

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. 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. Beth Ressler, Summer Interim Preschool Director

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 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.

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: 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.

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.

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.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

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)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of 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

(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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Let us pray the collect together.

Holy One of God, sent to live among us in faithfulness to God's loving intention for all humanity, lead our journey toward the truth that is eternal. Be to us the bread of life, a source of trust, a guard against misplaced loyalties and false assumptions, that we may live in harmony with all God's creation and relate to our brothers and sisters in ways that are pleasing to our Creator; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, Covenant means "agreement" or "Alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND 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 work of God inspired by the Spirit.

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 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 the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for 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.

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)

SERMON

"The Strength Needed to Serve"

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

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. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord! Let us give thanks to God Most High. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us. Have we not heard? Have we not known? In the beginning, you swept across the earth with your Spirit of life and renewal. When we forgot or neglected your truth, you redeemed us and renewed us. From the earth's first gardens to the mountaintop storms, you have spoken to us, and entrusted us to be your people. From laws on tablets to warnings from prophets, you have spoken your truth and renewed your covenant with us, reviving us and reclaiming us through your grace and love. And so, with your people on earth, with all of creation, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise, saying:

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!

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to reveal your powerful love for the world. Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, welcoming any and all, Christ continues to reveal your presence, renewing our souls even now. Through Christ's powerful love and endless grace, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sins, and led onto your path of justice and righteousness. In Christ's grace, you renew and reclaim us as your holy people, children of mercy and truth. As children of your covenant of love, sealed by water and the Spirit, welcome now with joy and gratitude, remembering how Jesus shared bread and wine, renewing and reviving the lives of his closest friends, his most faithful disciples, even as they faced their deepest fears and their greatest sins.

(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. Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, advocacy groups and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Jesus, Bread of Life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by Parry & Claire Miller as we celebrate our 57^{th} wedding anniversary.

The Worship Aids are given by George & Ellie Latsha in celebration of our 76^{th} wedding anniversary on August 28^{th} .

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector	Rev. Jack Esbenshade
Money Counters	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller
Altar Guild	Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Nancy Enders
Building Trustee	Hank Fox
Ministries	Card Elders
	Called to Care Nancy Enders
	Visitation Ken Trauger

Worship Attendance, August 18 7:45-21 9:30–50 TOTAL - 71

Happy Birthday!

Tuesday – Bradley Olena, Rylan Shelly

Wednesday – Douglas Hess, Carol Martan, Isabella Woerner

Thursday – Kevin Daly, Gregory Gable, Kimberly Knoll, Kerry Kreider, Hillary Bossert-Davis

Saturday – Mark Shenk

This Week at Trinity Church

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

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Today	4:00-6:30 PM – Church Picnic
Monday	6:00-9:00 PM – Preschool Fundraiser @ Son's Ice Cream
Tuesday	10:00 AM – Nominating Committee (choir room)
Thursday	6:00 PM – Parish Life Committee (choir room)
	6:30 PM – Cub Scouts (Isenberg Hall)
Saturday	8:00 PM – Alanon/AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist
-	9:30 AM – Eucharist

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
Pastor Harry Royer
Rev. Ken Trauger
Kathleen Sensenig Adams
Danielle Huggins Holbein
Erika Otthofer

Stan & Pat Seachrist Rev. Dave & Mid Gocklev Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser Donna Zirkel Betty Tyndall and family Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline Joann & Dawn Garvin **Denise Huggins**

Sam Minder III Hank Fox Michael McDonough Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Ken Jenkins 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) Tuyet Nguyen (husband of Pat & Stan Seachrist's granddaughter) Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call) Art Cobb (nephew of John & Dolly Barr) The Herr Family (Trinity Preschool Family) Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong) **Chris Rice** (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley) Sally & Joe Carrol (friend of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman) Kurt McEllhemmey (relative of Betty Tyndall) **David Brown** (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner) 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) 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) **The Martin family** (Trinity Preschool 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 JULY/AUGUST PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

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.

VBS MISSION PROJECT: This year's VBS mission project is Habitat for Humanity. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission Offering".

