

The Trumpet



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

June 2026

Our Mission:
*Praising God,
Growing in Christ,
Together in Spirit*

TELEPHONE - 717-528-4393 ~ WEBSITE - www.yorkspringslutheran.org

EMAIL - office@yorkspringslutheran.org

Live-Stream worship services are available through YouTube.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3pVq4xZosIqK7IWkDrD38Q>

Message from Pastor Chris...

Counting Blessings: The Beatitudes, June 2026

Blessed are the compassionate, for they will receive compassion. – Matthew 5:7

After a string of strange, churchy holidays (and a few civil ones along the way), we're entering that long season after Pentecost, AKA the Green Season, Ordinary Time, or just Summer.

Maybe for this month's blessing, I'm being a bit of a contrarian. This beatitude is better known with the terms, "mercy" and "merciful." "Compassion" is just as fine a translation, but might catch your attention since it's unusual.

A few years back now, some person touting themselves as a pastor said on a news show or podcast that empathy is sin. Since then, some politicized pundits have run with this absurd idea. They try to take the angle that empathy – relating feelings with another person – enables and encourages their bad behavior. It's one of those many ideas that can sound good as long as you don't think about it.

Empathy, compassion, mercy – these help us meet people where they are. God isn't just a disciplinarian who demands we do everything in an exact way; God instead finds us where we are. Jesus ate with sinners and hung out with the people that society rejected because they were different. He welcomed them as his brothers and sisters, and didn't tell them they had to be perfect first.

I can write justifications of empathy all day long,



but why not take it from Jesus? These Beatitudes are some of his most famous teachings, and it's right in there! Call it what you want: mercy, compassion, empathy, bleeding heart, schmaltzy, soft...Jesus does it all. God does it all.

Politicized pundit pastors usually push points like anti-empathy so that they can justify not helping the people who need it. The "empathy is sin" argument still lingers not because it is right and good, but because it was said confidently, and it appeals to our selfish and self-righteous natures.

But don't we all need a little compassion – especially when we're having a hard time?

May we be compassionate to others, as we would have them be compassionate to us.

Peace,

Pastor Chris <><

Activities at HTLC

Clothing Pantry - Saturdays @ 9:00 am - Parish House

Worship Sunday morning @ 9:00 am

All worship services are In-person and Live Stream via YouTube
YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3pVq4xZosIqK7IWkDrD38Q>

Youth/Christian Ed—Wednesday, June 3, 6:30-7:30pm—Parish House

Road Clean Up—Sunday, June 7 after Church (June 14 rain date)

Food Distribution with New Hope - Thursday, June 11, 2026

The second Thursday of every month, from 11:00am-1:00pm in the parking lot

Council Meeting—Thursday, June 11, 5:30pm—Fellowship Hall

Holy Trinity York Springs Summer Day Camp—June 15–19, 9am - 4pm

The counselors from Camp Nawakwa are bringing their camp programming out of the woods and into town! This year's theme is WEAR LOVE.

Newsletter Deadline - Friday, June 22, 2026

Summer Book Club:

July 7, 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, by C. S. Lewis A classic, straightforward tale good for kids and adults. Warning: there is a witch involved!

August 18, 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall

Year of Wonders, by Geraldine Brooks The Pulitzer Prize winning author will be giving a talk at United Lutheran Seminary on September 10, at 1:30pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

May 11, 2026, at 6 pm

Meeting Called to order by Vice President, Doug Knight.

Attending: Doug Knight, Lori Kennedy, Judy Behney, Greg Paull, Jan Aeppli, Connor Jones, Pastor Chris and Ted Wachhaus. Absent: Pete Johnston, Cynthia Reinecker and Linda Menges.

Devotions provided by Doug Knight.

Mission Statement:

*We are a town church, a community connected by God's love and forgiveness:
praising God, growing in Christ, together in the Spirit
to serve in our church, community, and world.*

Correspondence: letter from Adams County Community Foundation regarding grant availability.

Officer Reports

Secretary's report: accepted with no issues.

Treasurer's report: accepted with no issues. Question was asked regarding status of Members 1st and transition date from ACNB.

Pastor's report: accepted with no comments. It continues to be a very busy post-Easter timeframe.

President's report: nothing to report this month.

Old Business

Music Director update: Search Committee to meet soon to discuss progress and report at our next council meeting.

Other: no other old business

Committee reports

Christian Ed: Doug Knight reports Sunday School is winding down for summer break (June – August). Several youth activities are planned for summer. Reminder of Nawakwa Day Camp June 15-19, 2026, at HTLC.

Outreach/Evangelism: no report

Endowment: Ted Wachhaus report the success of this fund and its distributions. In a 3-year period it has distributed \$15,000 to local and worldwide charities. Recommendation from the finance committee for distribution this quarter (Jan-Mar) to Fruitbelt Farmworkers Christian Ministry (\$325), Global Refugee (\$325) and Community Corner (\$975).

