

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 16, 2024**

*The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**\*GOD SIGHTINGS**

## Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

*Tú, Jesús, nuestra esperanza*

*Español:* 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y  
 2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -  
*English:* 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to  
 2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the



li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,  
 nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra  
 set your peo - ple free. From op -  
 road of ser - vant - hood; give new



na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -  
 que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -  
 pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -  
 life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to



der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -  
 tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu  
 ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who  
 good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your



ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros  
 rei - no de a - le - gría. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran  
 suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the  
 joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man



pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.  
 mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.  
 rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.  
 sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

## **\*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.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13**

*Saul, anointed by the prophet Samuel as the first king of Israel, displeases the Lord. The Lord therefore sends Samuel to Bethlehem, where he anoints David, the youngest of the sons of Jesse, to succeed Saul as king.*

A reading from 1 Samuel:

<sup>34</sup>Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

<sup>16:1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup>He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him

in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

A Word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 20**

<sup>1</sup>May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble,  
the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

<sup>2</sup>**send you help from the sanctuary  
and strengthen you out of Zion;**

<sup>3</sup>may the LORD remember all your offerings  
and accept your burnt sacrifice;

<sup>4</sup>**grant you your heart's desire  
and prosper all your plans.**

<sup>5</sup>We will shout for joy at your victory and unfurl our banners in the name of our God;  
may the LORD grant all your requests.

<sup>6</sup>**Now I know that the LORD gives victory to the anointed one;  
God will answer out of the holy heaven, gaining victory with a strong right hand.**

<sup>7</sup>Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we rely on the name of the LORD our God.

<sup>8</sup>**They collapse and fall down,  
but we will arise and stand upright.**

<sup>9</sup>O LORD, give victory to the king  
and answer us when we call.

### **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

A reading from 2 Corinthians:

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

A Word for God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

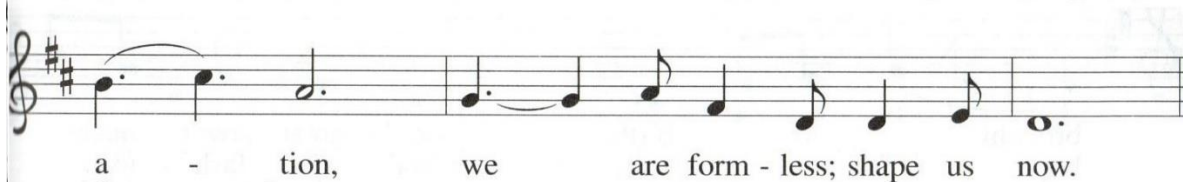
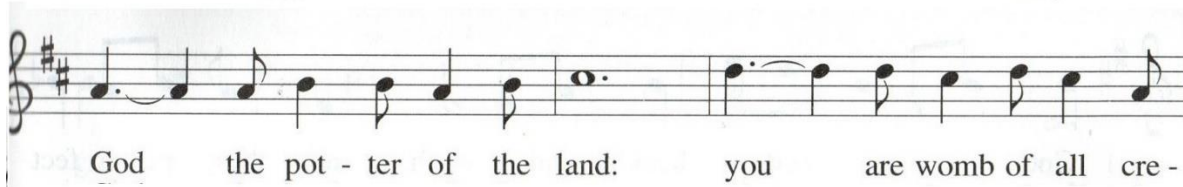
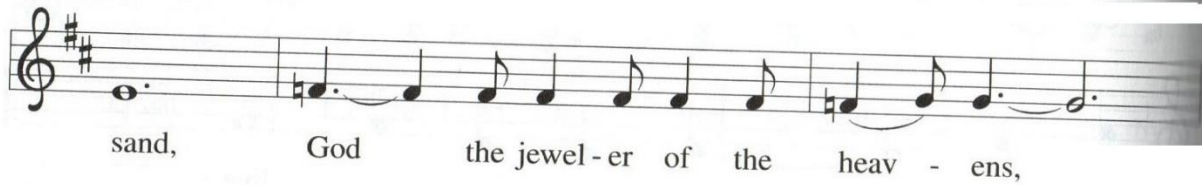
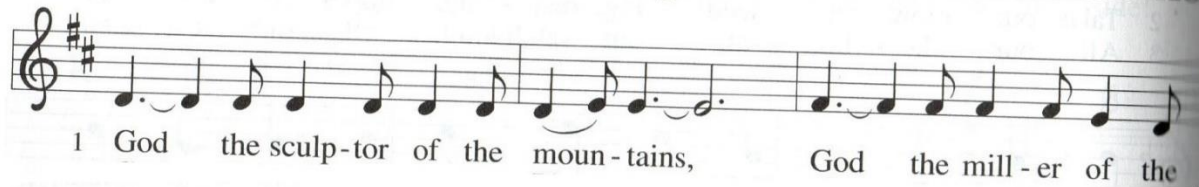
**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*v. 1*

