



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
Welcome Back Sunday

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

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Rev. Jessica Zurcher, Pastor - pastorjessica@holytrinitynarberth.org

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Christopher Ertelt, Music Director

You are a child of God and you are welcome here: whatever your faith commitment, experience, or level of doubt, mental or emotional health, physical abilities, financial or employment status, race, ethnicity, or primary language; whatever your gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. We welcome you whether you are a parent or caregiver; whether you are a fussy baby, an energetic toddler, a 'tween, or a teen; whether you are an inquisitive young adult, exhausted adult, or wise senior citizen; whether you are single, in a relationship, married, divorced, or widowed; whether you struggle with an addiction to drugs, alcohol, or anything else. We welcome you however you found us: on the internet, from your neighbor or friend, or passing by our Giving Garden. We welcome those who hurt and those who celebrate, those who worship every week or just this once, and in whatever you choose to wear. We extend a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome you to join us as we grow in faith through worship, study, and friendship. We welcome you as we seek to make a difference through combating food insecurity, ministering with those in need, and committing to racial equity. And we welcome you to help us be fully open to all. Whoever you are and wherever you are from, you are a child of God and you are welcome here.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude:

Adagio (Symphonie V)

Charles-Marie Widor

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✙ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

L: We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, for the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

L: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song: Morning Has Broken (ELW 556)



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Greeting:

L: 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.**

Song of Praise:



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray together...

C: **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Job 38:1, 4-11 (12-18)

L: A reading from Job, the 38th chapter.

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

¹² “Have you commanded the morning since your days began
and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³ so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal,
and it is dyed like a garment.

¹⁵ Light is withheld from the wicked,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ “Have you entered into the springs of the sea
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

L: Word of God. Word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29:3-11

- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl
and strips the forest bare,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

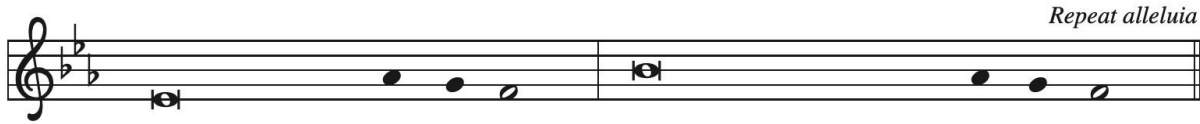
Second Reading: Romans 8:18-25

L: A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: Word of God. Word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Luke 8:22-25

L: The Gospel according to St. Luke the 8th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, ²³ and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were terrified and amazed and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?"

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: Creating God, Your Fingers Trace (ELW 684)



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
 known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with
 spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
 with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
 air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
 grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Apostles' Creed:

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: **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 again 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

- L: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
- C: **Amen.**

The Peace of Christ:

- L: The Peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you are comfortable.

Anthem:

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

You are welcome to give by scanning the QR code, by visiting our church website, or by placing your offering in the offering plate. We are inviting you to give financially out of your heart and love for God. Our giving is a spiritual practice as part of our faith and discipleship.



Offering Song and Prayer: We Are an Offering (ELW 692)

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands, and the offering song is sung by all.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

L: Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: 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 your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so as the morning stars sing your praises, with the heavenly beings and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

- L:** O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C:** **The earth is full of your glory.**
- L:** O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C:** **The earth is full of your glory.**

L: We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: Amen, and amen.

C: Amen, and amen.

Lord's Prayer:

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
 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.

All are welcome to receive communion. Those online will be communed first. Then, ushers will dismiss you by row to come forward for communion. You may proceed down the center aisle to the front, where you may receive bread to dip into the cup. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice cups are available for those who prefer them. If you are unable to come forward but desire to receive, please let the usher know so that the Eucharist may be brought to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and may indicate this by crossing your hands over your chest when you approach the minister. After you have received communion, please return to your seat using the side aisles.

