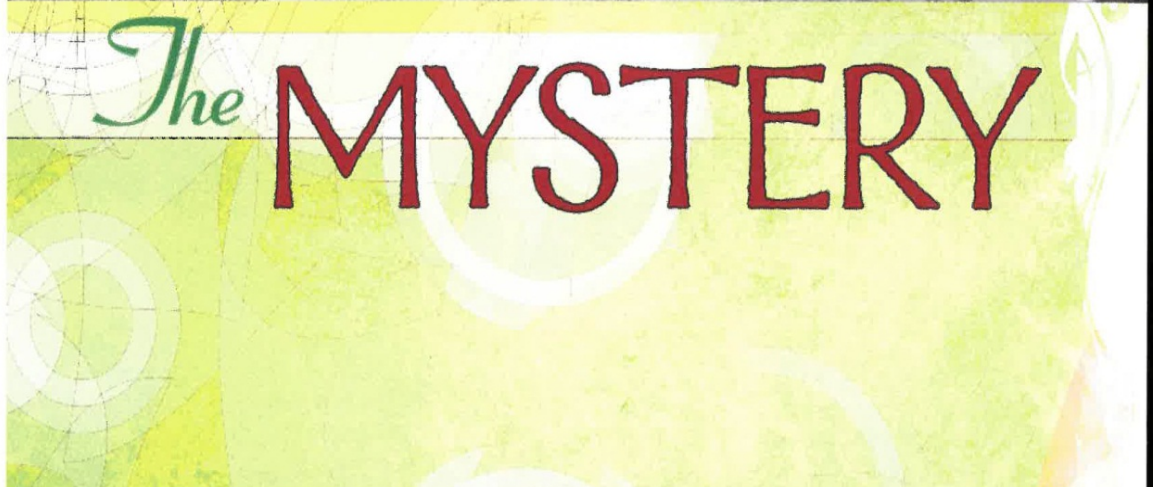




# *The* MYSTERY



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520  
717-569-1632

Website: [www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org) E-Mail: [secretary@trinityeastpete.org](mailto: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

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**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**8:00 & 9:30 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

**Prayer:** *Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**Christine Oetama**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Here we welcome both friend and stranger.

All peoples of the earth are God's children.

**We greet one another by name in Jesus' name.**

**Together we extol the name of our God.**

Open your hearts to receive new strength.

Open your lives to renewed understandings.

**Surely God will equip us to face our world.**

**We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.**

Let us worship God!

**HYMN #26**

*Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word*

**9:30 Service**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, but we fear the Spirit's power.

**Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.**

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Trusting in God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

**Almighty God, who sent the promised power of the Holy Spirit to fill disciples with willing faith: We confess that we resist the force of your Spirit among us; that we are slow to serve you, and reluctant to spread the good news of your love. God, have mercy on us. Forgive our divisions, and by your Spirit draw us together. Enflame us with a desire to do your will and be your faithful people; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## 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.**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE PSALTER

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.**

They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.  
**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

**For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.  
**O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

## THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit*

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

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 6:56-69

*The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## MEDITATION

“Equipped to Face the Challenges” Pastor Rankin

## PEOPLE’S OFFERING

### THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(KNEELING OR SEATED)*

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Grant strength to all principals, teachers and staff, and students as they begin a new school year. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### ***SILENT PRAYER***

#### **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.

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

#### **OFFERING DEDICATION**

O God, may our giving add strength to the witness of your church as we humbly seek your truth and lovingly share it. Ready us to proclaim the gospel of peace in our home, in our places of work and leisure, throughout our community and the world. Keep before your people the awesome mystery of faith. May its power overcome the cynicism of our skeptical, self-serving age, uniting us in disciples that are freeing and discipleship that is amazingly fulfilling. Amen.

### **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

**HYMN #20**

*God of Might, We Praise Thy Name*

**9:30 Service**

## **RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

You have good news to share with a needy world.

God will open up to you the mystery of the gospel.