**ELW 736**

**736**

## God the Sculptor of the Mountains



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Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

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**\*GOSPEL – Mark 4:26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

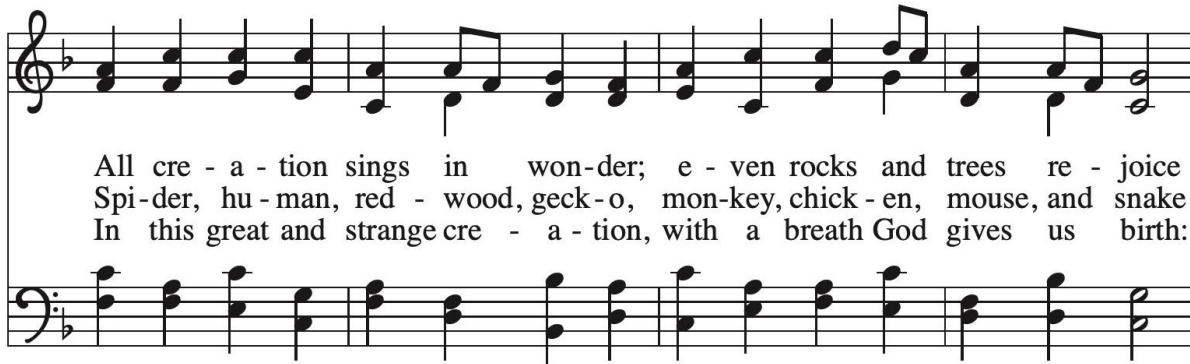
# Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffé.  
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979  
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version  
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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

**\*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.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**



## For the Wholeness of the Earth



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this  
 2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our  
 3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the  
 lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the  
 God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?  
 whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin - ning in you?  
 whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: WHOLENESS OF THE EARTH, Bret Hesla

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In God our longing can find rest, for we can bring all our prayers and hopes. Each prayer will end: "Merciful God." You are invited to respond: **receive our prayer.***

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

God, we thank you that you have upheld us and brought us to the Savior. Help us remember this truth through your Holy Spirit. Your Spirit alone can overcome sinful nature so that we never forget to be in heaven with our Savior now and in Eternity. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God, give us grace to dedicate our freedom that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God, when our fathers are tired, overwhelmed or feeling weak give them the strength to continue loving and working, and give them the courage to stand tall. Let us also praise those fathers who have passed but live in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Today we pray especially for Leer Lutheran Church in Posen. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER REFRAIN**

**v. 3 after**

**ACS 1067**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

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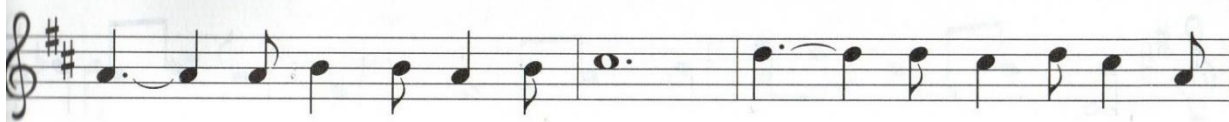
## God the Sculptor of the Mountains



