

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



Easter Day
Service of Holy Communion
April 5, 2026

Holy Counselor Lutheran Church
Rev. Peggy Ludlow
68 Sand Hill Rd
in Vernon, NJ

www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

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

If this is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please sign our guest book and take a visitor bag, located at the visitors center in the narthex.

Also please feel free to ask our ushers if you have any questions regarding the service this morning.

INTRODUCTION

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

GATHERING

Zachary Neiper, flutist

PRELUDE

Congregation stands

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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. Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

P. Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365

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.

C. 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 worshiping congregation gathers to prepare for worship by offering welcome, confessing its sin, and singing praise to God.

*Both the Kyrie (which comes from the Latin *kyrie eleison*, meaning Lord, have mercy) and the Canticle of Praise come to us from the words of scripture and the traditional entrance ritual of the early church in the 2nd century.*

During the church season of Lent the Canticle (Hymn) of Praise was omitted. Now, in this Easter season, it returns, signaling Christ's triumph over death. While the musical setting is modern, the text is drawn from the Book of Revelation, which points us toward the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

Lutheran's believe that Christ is present with us in the Word of God (Holy Scripture and the administration of the sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion). Two distinct parts make up the main portion of our worship this morning: the word and the meal.

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through 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 10:34–43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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: *Matthew 28:1-10*

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

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Great Joy!

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW 382

*Sorrow gives way to
"fear and great joy"
when two women are
sent by an angel to
proclaim the good
news: Jesus is risen!*

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

The Nicene Creed is spoken together as a confession of our common Christian faith. The Nicene Creed is especially appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

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. Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. We pray especially for... those we name aloud... and those we hold in our hearts... Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P. God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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 Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

I am the Resurrection Pete Carlson & John Lemonis

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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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!

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The Prayers of the Church are an ancient way in which the assembled people of God lift their combined voices in prayer to God. During the prayers you will have an opportunity to add your own petitions for those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit at this time. You may either name those persons aloud or hold their names in your heart knowing that God is fully aware of your needs, both spoken and unspoken – in prayer.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you." Or similar words as we wave, make a peace sign, shake hands, exchange a hug, or the traditional 'kiss of peace' as each feels comfortable. Please respect the comfort of those around you, knowing that we all come to Christ's peace as broken people needing to be made whole.

Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

Refrain/Estrillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,
da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;
To stanzas | *Last time*
y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
not a mite would I with - hold;
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
Refrain/Estrillo
pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Giving an offering is an act of worship. The offering is gathered for the mission of the church as the Lord's Table is prepared. Our offerings go to support ministry throughout Vernon, the state of New Jersey, and the United States.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

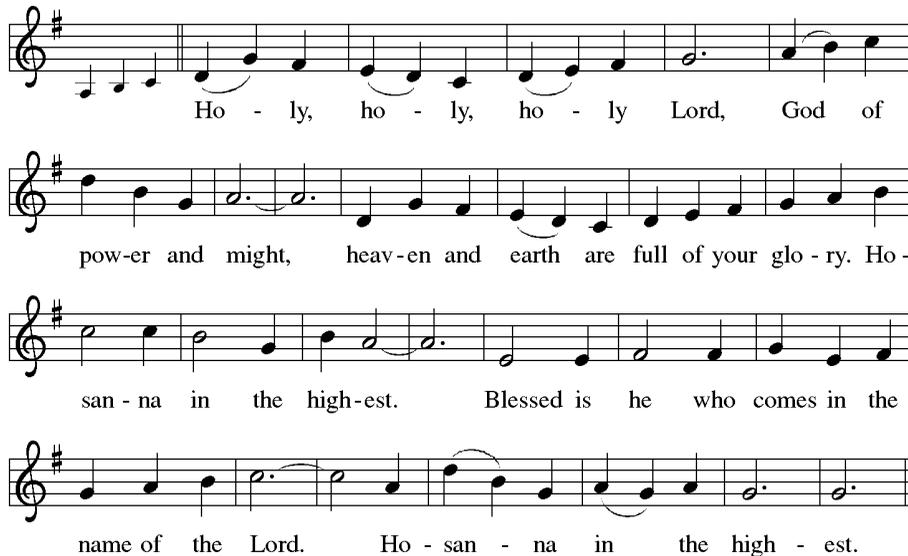
- P. The Lord be with you.
C. **And also with you.**
P. Lift up your hearts.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Congregation kneels or sits

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. This is the day that in joy and delight we join with all the angels of heaven and all the creatures on earth to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you, all holy and mighty and glorious God. For Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

This is the day that you gave light to the earth. This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom. Now every night is as bright as day, and that light is Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

This is the day that you broke the chains of death. This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth, you washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace. The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

In this second portion of this morning's liturgy, the saving and life-giving presence of Christ is made real in bread and wine. A sacrament is the physical sign of an unseen promise, commanded by Christ.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit. Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior. Illumine our lives with your presence, and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race, for that light is Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

All holy and mighty and glorious God, radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit, we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy, and we praise your victory through all time and space, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Amen and amen: **Amen and 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. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come forward. 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 new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION SONG



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.

THE 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!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

The benediction is a farewell word from one person to another in God's name. It is a declaration and assurance that God will be with the congregation and the congregation will be with God.

Worship ends as the congregation receives the blessing of God. All are invited to leave in peace and are sent into the world to live the reign of God enacted and celebrated in word and sacrament.

