

Carry
the
cross and
follow
me

LUKE 14:27



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

THIRTEENTH 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: Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"-to choose life in God as our own.

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: *Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through 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.**

We have come to celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ.

Whom we recognize as we join in the breaking of bread.

We gather through the power of the Holy Spirit, who creates and renews the church of Jesus Christ.

Binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races, with whom we lift our song of praise: Holy, Holy, Holy, One God Almighty, Your glory fills all the heavens and the earth!

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Baptized in Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. We confess all of this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, 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 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Creator of all, you have demanded our complete devotion and obedience. You call for risk-taking loyalty and commitment that puts you before family and friends in our attention. We want to build the quality of life you intend for us and for all people. Show us how to become fully engaged as disciples of Jesus Christ. Help us to straighten out our priorities so we can witness faithfully to your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

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

PSALTER

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

But the way of the wicked will perish.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“It’s All or Nothing!”

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

U.C.C. STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Generous and loving God, we thank you for the many joys and signs of encouragement in our lives. With these gifts, create signs of encouragement and joy in the lives of others, and in the ministries of our congregation. In Christ's 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.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers and The Worship Aids are given by Charles & Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe in celebration of our 54th anniversary (September 11, 1971)!

Happy Birthday!

Friday – Dr. Rebecca Wagner, Michael Wagner

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Jack Esbenshade
Money Counters	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Denise Pfeiffer, Steve Shenk, Sue Bowman
Altar Guild	Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker
Building Trustee	Dave Connor
Ministries	Card Children's Sunday School Class Called to Care Nancy Enders Visitation Donna Geisler

Attendance for Sun., August 31 7:45–10 9:30–71 TOTAL – 81

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Monday	7:00 PM – SOT Choir
Tuesday	7:00 PM – Property Committee—Isenberg Hall 7:00 PM—Pastor Parish Committee—Choir Room
Wednesday	10:00 AM – Stewardship Committee(Owens' Home) 7:00 PM – Finance Committee
Thursday	10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts
Friday	10:00 AM - Evangelism
Saturday	1-4 PM – Isenberg Hall in use 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Rally Day 10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM – Worship

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Donna Zirkel	Lori Daly	Walt & Betty Tyndall
Ron & Donna Denlinger	Rev. Dr. Carrie Call	John Shelsky
Janice Jenkins	Mid Gockley	Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman
Rhonda Hartenstine	Joann Peck	Scott & Jane Owens
The Lehman family	Mary Lou Shaab	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Donna Wolf & Family	George & Ellie Latsha	Himelwright Family
Sam Minder III	Rev. Ken Trauger	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 & Dawn Garvin	Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline
Arlene Hoxworth	Mary Lou Sturgis	Pastor Harry Royer
Rev. Sandy Morris	Hank Fox	Kathleen Sensenig Adams
Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen		
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman		
Jack Richards and family on the birth of his grandson, Jack James Sollenberger		

FAMILY & FRIENDS

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

The family of Dr. Phil Billings (Pastor Chris' college professor)

The family of Rev. Dr. Chuck Maxfield (friend of several Trinity members)

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

Claudia Esbenshade (cousin of George DeLong, Jodi Keller, & Denise Gobrecht)

Sherry Kline (former substitute organist at Trinity)

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

Lynnette Fritz (cousin of Betty Tyndall)

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)

Harvey Sick (friend of Judy Chapman)

James Malone & family

Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)

Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

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

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

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.

RALLY DAY will be on Sunday, September 14. The theme will be “Growing Together in God’s Love”!

We will return to our regular schedule:



7:45—Worship with Holy Communion

9:00---Devotions/singing, recap of VBS, and launching our Christian Education ministry for the 2025-26 school year!

10:00---Koinonia (fellowship time)

10:30---Worship (we will be singing VBS songs during the service)

The Sunday School classes will begin on September 21. 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.

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.



East Pete Parade

Saturday, September 20th

10:00 AM

THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO HAVE A FLOAT AGAIN THIS YEAR!
 There is a sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office for those who want to ride the float and those who are willing to donate candy. We are looking for hard candy or gummy candy (chocolate often melts)! We will assemble the bags of candy during Rally Day!



