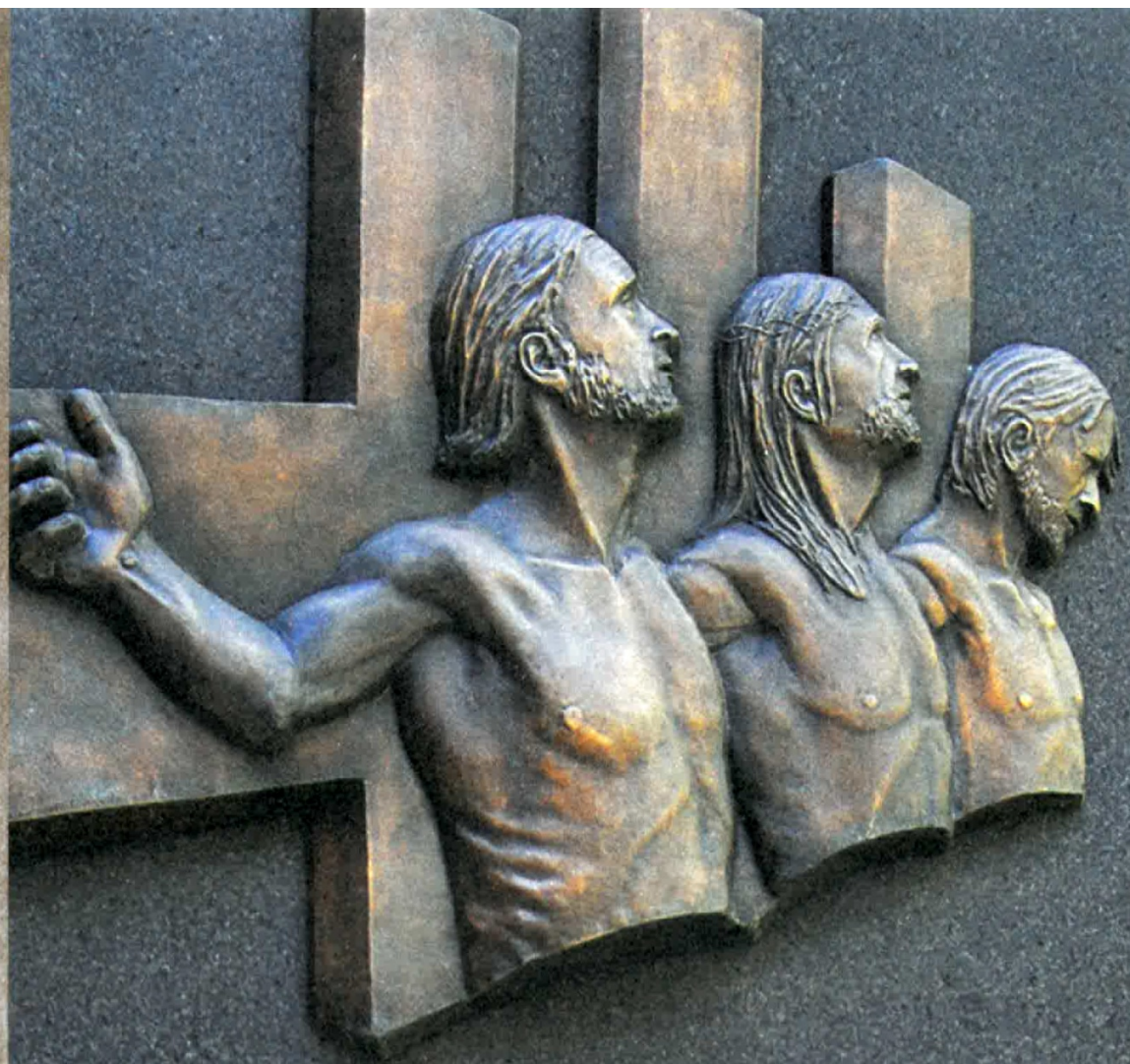




Jesus,
remember
me when
you come into
your kingdom

LUKE 23:42

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.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

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

Mr. Philip High, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/CHRIST THE KING
7:45 A.M. SERVICE

The first and last Sundays in this “season after Pentecost” are days with special themes – Trinity and Christ the King. This season after Pentecost is just that; we celebrate the continuing work of Christ in his Church by the Holy Spirit.