Invitation to Communion:

L: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.
C: **Amen.**

Communion Song:

I Am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan

Prayer after Communion:

- L: O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

Announcements

Blessing:

- L: Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.
- C: **Amen.**

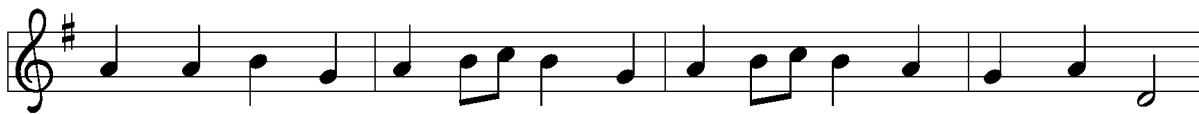
Sending Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Prelude in G

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Eichner Chapel Prayer Candle will burn for the week of September 27th given in memory of his sister Camille by Tom DelMonte.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to: Ena Brophy (9/27), Aaron Simms (9/29), and Pat Brubaker (9/30).

Welcome Back Sunday

Please join us after worship for a potluck lunch!

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to lector/read and assist Pastor Jessica. If you would like to volunteer please sign up using the QR Code or contact Dale in the church office. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to serve. Holy Trinity's ministry is possible because of the many people who share their gifts. We are grateful for all that you do.



Outreach Team Revival!

Holy Trinity's Outreach Team is being revived, and you are invited to join us. This team will help brainstorm, plan, and coordinate ways for Holy Trinity to connect with our neighbors through community events and outreach opportunities such as NarbEarth Day, Pride at the Park, Witches of Narberth, and the Dickens Festival. Meetings will be held every 4–6 weeks, or as needed. If you have a passion for welcoming others, sharing ideas, planning events, or building community connections, we'd love to have you involved. Contact Pastor Jessica or the church office for more information.

Giving Garden

We continue to harvest every Wednesday at 8am. Just bring your garden gloves and whatever hand tools you may want for digging and harvesting. All are welcome as your schedules permit.

Celebrating the Season of Creation

Through October 4, Holy Trinity will join Christians around the world in observing the Season of Creation. Rooted in the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, this season celebrates God as Creator and invites us to reflect on the mystery that all things were created through Christ. While this theme is woven throughout the church year, setting aside a season to focus on Christ in creation helps us deepen our appreciation for the natural world and renew our commitment to its care. In a time when environmental challenges affect communities across the globe, the Season of Creation reminds us that caring for the earth is not simply a political or practical concern, it is a spiritual practice rooted in gratitude, stewardship, and love for our neighbors.

Save the Date

October 4 – Pet Blessing Sunday | 11:45am-1:00pm | Front Lawn

Starting October 18 - Faith Formation Hour following worship weekly. Stay tuned for more details!

Holy Trinity's Prayer List

Jan Doan

Friends and Relatives

Bettina Chavanne (friend of the McCluskeys)
Sharon Neall (Hall family member)
Beth Brady (Kristine DelMonte's co-worker)
Norma DelMonte (Tom's mother)
The Houghs (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Linda Baldi-Boyd
Marbury Hooey
John & Rosemary (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Margie (Jan Doan's friend)
Joseph Davis
Heinrich Mengel (cousin of the Hoffmann Family)
Louise Jackson (cousin of Julie Ackerman)
Mary Fran (friend of Dorothy McCluskey)
Tara Echelmeier Dolan (friend of Julie Ackerman)
Mary Ann Dixon (friend of the Hoffmans)
David Segermark (Kristine DelMonte's father)
Jane S. (friend of Pat Brubaker)
Ken Ackerman (Carl Ackerman's father)
Grace Vanartsdalen (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)
Ellen Mitchell (sister of Mary Williamson)
Steve Crews (Kim's father)
The Lim family (friends of the Princes)
Cheryl Kurpiel and Family (friends of the Frye Family)
Cestare family (Extended family of Kim)
Bob Gamble (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)
Joe Prince & Greg Savoy (loved ones of the Princes)
Deborah deHeyman and family (friends of Holy Trinity)
Lori Chambers (friend of Mark and Dee Jaye Frye)
Laurie & Wayne (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Bob Fuhrmeister (grandson of Bob Catherman)
David Rovner (friend of Holy Trinity)
Butch & Jackye (cousins of Pat Brubaker)
Gloria Guy (Grace Lutheran)
Kevin McMaster (son of Winnie McMaster)
Nina (Bob Catherman's cousin)
Julia Williamson (Carter Williamson's sister)