



# Holy Trinity

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### N A R B E R T H

*Growing in Faith - Making a Difference - Open to All*

**The 5th Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024**

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

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Pastor Daniel Smith - [pastor@holytrinitynarberth.org](mailto:pastor@holytrinitynarberth.org)/973-796-4845

Dale Morris, Office Manager - [holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com)

Christopher Ertelt, Organist and Choir Director; Rob Tucker, Men's Section Leader

Virtual choir: Meredith Beck, Emily Bigelow, Lauren Cupples, Christopher Ertelt, Dawn Falato, Elizabeth Fenton,  
Sarah Gliko, Paul V. Patanella, Brittney Marquand Sedgwick, Daniel Smith, Rob Tucker

*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**

Choral-Prelude on "St. Agnes"

Robert Elmore

**Welcome**

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: **He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: **Amen.**

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: **Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.  
In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.**

L: Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean and quench our thirst.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

L: Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: **Amen.**

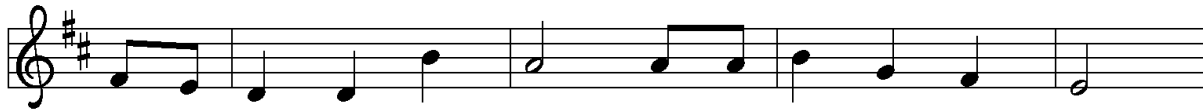
## Gathering Hymn: Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

### 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.**

## Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray together...

**C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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: Acts 8:26-40

L: A reading from the book of Acts, the 8th chapter.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

L: A reading from the first letter of John, the 4th chapter.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

L: The Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon:** Pastor Dan Smith



## Hymn of the Day: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## **Apostles' Creed:**

**L:** Let us make public profession of our faith together, reflecting on the love of God in Christ Jesus.

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
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.**

## **The Prayers:**

**L:** United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

L: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

L: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

L: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

L: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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:**

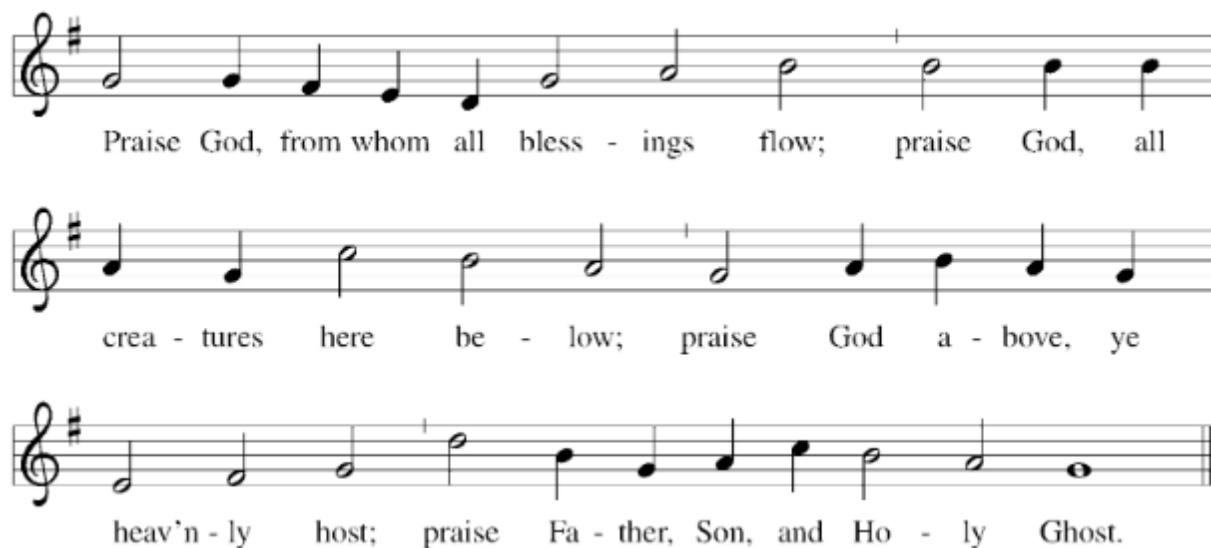
In Christ Alone

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

*You are welcome to use this QR code if you wish to donate online, or to go to our church website.*



### Doxology & Offertory Prayer:



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.

