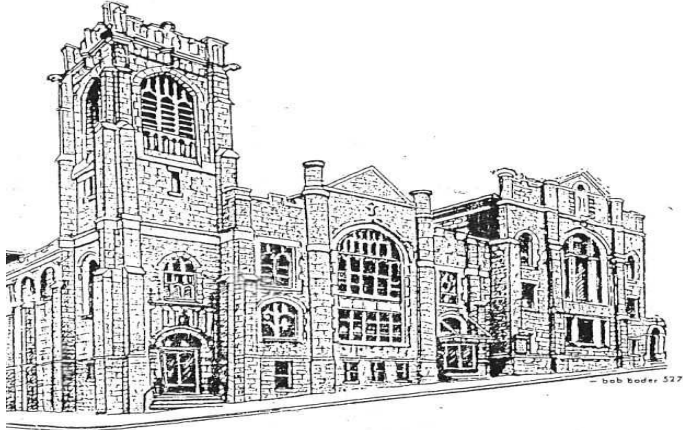


Trinity Lutheran Church
300 West Arch Street, Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone : (570) 622-9910 Fax: (570) 622-7451
Email : tlccares@trinitypottsville.org



9th Week of Pentecost
July 25-26, 2026

Worship can be viewed LIVE every Sunday at 9:30 am:
www.trinitypottsville.com

Or we invite you to listen on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am
on the radio stations:
WPPA 1360 AM OR 105.9 FM

Confession

Pastor/LLM:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

Amen.

Pastor/LLM:

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin
to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness,
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation:

Amen.

Pastor/LLM:

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

Pastor/LLM:

Most merciful God,

Congregation:

**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
In thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake
of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Pastor/LLM: In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake
God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

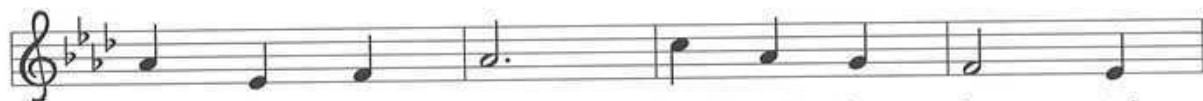
Congregation: Amen.

Prelude: Contemplation

Robert W. Thygersen

Entrance hymn: #731 Earth and All Stars

(Next Page)



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete and band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!

Refrain

God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Greeting

Pastor/LLM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

Kyrie

Worship Assistant: In peace, let us pray to our Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Assistant: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to our Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to our Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Assistant: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to our Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Assistant: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Worship Assistant : Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**Congregation: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson:	1 Kings 3:5-12	Celebrate Insert
Psalm:	Psalm 119:129-136	Celebrate Insert
Second Lesson:	Romans 8:26-39	Celebrate Insert

Congregation: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.

Leader: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th Chapter
Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel:	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Celebrate Insert
---------	-------------------------	------------------

Leader: The gospel of our Lord.
Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon	Bob Thomas
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Hymn of the Day: #769 If you But Trust in God to Guide You (Next Page)



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived

by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Anthem:

**It Is Well With My Soul
Senior Choir**

John Ness Beck

Offertory Response: #185 Create in Me

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the

joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Prayer Hymn-#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Prayers

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor/LLM:

The Lord be with you.

Congregation:(sung)

And also with you.

Pastor/LLM:

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation:(sung)

We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor/LLM

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation:(sung)

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor/LLM:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection open to us the way of everlasting life. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor/LLM:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor/LLM:

The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

Congregation:

And also with you.

Pastor/LLM:

Greet one another with the peace of the Lord.

Hymns during communion:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: #485 I Am the Bread of Life

485

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

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3 "I
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5 Lord,

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Refrain
All

"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up
on the last day."

Pastor/LLM: May the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Strengthen You and Keep You in His Grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with
shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Pastor/LLM: **The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace
 In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**
Congregation: **Amen.**

Dismissal

Worship Assistant: **Go in peace. To Love and Serve the Lord.**
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn: #668 O Zion, Haste

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
 2 Pub - lish to ev - ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion,
 3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to that tell to all the world that God is light;
 make God, in whom they live and his move, is love;
 known to ev - ry heart and sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing,
 tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion,
 let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night,
 and died on earth, that un - fit to live a - bove,
 through your ne - glect, we might see his face,

Refrain
 Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,
 tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

*God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.*

Organ Postlude

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MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Trinity has been so blessed by the generosity of our members, family members and friends through their monetary donations in the form of memorials or honorariums.

