



Whoever
is faithful in
a very little
is faithful
also in
much

LUKE 16:10

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

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Supply Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

The Sundays after Pentecost, also called “common or ordinary time,” constitute a season of growth in Christian faith, life, and ministry. Nearly half of the Christian year is reserved for this season, which spans the Sundays between Pentecost (50 days after Easter) and Advent (around Thanksgiving.)

Traditionally, the liturgical color of ordinary time is green. Green is the color of nature and growth. It symbolizes the need of Christians to be disciples, persons who live out the values of the gospel and share them joyfully with others. During this time, the scriptural texts, sermons, and hymns are usually directed toward the task of helping us grow as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and bear good fruit in our witness.

Today’s Theme: As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing - we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

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.

Prayer As You Enter: *God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in 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*

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.**

God welcomes those whose hearts are sick. God's invitation comes to people whose joy is gone.

Why is the health of God's people not restored? Why must we weep day and night for those we have lost?

Bring all your urgent prayers and honest laments. God is eager to offer salvation and open us to truth.

We cry out to God for deliverance from our sin. We cry out for relief from our suffering.

As we come to the table of God's heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and the risen Christ.

We come, ready to partake of bread and cup; ready to commune with one another and with the living God.

Take hold of the life that really is life. Come, take your place at the table.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us.

God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame.

Let us silently confess our sin before God.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us repent of our sin and claim the promise of God.

God our helper, we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Faithful God, whose mercy is offered to the just and the unjust, help us to reorder our priorities so the wealth we possess becomes a tool, not an idol. We would use our wealth to address problems you call us to solve, to win others to your way of love, and to heal the brokenness of your world. Bless our learning and our doing; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

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

PSALTER

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“God’s Economy”

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

Precious Lord, you provide for our every need, and call us to be good stewards of your many gifts. May we be found faithful in a little, that we may also be faithful in a lot. In loving gratitude, we offer you these gifts as a sign of our desire to live as children of light—children of your healing love. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

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

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

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

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

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

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

RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

We come again to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers and the Worship Aids are given by Greg Gruber in memory of Ethel & Leon Gruber.

Attendance for Sun., September 14	7:45–14	10:30–75	TOTAL – 89
Sunday School	25		

Happy Birthday!

Monday – Sawyer Eisenhour, Audria Husted

Tuesday – Christopher Schwankl

Thursday – Pastor Harry Royer, Dr. Randall Zachman, Carol Kratz

Saturday – Marcia Eisenhour, Dr. Bruce Rodenberger

Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Lector Jeff Hackenberger

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

Altar Guild Karen Olley

Koinonia Paula Dennes

Building Trustee Dave Connor

Ministries **Card Children's Sunday School Class**

Called to Care Nancy Enders **Visitation** Donna Geisler

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Monday 10:00 AM—Memorial Garden Task Force

7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM Bells

Wednesday 10 AM-12 Noon – Sanctuary in use

7:00 PM – Executive Committee

Thursday 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts

Friday No Preschool

Saturday 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist (I Promise received)

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM - Koinonia

10:30 AM – Worship (I Promise received)

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Donna Zirkel

Ron & Donna Denlinger

Janice Jenkins

Rhonda Hartenstine

The Lehman family

Donna Wolf & Family

Sam Minder III

Pat Seachrist

Betty Fogle

Denise Huggins

Lori Daly

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Mid Gockley

Joann Peck

Mary Lou Shaab

George & Ellie Latsha

Rev. Ken Trauger

Erika Otthofer

Betty Tyndall & family

Don Miller

Walt & Betty Tyndall

Dawn Stauffer

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Scott & Jane Owens

Carmen & Jerry Richards

Himelwright Family

Rev. Bob Musser

Danielle Huggins Holbein

Michael McDonough

Bob & Marlyn Wible

Ron Becker	Joann & Dawn Garvin	Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline
Arlene Hoxworth	Mary Lou Sturgis	Pastor Harry Royer
Rev. Sandy Morris	Hank Fox	Kathleen Sensenig Adams
John Shelsky	Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen	
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman		

