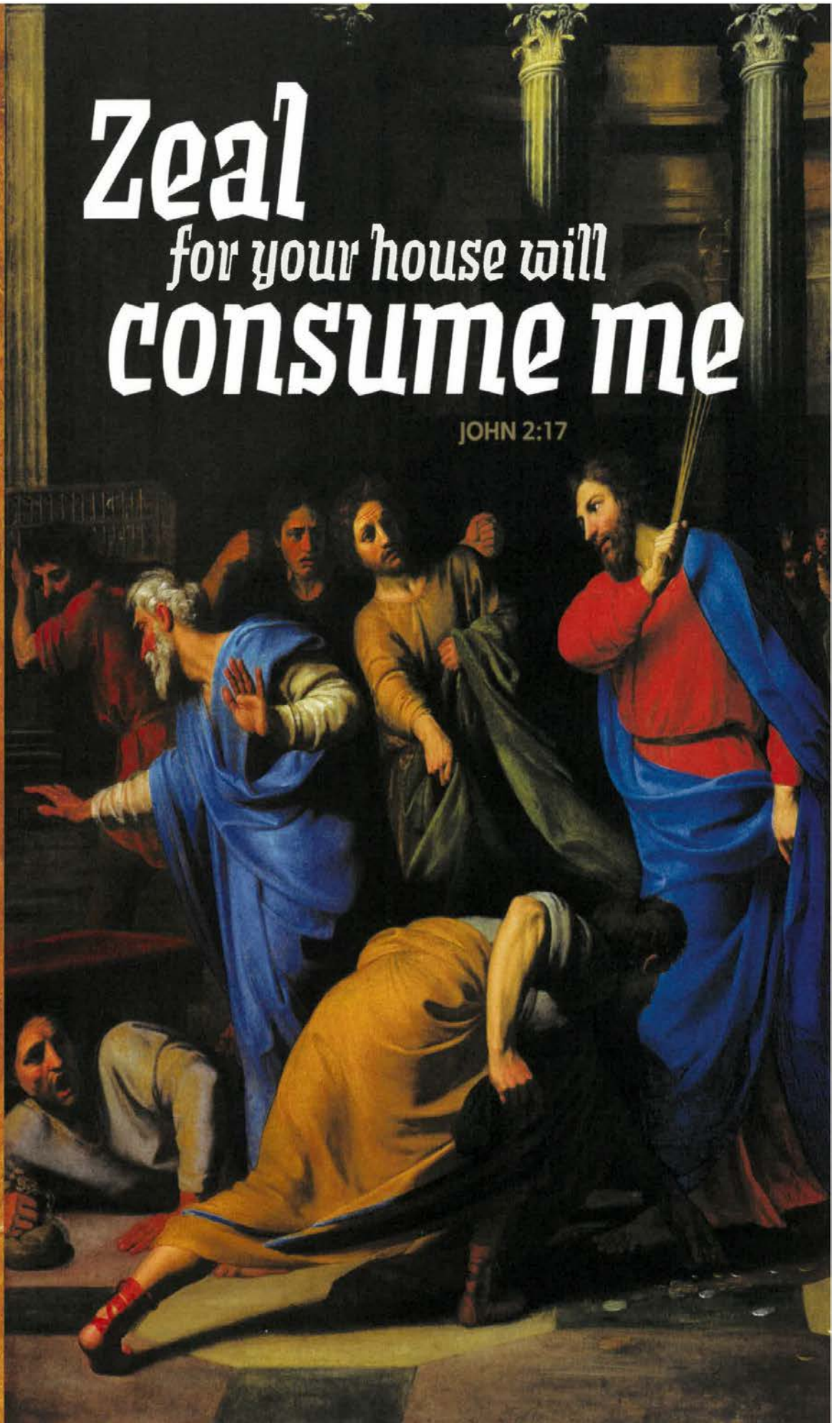


Zeal for your house will consume me

JOHN 2:17



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

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

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: *Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Why no alleluias or hymn of praise during Lent? You may have noticed that the act of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'" (http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm).

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.**

Gather to ponder the wisdom and law of God. Draw near to share in God's strength and power.

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul; God's testimony is sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart; God's commandments are pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of God is clean, enduring forever; God's ordinances are true and righteous altogether.

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come and taste the goodness of God!

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.

Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let the hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lord, have mercy. | Lord, have mercy. |
| Christ, have mercy. | Christ, have mercy. |
| Lord, have mercy. | Lord, have mercy. |

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Let us pray the collect together.

Everlasting God, whose law is perfect and whose judgments are just, speak and act among us today to challenge all we do in your church and in our lives that is out of step with your law so we may be raised to new life and become authentic witnesses to your love in all we do, wherever we go, that the world might come to know and serve you. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

In the heaven she has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialism of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON “God’s Promise is a Gift for the Community” 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

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you before all time, by whom you made the world and all things. We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people. Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us in our sin, but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. In the fullness of time you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus, who, in obedience, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death. We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory and ever lives to pray for us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church. Therefore, with your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise your holy 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!**

(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.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

*(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 at the back of the sanctuary 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.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of all creation, and a world in need.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policy makers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to free the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers & Worship Aids are given by Jackey Hoover giving thanks to the “Meals With A Mission” for the much appreciated dinner I received February 11th.

Ministering Today

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin |
| Lector | Rev. Sandy Morris |
| Money Counters | Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, Denise Pfeiffer |
| Altar Guild | Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders |
| Building Trustee | John Shelsky |
| Ministries | Card Adult Sunday School Class Called to Care Anne Rankin Visitation Dottie Schadt |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| Attendance for Sun., Feb. 25 | 7:45–18 | 10:30–80 | TOTAL – 98 |
| Sunday School | 17 | | |
| Lenten Service | 16 | | |

Happy Birthday

Today – Julie Daly

Thursday – Mid Gockley, Valerie Zahm

Saturday – Meghan Leinbach

This Week at Trinity Church

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

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 11:45 AM – Community Meal -Zion East Peter 6:00 PM – Music Committee 7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM Bells |
| Wednesday | 7:00 PM – Lenten Service |
| Saturday | 8:00 AM – Men’s Breakfast 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA |
| Sunday | Daylight Savings 7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM –Sunday School 10:00 AM – Koinonia 10:30 AM – Eucharist |



THE MARCH PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

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

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman | Donna Geisler | George & Ellie Latsha |
| Denise Huggins | Hedwig Hunsicker | Rev. Ken Trauger |
| Don & Pat Miller | Nancy Patton | Dr. Janet Harriger |
| The Lehman family | Joann Peck | Harry Himelwright |
| Donna Wolf & Family | Mary Lou Shaab | Scott & Jane Owens |
| Stan & Pat Seachrist | Donna Zirkel | Carmen & Jerry Richards |
| Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley | Sam Minder III | Lainie Christensen |
| Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser | Hank Fox | Pastor Harry Royer |
| Betty Tyndall and family | Mary Witmer | Bob & Marlyn Wible |
| Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline | Erika Otthofer | Kathleen Sensenig Adams |
| Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman | Ron Becker | Danielle Huggins Holbein |
| Joann & Dawn Garvin | The Fischer Family | Dr. Blaine Connor |
| Shelly Family | Michael McDonough | |

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Ken Zittel (brother-in-law of Denise Pfeiffer)
The family of Jon Crane (college friend of Pastor Chris)
Norma Mallard (friend of Gail Kogut)
Tom Chapman (brother of Rev. Jere Chapman)
Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)
Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)
Brian & Liz Culp (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)
Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)
Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)
Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)
The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Don Pfeiffer (husband of Denise Pfeiffer)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
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)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

HOLY LAMENT: MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross---the place to which the season of Lent leads us---is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Join us each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. as some of our clergy members or religious teachers in our midst preach. Below is the list of our themes and preachers:

March 6: Laments from the Depths—Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen preaching

March 13: Individual Lament—Rev. Bob Bistline preaching

March 20: Communal Lament—Rev. Ken Trauger preaching

Information about Holy Week & Easter services will be in the March Parish Post.

LENTEN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Wednesday Lenten services. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.



March 27: Holy Wednesday Worship with Order of Healing at 7 p.m.—Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer preaching.

March 28: Maundy Thursday Services at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.—Pastor Rankin preaching

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: 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. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **March 24 & April 7.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **March 17, & 24.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

GRIEF GROUPS: If you experienced a loss in the recent past, we invite you to join a small group to help with the grieving process. We will be reading “Praying Our Goodbyes” by Joyce Rupp. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz by March 8th if you are interested in participating in one of the groups!

