

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion

July 12, 2026

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

+HYMN "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#370 (requested by Ellen Crane)

1 Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind
 is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other

seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

SERMON "Fertile Ground"

Weekly Topic: "Finding Spiritual Strength"

HYMN OF THE DAY "Holy Ground" (requested by Kathy Sacchiero)

We are standing on holy ground
And I know that there
Are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now
We are standing in His presence
On holy ground

We are standing on holy ground
And I know that there
Are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now
We are standing in His presence
On holy ground

+THE 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 Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *“In the night in which he was betrayed...”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION “Gentle Shepherd” **Back Cover**
(requested by Judy Randazzo)

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation” #369
(requested by Lynne Stagg & Wendy Schutz)

- 1 The church's one foundation
 is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
 she is his new creation
 by water and the word.
 From heav'n he came and sought her
 to be his holy bride;
 with his own blood he bought her,
 and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
 yet one o'er all the earth,
 her charter of salvation
 one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 one holy name she blesses,
 partakes one holy food,
 and to one hope she presses,
 with ev'ry grace endued.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
 and tumult of her war,
 she waits the consummation
 of peace forevermore;
 till with the vision glorious
 her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious
 shall be the church at rest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

- P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
"Making a Difference"
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Staff

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Jack DiMatteo
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Melissa Sturtevant
Director of Music	Mrs. Kathy Sacchiero
Assistant Director of Music	Ms. Jennifer Jessen

Serving Today (7/12)

Lector: *Carol DeMeo* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen, Artie Crane*
Communion Assistant: *Paula Zeliff-Murphy*
Offering/Usher: *Joyce Maul &*
Counters: *Raena Scherwa & Carol Schutz*
Altar Guild: *Ellen Crane*

Serving Next Week (7/19)

Lector: *Carol Schutz* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen, Artie Crane*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove*
Offering/Usher: *Sebastian & Christian Randazzo*
Counters: *Justin Randazzo & Joan Cosgrove*
Altar Guild: *Ellen Crane*

Weekly Announcements (7/12)

Flowers are in loving memory of Sam Hon, "A Life Well Lived" given by the Hon family.

We are preparing for "Christmas in July" (July 26), a worship service filled with Christmas lessons and carols. In addition:

WELCA (Our women's group) will offer a "Christmas in July" sale on July 26. All proceeds from this sale will be donated to the Winter Relief Fund.

Wall of Envelopes! We are so close to reaching our goal! Will you help? Select an envelope or two and fill them with the amount on the envelope. Place it in the offering plate. All money raised will go towards the Winter Relief Fund.

Why is the baptismal font always "front and center"? Many congregations place the font there to remind everyone that baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the family of the church, and the font is situated in close proximity to the pulpit and altar to emphasize the primacy of Word and Sacrament in every worship experience. Some people dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross on their forehead as a remembrance of the baptismal covenant with God.

Take Jesus on Vacation with you! "Flat Jesus" paper cut-outs are available at the usher's table. Color the cut-out, and take a picture with you and the cut-out wherever you go on vacation. Then email the picture to: jackspartan79@gmail.com. You'll find your pics posted on future monitor screens during our weekly Sunday announcements!

Events at our sister congregation, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, 246 Woodport Road, Sparta...

- **Saturday, August 1, 7 - 10 PM** : A Spiritual Evening of Instrumental Music: The Lumos Ministry. Book your tickets at <http://www.lumos-experiences.com/>

- **Friday, August 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM:** Outdoor Christian Summer Concert featuring Bill McGowan. Free will offering will be taken. Bring a lawn chair.

- **Thursday, August 27, 1-7 pm** Blood Drive. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information on any of these events, contact the congregation at 973-729-7010 or go to the website at: www.sothnj.org

Vacation Bible School is Coming! Our sister congregation, Shepherd of the Hills, Sparta, is offering VBS the week of July 20-24. Each session lasts from 9:00 am to noon. For information and registration materials, please go to <https://www.sothnj.org/vbs> or call Nancy at 973-729-7010.

Did you know? Each week, Pastor's weekly days off are Fridays and Saturdays. Of course, exceptions are made for urgent matters, emergencies, weddings, and funerals

Ever wonder where we obtain the "wording" for our worship liturgies? For several years, we have had a subscription to receive materials from "Sundays and Seasons", an organization fully endorsed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This group provides our varying confession litanies, prayers, responsive readings, texts, hymn suggestions, and more.

Did you know that RISE UP is a not-for-profit interfaith corporation to serve the needs of the local impoverished? "RISE UP" is an acronym: Rockaway Interfaith Services to Empower the Unemployed and Powerless. To find out how you can support RISE UP, go to www.riseupnj.org or grab a flyer from the table in our glass-enclosed vestibule. Thank you for your support.

Want More insight on today's topic? Check out past sermons on this topic on our YouTube channel under the playlist titled "Finding Spiritual Strength"

Open your phone's camera app

Point it at the QR code below

Then click on the pop-up banner that appears on your screen



Voting Members of Council **2026 COUNCIL OFFICERS & MEMBERS**

President	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 Joycemaul1705@gmail.com
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Youth Representative	Kacey Osterhout

Non-Voting Team Representatives

RISE UP Liaison	Ellen Crane, 973-461-3002
WELCA (Women's Group President)	Ruth Ann Greiner, 973-366-3922 ragreiner@verizon.net