Property: Connor Jones reviewed items from Cynthia Reinecker's email to council. Community Corner – volunteer day held May 2, drop ceiling work, final touches will occur within the next week. Installed lighting and electrical outlets, remaining work includes ceiling fans and accent lighting. Remaining work: Install flooring (ordered), install sorting countertop (ordered), front windows, trim work and weeding around CC and church property.

Worship & Music: Pastor Chris reported there was no monthly meeting, nothing to report.

New Business

Facility use request for Saturday, July 18th from Dave and Cheryl Reinecker.

2026 Ministry and Mission Priorities – Pastor Chris provided an updated listing, review and discussion with additional items added under Youth/Young Adult and Music.

Schedule for Council Members assisting Linda Menges:

6/7: Jan Aeppli 6/14: Connor Jones 6/21: Doug Knight 6/28: Lori Kennedy

Next Meeting: 6/ 10 @5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Adjournment at 7:25pm.

Closing prayer provided by Jan Aeppli.

Minutes taken and recorded by Lori Kennedy, 5/11/2026.

Message from our Council President

Pete Johnston



Greetings friends and members of HTLC. This correspondence will be read several days after Pentecost Sunday. Our celebration of Pentecost Sunday was vastly different from the 1st Pentecost. The 1st Pentecost event, where the Holy Spirit empowered believers to initiate the Global Mission to share the gospel, manifested itself with Rushing Winds and Tongues of Fire with people speaking and understanding different languages. It is said that thousands of people's lives were transformed that day and became followers of Christ. Our celebration was not as spectacular, but can and should be equally impactful. In today's culture, the "spectacular" gets a lot of press and the ordinary gets "Lost in the Sauce".

The Apostles' Creed, which we recite every Sunday, states that we "believe in the Holy Spirit". What and Who is this Holy Spirit? Christ stated before his resurrection that God will send the Advocate, the Helper, to not only teach and remind us of all Christ has taught us, but also to empower us to discern and live out God's will for our lives. The Holy Spirit is still with us! The Spirit did not manifest itself on the 1st Pentecost and then leave us alone. The Spirit is still present. One of our roles as Christians is to follow the Holy Spirit's call to do God's Will, in the down and dirty, ordinary events that take place in living life. We all have read about and possibly experienced a Holy Spirit encounter of a miraculous life-saving or life-changing event. The Spirit empowers people for those events, but the Spirit also frequently will manifest itself in the "ordinary" events that we experience daily. It's easy to be aware of the Spectacular, but what of the Ordinary?

We are all busy with life. There is always work to do, money to be made, schedules to be kept, getting kids to soccer, baseball and softball games, rehearsals, and the list goes on. We're lucky if we can get to church on Sunday! Where is the Holy Spirit in all of this? The Holy Spirit is always right here with us while we are living life! We need to pray to our Lord to help us to discern the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. The Holy Spirit is always at work, but it's easy to miss because all the noise and shiny objects of life that grab our attention.

We are a "schedule driven people". It's is easy to get irritated when we have schedule interruptions. The truth is that these ordinary interruptions may be the work of the Holy Spirit nudging us to change direction. Some of these interruptions may include: a child asking us to play or to talk while we are in the midst of trying to complete a task. Another example may be a co-worker stopping you just to visit after a long hard day at work. One last example may be a sudden thought to reach out to a friend that you've not spoken to in quite a while. These are all ordinary life interactions that can have extraordinary impacts on people's lives. Perhaps we should ask the Lord to help us to look at interruptions as opportunities to love and serve!

With each passing month, the Community Corner's renovation project is nearing completion. On the May 2nd work day, the ceiling tiles were installed. Some lights and electrical outlets were installed. Work that needs to be completed includes accent lighting, ceiling fans, flooring, a countertop for sorting, front windows, trim work and some landscaping around both the Community Corner and church property. Many thanks to those who have helped and continue to help to bring this project to completion.

The Council continues to identify Mission and Ministry priorities. Some of these discussions include our Youth/Young Adult and Music Ministries. Please continue to pray for both Pastor Chris and your Council during this time of discernment. In addition, pray for HTLC to be open and available to the Spirit's interruptions that we will make ourselves available to love and serve our Lord by loving and serving others.

Blessings, Pete

A Verse o'Verse

Strolling through the songs of scripture

I have hated the company of evil ones and will not sit with the wicked. – Psalm 26:5

This psalm continues to be a challenge – not because it is difficult, but because it is easy. Almost every verse has these “high and mighty” or “holier than thou” affects. This verse rhymes ideas with itself and also the verse before. They are all about avoiding fellowship with the wicked and dishonest.