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The Reed Family

The family of Rosalla Hollenbach (mother of Dr. Rob Hollenbach)

The family of Deb Wealand (sister-in-law of Denise Pfeiffer)

The family of Mike Ross (friend of Chuck Husted)

The family of Gerald Brandt (friend of Pat & Stan Seachrist)

Carol Feyock (friend of Carmen & Jerry Richards)

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

Sherry Kline (former substitute organist at Trinity)

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

Lynnette Fritz (cousin of Betty Tyndall)

Andrew Hicks (husband of Katie Weeber)

Billy Schoffstall (uncle of Kayla Brennan)

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

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

Cindy Greiman (friend of Betty Fogle)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

The Herr Family (Former Trinity Preschool Family)

David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)

James Malone & family

Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)

Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

Terry Kratz (Carol Kratz's husband)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Disasters

World Peace

Church World Service & Other Faith-Based Relief Organizations

THE SEPTEMBER PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building. The deadline for information for the October Parish Post is Monday, September 22nd.

The Sunday School classes began TODAY. Here's information about the different classes:

1. The Children's Class will meet in the downstairs classroom and will be using the Spark lectionary-based curriculum.
2. The Youth Class will meet in the side room by the kitchen in Isenberg Hall and use resources from the Bible Project website for their curriculum through November.
3. The Wired Word class will be meet in the choir room. Each week they will have a Bible study lesson linked to the latest headlines and current events using appropriate scriptures. Participants can opt in or out of receiving the lesson by email before Sunday. To opt in before the first session, contact Diane Rice with your email address.
4. The Adult Bible Class will meet in the front of Isenberg Hall and will be studying the Gospel of Luke through the Kerygma study series.

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

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.

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!

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



KOINONIA HAS RETURNED!

Koinonia (community fellowship) has resumed at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The drinks/coffee will be taken care of for you! The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship between our Sunday School classes and worship!

Pastor Chris will brew a pot of coffee when he arrives in the morning for people to enjoy between the 7:45 service and Sunday School.

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST MEETING: The men will NOT be meeting at the Family Fare Restaurant for breakfast in September. We will resume on October 4. This is open to all men of the congregation! You are encouraged to invite other men to the breakfast.

UPCOMING LEADERSHP SEMINAR: The Pastor-Parish Committee will be sponsoring another leadership seminar in Isenberg Hall on **Saturday, October 11 from 9-11:00 a.m.** Myka Kennedy Stephens will be returning to do a seminar on leadership strengths. This seminar is for all members of the Consistory and the committees/boards of Trinity Church. If you did not sign-up before the deadline, speak with Pastor Chris because he ordered extra materials.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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, Karen Olley, Diane Rice, Hedwig Hunsicker, and the Rankin Family.** We have already raised \$1,600!

There will be a pre-walk rally at the Church World Service office in Lancaster on **Saturday, September 27 from 10-11:30 a.m.** Speak with Pastor Rankin if you would like to attend!

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!

VBS MISSION OFFERING REPORT: Thank you to all who supported this year's VBS mission offering. We raised \$870 for the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

"I PROMISE" FORMS will be received at both services on Sunday, September 28. 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! If you have any questions, contact a member of the Stewardship Committee (Rev. Jack Esbenshade, Ron Denlinger, or Scott Owens).

BOOK STUDY: Pastor Chris is planning to do a 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.

You are invited to enjoy the following activities sponsored by the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Speak with Anne Rankin for more information!

2025 Lutheran Camping Corporation Events

September 27	Party with a Purpose at Kirchenwald
October 5	Capture the Flag at Kirchenwald
October 7-9	Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa
October 19	Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
October 26	Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald
November 2	Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa
November 7-9	Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
December 6	Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
January 2-4, 2026	Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

Always check LutheranCamping.org for the most updated calendar!



