTERS

9:00 John Fuehrer

LECTOR

9:00 John Fuehrer

COUNCIL TEAM

9:00 Norm Wangman, Ed Quirke

ACOLYTES

9:00 Patrice Mull, Judy Williams,
Lillian Doughty, Clarice Doughty

AV

Bob Eberly

Launder Linens: Patricia Fassnacht

Deliver Flowers: Judy Wechter

ALTAR GUILD

9:00 Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

USHERS

9:00 Candy Snyder, Mark Mull,
Whip Zimmerman, Theresa Mull

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:

✠ In honor of our son, Jared Michael's 38th birthday on December 26th, by his parents Mike & Elaine Sernoffsky.

Prayers of the People

The family of Joy Althouse
Barry Kreider – Ephrata Hospital
The family of Michael Williams
Kathrin Baltz – 10 Windolph Ct. Lititz, PA 17543
Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522
Stephanie Williams, daughter of Michael Williams
David Vrooman, brother-in-law of Michael Williams
Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert’s mom
Adam D’Andre – friend of Lori Spitzer’s parents
Jake Hinkle – 4 No. Line Rd, Stevens, PA 17578
Rick Woerner – 280 Boomerang Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522
All persons affected by war and violence
Victims of natural disasters
Shut-ins of the Parish
President Trump and leaders of this nation, leaders and policy makers of every nation
All outreach ministries serving those in need



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please get in touch with the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish a name to be included on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please get in touch with the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstances, making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna
Emmalyn Mulvenna
Janet Brunner
Andrew Campbell
Michael Spennath
Tony Perella
Mike & Claudia Belden
Henry Perella
Peyton Harter

COL. Eric Bowers
Dan Wierbiki
Jacob Hinkle Jr.
Karen Woerner
Kim Harnish
Rick Gerhard
Wyatt Geisthweit
Les Doremus
Scott Hambleton

Jim Weik
Heidi White
Johnny White
Jacob Connelly
Sue & Denis Rowe
Crystal Perry
Hank & Pat Kajetzke
Terry Gehman
Jill Puleo

Brent Stever
Alan & family
Dori Hoch
Cindy Stahl
Martha Becker
Chris and Karen Payonk
Alysha Fassnacht
Melissa Hughes

John Surdich
Ava Berkosky
Amy Pasili
Theresa Cimino
Eric Mortorell
Duke & Bonnie Leeper
Sheldon Garman
Devin Collins

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityephrata.org), a tab on the menu bar called “Online Giving” will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.