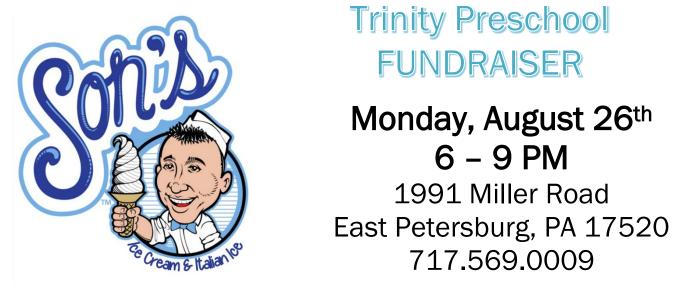
2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **September 15, 22, & 29.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **September 22 & 29.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!

SERVERS NEEDED: We are in need of greeters, ushers, and nursery care volunteers for the 9:30 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 <u>bettsfog@comcast.net</u>).

PRESCHOOL NEEDS: Please help support our preschool by bringing all supplies that you signed up for to church and place in box near table outside office. Thank you!



Support our preschool while enjoying Son's delicious ice cream/Italian ice.

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!

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!



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!!

TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.: 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 other museums. We don't have any details yet on the cost, but we are asking you to sign-up if you are interested at this point. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. For more information, speak to Sue Bowman or Pastor Rankin.

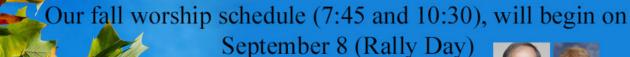
Mt. Gretna Bible Festival 2024 Season

ALL PROGRAMS ARE IN THE HISTORIC TABERNACLE THIRD ST & GLOSSBRENNER AVE Parking at Mt. Gretna Fire Co. Handicapped Parking at Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church Parking Lot

PARKING AT THE MT. GRETNA ROLLER RINK - in DEFINED AREAS ONLY!!! Roller Rink Parking on the following dates August 25, 2024

Sunday, August 25, 2024 - QuintEssentially Brass - 7 p.m. This quintet with engaging personalities and sparkling instrumental performances ends another season. Freewill Offering will be received. Sponsored by Arthur Funk and Sons

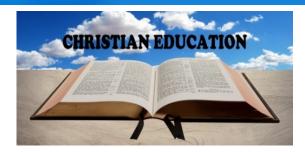
RALLY DAY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS INFORMATION!!!



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.

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

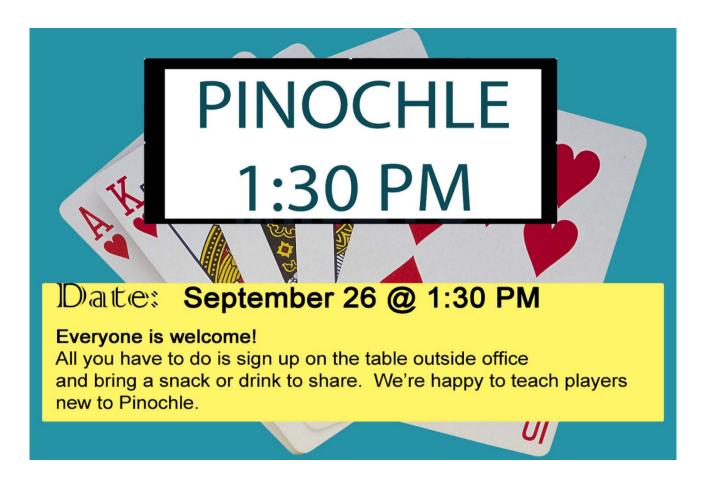
There are two important dates to remember:

- 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 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, Nancy Enders, and the Rankin family.

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>

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.



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

Harvest Home Worship Service at Old Zion German Reformed Church

On Sunday, September 8, 2024, 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 19th 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



<u>*TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-</u> East Petersburg*

<u>VOTED BEST DINER IN LANCASTER COUNTY 11 YEARS IN A ROW</u> (Lancaster Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards)- 2021 <u>TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS</u>

Before you pay your bill, please mention Trinity United Church of Christ and 10% of your bill will be donated to Trinity.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people,

¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Psalm 34:15-22

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

[Jesus said,] "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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." 59He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.