

MY BELOVED
HAD A
VINEYARD

ISAIAH 5:1

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, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!

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

Today's Theme: In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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: *Amazing God, whose presence among us has been revealed so dramatically in Jesus of Nazareth, the One who became the cornerstone for your church, build each one of us into your household of faith, fitting us together by your great design into a beautiful witness to your truth, that resurrection power may energize us for service in your name and bring joyous transformation to all your children. Amen.*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God is present with us, eager to speak to us. Our Creator is here to test us and to keep us from sin.

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

We tremble before God, yet are not afraid. We are ready to listen to God's word.

May our awe before God be pure and enduring. May our thoughts and our words be acceptable to God.

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.

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

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 THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will

make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“Fruitful Living”

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

Ruler of all space and time, we want to be faithful stewards of your vineyard. All that we have is yours. Our lives are in your hands. Help us to use well all that we here devote to the work of your church. Help us to manage well, to your honor and glory, all that we retain for ourselves. May we know heaven on earth because you hold first in our priorities and our daily goal is to serve you. As we present our I Promise forms today, give us the strength and courage to serve you in this community and the world through our financial gifts and by participating in the ongoing ministry that you call us to at this time and place. We pray all of this in the name of 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.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

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.

(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 in the narthex 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 the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of all grace, you are the source of life and joy. Strengthen the resolve of your church throughout the world, that together we press on toward the goal of your heavenly call in Jesus Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, you plant and nourish the earth as your own precious vineyard. Bless fields and orchards and the hands of those who labor in them, that your people are fed with an abundant harvest of good fruit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all the earth, you desire peace and justice between nations and peoples. Guide leaders of nations, states, provinces, and cities, that they faithfully govern your people with wisdom, integrity, and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of steadfastness, you set Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of the church. Build up this congregation as living stones, that it stands in the community as a witness to your enduring faithfulness and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion, in Christ, you lovingly poured yourself out like wine for your people. Have mercy on all who mourn, who struggle with their mental health, who cry out for justice, who hunger, and all in any need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

★ CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY ★

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Jane Portser** in honor of October birthdays and anniversaries of my family.

The Worship Aids are given by **Nancy Enders** in appreciation for ministry of Pastor Chris Rankin, and all the retired ministers of Trinity Church.

Happy Birthday

Today – Heidi Fischer

Monday – Kevin Harley

Thursday – Dan Otthofer

Friday – Lily Kilgore

Ministering Today

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Lector

Rev. Sandy Morris

Money Counters

Nevin Cooley, John Bailey, Pat Sensenig, Cherie Cataldi,
Sally Rodenberger

Greeters

Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker

Monetary Ushers

Mike Wagner, Shelley Wagner, George DeLong, Anne Rankin, Rachel Baynard, Stan Seachrist, Andrew Rankin, Betty Tyndall

Altar Guild

Nancy Enders, Hedwig Hunsicker, Karen Olley, Sally Rodenberger

Building Trustee

Pat Sensenig

Nursery

Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker

Trinity Bread

Autumn Shenk

Koinonia

Paula Dennes

Ministries

Card Prayer Shawl (Betty Tyndall)

Called to Care Sally Rodenberger

Visitation Denise Pfeiffer

Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)
Andrea Paulukow (daughter of John & Sarah Paulukow)
Richard Paulukow (relative of John & Sarah Paulukow)
Jaden Allen (nephew of Carol Kratz)
Cindy Commero Cook and family(friend of Sarah Paulukow)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)
Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)
James Michaud (Sevi Keares' teacher)
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 Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)
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)

THE OCTOBER PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

"I PROMISE" FORMS will be received at both services today! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2024. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

TRINITY T-SHIRTS: The Anniversary Committee is working with our own Mitch Gibson (from Elizabethtown Sporting Goods) to celebrate our 175th anniversary with Trinity t-shirts. We have already placed one order, but you can still order shirts on the form across from the church office.

TRINITY PRAYER BOOK: In the spring, participants in the Adult Sunday School Class were sharing prayers that were meaningful to their family. Anne Rankin thought it would be good to compile these prayers and create a Trinity prayer book as part of our 175th anniversary. You can submit prayers to Pastor Chris or Anne. **Deadline has been extended until October 15!**

SHARE YOUR STORIES/MEMORIES OF TRINITY CHURCH: The 175th Anniversary Committee invites members of the congregation to share your stories and memories of Trinity Church for our November Echoes of the Past article. What are some of the things you remember from our past? Who are some of the people you remember? For some of our newer members, what drew you to Trinity Church? Whether you have been here 50 years or you recently joined, we want to hear from you!! **You can still submit entries by October 16.**



**175th Anniversary Service/Luncheon at Blue Collar
October 29**

Join us for a special koinonia at 9:30 a.m. (no Sunday School)

Service is 10:30 a.m. and luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Guest Preacher

Menu (you will choose one):

--Barbecue Chicken (tangy vinegar-based barbecue sauce), fries, and green beans

--Salmon with citrus sauce, farro, and green beans

--Stuffed Pork Loin (port wine sauce) rosemary potatoes, and green beans

All meals will include assorted rolls, drinks (tea, water, coffee), and dessert

Children's menu: cheeseburger, mac & cheese, and chicken bites with fries.