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BENEDICTION

P. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P. God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376

DISMISSAL

A. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A. Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

EASTER FLOWERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Emilie Dupont | In memory of MaryLou & John Jeanneneye, Phyllis & Ron Dupont & To The Glory of God |
| Rossi Family | To the Glory of God |
| Lori & Fred Schoenagel | To the Glory of God |
| Kucks Family | To those we loved |
| Debbie Lennon | In memory of Michael Lennon |
| Heeren Family | To the Glory of God |
| Elaine Kuntz | To the Glory of God for many blessings |
| Diane Diovisalvo | To the Glory of God |
| Nancy Knecht | To the Glory of God |
| Potzer Family | In memory of Oma |
| Sandra Wardell | In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Myles Coleman |
| Christy Jackson | In honor of The Jackson Family |
| Denise & Frank Urbaniak | In memory of Pete & Ray, Pete & Mary E and Auntie Em |
| Phyllis and Gale MacPeek | In memory of our parents: Reba and Harold MacPeek |
| Claire Speroni & Michelle Brown | In memory of Carol Fieltsch |
| Betty Gaillard | In memory of Norma and Frank Fasola |
| Pastor Peggy & Lynn Ludlow | To the Glory of God for Sadie Claire & Sawyer Anne and In loving memory of Gary Ludlow, Mercedes and Bill Kelly, Irene and Willard Ludlow, and Norma and Frank Fasola |
| Garnett Family | In memory of John Torkidsen and Abraham Garnett & Elizabeth Garnett |

Announcements for April 5th, 2026

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.***

*The **Pray-ground** is a special place to help **support kids and families** in worshipping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here. **Tips:** explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!*

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. **Anyone on the altar is on camera.

~~~~~  
***Thank you, Emilie Dupont, for this morning's refreshments!!***  
~~~~~

Volunteers for Today's Worship

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Lay Asst. | Nancy Knecht |
| Ushers | Volunteer needed |
| Comm. Asst. | Volunteer needed |
| Tech | Volunteer needed |
| Tellers | Volunteer needed |
| Refreshments | Emilie Dupont |

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, April 5: Worship w/Communion, Easter Sunday, 9:30am
Choir Practice following worship

Wednesday, April 8: Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am

Sunday, April 12: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion & Baptism, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Pastor's Community Office Hours-April: Pastor Peggy will be at the **Daily Bean** **NEXT Tuesday, April 14th and Tuesday, April 21st from 12:30-2:30pm** for Community Office Hours. All are welcome to visit as she is present in the community.

Sunday Morning Lay Leaders: You are invited to **fill out the survey** to participate in worship leadership on Sunday mornings. We are hoping to have enough volunteers to **create a rotation schedule** for the various roles (tech, lay assistant, lector, teller, and usher). If you've ever been interested in helping, now is a great time to get involved!

Mindfulness Walk: Join Pastor Peggy for our first **mindfulness walk** of the season at **Maple Grange Park on Wednesday, April 22nd from 4:30-5:30pm**. We will meet in the first parking lot and determine our route based on the group. You're invited to **wear your 'Live Generously T-shirt'**. All ages are welcome!

Cluster-wide Meditation Study: Our cluster-wide study series continues with 4 sessions called: **Meditation and Mindfulness in the Christian Life**. The group will meet on **Zoom from 7-8pm Thursday, April 23rd-Thursday, May 14th**. All are welcome to participate. Reach out to Pastor Peggy with any questions.

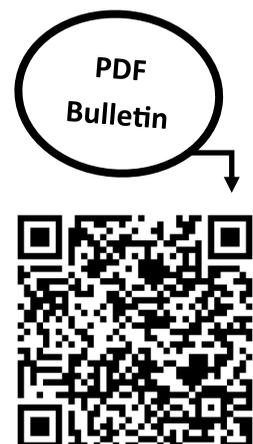
Vacation Bible School: Mark your calendars for **God's Good Creation VBS this summer July 20th-23rd from 1-4pm!** We hope the afternoon timeslot will allow for more participants. Help spread the word. Registration is open at myvbs.org/hclcvernon

Ladies Tea: Please note if you signed up for the Ladies Tea at the Auction of the Gifts there is a **new date** for this event. It is now being held on **Saturday, May 2nd from 2-4pm**. You are invited to attend even if you didn't sign up at the auction. **Ticket donations are \$20. RSVP to Pam Kucks.**

Spring Clean-up-Save the date: Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 9th from 9am-3pm** for our annual spring church cleanup. Youth or teens looking for service hours? This is a great way to serve. All are welcome to pitch in at any time. Bagels, coffee & pizza will be available for meals.

NJ Synod ELCA Baseball Game Outing: Join the Youth Ministry Mission Team at the **Somerset Patriots Game on Saturday, June 13th!** Come at 6:00 pm for a picture on the field, watch the 7:05pm game, and then stay for the fireworks. Tickets are a special price of **only \$10.50 each**, AND you will receive a \$10 gift voucher towards your food. **Purchase your own tickets [here](#)**

Food Pantry: Food items to help restock: boxed cereal, canned chili, canned corn, children's juice boxes or pouches, pasta sauce, boxed jello, canned fruit, boxed potatoes, 4-pack toilet paper, body wash, & toothpaste.





Contact Information

(973) 827-5251 office

www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Bookkeeper: Wynn White: 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

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.

