

# Service of Holy Communion

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### May 18, 2025



#### INTRODUCTION

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

#### GATHERING

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P. 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.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

ELW 424

## **THE GREETING**

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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**

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Congregation is seated*

## WORD

### **FIRST READING:** Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

A. Word of God, word of life.    **C. Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM:** Psalm 148 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> **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!**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;  
<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."  
<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

A. Word of God, word of life.    **C. Thanks be to God.**

**A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL**

*Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.*

*Congregation stands*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL:** John 13:31-35

P. The holy gospel according to John.     **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.     **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated*

**SERMON**

*Congregation stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Now the Green Blade Rises

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. 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.*

A. Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places in our local communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness; we pray especially for....those we name aloud....and those we hold in our hearts....Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P. 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.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us share with each other a sign of God's peace

*Congregation is seated*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

The Love of Christ

*Robert Sterling & Regi Stone*

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

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*Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.*

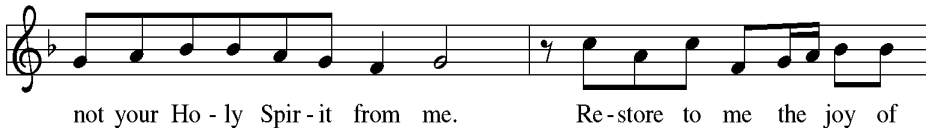
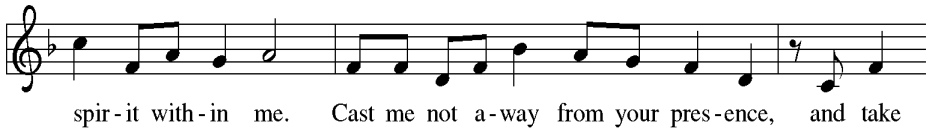
***Thank you for your generous gifts!***

Scan to give  
via Tithely ↓



*Congregation stands*

### OFFERTORY SONG



### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... 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. **Amen.**



## DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

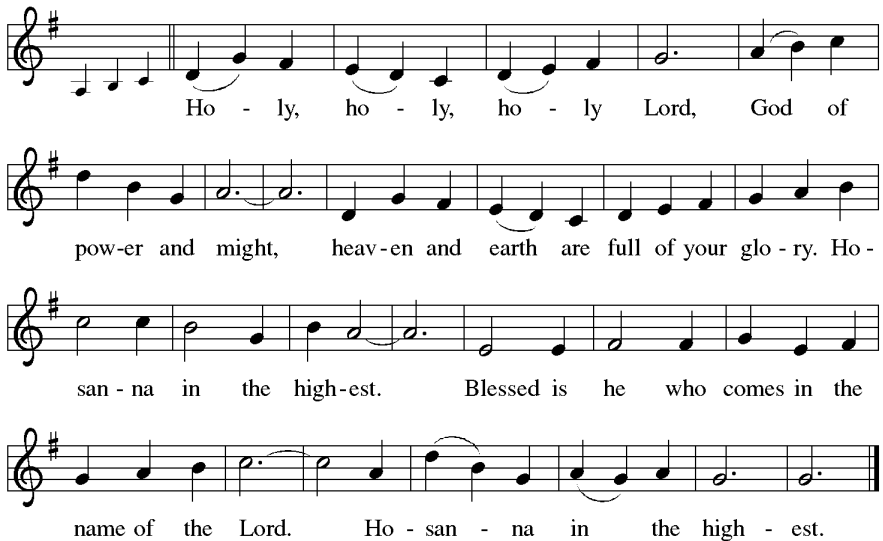
P. Lift up your hearts.

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.**

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



*Congregation kneels or sits*

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

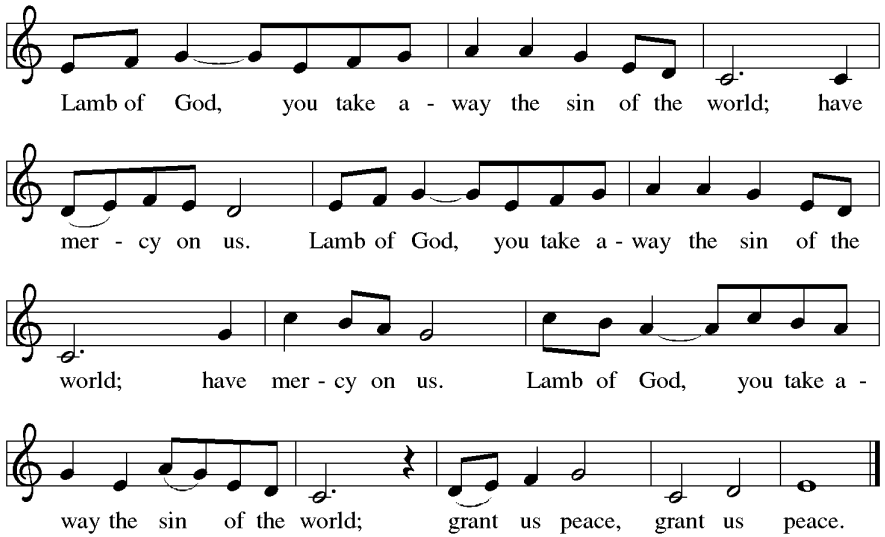
*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children may come forward for a blessing.*

*Gluten free wafers and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.*

P. Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

## COMMUNION SONG

*sing 2 times through*



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, grant us peace.