### Offertory Prayer:

- L: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
- 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.**

## The Proper Preface:

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, when he gave himself up for the life of the world, 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.

L: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

L: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer:**

L: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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:**

L: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

C: **Amen.**

### **Communion Song:**

O Bread of Life From Heaven

J.S. Bach

### **Post-Communion Prayer:**

L: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

### **Announcements**

**+ SENDING +**

### **Benediction:**

L: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✙ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

# Sending Hymn: Build Us Up, Lord



1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our



us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our



ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.



Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us



guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the  
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us



world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.  
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

*Refrain*



Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in



faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your



word to spread the news of your Son!



## Dismissal:

L: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace, share the good news! Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

Prelude on "Hyfrydol"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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**Happy Birthday to: Alex Stout (4/29).**

## Holy Trinity's Prayer List

Sue Steiger

Linda Wieteha

Rob Tucker

### Friends and Relatives

Bettina Chavanne (friend of the McCluskeys)

Vincent Sangmeister (Mary Williamson's brother)

Fran Gebhart

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

Kelly (Carolmarie Scanlon's sister in law)

Georgette, her daughter Kara, and Chuck Marbury Hooey

John & Rosemary (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Annette Steiger (Dave Steiger's sister)

Margie (Jan Doan's friend)

Eleanor Crissman (Bob Catherman's sister)

Joseph Davis

Peter Stein (friend of the McCluskeys)

Danelle VanInstendal (friend of the Steigers)

Heinrich Mengel (cousin of the Hoffmann Family)

Donna Dutten (daughter of June Duncan)

Peter Stein and Michelle Murdock (Peter's wife)

Louise Jackson (cousin of Julie Ackerman)

Jody (friend of Pat Brubaker)

Mary Fran (friend of Dorothy McCluskey)

Tara Echelmeier Dolan (friend of Julie Ackerman)

Mary Ann & Deed Dixon (friends of the Hoffmans)

Darby Rinkel (great-niece of the Steigers)

David Segermark (Kristine DelMonte's father)

Sandy and her family on the loss of Erin (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Erin Borden (friend of Anne Hoffman)

Jane S. (Friend of Pat Brubaker)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Geraniums**

Once again our sanctuary will be decorated with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. If you are interested in memorializing a plant (cost \$5.00 per plant), please email the church office at [holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com) or call the church office at 610-664-5503. Please include the following information:

***your name***

***how you would like your memorialization to appear in the bulletin (in loving memory of or in honor of)***

***number of plants***

***if you will be taking your plant/s or leaving it/them to be planted on our grounds***

Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity with a note in the memo line "Geraniums". Please mail or drop off checks to Holy Trinity, 196 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, PA 19072. Deadline to order is **Sunday, May 12th**. Thank you!

### **Giving Garden - Donating for Beds**

If you would like to donate financially to help us with our replacement beds, you can do so on our church website, [holytrinitynarberth.com](http://holytrinitynarberth.com) or if you prefer, checks (please note in the memo line "Giving Garden beds") or cash can be dropped to the church office or sent via snail mail. Thank you!

### **Summer Planting**

Be sure to mark your calendars for our summer planting day with Trellis on **Sunday, May 19th at 1pm**. We hope to see you there!

### **Free Springtime Concert on May 5 @ St. Paul's in Ardmore**

Temple University's Center for Gifted Young Musicians would like to invite you to a free springtime concert that the Center's Youth Chamber Orchestra (along with musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra) is presenting at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 415 Athens Ave. in Ardmore on May 5 at 3 pm.

### **GoFundMe for Ukrainian Family emigrating to Narberth**

Last month, we learned of a young Ukrainian family that is planning to move to Narberth very soon. Many of their logistics and financing are being coordinated by folks at St. Margaret's down the street. This GoFundMe was recommended as a main way to start helping them out, with more chances to hopefully come. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Dan.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/saint-margarets-parish-welcome-circle>