I think there is some nuance in there. “Company” and “sitting with” are not simply words that mean physical presence. These entail a sense of community support. “I do not support wicked gatherings” has a different flavor than “I shun those of whom I do not approve!”

But there’s something very concrete about this verse. We are not arbiters of salvation, judging the eternal fate of others, yes. But sometimes we encounter people doing things that make us uncomfortable because they seem pretty bad. Specifically, where gossip, lies, and fraud are found (the sinful things named and alluded to here) we’re not supposed to just go along with it. I think that’s what this verse is about.

Lord, let us not simply go along with bad things. Give us the courage to cling to you.

Psalm 26

Of David.

1 Judge me, LORD, for I have walked in my integrity and in the LORD.

I have trusted. I will not slip.

2 Examine me, LORD, and try me! Smelt my kidneys and my heart!

3 For your fidelity is before my eyes, and I have walked upon your firmness.

4 I have not sat among inane people and will not go along with fraudsters.

5 I have hated the company of evil ones and will not sit with the wicked.

ASK THE DOC, #9



Ask the Doc, June 2026:

What are your top few favorite books of the Bible, and why? Pt. 2

Last time was the preamble, the idea of how *we all have a "canon within a canon,"* that prioritizes certain verses and books over others. It's not because we want to manipulate, it's because our noggins need to prioritize things as they interpret; it's how language works!

So now, without further delay, my answer to the thought experiment posed last month:

If you were standing in a library with the last copy of every book of the Bible, and that library was burning down, and you could only carry four books out, what would they be? (And in this wildly fictitious scenario, the books are all the same size, so no cheating!)

So, here we go (listed in the order they normally appear in the Bible):

Ecclesiastes – Ok I just really like this book. It's *practical and straightforward*. Sometimes it's interpreted as bleak, depressing, or morbid, but I find the focus on ephemerality refreshing. *It helps put everything in perspective.* It's also such an oddity in the Bible.

Psalms – Martin Luther called the Psalter "a little Bible." They survive the fire because they express the *breadth of human emotion and experience*: elation and grief, rage and relief. They also give a lot of narration and interpretation of *Old Testament history*, including the Exodus, events from the life of David, and the time of Exile. They're not in a very discernable order, but there's a lot in there.

Luke – *There needs to be a Gospel, right?* This is a toughie. I think John is awesome, but it is missing a whole lot of material that is in the synoptics (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). Luke has versions of the *major teachings of Jesus* (Beatitudes, Lord's Prayer, Communion), *liturgical songs, and parables galore*. It's timeline is wonky, but Luke didn't set out to write a linear history; he wrote an "orderly account" that is more thematic than chronological.

Romans – Paul's letter to the Romans is rich, complex, and has highlights of many of his teachings. Paul hadn't been to Rome, thus he didn't know their particular issues. So he put in a bit of everything. *Romans changed the course of Christianity* by influencing the likes of Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley, and Karl Barth. It's not perfect; it doesn't have everything; but it is the best epistle. (That's more of a historical observation than a personal opinion.)

I've entertained this hypothetical for far too long, and continue to do so. Here are some of the honorable mentions:

Hebrews: It has a more linear history than the Psalms, and *the highest Christology* (view of the divinity of Christ) of pretty much anything. It's excellent, and I often substitute it for Ecclesiastes. As I write this, I am considering swapping it in, but not this far into the draft!

Galatians: It is shorter than Romans and gives *Paul's most extensive autobiography*. Paul's story isn't told in the four books above. It also connects Abraham to Jesus, making for a more coherent history among my small selection of books.

1 Corinthians (instead of Romans, if using John, instead of Luke): This is a little convoluted but bear with me. *John is cool, but doesn't have Communion*, which is an essential component of Christian practice. So if my Gospel doesn't have Communion, I'd have to get it elsewhere. That means 1 Corinthians!

You may have noticed that this isn't exactly a listing of my favorites. Ok...next time then!

Until then, what are your four, and why?

Peace, Doc Suehr <><

June 2026

Office HTLC, Christian Holidays, webmaster@yorkspringslutheran.org

Jun 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Summer Day Camp Sign Trinity Sunday 9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship with	1	2 10am - Office open @	3 10am - Office open @ 6:30pm - Youth/Chrisian	4 Corpus Christi 10am - Office open @	5 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly @ St. Matthew	6 9am - Clothing Pantry
7 9am - Worship with 10:30am - Road Cleanup	8	9 10am - Office open @ 1:30pm - Knotty Quilters	10 10am - Office open @	11 10am - Office open @ 11am - New Hope Food	12	13 9am - Clothing Pantry
14 9am - Worship with 10:30am - Backup Road	15 9am - Summer Day Camp @ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 216 Main St, YorkSprings, PA 17372, USA 9am - Conference Day	16 9am - Conference Day 10am - Office open @	17 9am - Conference Day 10am - Office open @	18 9am - Conference Day 10am - Office open @	19 9am - Conference Day	20 9am - Clothing Pantry
21 9am - Worship with	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 10am - Office open @ 1:30pm - Knotty Quilters	24 10am - Office open @	25 10am - Office open @	26	27 9am - Clothing Pantry
28 9am - Worship with	29	30 10am - Office open @	1 10am - Office open @	2 10am - Office open @	3	4 9am - Clothing Pantry