Price: \$20 for adults/\$7 for children (Trinity will pay the other portion of the meal price)

Tickets will be sold from September 10 through October 13!

Contact a committee member for more information: Dolly Barr, Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen, Donna Geisler, Diane Rice, or Pastor Rankin.



The 51st Annual Lancaster CROP Walk
In memory of Father Alexander Veronis

October 15, 2023
1:00 Registration
1:30 PM Program
2:00 PM Walk Begins

at the
**Annunciation Greek
Orthodox Church**
64 Hershey Ave.
Lancaster, PA



Matt Barcaro from WGAL will be the emcee!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/lancasterpa>
For more information contact
Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin
chris@trinityeastpete.org

We are again participating in the CROP Walk to support Church World Services (CWS) as they work to raise money to help men, women and children who are struggling with hunger locally and throughout the world. It is hard to believe but one in nine people worldwide lack access to clean water and a healthy diet. Every dollar raised makes a difference! The Lancaster Food Hub receives 25% of the funds raised.

We need walkers and need donations to help with this important mission. Below you will also see the URL for our team's site that you can type into a web browser or if you have a smart phone or tablet you can simply scan the QR Code to sign up with our team to walk and make a donation.

The following people have already signed up to walk: Kayla Brennan, Mark & Chris Eyer, Kathy McCarty, Karen Olley, Diane Rice, Sally Rodenberger, and the Rankin family. You can also give our walkers money. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/trinity-east-pete>



Change the world. One community garden at a time.

Those aren't just **potatoes** in Edulia and Gregorio's hands... They are the **instruments** of social and economic **prosperity**.

Before, the farmers in the Guarani indigenous community in Bolivia barely survived on a diet of boiled corn. Their children were weak from malnutrition.

Today, they grow an ample supply of nutritious fruits and vegetables in a community garden. They harvest enough food to feed their families and sell a surplus in the market. With the income they make, they are able to purchase protein to supplement their diet and buy more seeds for the garden.

Through the CROP Hunger Walk, you are there, investing in Edulia and Gregorio. Their smiles are thanks to you!

Just last year, 50,217 global neighbors like those in Bolivia were provided stable sources of nutritious food.

795 million more people around the world are waiting for your help.

 \$20 a year supply of micronutrient packets	 \$60 jerry cans for a small village	 \$100 training for 25 farmers
 \$500 seeds and gardening supplies for a community garden		



crophungerwalk.org
888-CWS-CROP



PRAYER SHAWL: Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, October 17 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.

2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: December 31. Upcoming dates for worship aids are: November 19 & 26. 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.



Look for sign-up sheet on the table across from church office!
Contact Cherie Cataldi for more information!

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.



PEANUT FELLOWSHIP

We will be starting peanuts on September 26th. We need help. We start at 7:00 AM & end at 2:00 PM. Anytime you can help would be greatly appreciated. Great fellowship and potluck lunch. Peanuts will be \$6.00 per lb. Please pay by cash or check. You can place your orders at church or call Pat Seachrist at 717-392-1427.

Christmas orders must be placed by November 1st.
Schedule: Oct. 10 & 24, Nov. 14, 28, and
Dec. 5. Hope to see you there!

Sue Husted, Pat Seachrist, & Shelley Wagner



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ON NOVEMBER 5: We will be remembering Trinity members and friends of our congregation who have died since November 6, 2022. If you have a name of a family member or friend that you would like to include in the service, please submit to the church office the name, date of death, and your relationship to the person. **The deadline is October 30.**

DEVOTIONALS: The October-December edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Greeter /Ushers Needed



If you would like to volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office. We recently had some vacancies as ushers, so we are in need of help!!!



We are looking for a greeter coordinator that will recruit new people to serve and create a schedule. Contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.



Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer!



AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE OUTING

2425 Lincoln Hwy East, Lancaster, PA

December 16, 10:30 AM

Cost: Adults-\$43, Youth-\$22

Christmas Show: The First Noel

Deadline to sign-up is October 15.

Sign-up sheet on table in hallway outside office.

We have 9 tickets left!!