Each week, individuals have an opportunity to support our Worship Ministries by sponsoring altar flowers, bulletins, and radio/digital broadcasts in honor or in memory of a loved one. Altar Flowers are \$35.00, and Bulletins, and Digital Ministry are \$30.00 each; Radio Ministry is \$50.00

(Radio Ministry half-sponsorships are also available). (Please contact the church office at 570-622-9910 to reserve your date.)

Altar flowers provided by: Forget Me Not Florist

Altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of John J. Howells II on his birthday, July 25th, by sister, Aldajeane Howells.

Bulletins are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Jim Weikel on his 72nd birthday, July 28th, by wife, Marie, daughter, Desiree & Family.

Children's Bulletins are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of deceased class members, by Craft Class.

Radio Ministry is presented to the Glory of God and in honor of my husband, Joe, by Brenda Denning in celebration of our 55th wedding anniversary on July 30th.

Also in memory of Bill Barton on his birthday, July 26th. Love, Mom, sister, Linda, & nephew, Alex.

Digital Ministry is presented to the Glory of God and in honor of my Nana, Carol Pizzico, on her birthday, July 30th by granddaughter, Melissa & great granddaughter Madelyn Amburn.

MEMORIALS

Property/Memorial Garden

In memory of Jim Honicker by Betsey Lord.

Prayer List

Members of Trinity with immediate concerns: Donna Albert, Andrea Antolick, Cindy Bohr, Gary Bruen, Mike Ciccanti, Susan Fees, Carolyn Gauntlett, Arline Hufnagle, Carole Kline, Richard Kline, Thelma Mansfield, Missy White Marshall, Meagan McGeever, Barbara Miller, Owen Rossachaj, Cindy Seltzer, Ron Schaeffer, Peg Schappell, Barbara Wagner, Helen Walasavage

Members of Trinity with ongoing concerns: Donald Andrews, Twila Bair, Dolores Barton, Ruth Bensinger, Nancy Berger, Brian Bohr, Josephine Cicero, Carole Coyle, Tom Coyne, Virginia Coyne, Susan D'Ambrosio, Brenda Denning, Jodi Denning, Tony Downey, Paul Ebert, III, Debbie Ebert, Joel Ebling, Benjamin Evans, Wesley Evans, Nancy Fellows, Sharon Fessler, Margaret Gretskey, Jeff Holley, Diane O'Leary-Hughes, Ruth Ann Juranis, Ruth Ann Kerrick, Jodi Klein, Kathy Kritak, Christina Linder, Betsey Lord, Dennis Lord, Andrea Madara, William Manness, Margie Mataka, Brandon Miller, Adam Morrow, Len Moser, Chester Moyer, Ray Moyer, Collin Pryce, Marilyn Reed, Suzanne Rich, Ruth Russell, Fay Russo, Paula Ryan, Jill Schaeffer, Linda Seiwel, Harold Seltzer, Ida Sheeler, Jack Shuey, Donald Smith, Margaret Snyder, Sally Spotts, Barbara Staller, Terry Stank, Pastor Frank Stinner, Richard Stoltz, Colin Studlack, Jill Weaver, Brock Weber, Ellen Wesnoski, Denise Whalen, David White, Pat Wishousky, The Willard Family, Mary Jane Wilson, Sissy Wilson, Pat Wishousky, Donna Wood, Karen Wood, Damon Yost

Shut-Ins: Merle Amos, Delight & Paul Ashembrier, Jeanette Augustine, Mickie Bair, Leah Brokhoff, Earlamay Downing, Marsha Ehlers, Mary Evans, Helen Harvey, Carole Kline, Nancy Schriener, Carolyn Spiess, Ann Spotts, Edna Uranko, Carolyn Wire, Kathryn Wodack

Nursing Home/Personal Care Residents: Yvonne Blankenhorn, Hope Fisher, Tom Fredericks, Louise Gradwell, Dianna Hutton, Mary Leary, Albert Schneider, Linda Shollenberger, Judy Thomas.

