

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. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Carolyne 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 Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

#### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

**Today's Theme:** James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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**: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer 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

#### 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.

Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship. Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

This is a place where all belong. This is a time when all are accountable to God.

Come to sing praises and put your trust in God. Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ's name.

# We bring all our needs to God, our hope. We want to share faith and hope with others.

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 welcomes you to this table. Come, here is our God.

# **CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing in this time of silent prayer. *(SEATED OR KNEELING)* 

#### SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us confess our sins together.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first, we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** Let us pray the collect together.

Loving God, ever available to all who truly seek you, come to us now through all we read and speak, that the messages your people hear may become your word to us, a word that transforms, makes whole, and unites us in mutual learning and service, for the sake of all your children. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon, Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. **The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.** 

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

#### THE SECOND LESSON

James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

#### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

#### SERMON

**"Faith Works"** (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**

We give because you have been generous to us, gracious God. We give because we need to give in order to realize your image within us. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our members, our community, and our world. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves; through 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 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.

#### **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.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**. Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their home there. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Grant wisdom and understanding to all who will participate in our educational ministry this year. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

#### SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

#### BENEDICTION

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by Nevin Cooley in memory of Ann Cooley, mother of Nevin Cooley.

The Worship Aids are given by Lily and Andrew Brennan in honor of our Nana's birthday month.

#### Happy Birthday!

Thursday – Michael Wagner, Dr. Rebecca Wagner Saturday – Denise Huggins, Christine Oetama

<u>Ministering Today</u>	
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Sandy Morris
Money Counters	Nevin Cooley, Steve Gold, Charlene Cristy, Cherie
	Cataldi
Altar Guild	Beth Bossert, Karen Olley, Nancy Enders
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Dave Connor
Koinonia	Christian Ed. Committee
Ministries	Card Children's Sunday School Class
	Called to Care Nancy Enders
	Visitation Anita Rohrer

This Week at Trinity Church			
(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m2 p.m.)			
Monday	7:00  PM - SOT Choir		
Tuesday	7:00 PM – Property Committee		
Wednesday	7:00 PM – Finance Committee		
Thursday	10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group		
	6:00  PM - Scouts		
Friday	10:00 AM – Evangelism Committee		
Saturday	8:00 PM – Alanon/AA		
Sunday	$7:45 \mathrm{AM}-\mathrm{Eucharist}$		
	9:00 AM – Sunday School		
	10:00 AM – Koinonia		
	10:30 AM - Worship		

### PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

#### **MEMBERS**

Kelsey Minnich Burgo	Rick Mowrer	Ron Becker
Betsy Bailey	Betty Fogle	Jack Olley
Bob & Marlyn Wible	Don & Pat Miller	Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman
Harry Himelwright	Dr. Janet Harriger	Joann Peck
Scott & Jane Owens	The Lehman family	Mary Lou Shaab
Carmen & Jerry Richards	Donna Wolf & Family	George & Ellie Latsha
Lainie Christensen	Stan & Pat Seachrist	Sam Minder III
Pastor Harry Royer	Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Hank Fox
Rev. Ken Trauger	Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Donna Zirkel
Kathleen Sensenig Adams	Betty Tyndall and family	Michael McDonough
Danielle Huggins Holbein	Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Joann & Dawn Garvin
Erika Otthofer	Denise Huggins	Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Ken Jenkins The family of Frank Albrecht (friend of Trinity members) Shari Jones (co-worker of Rich Weeber) Tracy McLaughlin (co-worker of Rich Weeber) **Carol Hooper** (sister of Rev. Dr. Rich Christensen) Marlene Harlow (friend of Gail Kogut) Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel) Kaitlyn, Ben, and Lucy Miller (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen) Barbie, Jon, and Will Bundy (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen) **Rev. Jim Martin** (Rev. Dr. Rich & Lanie Christensen's former pastor) Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer) Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Houshauer) Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call) The Herr Family (Trinity Preschool Family) Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong) Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley) **David Brown** (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner) Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig) Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis) Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline) Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig) Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman) **Rev. Loy Garber** (former seminarian) Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan) John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr) James Malone & family Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner) Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig) **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 SEPTEMBER PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

**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.

**2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **September 15, 22, & 29.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **September 22 & 29.** 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: Beginning today, we will resume koinonia (community fellowship)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. Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.



East Petersburg Parade The annual East Petersburg Day Parade will follow the 5K at 10AM and lead families, friends and neighbors to East Petersburg Community Park for an amazing day filled with live music, jugglers, rides, games, and food!

