

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org
The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission
Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director
Dr. Robert T. Adams, Summer Supply Organist
Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist
Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton
Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized-to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus-is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

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 and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



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

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 is eager to restore us to right relationship. The Creator is waiting to claim us now as God's own.

We have come to meet the God who welcomes us. We have gathered to experience God's steadfast love.

God will answer us and will give what is good. God restores us to faithfulness and righteousness.

We come asking, searching, and knocking. We seek the good gifts only God can provide.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

(PLEASE STAND 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 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Holy One, like the disciples who did not know how to pray, we ask that you open the door of our understanding, and feed us with the bread of your holy word. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALTER

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 2:6-19

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection, which is enacted in baptism.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the

universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to child-like trust and persistence in prayer.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"The Pushy Prayers of a Submissive Servant" Dr. Haun
(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

Holy God, whose name is before all names, we worship you with our offerings. They represent our labor, our investment of time and energy. We want them to be put to the best possible use. May they save many from the course of evil and turn them toward faithful discipleship. May they provide bread for body and soul, that your people may be preserved and strengthened for ministry. Bless and multiply our efforts, 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 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 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.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Center the ministries of this congregation on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by Jack & Donna Esbenshade to celebrate their 50th anniversary on August 1st.

The Worship Aids are given by Joan Cash in honor of the members of Trinity Church who participate in our community meal ministry!

Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Dr. James Haun Rev. Sandy Morris

Money Counters Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller

Altar Guild Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders

Building Trustee Pat Sensenig

Ministries Church Staff (Carol Kratz, Pastor Rankin)

Called to Care Nancy Enders Visitation Janice Jenkins

Today we welcome the Rev. Dr. James R. Haun as our guest preacher. A Lancaster native, Dr. Haun, graduated from Manheim Township High School, Millersville University (B.A. in History), and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (M.Div. & D. Min.). He has been involved in the Lancaster Association as Vice President and Chair of the Committee on Ministry. Besides his experience as a parish pastor, Dr. Haun has worked part-time in area nursing homes as a licensed barber. He has served the following pastorates:

2012-23 Pastor, St. Luke's U.C.C., Lititz

1989-12 Pastor, Zion U.C.C., New Providence

1982-89 Pastor, Paradise U.C.C., Canfield, OH

Happy Birthday!

Today - Meighan Gegg Livingston, Marianne Gibble

Monday – Lisa Wible, Isaac Derstler

Tuesday – Joanna Bullock

Wednesday – Robert Kilgore, Rev. Susan Sokowlowski

Friday – Paige Martin

Saturday - Ron Denlinger, Rev. Thomas Busteed

Attendance for Sun., July 20

7:45-14

9:30-46

TOTAL - 60

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Saturday 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:30 AM – Worship

Rev. Charlie Gross, Supply Preacher

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Rick Mowrer Rev. Ken Trauger Donna Zirkel Ron & Donna Denlinger Rev. Dr. Carrie Call John Shelsky

Janice Jenkins Marge Burger Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Rhonda Hartenstine Joann Peck Scott & Jane Owens

The Lehman family Mary Lou Shaab Carmen & Jerry Richards

Donna Wolf & Family George & Ellie Latsha Himelwright Family

Sam Minder III Betsy Bailey Hank Fox

Rev. Bob Musser Pat Seachrist Danielle Huggins Holbein

Betty Fogle Betty Tyndall & family Michael McDonough

Denise Huggins Erika Otthofer Don Miller

Ron Becker Joann & Dawn Garvin Bob & Marlyn Wible

Arlene Hoxworth Mary Lou Sturgis Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline Pastor Harry Royer Mid Gockley Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Kathleen Sensenig Adams Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen Lexi Weeber & Ryan Bair on the birth of Logan Joseph Bair

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family of Naomi Nagy (former member of St. Andrew U.C.C./daughter-in-law of Rev. Paul Nagy, Trinity's pastor from 1940-43)

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)

Marjorie Derck (sister of George Latsha)

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)

Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

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)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Disasters

World Peace

Church World Service & Other Faith-Based Relief Organizations

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.

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

PASTOR RANKIN WILL BE AWAY thru August 3. He will return to the office on August 4.

The pulpit will be supplied by:

The Rev. Charlie Gross, a retired Presbyterian pastor and son of Trinity Church, will be preaching on August 3.

Pastoral care will be provided by:

The Rev. Sandy Morris, a member of our congregation, will be covering pastoral emergencies from July 27-August 3. You can reach Rev. Morris at 717-385-1588.

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!

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP: Look for information about camp on the table across from the church office. There's information about the two Lutheran camps (Kirchenwald & Nawakwa) and the Hartman Center Spirit Week at the former Hartman Center Camp!

As you know, Penn Central Conference pays 50% of camp registration fees. You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with "Camp Scholarship".

SEND NOTES TO OUR CAMPERS THIS WEEK: Pastor Chris, Zach, Rachel, and Andrew will be at the Hartman Center Spirit Camp this week. You can mail notes to them at 5725 Old US Hwy 322, Milroy, PA 17063.

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.

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

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!



