



Jesus
increased
in wisdom and
in years

LUKE 2:52

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

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

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 : *Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you 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*

BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!

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.**

We turn to you, O God, in the midst of our lives.

We gather at your table to remember your mighty works of old.

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

What a rare gift this season brings. God loves us so much that God came to us in Jesus.

Let us humble ourselves and confess our sins before the God of love.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess in the presence of God and one another.

God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. 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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Let us pray the collect together.

We have come today, O God, seeking your grace and claiming your healing power. We have journeyed through another week of life, with both its joys and blessings, and its hardships and trials. Wash us with your Holy Spirit and renew us for the journey of life, in the name of the Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

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

PSALTER

Psalm 148

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

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

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“The Twelve Days of Christmas”

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

Gracious God, we gather to sing praise to you as we remember the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, you offer hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. In response to your great gifts, we present these offerings. Bless these gifts that we offer and use them for the work of your kingdom on earth. 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 to you, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short and dimmed the brilliance of your light shining through us, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth. When we are afraid to look upon your glory, you came as a quiet traveler, as a burning bush, and as a pillar of light. You called us to be people of light, to walk no longer in darkness, and always, you light our way. Even when we walk in darkness, you shine your light and offer your grace, awaiting our return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal your glory

and grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the angels in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn.

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.

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.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

(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.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by his goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Charlene Cristy**. Happy New Year to the congregation and friends at Trinity.

The Worship Aids are given by **Nancy Enders** in thanks for those baking Trinity bread and those handing it out each week to visitors.

Happy Birthday

Today – Kathleen Adams

Tuesday – Rev. Jack Esbenshade, Gale Long

Wednesday – Joan Cash, Pat Seachrist

Saturday – Mary Ann Bradley

This Week at Trinity Church

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

Wednesday OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday Preschool Resumes

Secretary in 9 AM-11:30 AM

Friday Secretary in 9 AM-11:30 AM

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM - Koinonia

10:30 AM – Eucharist

Church undecorating following 10:30 Service

Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Communion Assistant Jeff Hackenberger

Money Counters Joan Sensenig, Steve Gold, Pat Sensenig, Cherie Cataldi

Altar Guild Nancy Enders, Anita Rohrer, Hedwig Hunsicker, Charlene Cristy

Building Trustee Mike Wagner

Koinonia Rankin Family

Ministries **Card** Advent Workshop **Called to Care** Nancy Enders
Visitation Janice Jenkins

Attendance for Sun., December 22 7:45–15 10:30–84 **TOTAL – 99**

Christian Education 23

Christmas Eve 2:30-43 6:30–86 10:30–30

TOTAL – 159

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Jodi Keller	Janice Jenkins	Betsy Bailey
Rev. Dr. Carrie Call	Denise Huggins	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Don & Pat Miller	Mid Gockley	Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman
Rhonda Hartenstine	Joann Peck	Scott & Jane Owens
The Lehman family	Mary Lou Shaab	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Donna Wolf & Family	George & Ellie Latsha	Lainie Christensen
Sam Minder III	Erika Otthofer	Hank Fox
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Donna Zirkel	Danielle Huggins Holbein
Kathleen Sensenig Adams	Betty Tyndall and family	Michael McDonough
Kelsey Minnich Burgo	Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Rev. Ken & Marilyn Trauger
Ron Becker	Joann & Dawn Garvin	Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman
Arlene Hoxworth	Mary Lou Sturgis	John Shelsky
Betty Fogle	Autumn Shenk	Harry & Brenda Himelwright

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Family of Delores Kurkowski (sister of Pat Seachrist)
Family of Rose Heckel (sister of Mid Gockley)
Family of Donald Nissley (brother-in-law of Don & Pat Miller and Jane Starr)
Ted Gockley (son of Mid Gockley)
Gary Himelwright (son of Harry & Brenda Himelwright)
Ryan Dennes (son of Paula Dennes)
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Rev. Pam Illick (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)
Nancy Scholl (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
David Haverstick (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Dan Congelton (friend of Nancy Enders)
Audria Husted (granddaughter of Chuck & Sue Husted)
Cindy Greiman (friend of Betty Fogle)
Carmen Sweigert (friend of Rhonda Hartenstine)
Glenn Wible (nephew of Bob & Marlyn Wible/cousin of Lon Wible)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
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)
Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)
The Herr Family (Former 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 Sick (friend of Judy Chapman)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
James Malone & family
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)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton
World Peace

CHURCH UNDECORATING SCHEDULED: Please plan to stay after the 10:30a.m. service on Sunday, January 5 to help remove and pack up Christmas decorations from the exterior and interiors of the church. Thank you in advance for your assistance in packing up decorations in preparation for next year! Contact a member of the Parish Life Committee (Anne Rankin, Kayla Brennan, Denise Pfeifer, Cherie Cataldi, Jeff Hackenberger, and Rachel Baynard) for more information.

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

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 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.

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 CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVATOR was made by Mike Wagner.

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No Sunday School classes on TODAY! A Holiday Koinonia will be held at 9:45 a.m.!

DEVOTIONALS: The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance. **There are also Advent devotionals & calendars available on the table across from the church office.**

THE 2025 APPROVED BUDGET is available in the information racks on both levels of the church building.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed 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.**

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **January 12 & 19.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **January 12 & 19.** 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.

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).

“I PROMISE” FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2025. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUPPORT:

We continue to support the medical mission project that was presented on September 8 by Donna Geisler and her brother-in-law, Dr. Bill Lovett.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can put money in the cans at the medical mission display table. We raise funds every year to buy medicine and supplies. Some are purchased in the US, but most are purchased in the Dominican Republic.



- \$25 buys 3 months of basic hypertension treatment for 3 people
- \$50 buys 3 months of basic diabetes therapy for 4 people
- \$100 buys 3 months of treatment for hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol for 4 people

Trinity has raised over \$3,000 so far for this project. The other way to support this project is through prayerful support.

If you have any other questions, speak with Donna Geisler!

LANCASTER AGO CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN

DECEMBER 29, 3:00-5:00 PM

Christmas at the Organ, our annual Carol Sing, this year at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 409 Cherry St., Columbia 17512. The Midler-Hunter organ was installed in 1951, upgraded by Columbia Organ Works in 1997, and completely restored and expanded by Peragallo in 2017. The church is beautiful at Christmastime, and the acoustic of the room creates vibrant singing, making the Carol Sing one of the highlights of our year.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm 148**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17**

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Next Sunday’s Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18.

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