The Parish Life Committee will be organizing a float for this year's parade. We will meet on September 14 at 8:00 a.m. to decorate the float prior to the parade. There is a sign-up sheet across from the church office for those who want to ride the float or those who will donate candy for us to distribute. Contact Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin for more information!!

**TRINITY LUNCH BUNCH:** The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring another lunch gathering for church members and friends on September 22 at Loxley's (500 Centerville Rd). The luncheon will begin around 12:30 p.m. Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office. The deadline to sign-up is September 15!!! Contact Denise Pfeifer for more information.

**THE MEN OF TRINITY BREAKFAST** will meet for breakfast on September 21 at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office! This is open to all men of the congregation!

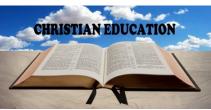
### **RALLY DAY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS INFORMATION!!!**

Our fall worship schedule (7:45 and 10:30), will begin on

September 8 (Rally Day) Sunday School 9:00 AM Koinonia at 10:00 AM



There will be a special Rally Day program at 9:00 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Donna Geisler and her brother-in-law, Dr. Bill Lovett, will speak about their recent mission trip to the Dominican Republic.



- 1. The Children's Class will meet in the lower classroom and will be using the Spark lectionary based curriculum. These Sunday school lessons connect kids with Bible stories heard in worship. The Bible story have lessons that are packed with activities, interactive games, and creative crafts.
- 2. Adult/Youth Bible Class will be studying *Christianity and World Religions* by Adam Hamilton. In examining Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel. The class will meet in Isenberg Hall and will be led by Sue Bowman and Pastor Rankin. There will be opportunities for the youth to have breakout sessions during the class.
- 3. The Wired Word (Christian Issues Today) Adult Class will 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. Students 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.

**VBS MISSION PROJECT REPORT:** Thank you to all who supported this year's VBS mission offering. We raised \$2,045 for Habitat for Humanity!!!

**UPDATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.**<sup>:</sup> The Christian Education Committee is planning to sponsor a trip to Washington D.C. on October 26. We are hoping to visit the National Cathedral and the Holocaust Museum. The tentative cost is \$15 (adult) and \$10 (children 5-12 years old). The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. **For more information, speak to Sue Bowman or Pastor Rankin.** 

# Calling all Singers and Ringers 2024-2025 Season Starts

September 9, 7:00 - 8:00 PM SOT Choir September 16, 8:15 - 8:45 PM Canticle Ringers

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

**PRAYER SHAWL:** The Prayer Shawl will resume meeting on September 17 at 1:00 p.m. and 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.



**CUB SCOUT PACK 133 FUNDRAISER:** The scouts that meet at Trinity are selling peanuts and popcorn. There are order forms on the table across from the church office. Orders are due October 10 and they will be delivered on November 9. Speak to Pastor Chris for more information!

FALL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR: The Pastor Parish Committee is sponsoring another leadership seminar for all members of the Consistory and committees on Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m.-noon. The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Conference Minister & President of the Penn Central Conference and member of Trinity, will talk about emotional intelligence. Dr. Call will be preaching at both services on October 13. Look for a sign-up sheet in the near future.

THE 2024 CONCERT SPONSOR FORMS are available on the table across from the church office.

**THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES** are available in the information racks on both floors of the church building!

**SERVERS NEEDED:** We are in need of greeters, ushers, and nursery care volunteers for the 10:30 worship service. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving as an usher or greeter. Please contact Betty Fogle if you are interested in serving as a nursery attendant (717-471-1026 or bettsfog@comcast.net).

**GRIEF GROUP:** Since the first grief group will be ending this month, Pastor Rankin would like to form another group(s) beginning in October. If you are interested in this small group, look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office. Contact Pastor Rankin if you have any questions.

**WELCOME LUNCHEON:** The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a welcome luncheon after the 10:30 service on October 13 to welcome new members or recent visitors to Trinity Church. This is a way for us to share with our guests about Trinity's story through the DVD and conversations around the tables. We hope that Trinity members will attend the luncheon, so look for the upcoming sign-up sheet.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LANCASTER CROP WALK: Trinity Church was recently recognized as being 34<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. to raise funds for the 2023 CROP Walk!! Also, the Lancaster CROP Walk was recognized for being ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Pennsylvania for the 2023 CROP Walk! Pastor Rankin continues to serve as the Lancaster CROP Walk Coordinator!