Military Personnel: Jacob Barton, Savannah Butler, Elizabeth Chattin, Kevin Gregory, Sean Grube, Seth Grube, Joshua Hager, Wil Hanson, Ashton Muncy Humphrey, Aaron Oswald, Zachary Reichert

Family Members/Friends: Karen Alban, Joseph Alfonsi, George Allison, Mackensie Archibald, Bonnie Baker, Martha Balboa, Bob & Christine Baum, David Bechtel, Dennis Benjamin, Tawnya Bickelman, Heather Boltz, Xavier Bowman, Robert Bruce, Joan Buehner, Jerry & Brenda Christensen, Hayden Daubert, Donna Dayson, Jackie Dercole, Monique Derfler, Johnny Ebling III, Dolores Ege, Neil Eisenhard, John Fees, Ryan Fees, Arlene Fehr, Carol Fenton, Michelle Furman, Caitlin Sheehan Gaffney, Jeff Gates, Jamie Johnson, Connie Hale, Maureen Hill, Shalee Hindes-Ball, Melinda Hinnershitz, Brenda Hostetter, Anthony Hughes, Elizabeth Brady Jones, Warren Jefferson, Landon Killian, Keith Kreinhagen, , Carol Lasco, Pastor Burlington Latshaw III, Margaret Ledford, Julia Leibensperger, Regnal Leibensperger, Cindy Liddick, Barry Long, Ronald W. Lord, Helen Love, James Lucas, Christine Masteller, Maria Masteller, Lenny McHugh, Mabel Momohara, Jean Montgomery, Margaret Meyer, Liz Navitsky, Brenda Nungst, John Olfhinski, Pastor Mary Owens, Carolyn Pahira, John Passierb, Patrice, Joy Paterson, Pastor Peggy Sue Pfeffer, Sue Petresky, Joe Piazza, Robert Pomian, Ava Potts, Evelyn Potts, Alice Powers, Cheryl Powis, Kathy Pritchard, Daniel Prutzman, James Pryce, Jr., Rachael Rabalais, Debbie Reed, Stacy Reed, Elaine Riotto, Tina Robinson, Derek Roland, Nancy Roshannon, Don Roth, Pastor Stephanie Roth, Andrew Rothermel, Kay Russell, Angel Saez, William Schuettler, Linda Schweigert, Sandy Schlemmer, Anne Schock, Donna Schumacher Katei Schumacker-Cawley, Cameron Schuster, Julia Shemanski, Pastor Jim Seifert, John Smolock, John Sullivan, Charlie Thompson, Faye Tom, Steven Tom, Tammy Uhrin, Charlie Wagner, Carol Weiss, Jean Wenger, Eilene Witmier, Kelly & Jason Yondura, Donna Zermeno, Emily Zick

Those who mourn: Especially the family and friends of Pastor Mindy Hepp & Pastor Michael Ware

***Members are encouraged to call the church office to place individuals on our prayer list. If an individual is not a member of Trinity, we will place them on the Family Members/Friends list for a period of two weeks. If an individual needs to remain on longer, please call the church office. Thank you!*

TRINITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Saturday, July 25	6:00 pm	Worship
Sunday, July 26	9:30 am	Worship
Monday, July 27	6:00 pm	Adult Volleyball
Tuesday, July 28	10:00 am	Exercise Club
Wednesday, July 29	6 pm-7 pm	Ice Cream Social
Thursday, July 30	1 pm-6 pm	Red Cross Blood Mobile
Friday, July 31	10:00 am	Exercise Club

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pastor/LLM</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Lector</u>
Saturday, July 25	Pastor Chris/Bob Thomas		
Sunday, July 26	Pastor Chris/Bob Thomas	Mike Ward	Debbie Sheehan

***STATEMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL MISSION
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH***

Trinity Lutheran Church is a worshipping, learning, witnessing, and serving community of baptized Christians. It is a welcoming place where the Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments are celebrated according to the Gospel. As a community of believers, we challenge each other to respond to the call of our Lord to love and minister to persons at home and throughout the world.

We encourage each other to share our time, our talents, and gifts to further the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these ways, we bear witness to the love we have first received from God through Jesus Christ.

*Adopted by the Congregation
January 25, 1998*

“THE CONNECTING LINK”

Sunday mornings, WPPA, 1360 AM or 105.9 FM at 11:00 am

E-Mail Addresses:

Pastor Chris Rothharpt, Senior Pastor: crothharpt@trinitypottsville.org

Janet Little, Administrative Assistant: jlittle@trinitypottsville.org

Melissa Amburn, Administrative Assistant, Senior/Family Coordinator: mamburn@trinitypottsville.org

Bob Thomas, LLM: rthomas@trinitypottsville.org

Main email address: tlccares@trinitypottsville.org

Barbara Miller, Church Council President

Michael Kiehner, Organist & Choir Director

Tom Leshner, Sexton

Cathy Koons, Receptionist

Robert Thomas, a LLM, has been authorized by the Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation.

