

*I am the
good shepherd*

JOHN 10:11



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

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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with our brothers and sisters in 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. 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: *O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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*
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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.

The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures. We are refreshed beside still waters.

We have been given everything we have. God offers us everything we need.

When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us. We are comforted and reassured.

God leads us in the right paths. Our cups are filled to overflowing. God welcomes us to this place where love is expressed. We are invited to partake of the truth God offers.

We have received plenty that we might share. We are called to be God's helpers.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God has raised us to new life.

Let us confess to God our sins and all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

God of love, in our failure to keep your commandments we have clung to the old life of sin within us. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Free us from the power of sin, guide us by your Spirit, and help us in our weakness, that we may live as your children, restored to new life; through Christ 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

(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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us pray the collect together.

Loving God, who reaches out to restore our souls, touch us now with your word of truth. May the familiar phrases of scripture draw us back into a vital relationship with you and all your children. Lead us in paths of righteousness that we may show your love in conversation and action; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

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

THE PSALTER

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

#498

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

#498

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"One Shepherd, One Flock"
(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Pastor Rankin

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

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose 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.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We give you thanks that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We boldly proclaim: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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!

*(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.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientist, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Janet Sweigart** in memory of Shirley Charles Bare.

The Worship Aids are given by the **Jane Portser** in loving memory of Charles (Chuck) Portser by his family: Jane, Chip, Troy, and Kelly.

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Sandy Morris
Money Counters	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk, Bob Bistline
Altar Guild	Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders
Koinonia	Charlene Cristy
Building Trustee	Hank Fox
Ministries	Card Evangelism Committee Called to Care Betty Tyndall Visitation Sue Bowman

Happy Birthday!

Today – Nevin Cooley, Logan Garrett

Monday – Erin Derstler, Betty Fogle

Tuesday – Jackey Hoover

Wednesday – Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen, Jack Olley

Thursday – Rev. Margaret Rohnacher

Grace Collier (friend of Pat & Stan Seachrist)
David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)
Marshawn Howse (grandson of Dave & Noreen Trostle)
Elizabeth Trostle (mother of Dave Trostle)
Norma Mallard (friend of Gail Kogut)
Tom Chapman (brother of Rev. Jere Chapman)
Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)
Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)
Brian & Liz Culp (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)
Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)
Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)
Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Don Pfeiffer (husband of Denise Pfeiffer)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

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

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

TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: It is not too late to buy S. Clyde Weaver sub coupons to support the Trinity Preschool. The cost is \$8 per coupon. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. **Make checks payable to Trinity Preschool and put in the white box outside the church office.**

TRINITY LUNCH BUNCH: The Parish Life Committee is revitalizing the lunch gatherings for church members and friends. We are tentatively planning the first one at Fiorentino's on May 5 following the 10:30 service. Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office. **The deadline to sign-up is April 28!!!** Contact Denise Pfeifer for more information.



Trinity UCC

2340 State St., East Petersburg, PA 17520
www.trinityeastpete.org 717-569-1632

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Concert – 3:00 PM

Freewill Offering Benefits Ting Ministries



Music For Everyone Community Chorus And Ukelele Uprising

2024 CONCERT SPONSORS: Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

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



GRIEF GROUPS: A few people have already signed-up for the small group focusing on grieving our losses. Here are some tentative dates that Pastor Rankin has scheduled for the first meetings:

April 22 (Monday)---7-8 p.m.

April 24 (Wednesday)--1-2 p.m.

You can sign-up by either contacting the church office or look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. Pastor Rankin has already ordered several copies of the book. Contact him if you have any questions!

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **April 28, May 5, 12, & 19.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **June 2.** 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.

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. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

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

As you know, Penn Central Conference pays 50% of camp registration fees. You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with “Camp Scholarship”.

UPCOMING EVENTS [More Information - https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/](https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/)

[Earth Day Celebration](#) at Kirchenwald - April 21, 2024

[Nawakwa Work Day](#) at Nawakwa - April 27, 2024

[Kirchenwald Work Day](#) at Kirchenwald - May 4, 2024

[Lutheran Camping Night](#) at Harrisburg Senators at FNB Field - May 17, 2024

[Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic](#) at Kirchenwald - May 19, 2024

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Psalm 23**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and

will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”