“Jesus shall reign where’r the sun does its successive journeys run,” wrote the English hymnist Isaac Watts, who died on November 25, 1748. On this last Sunday of the church year, we honor Christ, who reigns as king from the cross. All space and all time belong to the one who offers paradise to those who live and die with him.”

“This festival was first introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925, the 1600th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, on the last Sunday in October as a preparation for celebrating All Saints Day. It was not observed ecumenically until after the Second Vatican Council and the introduction of the three-year lectionary, when in 1969 it was transferred to the last Sunday of the liturgical year. (Mark I. Wegner, *New Proclamation: Easter Through Pentecost*, Year B, 2003, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003, p. 257)

Today’s Theme: Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

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 are located in the Narthex!

Prayer As You Enter: *O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you; we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever 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

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

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.**

Christ the King comes as a ruler of love and mercy, a monarch of justice and truth.

We are showered with Christ's light and love.

Christ the King comes as the Prince of Peace, the one who welcomes strangers and forgives criminals.

We are showered with Christ's light and love.

Jesus invited saints and sinners to dine with him and to be his friends.

Therefore, Jesus invites us, saints and sinners, to this sacred meal, in which we can taste and see, experience and remember the goodness of our God.

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sins against God and one another.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Faithful God, you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts and bring us to new life. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, 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 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Let us pray the collect together.

Christ of glory and power, we see the image of God's mercy and gentleness in the love you shine upon our lives. Guide us in your way of peace. Reign in our hearts, with your justice and righteousness. Shepherd us as your people, that we may display your glorious light for all the world to see. In the light of your powerful love, we pray. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALTER

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

THE SECOND LESSON Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL St. Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and King, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and King is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised criminal to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“The True Ruler”

Rev. Hambrick-Stowe

(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

Whatever challenges we face, O God, we have also known your many blessings—threshing floors of grain, vats overflowing with wine and oil. Accept these gifts as tokens of our thankfulness, that they may be used to prophesy in your spirit and to share your bounty with those in need. We dedicate these offerings in Jesus' name. 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 God, creator and ruler of the universe. You fashioned this world in love, and govern all the earth with grace and peace. Nations and monarchs rise and fall, but your reign is for all time, and your mercy is without end. In love you made us to love and serve you. When we turned from you and bent our knees to gods of our own making, you spoke through prophets to bring us back to your ways. You gave us a vision of your holy kingdom that we might hunger after righteousness and thirst for justice, and long for the day when peace will triumph over the pride and greed of nations. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the servants around heaven's throne and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing 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 as king in David's line, he lived with the lowly and cared for the least of your children. His power was revealed in weakness, his majesty in mercy. His captors knelt to mock him, giving him bruises instead of praise, and piercing thorns for a crown. His only earthly throne was a cross on which to die. Even there his arms stretched out to embrace friends and foes in love. From the grave you raised him to your right hand where he rules again from heaven, and commands true loyalty from peoples and nations.

(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, forever. 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.

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

By your word and sacraments, O God, you have given us a foretaste of the new heaven and new earth that will be ours forever. Strengthen us in this vision that we might draw others to believe in the hope that is ours, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Jerry and Carmen Richards** in celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary.

The Worship Aids are given by **Rosemary Huber & her daughters** in memory of Donald B. Huber.

Attendance for Sun., November 16	7:45–18	10:30–67	TOTAL – 85
Sunday School	26		

Ministering Today

Preacher	Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe
Liturgist	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Money Counters	Nevin Cooley , Steve Gold, Paula Dennes, Charlene Cristy
Altar Guild	Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders
Koinonia	Nancy Enders
Building Trustee	Dave Connor
Ministries	Card Trinity Preschool
	Called to Care Nancy Enders
	Visitation JoAnn Mowrer

Today we welcome the **Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe**, Anne Rankin's mother, as our guest preacher. Rev. Hambrick-Stowe is a graduate of Wellesley College, Pacific School of Religion, and University of Baltimore School of Law (first in her class). Her major practice areas were estate planning and administration. She was a member of the bars of Maryland; Pennsylvania; Illinois; the United States Supreme Court; the United States Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Rev. Hambrick-Stowe is a former moderator of the Penn Central Conference. She served the following ministries:

1973-75 Pastor, Sendai Student Center, Sendai, Japan

1975-79 Pastor, Edwards Church U.C.C., Framingham, MA

1989-90 Associate Pastor, Trinity U.C.C., East Petersburg

Happy Birthday!