PRAYER SHAWL: The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, March 19 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.

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST: The men will be meeting in March 9 at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. This is open to all men of the church!

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY: The Evangelism Committee is in need of more volunteers to provide meals for our members! If you are interested, speak with Pastor Chris!

LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES: This year our Lenten Denial Offering is being donated to the international disaster relief charity call ShelterBox. ShelterBox was established in 2000, and partners with Rotary International, providing emergency shelter and other aid items to families around the world who have lost their homes to disaster and conflict. ShelterBox is funded by public donations. A ShelterBox provides more than just a tent but also includes a kitchen set, blankets, ground mats, hats, gloves, scarves, mosquito net, water filtration system, water carriers, solar light box, children's school kit, hygiene supplies and wash basin. It also has a tool kit with a hammer, saw, wire cutters, and rope. The box weighs approximately 110 lbs. and is approximately 2'3" x 1.4" x 11" in size. The price of a ShelterBox is \$1000. As of April 2021, ShelterBox has provided support to two million people since its start in 2000.

MYSTERY READERS : Trinity Preschool is looking for Spring Mystery Readers for March and April. Please contact the Preschool through the church office or Email: preschool@trinityeastpete.org to schedule a time to read a book to a preschool class. It's a fun way for Trinity members to support and be part of our preschool.

CHURCH MULCHING: The Property Committee is looking for volunteers on **Saturday, April 6 @ 8:30 am** to mulch the church property. We will be doing this in conjunction with the Trinity Preschool families and the Scout troop. Look for the sign-up sheet in the hallway across from the church office!

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

Even though it is still winter, the warmer days of the Summer Camp season are right around the corner! Camp registration is open and ready for you to start planning your summer around weeks at **Kirchenwald & Nawakwa!** There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. **There is the 2nd annual Hartman Center Homecoming Camp (July 28-August 3).** Look for more information in the Parish Post or on the table across from the church office. Contact Anne Rankin for more information!

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”.

EXPLORING THE SKY ABOVE TRINITY U.C.C. WITH SUE BOWMAN

(Sue is a member of Trinity and a retired Astronomy teacher)

Calling all stargazers and those interested in enjoying a celestial evening out! Bring your telescopes and binoculars and join in the fun as the Trinity Preschool families and the members of Trinity explore **The Sky Above Trinity U.C.C.** This observation session will train the telescope at Jupiter and its moons, Earth’s moon as well as deep sky clusters and nebulae. The Trinity Youth will be assisting with the setup and use of the equipment and may be found to be quite conversant on matters astronomical! Great chance to use the star chart provided or look ahead with one of these apps: *Star Chart*, *NASA app*, *Night Sky*, *Sky View Free*, *Star Walk2*, *Sky Safari*. You may wish to bring along lawn chairs. Until then, keep looking up!

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office

March 14th

6-7 pm Pizza

7 pm Brief Intro to the observation session

7:15 pm Observation begins



Good Friday Breakfast at YMCA of the Roses

Join us for community gathering that brings people of faith together to mark this important holy day with an inspirational message and ecumenical worship service in keeping with the Christian traditions of the YMCA.

When: Friday, March 29, 2024 @ 7:30 am (Doors open at 7 am)

Where: Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

Details: The speaker will be Rev. Jennifer Mattson from Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Lancaster, PA, along with live music and a buffet-style breakfast. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Call the church office to reserve your ticket.

Save the Dates: Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars.



Lancaster Stormers Game (formerly Barnstormers)
May 31, 2024

The cost is \$35 (ticket, suite rental, endless buffet for 90 minutes, gratuity). Children from ages 4-18 will be covered by our Youth Ministry account and those under 4 are free. You can sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. We will need a \$15 deposit when you sign-up! Playing Charleston Dirty Birds.

Friendship Fest----July 14, 2024 – 4-7 PM

Food Trucks, Games, Fun Activities, Auscultation Brass Concert (5-6PM)

Proceeds from the Friendship Fest will support the Trinity Preschool!

Our Gifts to Others 2024 from the Board of Deacons

Each year Trinity UCC considers donations titled “*Our Gifts to Others.*” These annual gifts serve to support various outreaches that are important to our friends who are in need throughout the area.

We have a number of outreach options from which we may choose. Here is a brief summary of those seeking your consideration and support.