**We trust in God to lead and guide us in truth.**

**Happy is everyone who trusts in God.**

You are the body of Christ! May you be strengthened with the power of God, the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **SENDING MUSIC**

**Christine Oetama**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by **Anne, Zach, Rachel, and Andrew** in honor of the August 20<sup>th</sup> birthdays of Pastor Chris and Don Miller.

**The Worship Aids** are given by **Brenda & Harry Himelwright** thanking all those people who kept our church services continuing during all our difficult times. Thank you all!!

**Greeting Ushers:** **Mike Wagner**, Shelley Wagner, Charlene Cristy, Bob bistline, Pat Seachrist

**Building Trustee:** Hank Fox

**Lector:** Rev. Sandy Morris(8:00 AM)/Jerry Richards(9:30 AM)

**Happy Birthday!**

Friday – Rylan Shelly

Saturday – Douglas Hess, Carol Martan, Isabella Woerner

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** The church office is open Monday-Friday from 9 AM-2 PM.

**THE 2021 WORSHIP AIDS & CHANCEL FLOWERS:** You can either contact the church office or use the website under resources to sign-up for flowers and worship aids for 2021! Worship Aids dates available are: **September 12**. Chancel Flowers dates available are: **September 12, 19 & 26**.

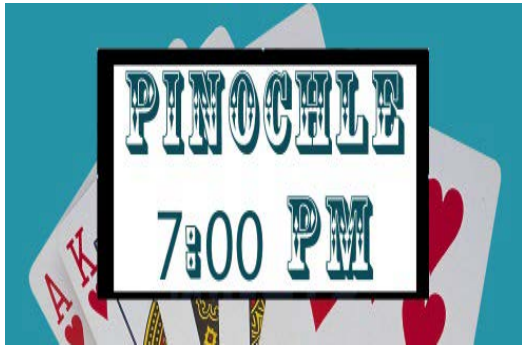
**CARD SHOWER:** Jane Starr requested a card shower for Nancy Patton's birthday on August 30th. Nancy's address is: **Nancy Patton, Maplefarm Nursing Center, 604 Oak St., Akron, PA 17501**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Barry Richards(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), John Shelsky (friend of Trinity Church), Donna Denlinger, Cathy Hoshauer, Nancy Enders, Mike Wagner, Pat Miller, Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Jackey Hoover, Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Phyllis Zimmerman, Donna Zirkel, Dave Connor, Linda Brown (sister of Mike Wagner), Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong), Jose Arroyo (husband of Sandy & George DeLong's niece), Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley), Jaimie & Aurora Commero (friends of Sarah Paulukow), Mark Zody (friend of Denise Huggins), Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach's brother), Scott Summers, Ron Rogers (Jamy Shelly's stepfather), Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Emma Nissley (sister of Jane Starr, Nancy Patton, and Pat Miller), Betty Tyndall and family, Virginia Schoffstall (grandmother of Kayla Brennan), David Potts (neighbor of the Himelwrights), Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law), Doug & Mary Lou Shaab, Bob & Marlyn Wible, Lily Kilgore & family, Barry Moore (Donna & Ron Denlinger's brother-in-law), Sam & Rosemary Minder, Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), Judy Wisniewski (sister of Chuck Husted), Elaine Sturgis (friend of Sue Husted), Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Doris Leaman, Kelsey (Minnich) and Tom Burgo, Judie Bistline, Hilma Slechta, and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church).





**PINOCHLE FELLOWSHIP:** Mark your calendars now because the



Pinochle Fellowship will meet again on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Look for more information in the September Parish Post. You can respond using the electronic version that Carol already sent via e-mail or on the website under Ministries! Speak with Karen Olley for more information!

**MISSION PROJECT:** The VBS Mission Project is Schreiber Center For Pediatric Development. Anyone can give through their envelopes or online giving and specify Schreiber to participate in making donations. Please make checks payable to Trinity.