Today – Naomi Brian

Monday – Elinor Nicholas

Thursday - Dennis Eberly and Dr. Robert Hollenbach

Friday – Dr. Blaine Connor

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)

No Preschool Monday thru Friday

Today 3:00 PM - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service-Zion Lutheran

Monday 7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM Bells

Wednesday 7:00 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday Office Closed

Saturday 8:30 AM - Advent Gathering

8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM - Koinonia

10:30 AM – Worship

PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

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

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Sandra Beam (daughter of Joann Peck)

Kelly Murphy (niece of George & Sandy DeLong)

Ken Barrett (friend of John & Dolly Barr/Anita Rohrer)

Terry & Carol Kratz

Rev. Dr. Harry & Kathy Covert (former members of Trinity Church)

The Reed Family

Beverly Steele (friend of Joan Cash & Pastor Chris' 2nd grade teacher)

Greg Gable (husband of Rev. Sandy Morris)

Chase Heagy and Family (friend of Andrew Rankin)

Carol Feyock (friend of Carmen & Jerry Richards)

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

Sherry Kline (former substitute organist at Trinity)

Lynnette Fritz (cousin of Betty Tyndall)

Andrew Hicks (husband of Katie Weeber)

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

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

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)

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

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.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ZION LUTHERAN

The East Petersburg Interfaith Council is planning a Thanksgiving service **today at 3:00 p.m.** The service will take place at Zion Lutheran Church (corner of Broad and Lemon Streets). Cantor Carol Chesler from Temple Beth El will be the speaker. Rev. Sandy Morris and musicians from Trinity Church will participate in the service.

An offering will be received for the Hempfield Power Packs. Worshippers are also asked to bring the following items for the Power Packs.

16 oz peanut butter

Box of macaroni and cheese (no cups)

Canned fruit

Canned vegetable – corn or green beans

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: We will have a Service of Word & Sacrament on Thanksgiving Eve (November 26) at 7 p.m. **We are in need of two greeters and four ushers!** Contact the church office if you are willing to help!

2026 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 the church office.

THE OCTOBER-DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES are available on the table in the Narthex.

THE 2026 APPROVED BUDGET is available on the table across from the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: The 2026 offering envelopes are on the table across from the church office. If you see envelopes for family members or church members who live near you, please help us by delivering them to these church members.

“I PROMISE” FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2026. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!



AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER CHRISTMAS SHOW

We have reserved seats for the American Music Theater Christmas Show on **Saturday, December 6th** at 10:30. The cost to see the show is Adults \$43, youth \$22. **The youth ministry fund will be covering all youth!** A sign-up sheet is available for you to reserve your seat. For more information, speak to Jeff Hackenberger.



8:30 – 11:00 AM

We will prepare Trinity Church for the Advent/Christmas season on November 29. **The gathering will begin with light breakfast at 8:30 a.m.** After breakfast, we will decorate the church for the season. Our time will conclude with a brief service in the sanctuary.

All help in making this happen is greatly appreciated as we decorate our church for the season. Sign-up sheet for this program is on the table outside the office.

BOOK STUDY: Pastor Chris is planning to do book study in the **winter 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.



Trinity UCC

2340 State St.
East Petersburg, PA
717-569-1632

www.trinityeastpete.org

Concert/Desserts

Featuring
Auscultation Brass and Trinity Church Musicians

Monday, December 1, 2025

Concert – 7:00 PM

Desserts Following The Concert

*Freewill Offering Benefits
Schreiber Center For Pediatric Development
and Trinity Music Ministry*



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY ON DECEMBER 7



As in years past, we will share our blessings with others by bringing (unwrapped) Christmas gifts to the service. This is our special time of sharing our gifts with residents of Ephrata Manor and Bethany Home.

The residents are very appreciative of our caring and both homes are requesting gift card suggestions to better meet needs and interests.

Ephrata Manor (United Church of Christ Home) requests:

Gift cards: Amazon, Dollar Tree, Wal-Mart, VISA/MC, Giant Food Stores, or CVS.

Bethany Home requests: We appreciate age-appropriate donations with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.