Monthly Financial Update from our Treasurer

Linda Menges

Monthly Financial Update

(Needed monthly)

(Budget)

Needed monthly to meet 2026 Mission Plan

19,592.16

235,106.00

May 2026 Figures

(Current)

(Year to date)

Expenses for May

20,436.04

98,573.53

Offering received for May

22,381.46

94,838.30

Carry over or minus from prior month

- 422.15

Balance (+ over / - short)

+ 1,523.27

- 4,157.38

Please remember when the Mission Plan was approved, we all promised to support it.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE, ASSIGNMENTS & DEDICATIONS

JUNE 7	JUNE 14	JUNE 21	JUNE 28
2nd Sunday after Pentecost	3rd Sunday after Pentecost	4th Sunday after Pentecost	5th Sunday after Pentecost
<u>Altar Guild</u> Cheryl Reinecker	<u>Altar Guild</u> Ruthann Black	<u>Altar Guild</u> Judy Wolfe	<u>Altar Guild</u> Cheryl Reinecker
<u>Asst. Minister</u> Cynthia Reinecker	<u>Asst. Minister</u> Drew Reinecker	<u>Asst. Minister</u> Candy Bretzman	<u>Asst. Minister</u> Cheryl Reinecker
<u>WAT</u> Alyssa Black	<u>WAT</u> Jeremiah Jones	<u>WAT</u> Angela Pasquani	<u>WAT</u> David Reinecker
<u>Counter</u> Jan Aepli	<u>Counter</u> Connor Jones	<u>Counter</u> Doug Knight	<u>Counter</u> Lori Kennedy
<u>GREETER</u> Eileen Tietsworth	<u>GREETER</u> Eileen Tietsworth	<u>GREETER</u> Eileen Tietsworth	<u>GREETER</u> Eileen Tietsworth
<u>Altar Flowers</u> Ted Wachhaus	<u>Altar Flowers</u> Jeremiah Jones	<u>Altar Flowers</u> Ted Wachhaus	<u>Altar Flowers</u> Ted Wachhaus
<u>Bulletins</u> Ted Wachhaus	<u>Bulletins</u> Lori Kennedy	<u>Bulletins</u> Ted Wachhaus	<u>Bulletins</u> Ted Wachhaus
<u>Music</u> Ted Wachhaus	<u>Music</u> To the glory of God	<u>Music</u> Ted Wachhaus	<u>Music</u> Ted Wachhaus

June Birthdays

6/4: Zachery Starner

6/9: Kori Hermansen

6/10: Lola Kennedy

6/12: Candra Bretzman,
Lindsey Starner

6/13: Karin Guise

6/14: Connor Jones, Craig
Reinecker

6/16: Connie Moore

6/19: Harry Howe

6/22: Joyce Jones, Lorraine
Ruhlman

6/23: Eileen Tietsworth,
Ted Wachhaus

6/26: Shawney Cook, Heidi
Reinecker

6/28: Bella Zepp

6/30: Lisa Burke



June Anniversaries



6/13: Bonnie and Ted
Wachhaus

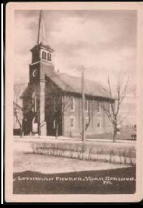
6/13: David P. and Tracey Cook

6/21: Jennifer and Raymond Aubel

6/22: Tom and Ruthann Black

6/24: Bonnie and Louy Kuntz





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
216 Main Street
PO Box 242
York Springs, PA 17372

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor:

The Rev. Dr. Chris Suehr
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Office Secretary:

Linda Long
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Church Office Hours:

Tuesday—Thursday, 10:00 am—1:00 pm

Church Website: www.yorkspringslutheran.org

Church Email: office@yorkspringslutheran.org

Congregation Council:

Pete Johnston, President
Doug Knight, Vice President
Lori Kennedy, Secretary
Jan Aepli
Judy Behney
Connor Jones
Greg Paull
Cynthia Reinecker

Church Staff:

Dr. Brenda Leach, Organist
Jane Johnston, Choir Director
Linda Menges, Treasurer
Eileen Tietsworth, Sexton

PLEASE:

**Newsletter articles due by the 22th of the preceding month.
Sunday Bulletin announcements due by Tuesday afternoon.**