



The  
*kingdom*  
of  
*heaven*  
has come near

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

Website: [www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org) E-Mail: [secretary@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:secretary@trinityeastpete.org)

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

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

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

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

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**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**7:45 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt of destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

**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. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. 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.***

**Prayer As You Enter:** *Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **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.**

We come to prepare for the One who is to come.

**Let us make straight the pathways of our lives.**

Let us make smooth the roughest places of our lives.

**Let us boldly speak words of comfort, peace, and justice.**

Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

John the Baptist calls us to repent, to prepare for the coming of God's reign.

**Let us heed John's call and confess our sins in silent prayer.**

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

#### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

**God of new beginnings, we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

#### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## **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.**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE/TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

We gather around the Advent wreath today knowing that we are not perfect—that we all make mistakes and do bad things.

**Only Jesus obeyed God fully. Jesus helps us to live as God wants us to live. Jesus gives us peace.**

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.” Christ’s name is also Emmanuel, “God with us.” The presence of Christ with us gives peace day by day.

Let us pray together.

**Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

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

### **THE PSALTER**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Teach the king to judge with your righteousness, O God; share with him your own justice, so that he will rule over your people with justice and govern the oppressed with righteousness.

**May the land enjoy prosperity; may it experience righteousness.**



May the king judge the poor fairly; may he help the needy and defeat their oppressors.

**May the king be like the rain on the fields, like showers falling on the land.**

May righteousness flourish in his lifetime, and may prosperity last as long as the moon gives light.

**May the king's name be never forgotten; may his fame last as long as the sun. May all nations ask God to bless them as he has blessed the king.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

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

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

St. Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

***Glory be to You, O Lord.***

## **THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD**

***Praise be to You, O Christ.***

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **SERMON**

**"Can You Imagine?"**

**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**

We delight in your love and salvation, Lord; there can be no greater gifts than these. We will gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves. We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us, Lord. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 very right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love and for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. Born of your servant Mary, Jesus shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. As we now await the birth of the Christ child, we offer you our hymn of praise.

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!

*(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.

### COMMUNICATION

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.**

*(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 need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your 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.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**



**CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**





## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Nevin Cooley** in memory of Nevin V. Cooley, father of Nevin Cooley.

**The Worship Aids** are given by **the Minder Family** in memory of Samuel I. Minder, Jr.

**The Baptismal Font Flowers** are given by **the Minder Family** in memory of Samuel I. Minder, Jr.

**Money Counters:** Lee Bossert, Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk

**Building Trustee:** Nevin Cooley      **Lector:** Rev. Sandy Morris

**Altar Guild:** Nancy Enders & Karen Olley

**Koinonia:** Rankin Family

<b>Attendance for Sun., Nov. 27</b>	<b>7:45–20</b>	<b>9:30–64</b>	<b>TOTAL – 84</b>
<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	<b>17</b>		

### **This Week at Trinity Church**

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

Today	6:00 PM – Christmas Concert followed by dessert
Monday	7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM – Bells
Tuesday	6:00 PM – Pastor Parish(Isenberg Hall) 7:00 PM – Preschool Board(Choir Room)
Wednesday	6:00 PM – Lynn Dull Funeral Visitation/7 PM-Funeral
Thursday	10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group
Saturday	8:00 AM – Men’s Breakfast 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon –Lunch/Christmas Caroling (1-3 p.m.)

### **Happy Birthday!**

Today – Scott Wible  
Monday – Theodore Slechta  
Wednesday – Steve Shenk, Diane Summers  
Thursday – Ronda Hartenstine

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW** is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

**THE CHRISMON TREE:** The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term “Chrismon” comes from the Latin “Christi monnogramma” which simply means “monogram of Christ”. Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

**THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE** are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

**THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS,** made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

**THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN** was made by Mike Wagner.

**THE CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVEATOR** was made by Mike Wagner.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS & CALENDARS:** There are devotionals available for adults & children and Advent calendars for children on the table across from the church office.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD:** Don't forget to sign the congregational Christmas card on the table across from the church office. There is a box for you to put a monetary donation for Milagro House. **Thank you to Betty Tyndall for making the card again this year!**