Calling all Singers and Ringers
2025-2026 Season Starts



September 8, 7:00 - 8:00 PM SOT Choir
 September 15, 8:15 - 8:45 PM Canticle Ringers



***New Singers and Ringers Welcome**
Contact Michael or Dina Slechta



KOINONIA WILL SOON RETURN!

Koinonia (community fellowship) will resume on September 14 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.

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.

UPCOMING LEADERSHIP 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. Please sign-up so that we can order the materials for the seminar. This seminar is for all members of the Consistory and the committees/boards of Trinity Church. Speak with Pastor Rankin for more information!

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST COMMUNION OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA:

Look in the September Parish Post for ongoing activities to celebrate the first communion of the German Reformed Church that took place in Gilbertsville, PA.

If you have any questions, speak with Pastor Chris or 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/)

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.



Thursday, September 18, at 1:00 pm

It's time to have fun and play Pinochle! Everyone is invited to come on Thursday, September 18, at 1:00 pm. Please sign up on the sheet across from the office. Bring a snack to share. We're happy to teach if you are new to this card game.



Prayer Shawl Ministry to Resume:

The Knit in God's Love Prayer Shawl is resuming meeting the 3rd Tuesday. The next meeting is September 16. Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

**Prayer Shawl
Ministry**



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!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS are available on both floors of the church building. If you have any questions, contact Amy Grube (Trinity Preschool Director) at preschool@trinityeastpete.org.

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, Hedwig Hunsicker, and the Rankin Family.

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!

Annual Anniversary Worship Service at Old Zion German Reformed Church

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., Old Zion German Reformed Church, Brickerville, will conduct its annual anniversary service. The service provides an opportunity to reflect on Old Zion's rich history and faith traditions. This year's theme will be "Brickerville 1813," and topics of interest to area residents and the German Reformed Church when the current church building was constructed and initially used in the Fall of 1813.

Rev. William LaSalle will portray the Rev. John Theobald Faber, Jr., who served as the minister at Old Zion from 1807 to 1819, and other local churches. Michael Weber will portray Deacon Hollinger, a lay leader at Old Zion. The worship service will include music and hymns from the period and will feature the choir from Bethany United Church of Christ, in Ephrata. For many years, the pastor at Old Zion, also served as pastor at Bethany in Ephrata, Jerusalem Church in Penryn, and other local churches. J.P. Welliver, Director of Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Penryn, will play the historical pump organ at Old Zion as part of the service. A free-will offering will be collected during the service.

Please join us for an afternoon of faith, music, history, and fellowship. Refreshments will be served after the service. Old Zion German Reformed Church is located near Brickerville at 187 Reifsnyder Rd.

Please visit our website www.oldzionchurch.org

Directions

From Lititz – take Route 501 North of Lititz, turn right at the light at Brubaker Valley Road, and turn left on Reifsnyder Road

From Ephrata – take Route 322 west of Ephrata, turn left on Reifsnyder Road as you enter Brickerville



Old Zion German Reformed Church, Brickerville. Photo by Michael Weber.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER AT SON'S REPORT:

Thanks to all who supported the Trinity Preschool's fundraiser at Son's on August 25. We raised \$407.70 for the preschool! We surpassed what we raised in 2024 (\$328.44).

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

Tuesday, September 9

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died in 1654

Peter Claver was born into Spanish nobility and was persuaded to become a Jesuit missionary. He served in Cartagena (in what is now Colombia) by teaching and caring for the enslaved people. They arrived in ships, where they had been confined in dehumanizing conditions. Claver met and supplied them with medicine, food, clothing, and brandy. He learned their dialects and taught them Christianity. He called himself "the slave of the slaves forever." Claver also ministered to the locals of Cartagena who were in prison and facing death.

Saturday, September 13

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died in 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"), but it also got him into trouble. As bishop of Constantinople, he preached against corruption among the royal court. The empress, who had been his supporter, sent him into exile. His preaching style emphasized the literal meaning of scripture and its practical application. This interpretation stood in contrast to the common style at the time, which emphasized the allegorical meaning of the text. Chrysostom's skill in the pulpit resulted in the description of him as the patron of preachers.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalm 1

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my

child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus]; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Holy Cross Day Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 98:1-4 or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17 **OR 14th Sunday after Pentecost** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

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