July 27 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

Choir Festival A mass choir of over 100 volunteer singers from the region will present an inspiring program of varied styles of sacred music. Linda Tedford, guest conductor. Sponsored by Loser's Music. Concert made possible by the Estate of Douglas Troutman.

August 3 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

Lancaster British Brass Band 28 instrumentalists from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and

New Jersey playing brass, winds and percussion instruments. Directed by Dr. Stephen Arthur Allen. Sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care.



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.

U.C.C. DESK CALENDARS: It is that time of the year to order the U.C.C. desk calendars. This popular, 18-month (July 2025 - December 2026) planning calendar for the UCC is 8.5" x 11" and spiral-bound. The calendar includes complete lectionary readings for every Sunday, special mission offering dates, special observances and a directory of national staff.

The cost is \$20. Speak to Carol Kratz if you are interested in purchasing a calendar. The deadline to place your order is TOMORROW!!!

COPIES OF THE U.C.C. HOMES NEWSLETTER are available on the table across from the church office! Please read about one of our mission partners that we support through the Our Gift to Others mission offering.

SAVE THE DATES

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).

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 25th 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. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!!



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!

Lancaster
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 19, 2025

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!

SPECIAL COMMORATIONS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

July 28—Johann Sebastian Bach died in 1750; Heinrich Schütz died in 1759; George Frideric Handel died in 1759

These three composers have done much to enrich the worship life of the church. Bach drew on the Lutheran tradition of hymnody and wrote about two hundred cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and festival day in the Lutheran calendar of his day. He has been called "the fifth evangelist" for the ways he proclaimed the gospel through his music. Handel was not primarily a church musician, but his great work *Messiah* is a musical proclamation of the scriptures. Schütz wrote choral settings of biblical texts and paid special attention to ways his composition would underscore the meaning of the words.

July 29—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality and refreshment they offered Jesus in their home. Following the characterization drawn by Luke, Martha represents the active life, Mary the contemplative. Mary is identified in the fourth gospel as the one who anointed Jesus before his passion and who was criticized for her act of devotion. Lazarus, Mary's and Martha's brother, was raised from the dead by Jesus as a sign of the eternal life offered to all believers. It was over Lazarus' tomb that Jesus wept for love of his friend.

July 29—Olaf, King of Norway/martyr died in 1030

Olaf is considered the patron saint of Norway. In his early career he engaged in war and piracy in the Baltic and in Normandy. In Rouen, though, he was baptized and became a Christian. He returned to Norway, succeeded his father as king, and from then on Christianity was the dominant religion of the realm. He revised the laws of the nation and enforced them with strict impartiality, eliminating the possibility of bribes. He thereby alienated much of the aristocracy. The harshness that he sometimes resorted to in order to establish Christianity and his own law to a rebellion. After being driven from the country and into exile, he enlisted support from Sweden to try to regain his kingdom, but he died in battle.

U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)

Shaped by Prayer (7/27/2025)

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Luke 11:1-13

St. Augustine once wrote, "Pray as if everything depends on God."

The problem for many of us, though, is that we feel as if our prayers are inadequate. We often wonder if we are even doing "it" right.

No wonder Jesus' friends, upon watching him in deep conversation with God — which is the best definition for what prayer is, a conversation from the heart — asked Jesus to teach them to do the same. And so, Jesus teaches them by giving them an outline to follow known as The Lord's Prayer.

It is a beloved prayer connecting Christians throughout the world for no matter what language it is said and whether "debts" or "trespasses" is used. It is the go-to prayer when we don't know what to pray.

But as what always happens when something like The Lord's Prayer becomes so routine, so taken for granted, so oft recited, we forget the power of the words we are speaking.

So, let's have a quick refresher this day on a prayer that has the power to shape us, now and always.

Our Father, who art in heaven. Jesus teaches us that the first thing we do when praying is simply start by addressing God.

Holy (hallowed) is your name. Jesus then reminds us to add words or praise and adoration.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. After acknowledging God and praising God's greatness, we are to pray for God's kingdom of love and goodness to come down from heaven, remembering always that this kingdom is not what we envision but what God has planned.

Give us this day our daily bread. We then ask for blessed provision, but notice Jesus isn't saying "my daily bread." Rather, we pray for the community, asking for provision for all who are wanting.

Forgive us our sins (or debts or trespasses). Here comes the challenging part — forgiveness. We are told as we seek forgiveness, we must also forgive all those who have wronged us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Finally, Jesus reminds us this world is filled with many temptations waiting to ensnare us in turning away from the goodness of God.

Note here, that the original prayer ended with "deliver us from evil." It is said that the early church added the ending we now have — "for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever" — as to end on a note of praise. Scholars say it first appeared in the "Didache," a document from the late first or early second century.

So, when you feel you do not know how or what to pray turn to the words of Jesus who gave us a framework that shapes our many prayers to come.

Rather than close with a written prayer, I invite you to recite, line by line, The Lord's Prayer, pausing after each sentence and lingering on the words.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

The LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. 23 Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." 30 Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." 31He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Psalm 138

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] [not printed]

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' 8I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"