TLC July 25—July 31, 2026

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Altar Flowers: 8/24, 8/30

Bulletins: 8/3, 8/9, 8/19, 8/26

Radio Ministry: 8/3, 8/10, 8/23, 8/30

Digital Ministry: 8/3, 8/10, 8/16, 8/23

If you would like to sponsor any of the dates above, please call
Melissa in the church office (570) 622-9910



MEALS ON WHEELS
VOLUNTEERS

Meals on Wheels is in need of one or two volunteers to deliver meals each Wednesday on Route 6 which is the Trinity Route. Currently there are less than 10 clients with in the 3.5 radius of

Arch St. Meals are picked up at the Senior Center and deliveries take less than an hour. If interested, contact Pat at 272-245-5050.

PARKING

If you are a member and would like to park in the lot while you run an errand in town, please either call the office or stop in to let us know. In a few weeks we will be enforcing the signage that is posted in regards to parking. Thanks so much for your cooperation in the matter.



SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Prayer Shawl Ministry

To date, more than 70 shawls have been distributed to recipients experiencing difficult times. Please keep that ministry in mind if you identify someone in that situation. Anyone is welcome to pick up and deliver a shawl/blanket/lap cover to anyone in need. Please just sign out in log so each recipient doesn't receive duplicates. As pages are filled, please just place new one on top, but filled pages are always available. Anyone talented in crocheting and knitting is welcome to participate so this ministry can continue. Start-up supplies are available in the Prayer Shawl room off Main Sunday School for your use. Thank you.

Recycling Projects

Please continue to save newspapers, prescription and non-prescription glasses and sunglasses. We are also restarting our collection for pull-tabs from aluminum cans. All your efforts to date have been greatly appreciated and will continue till the end of the year.

Stuff the Bus

During the month of July, the United Way will be hosting their "Stuff The Bus" for the collection of school supplies for our area students. Trinity will join them in that effort in the later part of June through July. There will be a display in the Main Sunday School room. Suggested School Supply Donations for Stuff The Bus: pens, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, scissors, notebooks, packs of paper, folders, book bags, dry erase markers, hand sanitizer, highlighters, erasers, backpacks, pencil cases, etc.



Next Red Cross Blood Drive is Thursday, July 30th!

SENIOR/FAMILY **MINISTRY**

July

On **7/29**: Join us here at church from 6pm-7pm for an ice cream social. Come make a sundae or float it's a great way to beat the heat this summer!



On **7/30** it is Senior Day at the Schuylkill County Fair. I would like to take a trip down, so if you are interested please see Melissa in the office.

August

On **8/5** join us as we travel to Fire & Ice in Halifax. It is a smoke-house restaurant that also makes handmade ice cream. So join us for fun fellowship! We will depart Trinity at 10am.

On **8/13** join us as we travel to the Joy Book Store and stop for lunch. The Joy Book Store is a Christian book store with many genres of books. We will also be stopping for lunch. We will depart Trinity at 10am.

8/15 & 8/16 We will be having a used book sale. On the 15th it will be from 5-8pm and on the 16th it will be 12-4. Cost will be paperback books \$1.00 and hard cover \$2.00. The proceeds benefit the church.

On **8/25** we will travel out to Heisler's Dairy Bar for an afternoon of ice cream and relaxation. We will be departing Trinity at 1pm.

8/29 & 8/30 We will be having the backpack blessing for students, teachers, and paraprofessionals.

UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Night at the Reading Phillies

Trinity night at the Reading Phillies! Sunday, August 2nd. We will be in the Moyer Auto Group Deck like we were last year. The buffet will from 4:15pm-6:45pm with the game starting at 5:15pm. The Phillies are playing the Binghamton Rumble Ponies. Join us for a great day at the ball park! Cost is \$36/person for your ticket. If you are interested, please stop by the office or call 570-622-9910.



CAR WASH

Sunday, August 2nd the Lady Tide Soccer Boosters are holding a car wash from 10am-2pm at Saunders Real Estate, at the corner of CVS & Sonoco on Rt. 61. Not only is it a carwash, but they are selling Guers Iced Tea, Soft Pretzels, & Crumbl Cookies. Show your support by stopping by and getting your car washed or grab a snack.

Proceeds help pay for the pink out jerseys worn in October for Breast Cancer Awareness. See You There!!

Please check your bulletin inserts for upcoming events and ways to volunteer your time and talents.





Celebrate

Sunday, July 26, 2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people

so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136; refrain, Ps. 119:130



Your de-| crees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;**

it gives understanding | to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant

because I long for | your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**

as you always do to those who | love your name. R

¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**

and I will keep | your commandments.

¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant

and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,**

because people do not | keep your teaching. R

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he

not with him also give us everything else?

³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on

finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."