

Service of Holy Communion

Reformation Sunday

October 26th, 2025



INTRODUCTION

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

P. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Congregation kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Congregation stands

THE 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

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.

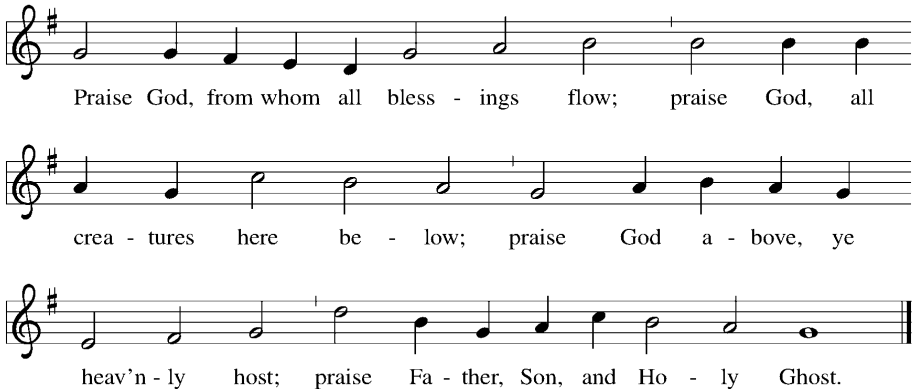
C. Lord, have mercy.

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.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46 (*read responsively*)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with
fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

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

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Restored by God

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

A. Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill. We pray especially for...those we now say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts... Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P. We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

Humble Yourselves Before the Lord

Nan Allen & Mark Allen

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give
via Venmo ↓



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

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time*)



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra-zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra-zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation kneels or sits

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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

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 are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free 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. Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION SONG

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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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

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age

ELW 729

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements for October 26th, 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

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Lay Asst.    | Debbie Lennon    |
| Ushers       | Volunteer needed |
| Comm. Asst.  | Volunteer needed |
| Tech         | Fred Schoenagel  |
| Tellers      | Volunteer needed |
| Refreshments | Volunteer needed |

## Volunteers for Next Sunday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Lay Asst.    | Volunteer needed |
| Ushers       | Volunteer needed |
| Comm. Asst.  | Volunteer needed |
| Tech         | John Heeren      |
| Tellers      | Volunteer needed |
| Refreshments | Volunteer needed |

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

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

- Sunday, Oct.26:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am  
Worship w/Communion, Generosity & Reformation Sunday, 9:30am  
Choir Practice following worship  
Apple Picking, Loaves & Fishes, Ochs Farm, 4pm
- Monday, Oct. 27:** Council Meeting, 6:30-8:30pm
- Wednesday, Oct 29:** Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am  
Mindfulness Walk, Maple Grange, 4pm  
Cluster-wide Study, Zoom, 7-8pm
- Saturday, Nov 1:** Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am  
Wine & Cheese Fundraiser, 3-5pm
- Sunday, Nov 2:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am  
Worship w/Communion, All Saints Day, 9:30am  
Choir Practice following worship

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TODAY is Generosity Sunday, each friend and member of HCLC will be invited to submit an intent card as we pray over our intentions for the coming year. As you hear people provide their Generosity Impact Moments during worship we ask you to do two things:

First, to prayerfully discern either **making your first intent card** to HCLC, or if you've done so in the past, to **increase your giving** in a way that is faithful for your family.

Second, consider **making your gifts using Tithely or Venmo** to help the church with sustained giving. We can help you set this up—just let the church office know!

With your support you are helping to spread God's love by Building a Culture of Generosity!

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**Apple Picking:** The Loaves & Fishes are going apple picking **TODAY Sunday, October 26th at 4pm.** We will **meet at Ochs Farm in Warwick** to pick apples! They even have a little petting zoo. Let Pastor Peggy know if you plan to attend.

**Wine & Cheese Fundraiser:** Do you enjoy cheese? How about wine? Chocolate? All the above! Come enjoy **'Cheeses for Jesus! Wine Not?'** for a fun pre-dinner tasting on **Saturday, November 1st from 3-5pm.** Wine flights will be paired with cheeses and chocolates. Suggested donation of \$20 per person. We encourage **signing up in advance**, so we have enough wine for everyone! Designated drivers to and from the event are available for \$15 round trip. Registration is required in advance to take advantage of this service.

**All Saints Sunday:** On Sunday, November 2nd, we will remember all the Saints who have died and honor their memory during worship. **If you have a loved one who has died in the past year** whose name and dates you would like listed in the bulletin, please **email Pastor Peggy by Monday** evening to include them.

**Pastor's Community Office Hours:** Pastor Peggy will be at Daily Bean **NEXT Tuesday, Nov. 4th from 12-2pm for Community Office Hours.** All are welcome to drop in for a visit as she is present in the community.

**Prayers for Porch Planks:** Please consider supporting the Parsonage Porch replacement fund ("Prayers for Porch Planks") which is displayed on the white board in the narthex. **A HUGE thank you to everyone for your generous support so far!!**

**Blessing of the Skis & Knees:** Save the date for **Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**. During worship we will have a Blessing of the Skis and Knees to kick off the winter ski season. Given our location to Mountain Creek, this is the perfect blessing for our neighbors too. **Invite your friends, bring your skis, boots, or helmets** and receive this unique blessing.

**Calendars coming soon:** Have you enjoyed the beautiful calendars created by Frank's photography and Pam's scripture this year? Good news! **Calendars for 2026 will be created and available soon.** They make great gifts in addition to beautifying your own home! Keep an eye out.

**Flower Chart:** Our new flower chart will be hung up soon for 2026 on sign up central. **All are welcome to sign up for flowers!** On the chart just mark what you would like in the bulletin (ex. "Happy Birthday, Jennifer! Love, Mom!"). Envelopes are available for the flower donation, typically \$25. After worship on the day you signed up for flowers, you get to take them home! You can sign up for flowers for anything like anniversaries & birthdays or in memory of loved ones.

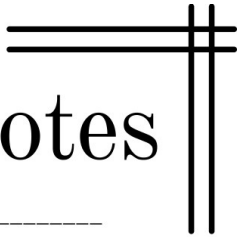
**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is low on **canned chili, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, canned corn, macaroni & cheese, boxed potatoes, mayonnaise, cereal, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, and 4-pack 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!



For God's Children of all ages!

# Worship Notes

Sunday's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A large, black, stylized musical staff icon (treble clef) is positioned on the left side of a light blue rectangular box.

My Favorite  
Song:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A large, light pink heart shape is the central element of this section.

This week, I'm praying for:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A small icon of two hands clasped in prayer, with fingers pointing upwards, is located at the bottom right of the heart.A light orange, cloud-like shape is the central element of this section.

I'm curious or have a  
question about:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Today's Focus Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

I would draw it like:

A large, empty rectangular box with a light green border, intended for drawing a picture related to the focus scripture.

## Word Count

How many times did you hear each  
of these words today? Make a tally.

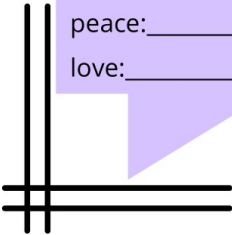
grace: \_\_\_\_\_

joy: \_\_\_\_\_

peace: \_\_\_\_\_

love: \_\_\_\_\_

### ||





### **Contact Information**

(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)

Director of Music: June Tarantino: [music@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:music@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

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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.*

