



The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1308 Mt Holly Rd

Burlington, NJ 08016

(609) 387-1202

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.holytrinityelc.org

Rev. Russell Haab — Pastorhaab@holytrinityelc.org

Bonnie Mazza, Administrator — Secretary@holytrinityelc.org

Michelle Foster, Church Musician — michfoster16@gmail.com

License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

August 31, 2025

10:00am

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of **+** Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

** Please stand as you are able*

THE GATHERING SONG:

#526

God Is Here

* 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.

* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 112

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast
forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and
pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Sung page #151a

C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

* P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter

* C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more

distinguished than you has been invited by your host,⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #522

As We Gather At Your Table

*** THE APOSTLES’ CREED** page 217

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

Hear us, O God
Your mercy is great.

* PEACE

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

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

*** THE OFFERTORY:** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful # 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

THE MEAL

* THE OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
 in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Sung) page 152

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* THE PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* **THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (Sung) page 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

* **THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER** page 154

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.

* **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

THE LAMB OF GOD (sung) page 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION

* **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE SENDING

* **THE BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

* **THE SENDING SONG:** #769
If You But Trust in God To Guide You

* **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Serving Today: August 31, 2025

Communion Assistant: Nicole Rodig

Acolyte: Baylee Rodig

Lector: Hank Bariexca

Usher: Steve Anderson & Maris Rodig

Musician: Ryan Peiffer

Sound System: Laura Poethke

Serving Next Week: September 7, 2025

Communion Assistant: Ferol Howell

Acolyte: Allyson Schmalz

Lector: Lynn Haab

Ushers: Steve Anderson & Bonnie Mazza

Musician: Ryan Peiffer

Sound System: Amber Johnson

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Today: 10:00AM Worship/Holy Communion

Wednesday: 5:00—7:00PM Sisters of Sobriety

Friday: 7:00—10:00PM AA

Next Sunday: Rally Sunday

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship/Holy Communion

Back Pack Blessing

Phillip The Bucket

Birthday Fellowship with Kona Ice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE CALL the church office (609-387-1202) whenever a family member, neighbor, or friend who is a member of Holy Trinity is hospitalized or moves from one hospital to another. Due to stricter privacy laws, hospitals do *not* notify the church when a member is admitted to the hospital and keep us informed of hospitalizations so Pastor Haab can visit and keep people in our prayers.

SUNDAY MORNING: Worship 10AM every Sunday. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend our Worship at 10 AM every Sunday. Our blended worship will be returning in September on the 4th Sunday of each month with our contemporary band Voices That Reign leading us in song.

MORE INFORMATION: on these and other upcoming worship times and events can be found on the church Facebook page [HolyTrinityBT](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBT) and the church website: www.holytrinityelc.org

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME: Have you ever thought about joining one of our worship teams. We are always looking for new people to help usher, read, help with communion or acolyte. Please see Bonnie Mazza if you are interested.

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry is open today immediately following worship. Please continue to bring in your donations to help those in need.

BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP and LOUD OFFERING take place on the first Sunday of each month. We recognize those who celebrate their birthday that month and also pass *Philip the Bucket* to collect spare change to help those in need.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT: We have completed our building repairs to meet the new state guidelines. So far to date we have received donations in the amount of \$2,525 toward our goal of \$5,000, to cover the expenses of these upgrades and repairs. Thank you everyone for your generosity. We will be working to raise the balance of this money throughout the Summer.

RALLY SUNDAY: September 7. We are excited to welcome back all of our Sunday school classes. Immediately after worship, Kona Ice will be in our parking lot. Enjoy a refreshing treat and help support our wonderful Christian education program .

BACKPACK BLESSING: All students, teachers and anyone who would like to have a special blessing, please remember to bring your backpacks to worship on September 7.

THE CHURCH DOES NOT RUN WITHOUT VOUNTEERS: Stop by the bulletin board located in the main hallway and see how you can help.



Our next Food Pantry day is September 21, immediately after worship.

Back To School Prayer



Dear Heavenly Father,
As we embark on a new school year, we come to You seeking Your guidance and blessings. Please watch over all the students, teachers, staff, and parents, filling their hearts with Your peace and wisdom. Help each one to face the challenges ahead with courage and faith, trusting in Your presence and provision. May this year be filled with growth, learning, and the joy of discovering more about Your world. Keep everyone safe and let Your love shine through in all that we do.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