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303
717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org



SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 21: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew ("Levi" in the gospels of Mark and Luke) was a tax collector for the Roman government in Capernaum. Tax collectors were distrusted because they were dishonest and worked as agents for a foreign ruler, the occupying Romans. In the gospels, tax collectors are mentioned as sinful and despised outcasts, but it was these outcasts to whom Jesus showed his love. Matthew's name means "gift of the Lord." Since the second century, tradition has attributed the first gospel to him.

300th Anniversary Celebration of the First Communion of the German Reformed Church in America

October 12th

@ 1:30 pm

Falkner Swamp UCC

2077 Swamp Pike,

Gilbertsville

w/ Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia

Thompson



October 15th

@ 6:30 pm

each PA UCC

Conference

will hold a communion
service within its boundaries
see website link below

**For more information and registration links go to:
psec.org and click on the 300th Anniversary Celebrations slider**

September 25—United and Uniting: How the UCC Makes Room for German Reformed and Armenian Evangelical Christians w/ Rev. Dr. Heather Ohaneson

October 28—Gifts of the Reformed Church Going Forward w/ Dr. Randall Zachman

**Coming
this fall...**

*A commemorative book with essays tracing the
development of the German Reformed Church from its
European origins through present day.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [HTTPS://PSEC.ORG/300TH-ANNIVERSARY-OF-THE-GERMAN-REFORMED-CHURCH-IN-THE-US/](https://psec.org/300th-anniversary-of-the-german-reformed-church-in-the-us/)

NOTE---The October 12 service is a hybrid event. You do need to register at the website above to indicate if you will attend in-person or virtually (there is limited space in the church to attend in-person).

Dear Friends of Penn Central Conference,

Please mark your calendars to join with your Conference Staff on Wednesday October 15th at 6:30 PM at Colonial Park Church to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the first communion of the German Reformed Church in America. Our own Rev. Dietmar Plajer (St. Paul's, Selinsgrove) will be preaching. The service is designed to honor and celebrate our Reformed heritage and will include prayers, readings, communion, and joyful music including a specially commissioned original hymn by Rev. Scott Siciliano (Colonial Park, Harrisburg).

Clergy are invited to wear red stoles (no robes) to add to the celebratory spirit. Refreshments will follow.

October 15, 1725 was first time a group of German Reformed believers shared in a communion meal together at Falkner Swamp Church (in PA Southeast). Three hundred years later most of our UCC churches in PA have roots in that heritage.

Come and join us (in person or on-line) to celebrate!

To register you can contact Pastor Rankin!

Hope to see you on the 15th! Let's fill the sanctuary with praise and thanksgiving!

Peace,
Carrie

Rev. Carrie Call, PhD
Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference



FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel
great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Psalm 113

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications,
prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be
made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are
in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet
and peaceable life in all godliness and digni-
ty. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight
of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to
be saved and to come to the knowledge of the
truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God
and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this
I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am
telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of
the Gentiles in faith and truth.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a
rich man who had a manager, and charges were
brought to him that this man was squandering
his property. ²So he summoned him and said to
him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give
me an accounting of your management, be-
cause you cannot be my manager any longer.’
³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will
I do, now that my master is taking the position
away from me? I am not strong enough to dig,
and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what
to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager,
people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So,
summoning his master’s debtors one by one,
he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my
master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive
oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down
quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked an-
other, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied,
‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to
him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And
his master commended the dishonest manager
because he had acted shrewdly; for the chil-
dren of this age are more shrewd in dealing
with their own generation than are the chil-
dren of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for
yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that
when it is gone, they may welcome you into the
eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faith-
ful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in
a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then
you have not been faithful with the dishonest
wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?
¹²And if you have not been faithful with what
belongs to another, who will give you what is
your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters;
for a slave will either hate the one and love the
other, or be devoted to the one and despise the
other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

Cover: Young child with jar of coins. Photo by JGI/Jamie Grill. Copyright © 2024 JGI/Jamie Grill/Blend Images/SuperStock. Used by permission.

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