

HOPE



*I will cause a righteous Branch
to spring up for David*

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

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

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

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

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Prayer: *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

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 days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and righteousness will appear.

God's promises will be made known to us, and we will declare God's goodness and salvation.

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

John the Baptist calls us to repent, to prepare for the coming of God's reign.

Let us heed John's call and confess our sins in silent prayer.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend to your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. 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)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE/TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Today is the beginning of Advent—the preparation time for celebrating Christ’s birth.

We are here because God’s promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born.

God’s promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst.

God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

Let us pray together.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalms 25: 1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Hope is Drawing Near!"

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

Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell with hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. 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 very right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love and 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. Born of your servant Mary, Jesus shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

As we now await the birth of the Christ child, we offer you our hymn of praise.

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

COMMUNICATION

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.

(You are invited to partake of the elements)

(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.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all peoples and places that yearn for God's presence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of U.C.C. Wider Church Ministries, Church World Service, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and guest. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers and Worship Aids are given by **Brenda & Harry Himelwright** in loving memory of G. Joyce Becker.

Money Counters: Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller

Building Trustee: Pat Sensenig

Lector: Diane Rice

Happy Birthday!

Today – Blaine Connor

Wednesday – Hope Krantz, David Trostle

Thursday – Randy Woerner

Friday – Claire Miller

Saturday – Scott Wible

Attendance for Sun., Nov. 21
Sunday School

8:00–17 10:30–64 TOTAL – 81
16

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Tuesday 7:00 PM – Consistory/Regathering Task Force

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon

8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 8:00 AM – Eucharist

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Eucharist

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

PRAYER CONCERNS: The family of Don Huber, the family of Joyce Becker, Denny Eberly, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Hillary Brennan (mother of John Brennan), Ann Wolf (neighbor of George & Sandy DeLong), the Brennan family, Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, David & Ann Potts (friends of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Pete & Nora Petrosky (friends of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Lynn Dull, Jill Otthofer, Paul Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), 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), Donna Denlinger, Cathy Hoshauer, Pat Miller, Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Phyllis Zimmerman, Donna Zirkel, 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, Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Betty Tyndall and family, Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law), 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).

DEVOTIONALS: The October-December edition of *These Days* can be found on both floors of the church building.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS & CALENDARS: There are devotionals available for adults & children and Advent calendars for children on the table across from the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD: Don't forget to sign the congregational Christmas card on the table across from the church office. There is a box for you to put a monetary donation for the Hempfield Power Packs Project.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

THE CHRISMON TREE: The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term "Chrismon" comes from the Latin "Christi monnogramma" which simply means "monogram of Christ". Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS, made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN was made by Mike Wagner.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES: Christian Education classes will be held for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Here are the locations for the classes:

1. **Children's Class** will meet in the classroom on the first floor.
2. **Middle School/High School Class** will meet in the classroom on the second floor.
3. **The Combined Adult Class** will meet in Isenberg Hall.

There will be no Koinonia at this time!

2022 BUDGETS are available on both floors of the church building. This was approved at the November 14 congregational meeting.

WHITE GIFT SERVICE: DECEMBER 5

As in years past, we would like to share our blessings with others in need by providing gifts to the residents of Bethany Homes and Ephrata Manor. The residents at both locations are always very appreciative of our caring and giving. Both organizations rely on our donations to make Christmas special for each of their residents.

This year, due to the pandemic, they are asking for GIFT CARDS so that they can use them to purchase desired gifts for each individual. The following are the gift card requests for each location.



Ephrata Manor (United Church of Christ Home) requests: Amazon, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Visa/MC, and Target gift cards.



Bethany Home requests: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Dick's, Michael's, Food Locker, Turkey Hill, and McDonalds gift cards.

We will receive all donations on Sunday, December 5. Contact Beth Bossert for more information.

CHILDREN'S MONEY BOXES: The children's Sunday School class has been learning about sharing God's gifts with others. They created boxes to collect coins to support a mission project or the work of our Christian Education ministry. Look for the boxes on the table across from the church office. Talk to Anne Rankin for more information.