- **Milagro House** is committed to providing education, counseling and housing for women and children experiencing homelessness here in Lancaster County.
- **Bethany Children’s Home** started its *Helping Hands* program to provide unaccompanied children and youth the opportunity to be reunited with their families in the U.S. Youths stay an average of 10-12 days and receive basic medical care, food clothing shelter more development and basic education while their families are located.
- **Hoffman Homes Inc.** is a nonprofit that provides comprehensive psychiatric care, treatment, support, and education to youth and young adults and their families from across Pennsylvania. We inspire hope and brighter futures.
- **Love, Inc.** is a national agency that seeks to provide a conduit through which people in need can seek out much needed support efforts by local churches. This agency is geared for those among us in chronic need and seeks to transform lives in the community.
- **Lancaster Theological Seminary** – educates men & women for here for a variety of ministry settings. Donations to LTS help to support students in need with tuition, housing, etc.
- **Phoebe Devitt** – operates nursing home facilities here in central Pennsylvania. The ministries seek donations to help cover the cost of residents stay, regardless of their ability to pay. **There will be a representative from Phoebe Home at both services and the adult Christian Education Class on March 17 to share more about this ministry!**
- **UCC Homes**– provides benevolent care, and uncompensated care for needful seniors. This organization seeks our help to meet this need. There are homes in Ephrata, Annville, Carlisle, and Harrisburg.
- **Hunger Ministries**– You can designate to support the Hempfield Power Packs, the Lancaster Food Hub, or the Trinity Community Meal ministry.

In 2023, we received **\$26,335** for the Our Gifts to Others fund.

Please consider these worthy agencies as you think about your possible financial offerings for **March 10, 2024**. In addition you can donate online, designate as "Our Gift to Others", and specify which one(s) you are donating towards.

Save The Dates



VBS 2024

Trinity UCC, 2340 State St., East Petersburg

www.trinityeastpete.org

717-569-1632

July 15 - 18 6:30-8:30 PM

July 19 6:30 PM Closing Program

Caretaker And Me Class - Under Five With Caretaker
Children's Classes - Five Through Finished Sixth Grade
Youth Volunteers - Contact Mrs. Slechta

Through stories, crafts, games, and music, ***“Reach For The Stars”*** reminds us that things that seem impossible to us, are possible with God.

Rev. Esbenshade will facilitate the teen/adult class. Studying the book, ***“Tradition In Crisis”*** by Peter Schmiechen, the class will examine how “Now is the time to reclaim the church based on the grace and community of Christ.”

Mission Project - Habitat For Humanity

Dear Trinity Members,

“Reach For The Stars” is the theme for this summer’s Vacation Bible School. It will be held **Monday, July 15 to Thursday July 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**, with the **closing program on Friday, July 19**. We will need your help to welcome and teach the children of Trinity and the wider community. The ideal VBS program would touch and/or be touched by each member of the congregation. Please check the activities in which you would be willing to share during the week. **Please return this form to the VBS Director’s mail slot in the church office by April 14**. If you have any questions please contact us. Thank you.

Dina Slechta and Diane Rice

_____ Group Leader—travels with group through stations.

_____ Assistant Group Leader - travels with the group through stations.

_____ Caretaker And Me Class Facilitators - one person who can be available in the nursery for any caretaker and child who need to take a quiet time/play by themselves break in the nursery, and one group leader/facilitator to lead this class.

_____ Crafts Leader only for the Caretaker and Me Class - this could be the same person as the person who leads this group.

_____ Caretaker and Me Class Helper

_____ Games Leader—leads 10 to 15 minute games reinforcing the night’s concept and story

_____ Games Helper

_____ Woodworking Helpers

_____ 8 Actors - Needed to role play parts for Habitat Affiliate Game - same role twice, about 3 mins. each, 2 actors per night

_____ Story Station Teacher - teach the lesson 3 times per night to the 3 different age groups

_____ Snack Leader/Coordinator

_____ Snack Helper

_____ Floaters - we need some potential teachers and assistants who will be at VBS, ready to jump in as needed.

_____ Registration—needs to be there 6:15 to 6:45 the first two evenings to register children

_____ Help anywhere needed.

_____ Youth Helper (7th grade on up) Transportation Needed _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Days you would be available _____

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm 19**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Next Sunday's Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

Cover: *Christ Expelling the Money-Changers from the Temple* by Nicolas Colombel (French, 1644–1717). Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R