



WHERE YOUR  
**TREASURE** IS,  
THERE YOUR  
**HEART**  
WILL BE ALSO

LUKE 12:34

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520  
717-569-1632

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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Ms. Karen Karasos, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

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**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**7:45 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning-to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

**Welcome all visitors!** We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. **Activity bags for children can be found in the Narthex.** Please sign our guest book in the Narthex and receive a gift of Trinity Bread from our greeters. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

**Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

*Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

**HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES** –If you have trouble with hearing, please check with one of the ushers for a Hearing Assist Sound Receiver.

**BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!**



**Prayer As You Enter:** *Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

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## **CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**



### **TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:**

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

**Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:**

- Share God's love with our community*
  - Serve God's children*
  - Bring healing and wholeness to those in need*
  - Share the Gospel in liturgy, music, and study*
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## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

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

God said, "Gather to me my faithful ones."

**We gather to praise and give thanks.**

Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, God gives us the kingdom."

**We gather to praise and give thanks.**

God speaks and summons us to worship.

**We gather to praise and give thanks.**

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

**Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.**

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

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, but we fear the Spirit's power.

**Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.**

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Baptized in Christ, let us confess our sin.

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. We confess all of this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### COLLECT FOR NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

God of Light and Love, who delights in all of creation, ignite our spirits to worship with sincerity; illumine our minds with the truth of your Word; inspire our hearts to seek only your treasure, that we might be moved to action and share your love. Through Jesus Christ, our hope and promise, we pray. Amen.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

## PSALTER

Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

**The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.**

From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

**He who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.**

A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

**The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.**

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

**Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.**

Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

**Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise be to You, O Christ*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## SERMON

**“Our Faith Teaches Us Not to Be Afraid!”**

**Pastor Rankin**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and 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.

## PEOPLE'S OFFERING

### OFFERING DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your caring realm, where we claim the needs of others as our concern. We are finding a homeland in your service and we are grateful. Above all, may our offerings be an outpouring of thanksgiving for a God who does not forget us. Your promises are sure and your faithfulness is to all generations. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal and triune God, whom we worship as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ you spoke the word that brought the world into being. By the Holy Spirit you brought order out of chaos and breathed life into your creatures. In your great love, you stood by us in spite of our disobedience, correcting us with gracious reproof, and welcoming us again into your loving embrace. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sings to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born of Mary, he came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. To all who believed, he gave power to become your children. In ministry among your own Jesus cared for all, forgiving their failures, healing their hurts, and nurturing their faith, giving himself in utter sacrifice for those he loved. He inspired ordinary people to Spirit-filled living and displayed in his life, death, and rising again to the power of your Spirit.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

### **THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP**

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

## RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew or ask someone near you to have the pastor and assistant come to you in the pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)*

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Immigration and Refugee Services and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

***SILENT PRAYER***

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

**BENEDICTION**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Parry and Claire Miller** in celebration of our 58th wedding anniversary on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The Worship Aids** are given by **Betsy Bailey & Family** to honor their loved one- the late John Bailey. John would have celebrated his birthday on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Attendance for Sun., August 3**                      7:45–11    9:30–58                      **TOTAL – 69**

**Ministering Today**

<b>Preacher</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Lector</b>	Jeff Hackenberger
<b>Money Counters</b>	Nevin Cooley, Steve Gold, Pat Sensenig, Charlene Cristy
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker, Nancy Enders
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Mike Wagner
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card</b> Deacons (Lon Wible) <b>Called to Care</b> Nancy Enders <b>Visitation</b> Rev. Ken Trauger

**Happy Birthday!**

Monday – Koleson Burgo  
Wednesday – Jack Keller, Jamy Shelly  
Thursday – Ken Hoshauer, Peter Rohrer  
Saturday – Carmen Richards, Donna Esbenshade

## **This Week at Trinity Church**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

Monday-Tuesday     Secretary on vacation

Tuesday             7:15 PM—Music Committee

Wednesday        7:00 PM – Finance/Deacons/Stewardship/Budget Mtg.

Thursday           6:00 PM – Parish Life

Friday               Sexton off

Saturday            8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday              7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Worship

## **PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE**

### **MEMBERS**

<b>Rick Mowrer</b>	<b>Rev. Ken Trauger</b>	<b>Donna Zirkel</b>
<b>Ron &amp; Donna Denlinger</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Carrie Call</b>	<b>John Shelsky</b>
<b>Janice Jenkins</b>	<b>Mid Gockley</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Phyllis Zimmerman</b>
<b>Rhonda Hartenstine</b>	<b>Joann Peck</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Jane Owens</b>
<b>The Lehman family</b>	<b>Mary Lou Shaab</b>	<b>Carmen &amp; Jerry Richards</b>
<b>Donna Wolf &amp; Family</b>	<b>George &amp; Ellie Latsha</b>	<b>Himelwright Family</b>
<b>Sam Minder III</b>	<b>Harry Himelwright</b>	<b>Rev. Bob Musser</b>
<b>Pat Seachrist</b>	<b>Erika Otthofer</b>	<b>Danielle Huggins Holbein</b>
<b>Betty Fogle</b>	<b>Betty Tyndall &amp; family</b>	<b>Michael McDonough</b>
<b>Denise Huggins</b>	<b>Don Miller</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Marlyn Wible</b>
<b>Ron Becker</b>	<b>Joann &amp; Dawn Garvin</b>	<b>Rev. Bob &amp; Judie Bistline</b>
<b>Arlene Hoxworth</b>	<b>Mary Lou Sturgis</b>	<b>Pastor Harry Royer</b>
<b>Rev. Jere &amp; Judy Chapman</b>	<b>Hank Fox</b>	<b>Kathleen Sensenig Adams</b>
<b>Rev. Dr. Rich &amp; Lainie Christensen</b>		