**THE DECEMBER PARISH POST** is available on both floors of the church building.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** The family of Marlin “Moe” Weaver (brother of Dottie Schadt/uncle of Cherie Cataldi), the family of Doris Leaman the family of Lynn Dull, the family of Emma Grimm (friend of several Trinity members), Jodi Keller, George DeLong, Danielle Huggins Holbein, Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens), Joann Peck, Mary Lou Shaab, Stan & Pat Seachrist, Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley, Hilma Slechta (mother of Mike Slechta), Donna Nesbitt (neighbor of John & Sarah Paulukow), Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), Jane Portser, Tom Wolf (son of Donna Wolf), Judie Bistline, Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), Laura Jean Watson (sister of Carol Kratz), David and Brenda Haverstick (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Jeannie & Bill Toy (sister & brother-in-law of Lainie Christensen) Carmen Richards, Donna Zirkel, Don & Pat Miller, Sam Minder III, Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Dick & Tillie King (friends of Stan & Pat Seachrist), Robin McComsey (neighbor of Himelwrights), Rylan Brent (relative of Chuck & Sue Husted), Hank Fox, Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner), Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer), Bob Kilgore, the Lehman family, Judy Barr (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Joann Garvin, Rev. Phyllis Baum, Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer), Rev. Paul Eyer (former pastor of St. Luke’s), Mary Witmer, the Martin family, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Monica Williams (friend of Sandy DeLong), Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio), Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Nancy Patton, Mike & Judy Barr (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Phyllis Zimmerman, Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever’s brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach’s brother), Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Betty Tyndall and family, Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry’s granddaughter-in-law), Bob & Marlyn Wible, Barry Moore (Donna & Ron Denlinger’s brother-in-law), Judy Wisniewski (sister of Chuck Husted), and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church)

**UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

The memorial service for Lynn Dull will be held at Trinity Church on Wednesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. There will be a time for visitation from 6-7 p.m.

**ORDER OF HEALING:** We will include the order of healing at both worship services on December 11. Those who wish to be anointed with oil will be invited to come forward during the service. We use the order of healing as way to recognize that many are in need of God's healing presence during the holiday season.

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

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** The Parish Life Committee is planning to go Christmas caroling on December 11 to some of our members and around the East Petersburg community. We will enjoy a pizza lunch together after the 10:30 service in Isenberg Hall and then go caroling (by car) from 1-3 p.m. Please sign-up on the table across from the church office so that we can order enough pizzas! This is open to all members and friends of Trinity Church!!!

**ADVENT ENVELOPES:** The Board of Deacons decided to give funds from the Advent offering envelope to the U.C.C. Christmas Fund for retired clergy, widows/widowers of U.C.C. clergy, and ministerial assistance. We will hear more about the U.C.C. Christmas Fund offering in December.



# Trinity UCC

2340 State St.

East Petersburg, PA

[www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org)

## Concert/Desserts

Featuring

Trinity Church Musicians

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

**Concert – 6:00 PM**

Desserts Following The Concert

Sign-up Sheet In Church Narthex

Or

Call 717-569-1632 For Dessert Reservations

*Freewill Offering Benefits*

Schreiber Center For Pediatric Development  
*and Trinity Music Ministry*



**Also Join Us Dec. 24  
(Christmas Eve):  
2:30 PM Eucharist  
6:30 PM Family Service  
10:30 PM Eucharist**





**KOINONIA:** We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes.

**2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:**

Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: January 15 & 22.

Upcoming dates for worship aids are: January 1, 8, 15 & 22. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Contact Carol and look for charts for 2023 dates.

**MEN OF TRINITY BREAKFAST:** The monthly breakfast will be held at the Family Fare Restaurant on December 10 at 8:00 a.m. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.



**Highland Presbyterian Church**  
500 East Roseville Road  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601  
717-569-2651  
[www.highlandpc.org](http://www.highlandpc.org)



**Mennonite Children's Choir  
of Lancaster**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 7:00 pm**

MCCL creates exceptional music that represents the diversity of the global church across time. They serve over 100 children and youth representing 45 congregations, 35 schools, and 10 denominations. In addition to local concerts, they tour every summer.

**Caleb Kreider is a member of the Mennonite Children's Choir**

**NEW MEMBERS:** Are you interested in joining Trinity U.C.C.? Do you know of someone looking for a church home? Please speak to Pastor Chris about joining our congregation.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available on the table across from the church office. Please help us by delivering envelopes to some of our homebound members!