This is being sponsored by our Parish Life Committee!!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

[Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa](#) at Nawakwa - October 22, 2023

[Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald](#) at Kirchenwald - October 29, 2023

[Campfire Worship](#) at The Wittel Farm - October 29, 2023

[Annual Quilt Auction](#) at Nawakwa - November 5, 2023

[Women's Craft Retreat](#) at Nawakwa - November 10 - 12, 2023

[Advent Day Apart](#) at The Wittel Farm - December 9, 2023

[Advent/Christmas in the Barn](#) at The Wittel Farm - December 17, 2023

[Winter Youth Retreat](#) at Kirchenwald - January 5 - 7, 2024

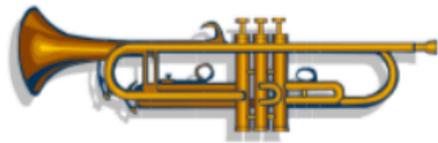
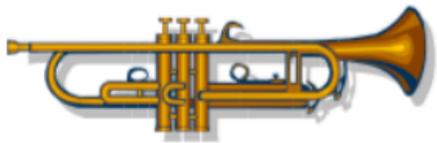


DATES

Friday, October 20-7:00 PM

Thursday, November 16-1:30 PM

Friday, December 15-7:00 PM



QuintEssentially Brass

Sun., Oct. 22, 2023
Concert 4:00 PM

Trinity UCC

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

www.TrinityEastPete.org

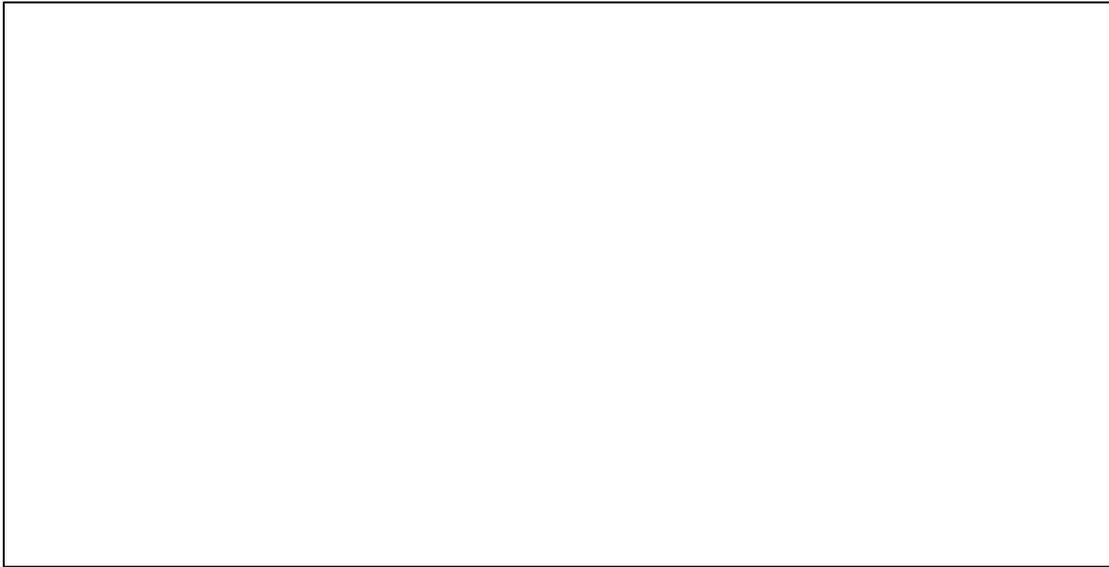
Public Welcome
Freewill Offering Benefits
SWAN 4 Kids
And
Trinity's Ministry of Music

Also join us for:

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov. 22nd 7:00 PM

Christmas Concert
Dec. 3rd 6:00 PM
Followed By Desserts





17 sub certificates are left!

Parish Resource Center



ADDRESS
 2160 Lincoln Hwy
 East, #18
(See below for various routes)

PHONE
 (717) 299-1113

EMAIL
 info@parishresour
 cecenter.org

ZOOM ONLY CHURCH LIFE

**What's Next?
 Church after COVID**
 October 3rd, 7-8:30pm



Led by
 Erin Cox-Holmes
 Donegal Presbytery

This workshop will pose some practical questions that can guide church leaders and churches through times of continued adaptation:

PRC Church Life Workshop

What are our congregation's assets –

strengths, passions, energy? What is the compelling reason that people want to be involved with us?

What is our mission in our world and neighborhood? Can we realistically work towards this mission with our current congregational strengths? Many church-goers and leaders are tired, and simply wish to be "back to normal," meaning like they were pre-covid. But as congregations accept this time of continued adaptation, they may discover a new identity and future for their congregation.

Food Pantry Panel
 October 26th
 7-8:30pm



BETHEL
 AME Jean Polite Food Pantry

CHERRY ACADEMY

ZOOM

Come learn from three local food pantries about how they operate and how they approach addressing food insecurity in their neighborhood. Learn how you can get food or refer people to get food as well as how to volunteer and support the efforts of these pantries.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7 [not printed]

Psalm 80:7-15

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?’

⁴³“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.