3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant - er of the



wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,



God the source of all we eat: you are host at ev - 'ry



ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Jesus, Bread of life,**

**you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.**

**Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.**

**Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

## \* 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks 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:

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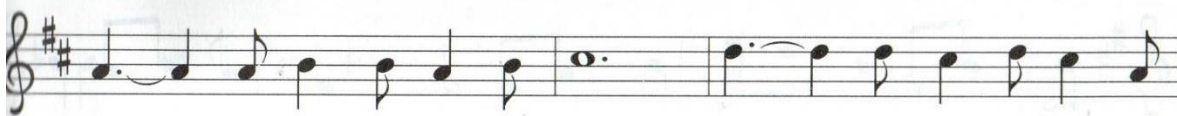
### God the Sculptor of the Mountains



4 God the un - ex-pect-ed in - fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined



youth, God the ta - ble-turn - ing proph - et,



God the re - sur-rect - ed truth: you are pres - ent ev - 'ry



mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.

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Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. When the world was a formless void, you breathed over creation and formed order and beauty. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them by a pillar of fire to freedom. Through the words of the prophets, you spoke justice and liberation.

You walked among us as Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he died so that death may be overcome. He rose again, in accordance with the scriptures, and he sent to us another Advocate, the Holy Spirit in fire and wind, to fill us with your power.

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.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit from our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### **\*COMMUNION**

*This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.*

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Jesus, Bread of life,**

**we have received from your table**

**more than we could ever ask.**

**As you have nourished us in this meal,**

**now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.**

**In your name we pray. Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The blessing of God,

who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



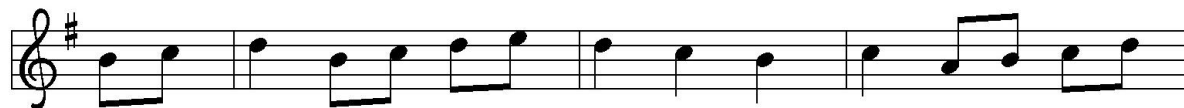
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2055 E. Columbia Avenue**

**Battle Creek, MI 49014**

**269-963-5356**

**Welcome!** We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

***Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:***

Presider

Rev. David Sprang

Assisting Minister

Gloria Kolodizieizyck

Musician/Choir Director

Ronald Cung

Sound Board

Ellis Cutler

Prayers

Linda Hermann

Contact info:

Church Office: [office@tlcbattlecreek.org](mailto:office@tlcbattlecreek.org)

Office: 269-963-5356

While Pastor Kjersten is away, Pastor Ed Ruble from St. Peter Lutheran Church is available for pastoral care. You can reach Pastor Ed at 269-569-4721.



**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY**  
**June 16-23, 2024**

**TODAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour

**MONDAY:**

**TUESDAY:** 2-4pm Freeze Pop Tuesday

**WEDNESDAY:**

**THURSDAY:** 11:30am Roadrunners

**FRIDAY:**

**SATURDAY:**

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing the church office. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.*

June 9: Thanksgiving for the wedding of Melanie and Alex (Kolodizieizyck's granddaughter), David (Melanie's uncle), Ronnie's family in the death of his father-in-law, Tresa's family in rehoming their dog, Linda's sister, Pastor Kjersten and Travis in their time off, Debbie (JoAnn's friend).

June 2: Family of Bob Edwards, family of Mary VanderWall, Terry (Linda's neighbor), healing for Art, Jan and Linda, Pam, Debbie, Ronnie's father-in-law.

May 26: Art, safe travels for the Eversons' family, Linda's sister and brother, Kathy's son.

**SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER**

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Leer Lutheran Church in Posen.

Our prayer partner for next week is Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Rose City, and their pastor, Rev. John Soyster. Learn more about their ministry at:  
<https://www.princeofpeacecity.com/>.