**THE 2023 APPROVED BUDGET** is available on the table across from the church office or in the information racks on both levels of the church building.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> in the Choir Room from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

**NEW NURSERY COORDINATOR:** Betty Fogle has agreed to serve as our nursery coordinator. If you are interested in providing nursery care for children during worship, please contact Betty.

**PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT:** You will again find a pink envelope in your box of offering envelopes. This is a way for you to give a Christmas gift to Pastor Rankin. If you want the pastor to receive the full amount of your gift, then you should give it directly to him. This means that the money will not go through the church treasury and you will not receive a tax deduction for your gift. All checks should be made payable to the pastor if you choose to give it to him directly.

If you choose to make your check payable to Trinity UCC, you will receive credit on your 2022 contribution statement. A gift sent through the church treasury is considered taxable income for the pastor.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

***Scott Owens, Church Treasurer***

**ONLINE GIVING INFORMATION:** Contributing your donation using our website....[trinityeastpete.org](http://trinityeastpete.org)....**RESOURCES, PAY ON LINE**

For several years, members have been able to make weekly/recurring donations on-line in lieu of paying cash/checks or by mail. On-line donations save the cost of a check and envelope and if using the recurring feature, remembering weekly to prepare your envelope. Presently we have several individuals/families using on-line donations either weekly or recurring.

*We believe that financial transparency builds trust and is a mark of stewardship so we want to take a moment to remind you that there is a small cost for this convenience. You'll have the opportunity to help cover the cost of processing when you give. Please know that this is **100% optional**, but we appreciate your partnership in making your gift go as far as possible to impact our mission.*

We have never asked our members to cover these costs especially since 2020 at the start of the pandemic. The costs are 1.05% when paying by check, 3.05% when paying by credit/debit card.

Beginning July 1, 2022, we added a feature to our on-line giving whereby you can help to cover the costs of paying online by debit/credit card or checking account. This is entirely **OPTIONAL**. There will be a check-off block to use if you wish to cover your transaction cost in addition to your contribution.

**CROP WALK MONEY:** Trinity has raised **\$12,740** for the 2022 CROP Walk. If any walkers still have money, give it to Mark or Chris Eyer or give it to the church office!

You can still support our walkers by giving them money or going online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/trinity-east-pete>

**Community Grab 'N Go Meal: Tuesday, December 27 at First Reformed  
U.C.C. (40 E. Orange St., Lancaster)**

Trinity has another opportunity to feed the underserved on December 27. A few volunteers will be needed to pack and distribute 120 to-go dinner bags. The sign-up sheet for volunteers and food donations is on the table in across from the church office. The food items needed for this meal are: fruit cups, hamburger rolls, water, individually wrapped desserts and baby carrots. Donations can be placed in the basket on the table.

Contact Kathy Cooley for more information! Thanks for your continuing support!

**Holiday Wishes for Jordan Sensenig**



Since Jordan is deployed overseas, this will be his third Christmas away from home. Christmas will be a difficult time for him, and we hope you will help to boost his spirits. Whether you share a note, a Christmas card, or a memory, we hope you will help by sending him words of encouragement.

You surprised him with your wonderful greetings last year, and we hope we can surprise him again. He couldn't believe how many greetings he received. You were great!

Jordan appreciates his Trinity family, and we hope this will be a great reminder of all the times he spent at Trinity. He's far from home, and this will help him feel all the caring that surrounds him.

With the issues surrounding mail delivery, we will collect your encouraging correspondences and will send all as a single mailing. We will send one mailing in early December, and then another a few weeks later.

Many Thanks!  
Pat and Joan



**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE:** We will then have a service of lessons and carols with Holy Communion on Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School or koinonia on December 25!

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for worship volunteers on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office to sign-up!

**Greeters:** To welcome worshippers at the door for the second service.

**Ushers:** We have returned to passing the offering plate during the second service. We especially need ushers because some people have stepped down!

**Lectors:** Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and/or 10:30 a.m. services.

**Special Note:** We are in need of ushers & greeters for Christmas Eve services and our Christmas Day Service (10 a.m.). We also need readers for Christmas Eve (6:30 p.m.) and the Christmas Day Service. Speak with Pastor Chris if interested.



**FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**SECOND LESSON. Romans 15:4-13**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**GOSPEL. Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'"