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**The family of Chris Rice** (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

**Betty Lenker** (sister-in-law of Jack & Charlene Cristy)

**Janet Latsha** (sister-in-law of George & Ellie Latsha)

**Claudia Esbenshade** (cousin of George DeLong, Jodi Keller, & Denise Gobrecht)

**Sherry Kline** (former substitute organist at Trinity)

**Dennis Amour** (father of John & Kayla Brennan’s friend)

**Lynnette Fritz** (cousin of Betty Tyndall)

**Deb Wealand** (sister-in-law of Denise Pfeiffer)

**Andrew Hicks** (husband of Katie Weeber)

**Billy Schoffstall** (uncle of Kayla Brennan)

**Matthew Davis** (brother-in-law of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

**Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner** (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)  
**Cindy Greiman** (friend of Betty Fogle)  
**Marianne Gibble** (friend of Trinity)  
**Chad Zirkel** (son of Donna Zirkel)  
**Ken Hoshauer** (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
**Kurt Kalbach** (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
**Mary Call** (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)  
**The Herr Family** (Former Trinity Preschool Family)  
**David Brown** (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)  
**Harvey Sick** (friend of Judy Chapman)  
**James Malone & family**  
**Barry Richards** (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
**Tyler Miller** (grandson of Iris DeMaio)  
**Joan Kalbach** (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
**Jim & Kathy Long** (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
**Jo Jo Richards & family** (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)  
**Terry Kratz** (Carol Kratz's husband)

## **OTHER CONCERNS**

**Victims of Disasters**

**World Peace**

**Church World Service & Other Faith-Based Relief Organizations**

**GRIEF GROUP:** The next session will be on August 19 at 1:30 p.m. We continue to read Francis Weller's *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred work of Grief*. If you would like to participate in one or both of the sessions, contact Pastor Chris or the Church office.

**MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST MEETING:** The men will be meeting at the Family Fare Restaurant for breakfast August 23 at 8:00 AM. This is open to all men of the congregation! You are encouraged to invite other men to the breakfast. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office!

## **Calling All Teachers and Helpers for the 2025-2026 Christian Education**

**Ministry:** The Board of Elders would like to meet with members of Trinity Church who are interested in serving in our Christian Education ministry (children, youth, and adults). We are planning a meeting on Monday, August 18 from 7-8:00 in Isenberg Hall. We will do some planning for this year (curriculum, teaching schedules, etc.). Look for a sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Rankin or one of the Elders (Sue Bowman, George DeLong, Bob Kilgore, or Karen Olley).

**THE ORDER OF HEALING** will be included in both services on August 24!

**MISSIONARIES FROM SENDAI, JAPAN TO VISIT TRINITY CHURCH**

Professor Yudai Fujino and Mr. Satoshi Hino from the Tohoku Gakuin University in Sendai, Japan will be at Lancaster Theological Seminary later this month. They will be worshipping with us at the 9:30 service on August 24. They will also be joining us for lunch at Loxley's! Look for more information in the July/August Parish Post about Trinity's connection with our partners in Sendai!

**Lancaster Association  
Mission & Ministry Team**

**invites the churches of  
Lancaster & Lebanon Associations  
to a**

**SUNDAY**

**August 24, 2025**

**2:00-4:00**

**Summer Ice Cream Social!!!**

**RADER PARK**

**PAVILION AT**

**Church of the Apostles**

**1850 Marietta Ave.**

**Lancaster**

**TABLE CONVERSATION TOPIC:**

**Come willing to talk about the challenges and graces around spiritual formation and education in our congregations for children and adults. How can our Associations encourage experimentation with joint events and programs? Are there organizations in our communities that have educational experiences that can tie into mission as well?**

**Bring questions and ideas!**

See Diane Rice (a member of the Mission & Ministry Committee of the Lancaster Association) for more information!!!



**SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE MT. GRETNA TABERNACLE:** We have brochures available on the table across from the church office with information about the worship services, concerts, and other events at the Mt. Gretna Tabernacle this summer!

## **August 10 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert**

### **Jazz Ministers Big Band**

Under the direction of Keith Wiley, 18 accomplished musicians who find a common spiritual mission in sharing the gift of music through the Christian worship or concert experience. The JMBB draws on a variety of musical selections that are frequently based upon standard Christian hymns and Gospel favorites.