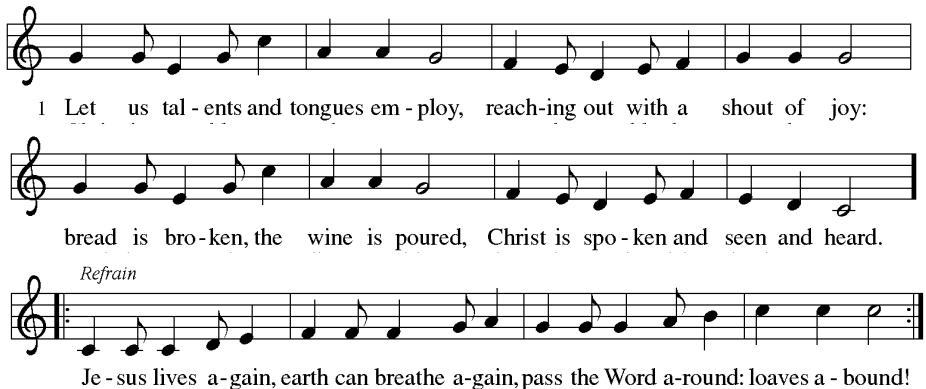
## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*After all have received Communion the congregation stands.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
*Refrain*  
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

P. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

P. The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595

## **DISMISSAL**

A. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

A. Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# Announcements for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!*

*If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

*Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.*

*Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.*

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## **Volunteers for today's Worship**

<b>Lay Asst.</b>	<i>Jump in before worship!!</i>
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Dawn McCormick
<b>Ushers</b>	<i>Jump in before worship!!</i>
<b>Tech</b>	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
<b>Tellers</b>	Dawn McCormick

## **Volunteers for next Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*all lay leader positions are open\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* Join us for refreshments after worship\*\*\*\*\***

## **THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR**

**Sunday, May 18:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am (*last day*)

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice, following worship

**Monday, May 19:** Council Meeting, 6:30-8:30pm

**Wednesday, May 21:** Adult Ed, Zoom, 10-11am

**Saturday, May 24:** Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Community Yard Sale, 9am-2pm (rain-date 6/7)

**Sunday, May 25:** Outside Worship Service w/Communion begins, 9:30am

Choir Practice, following worship

**Community Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Community Yard Sale from 9am-2pm (rain-date 6/7). Spots are \$30, keep what you sell, you bring a table, chairs, tent. **First come, first serve with table and chairs for \$50—limited number available.** The sign-up sheet is in the narthex to reserve your spot. Contact Diane Rossi for more info.

**Vernon Day-Church Booth:** Vernon Day is Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am-4pm with set up and tear down before and after. We will be having a church table! **If you are available to help volunteer at the table, please contact Emilie Dupont.**

**Outside Worship:** Begins next Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and continues through Labor Day weekend. **Our new outdoor worship location is in the front of the church** on the patio space just off the kitchen. **The pews will be on the cement making** walking easier for everyone. We will have our picnic tables to the side on the grass as well. We worship outside weekly at 9:30 am, weather permitting. Please dress appropriately for the temperature. **If you are available to help** set up the equipment (electric piano, amplifier, speakers, canopy tents, etc.) please talk to Diane Rossi.

**Thank you:** We appreciate the help of **everyone who attended church clean-up day yesterday!** We got a lot done and **we are thankful for your time and talent** to support the church.

**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is low on canned stew, pasta sauce, canned corn, boxed potatoes, instant pudding & jello, shampoo, deodorant, body wash, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!





(973) 827-5251 office

[www.hc-lutheranchurch.org](http://www.hc-lutheranchurch.org)

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: [pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

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Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: [office@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Wynn White: [accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*As Children of God,  
we are called to share and serve  
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor** Rev. Peggy Ludlow

**President** Nancy Knecht

**Vice President** Frank Urbaniak

**Treasurer** Claire Speroni

**Recording Secretary** Dawn McCormick

**Financial Secretary** John Heeren

**Outreach Coordinator** Francine Vince

**Nurture Coordinator** Fred Schoenagel

**Administration Coordinator** Diane Rossi

**Youth Representative** Kevin Drache

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