Clothing – various adult sizes S-4XL

bath robes: young women and men • slippers • white t-shirts, esp. small and medium • underwear S-4XL • men's athletic shorts • bras • sports bras • pajamas • low-cut socks

Cottage Needs

unisex comforters • pillows • waterproof mattress covers Twin XL • bed in a bag • bath towels • battery-operated alarm clocks • bagless vacuums • air fryers • baking sheets and pans • deodorant • conditioner • feminine hygiene products • toothbrush covers • toothbrush

Gift Cards

Dick's Sporting Goods, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's, Boyer's and Redner's Markets, Turkey Hill, Giant, Domino's Pizza, Wawa, Netflix, Game Stop

Please include Trinity U.C.C Church and address and/or individual along with your card.

Gifts will be received at both services on December 7. The children will collect them during the 10:30 service. Thank You!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Pastor Chris and the Parish Life Committee would like to go Christmas caroling to some of our church members on Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. We will provide a light lunch and then drive to some of our fellow parishioners. There will soon be a sign-up sheet! If you have any questions, speak to Anne Rankin or Kayla Brennan (Parish Life Committee Co-Chairs).

THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER'S NEWSLETTER is available in the Narthex.

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION EVENTS can be found in the November Parish Post. Talk to Anne Rankin for more information.

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CONCERT SERIES BROCHURES are available in the Narthex.

THE FALL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.C.C. HOMES is available on the table across from the church office!

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 2025 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.

Denise Pfeifer, Treasurer

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 23: Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100; Miguel Agustin Pro, martyr, died in 1927

Clement was the third bishop of Rome and served at the end of the first century. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the Corinthian congregation, still having difficulty with divisions in spite of Paul's canonical letters. Clement's writing echoes Paul's. "Love ...has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile nor arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others." Clement's letter is also a witness to early understandings of church government and the way each office in the church works for the good of the whole.

Miguel Agustin Pro grew up among oppression in Mexico, where revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the rich. He was a Jesuit priest who served during a time of intense anticlericalism, and therefore he carried out much of his ministry in private settings. He worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Miguel and his two brothers were arrested, falsely accused of throwing a bomb at the car of a government official, and executed by a firing squad. Just before the guns fired, he yelled, "Viva Cristo Rey!" which means "Long live Christ the king!"

Monday, November 24: Justus Falckner, died in 1723; Jehu Jones, died in 1852; William Passavant, died in 1894; pastors in North America

A native of Saxony, Falckner was the son of a Lutheran pastor and, seeing the stresses his father endured, did not plan on becoming a pastor himself, though he studied theology in Halle. Instead, he joined with his brother in the real estate business in Pennsylvania. Through this business he became acquainted with a Swedish pastor in America, and finally he decided to become ordained. He served congregations in New York and New Jersey. Not only was he the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism that was the first Lutheran book published on the continent.

Jones was a native of Charleston, South Carolina. Ordained by the New York Ministerium in 1832, he became the Lutheran church's first African American pastor. Upon returning to South Carolina he was arrested under a law prohibiting free Blacks from reentering the state,

so he was unable to join the group of Charlestonians he had been commissioned to accompany to Liberia. For nearly twenty years Jones carried out missionary work in Philadelphia in the face of many difficulties. There he led the formation of the first African American Lutheran congregation, St. Paul's, and the construction of its church building.

William Passavant created and nurtured a new level of organized social ministry in western Pennsylvania. It was the seed of the system of social services that is now known as Lutheran Services in America. Passavant and his legacy sought to serve the poorest of the poor, providing shelter, medicine, and living assistance.

Tuesday, November 25: Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died in 1748

Isaac Watts was born in England to a family of nonconformists, people who thought the Church of England had not carried its reforms far enough. As a youth, Watts complained to his father about the quality of hymnody in the metrical psalter of his day. That was the start of his hymn-writing career. He wrote about six hundred hymns, many in a two-year period beginning when he was twenty years old. Some of Watts's hymns are based on psalms, a nonconformist tradition. When criticized for writing hymns not taken from scripture, he responded that if we can pray prayers that are not from scripture but written by us, then surely we can sing hymns that we have made up ourselves. Several of Watts' hymn texts are found in our hymnal, including *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* and *Joy to the World*.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalm 46**SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things

visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

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