## **August 17 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert**

### **The Susquehanna Chorale**

One of the premier choral groups in the nation makes its traditional late summer appearance. Directed by Linda Tedford. *Sponsored by Traditions of Hershey*



**2025 CONCERT SPONSORS:** Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

**VBS MISSION PROJECT:** This year's VBS mission project is the Wycliffe Bible Translators. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission Offering". We will receive donations through the end of August.

**THE JULY/AUGUST PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The July-September edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.





# **Annual Breakfast &** *Ribbon-Cutting* ♥

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**Come for breakfast! Celebrate an astonishing year of supporting and empowering tens of thousands of neighbors and cut the ribbon for our new Outreach Center.**



**Wednesday, September 10th**  
**8 am**

**Lancaster County Food Hub**  
**812 North Queen Street, Lancaster**

**Doors Open: 7:30am Presentation & Breakfast: 8am**

Trinity Church is sponsoring a table of 8 for the Lancaster Food Hub's breakfast! We have 3 seats already reserved, so there's 5 more seats available! Contact Pastor Chris if you are interested in attending.

# SAVE THE DATES

**Lunch Bunch At Loxley's  
August 24 at Noon**

Sign-up sheet on table outside the office.

**Deadline to sign-up is August 17!!!**



**Trinity Preschool Fundraiser**

**Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6 – 9 PM**

**1991 Miller Road  
East Petersburg, PA 17520**







**CHURCH PICNIC:** The Parish Life Committee is planning to hold the annual church picnic at the Rapho Township Park on Saturday, September 6 from 4-6:30 p.m. The signup sheet is on the table in the hallway outside office. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!!

**RALLY DAY** will be on Sunday, September 14. The theme will be “Growing Together in God’s Love”!

We will return to our regular schedule:

7:45—Worship with Holy Communion

9:00---Christian Education Classes for all ages

10:00---Koinonia (fellowship time)

10:30---Worship (Holy Communion twice a month)

Pastor Chris is planning to sing our VBS songs at the 10:30 service! Watch for more details in the September Parish Post & the weekly bulletins about the kick-off to our Sunday School classes!



**THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO HAVE A FLOAT AGAIN THIS YEAR!**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS IN AUGUST AND THE SEPTEMBER PARISH POST TO SEE HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR’S PARADE!**

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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*Lancaster*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

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OCTOBER 19, 2025

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LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

## Lancaster CROP Hunger Walk registration is open

1:00 p.m. Registration

1:30 p.m. Program

2:00 p.m. Walk begins

(Location: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church)

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others through the Lancaster Food Hub and Church World Service!

You can register to walk or support one of our walkers at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-east-pete>

The members of Trinity who have already registered to walk are: Mark & Chris Eyer, Hedwig Hunsicker, and the Rankin Family.

Pastor Rankin is once again serving as the coordinator of the Lancaster CROP Walk. Thanks to Mark & Chris Eyer for serving as Trinity's coordinators again this year!

**BOOK STUDY:** Pastor Chris is planning to do book study in the coming months via Google Meet. We will be reading Henri Nouwen's book *With Open Hands: Bring Prayer Into Your Life*. Contact the church office or Pastor Chris if you are interested in participating.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS** are available on both floors of the church building. If you have any questions, contact Amy Grube (Trinity Preschool Director) at [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org).

**2025 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts and the forms on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please submit the forms to Carol!

**THE JULY-SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES** are available on the table in the Narthex.

## **SPECIAL COMMORATIONS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

### **August 10--Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died in 258**

Lawrence was one of seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered lepers, orphans, the blind and lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's martyrdom was one of the first to be observed by the church.

### **August 11---Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died in 1253**

At age eighteen, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon in a church in town. From that time, she determined to follow in his example of Christian living. With Francis's help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.

### **August 13--Florence Nightingale, died in 1910; Clara Maass, died in 1901; Both women were renewers of society**

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800s nursing was done by people with no training and no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and resumed her work there for hospital reform.

Clara Maass was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who practice the arts of healing.



**August 14--Maximilian Kolbe, died in 1941; Kaj Munk, died in 1944; both were martyrs**

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest, born Raymond Kolbe. After spending some time working in Asia, he returned in 1936 to his native Poland, where he supervised a friary that came to house thousands of Polish war refugees, mostly Jews. The Nazis were watching, however, and he was arrested. Confined in Auschwitz, Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man who was a husband and father. After two weeks, he was executed by a lethal injection.

Kaj (pronounced KYE) Munk, a Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, was an outspoken critic of the Nazis, who occupied Denmark during the Second World War. His plays frequently highlighted the eventual victory of the Christian faith despite the church's weak and ineffective witness. The Nazis feared Munk because his sermons and articles helped to strengthen the Danish resistance movement. He was executed by the Gestapo on January 5, 1944.

**August 15---Mary, Mother of Our Lord**

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning "God-bearer." Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”<sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Psalm 33:12-22**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.<sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.<sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.<sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as

good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,<sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.<sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.<sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40**

[Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.<sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.<sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.<sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.<sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29–12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

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