ADVENT ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to give all contributions from the Advent Envelope to the U.C.C. Christmas Fund. We will learn more about the Christmas Fund next week.

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 (10:30 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 10:30 a.m. services.

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



Holiday Wishes for Jordan Sensenig

Since Jordan is deployed overseas, he will not be coming home for three years. This Christmas will be a difficult one, and we hope you will help to boost his spirits. Whether you share a note, a Christmas card, or a memory, we hope you will help by sending him words of encouragement.

With the issues surrounding mail delivery, we would like to have your well wishes by the end of November. We will collect your encouraging correspondence and will send all as a single mailing. It takes about three weeks for him to receive his mail from us.

Jordan appreciates his Trinity family, and we hope this will be a great reminder of all the times he spent at Trinity. He's far from home, and this will help him feel all the caring that surrounds him.

Many Thanks!
Pat and Joan

Put cards in the envelope on
table across from church office.

CALLING NEW SINGERS AND RINGERS: We invite anyone who is interested in providing a solo as a Musical Offering this fall, in joining the SOT Choir, or in playing bells to email Michael and Dina at Music@Trinityeastpete.org.

You are invited!

*The SOT Choir would like to
invite the congregation to join them
in the church parking lot
on
Dec 19 at 2:00 PM
for a Christmas Carol Sing-along/Concert,
weather permitting.*

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 or have been around someone who is waiting the results of a COVID test, 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.

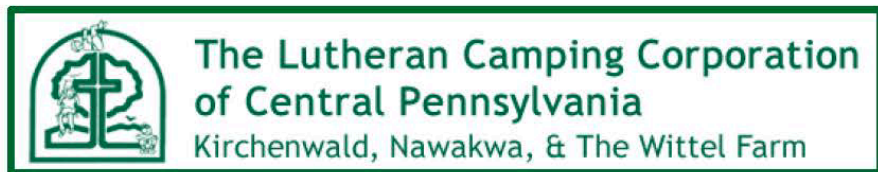
Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways as we:

- 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

PINOCHLE FELLOWSHIP: Mark your calendars now because the



Pinochle Fellowship will meet again on January 4th at 7:00 PM. There is no December meeting. Look for more information in the December 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!



*For more information about upcoming events and to register,
go to: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/upcoming-events/>*

Advent Day Apart

at The Wittel Farm

Saturday, December 4, 2021
10am - 2pm



All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in
preparation of the birth of the Christ child.

*For more information & to register,
go to:*

*[https://www.lutherancamping.org/e
vent/advent-day-apart-2021/](https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/advent-day-apart-2021/)*



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN A BARN

December 19

7:00-8:30 p.m.

At The Wittel Farm

*Join us at the farm for our
4th annual*

*Advent/Christmas night.
Come gather around the
outdoor fire and have
cookies and cocoa in the
barn.*

Lights and decorations!

For more information & to register, go to:

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/christmas-in-the-barn-2021/>

2021 HOLIDAY SEASON @ ZION LUTHERAN (LANDISVILLE)

**Holiday Concert at Zion
Sunday, December 19**



3:00 p.m.

...



*Featuring the Hempfield High School
Chamber Singers*

**LANCASTER
LIEDERKRANZ WINTER
COMMUNITY CONCERT**

Saturday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m.

This seasonal concert featuring traditional German
selections is held annually at Zion.

A free-will offering will be taken.

**Connecting with others
Connecting with God
Connecting others with God**
All are welcome!

**Hershey Handbell
Ensemble**

Christmas

Concert

AT ZION

Sunday, December 12
at 3:00 p.m.

Come enjoy the sounds of the season!

*Music will feature 7 ½ octaves of handbells
played by the 15 member ensemble!*

A free-will offering will be collected to help support the Zion Musik Concert Series.
info@hersheyhandbellensemble.org - (717) 298-7071 - hersheyhandbellensemble.org

**85 E. Brandt Blvd.
(Off Main St. in Landisville)**

717-898-2911 

adminzelc@comcast.net 

Zion Lutheran Hempfield 