Mt. Gretna Tabernacle

## MT. GRETTNA BIBLE FESTIVAL 2021

All Programs are in the Historic Tabernacle • 3<sup>rd</sup> St. & Glossbrenner Ave.

Parking GPS Address: 41 Boulevard St, Mt. Gretna PA 17064

Please visit [MtGretnaTabernacle.org](http://MtGretnaTabernacle.org) for any program cancellations.

A freewill offering will be received at each program.

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE** Updates will be posted on our website and Facebook page

**MASKS REQUIRED** at all programming in the Tabernacle during the 2021 Season.

All programs will conform to strict CBC Guidelines. Visit our website for updates.



### October 2

Saturday 2 p.m. Concert

**The Massed Choir** Composer Lloyd Larson will direct over 100 voices in a joyous Saturday afternoon concert. *Sponsored by Losers Music Inc. and Cornwall Manor*

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for worship volunteers at the in-person worship services:

**Greeters/Ushers:** To welcome worshippers at the door and to seat them in the sanctuary (9:30 a.m. service only)

**Lectors:** Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 8:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. services.

Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer.


## Parish Resource Center



2160 Lincoln Highway East #18, Lancaster, PA 17602  
717-299-1113  
[info@parishresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@parishresourcecenter.org)  
[www.parishresourcecenter.org](http://www.parishresourcecenter.org)




**Historic Churches of Lancaster City**  
Bus Tour  
Sept. 22, 8:15 am - 2:15 pm  
Led by Bob Frick




**BECOMING YOUR BEST SELF:  
INTRO TO THE ENNEAGRAM**  
Sept. 25, 2021  
9 am - 4 pm  
Ellen Kanagy, LCSW  
Rhonda Myers, LPC



**The Path Between Us Conference**  
The Enneagram and Healthy Relationships  
with Suzanne Stabile  
Oct. 8, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Oct. 9, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



**Black Religion:**  
A Theology Resurrected from White Oppression  
Oct. 21, 7:00 - 8:30pm | Dr. Larry Covin



**Anticipating Winter:  
Silent Retreat at The Wittel Farm**  
November 6, 2021  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm



**Using Intuition in Your Life**  
Nov. 6, 10-11:30am  
Annmarie Early PhD, LMFT

### CROP WALK RALLY:

The Lancaster CROP Walk Planning Committee invited to attend a rally for the 2021 CROP Walk at the Lancaster Food Hub on September 12 at 2 p.m. There will be a special program, tours of the food hub, and CROP Walk t-shirts available. Pastor Rankin and Rev. Bob Hunsicker serve on the planning committee.

The actual walk is on October 17 at the Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster. Mark & Chris Eyer are our walk coordinators and will soon register the Trinity Team on the Lancaster CROP Walk website.

## CHURCH COVENANT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

As an individual who attends Trinity United Church of Christ I covenant to work with my fellow church members, family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

I covenant to. . .

*Wear a face mask as a symbol of love and care for others.*

*Sit six feet apart from others, leaving room for God to work in the in-between spaces.*

*Clean up after myself in the spaces I use because germs are everywhere I go too!*

*Honor and respect the sacredness of each person in this space and to stay home if I don't feel well, knowing God is with us wherever we are, whether inside or outside the walls of the church.*

*Work together with my church family in creating a safe and healthy space to gather for worship, fellowship, or church activities as one body, united in God's love.*

*Acknowledge the hard work ahead, and the commitment to care for one another.*

Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways as we:

- 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

## INSTALLATION OF CONFERENCE MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, a member of Trinity Church, will be installed as the sixth Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference at Lancaster Theological Seminary on September 12 at 3 p.m. Participants in the service will be at Lancaster Seminary, but the service will be livestreamed so you can view the service. Look for more details in the coming weeks.



**AUGUST 22, 2021**

**(B)**

**PROPER 16**

**FIRST LESSON. 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43**

**SECOND LESSON. Ephesians 6:10-20**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**GOSPEL. John 6:56-69**

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