There are two important dates to remember:

- 1. Saturday, September 29---CROP Walk Rally at the Church World Service office in Lancaster (10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.)
- Sunday, October 20---CROP Walk at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Registration begins at 1 p.m. and a program follows at 1:30 p.m. The walk will begin at 2 p.m.

Mark & Chris Eyer are once again serving as the coordinators for Trinity Church. The following people from Trinity have already signed up for the walk: Mark & Chris Eyer, Diane Rice, Karen Olley, Nancy Enders, and the Rankin family. You can also give our walkers money. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP!

You can register for the walk on the table across from the church office or at <u>https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/trinity-east-pete</u>



People are needed to volunteer to decorate their trunk in Halloween themed décor and pass out candy or other goodies to the children as they come by. We also need donations of candy. The sign-up sheet will soon be available on the table across from the church office.

# Harvest Home Worship Service at Old Zion German Reformed Church

**TODAY at 3:00 p.m.,** Old Zion German Reformed Church, Brickerville, will conduct an 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 "Harvest Home," and will draw on excerpts from a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century liturgy of the Reformed Church entitled "Golden Sheaves." For the last several hundred years, Protestant churches have celebrated and given thanks for abundant harvests. In many rural churches, whose congregations were comprised of farm families and businesses supporting agriculture, the Harvest Home celebrations were a highlight each year.

Rev. William LaSalle will portray the Rev. Frederick C. Hullhorst, who served as the minister at Old Zion, Bethany, and Jerusalem Church in Penryn from 1896 to 1902. The worship service will include music and hymns from the period and will feature the choir from nearby Brickerville United Lutheran Church, which has had a long-standing relationship with Old Zion Church. 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 and donated to Ephrata Area Social Services and Warwick Community Chest. In addition, Scott Hartz will display a variety of antique and period farm implements.

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



Check out all event details at LutheranCamping.org

Parish

#### LUTHERAN CAMPING EVENT DATES

Dinner church at the Wittel Farm Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 – starting at 5 PM.

- Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa October 1-3
- Party with a Purpose Fundraiser at Kirchenwald October 5 - 5pm
- Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald October 6 - 3pm
- A Night for Nawakwa Fundraiser at Nawakwa October 19
- Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa October 27 - 1pm
- Lutheran Camping Quilt Auction at Nawakwa November 3 - 2pm

#### 2160 Lincoln Hwy East, #18 (717) 299-1113 info@parishresourcecenter.org



#### NEWS FROM THE PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE: THE KEYSTONE PROJECT

In January 2022, the Conference Ministers of the four Pennsylvania Conferences gathered to discuss the urgency of issues confronting all settings of the UCC. They met with an eye toward confronting the divisions and hostilities of our world, and listening with a deep sense of our responsibility to answer Jesus' prayer, 'that they may all be one. They identified the spiritual hunger of our church people and pastors and the call to support and develop the local church. They dreamed about new ways to serve Jesus and our churches by drawing on the strength and giftedness of our clergy, congregations, leaders, and Conference staff.

We are not the church that we were when the denomination was formed in 1957 and our current contexts of ministry are different. The pandemic exacerbated the challenges we face. We acknowledge our responsibility to provide support and nourishment to the local church. We recognize our duty to find and develop the leadership needs of our congregations. We own the very real financial challenges that impact the future of our ministries.

Our four conferences share these challenges. Our response to them is strongest when we respond in partnership with each other. The "Keystone Study Group," a group of representatives from all four PA Conferences, was created to explore the possibilities of responding as one.

The information about this possible merger was presented at this year's annual meeting of the Penn Central Conference. The meeting included the other three conferences (Penn West, Penn Northeast, and Pennsylvania Southeast). The delegates from Trinity were George DeLong, Diane Rice, and Pastor Chris. The vote on the merger will be held by all four conferences on November 9. Each conference must receive a 67% affirmative vote in order for it to be sent to the General Synod of the U.C.C. in 2025.

George, Diane, and Pastor Chris recently met to discuss ways to share this information with you. We invite you to look at the information found online at <a href="https://psec.org/keystone/">https://psec.org/keystone/</a>. If you have any questions or concerns about this possible merger, please contact George, Diane, or Pastor Chris. We would like to hear from you before the November 9 vote.

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

#### Psalm 146

#### SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [11For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

#### GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go-the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

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