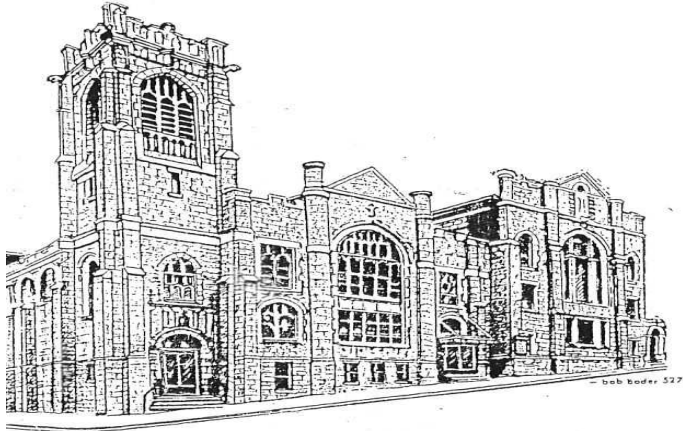


**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**300 West Arch Street, Pottsville, PA 17901**  
**Phone : (570) 622-9910 Fax: (570) 622-7451**  
**Email : [tlccares@trinitypottsville.org](mailto:tlccares@trinitypottsville.org)**



***18th Week of Pentecost***  
***September 26-27, 2026***

***Worship can be viewed LIVE every Sunday at 9:30 am:***

**[www.trinitypottsville.com](http://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: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor/LLM: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and 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:

Arietta

Edvard Grieg

Entrance hymn: #872 Praise Ye the Lord

# Praise Ye the Lord

872

*Refrain*

Praise ye the Lord, hal - le - lu - jah!

Ev - 'ry - bod - y, praise the Lord.

1 Praise God with the sound of the trum - pet;  
2 Praise God with ho - ly cym - bals;  
3 Praise God in the ho - ly tem - ple;  
4 Praise God on top of the moun - tains;

praise God with the lute and the harp;  
praise God with strings and with pipes;  
praise God for al - might - y deeds;  
praise God both day and night;

praise God with the tim - brel and danc - ing;  
praise God with clash - ing cym - bals;  
praise God for those boun - ti - ful mer - cies;  
praise God down in the low val - leys;

*Refrain*

praise God wher - ev - er you are.  
praise God with all of your might.  
for God ful - fills our needs.  
praise God be - cause it's all right.

## **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:** God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

|                |                       |                  |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| First Lesson:  | Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 | Celebrate Insert |
| Psalm:         | Psalm 25:1-9          | Celebrate Insert |
| Second Lesson: | Philippians 2:1-13    | 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 21st Chapter |
| <b>Congregation:</b> | <b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b>                              |

|         |                  |                  |
|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Gospel: | Matthew 21:23-32 | Celebrate Insert |
|---------|------------------|------------------|

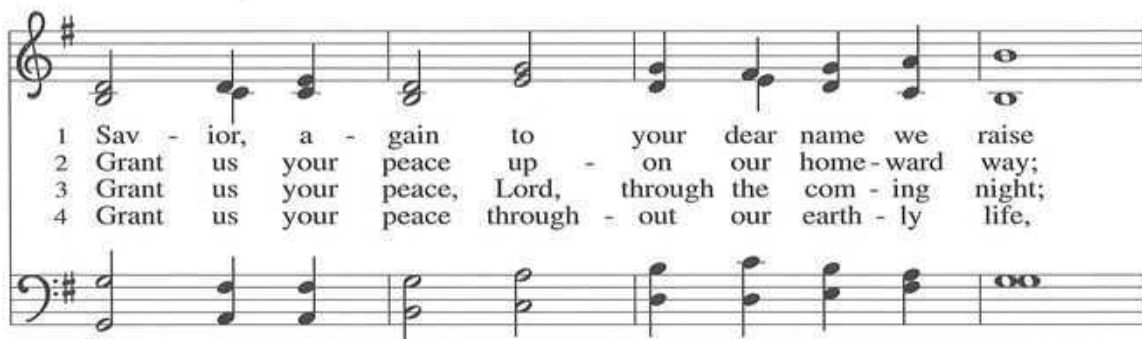
|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Leader:              | The gospel of our Lord.         |
| <b>Congregation:</b> | <b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b> |

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| Sermon | Bob Thomas, LLM |
|--------|-----------------|

**Hymn of the Day:** **#534 Savior, Again to Your Dear Name** (Next Page)

# Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

534



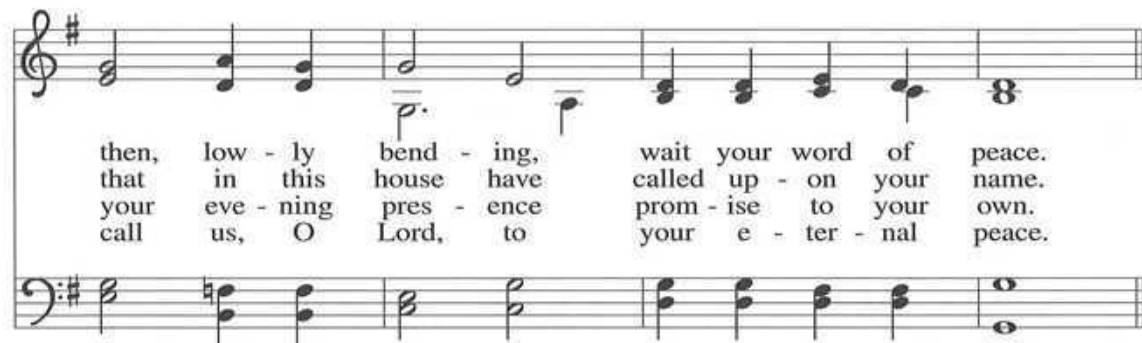
1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;  
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
 for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.  
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
 guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
 then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on your name.  
 your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
 call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

**Apostles' Creed**

**(Saturday)**

**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.**

**Order of Holy Baptism**

**(Sunday)**

**Page 227-231**

**We Welcome through Holy Baptism, *Sullivan Elliott Wood*, son of *Dan & Emily (Brennan) Wood*. May God bless this child, his parents and all who are baptized in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. *Sullivan's* sponsors are *Steve and Carolyn Wood*. The Baptismal Napkin given to *Sullivan Elliott* is presented to the Glory of God and in memory of *Jean Schraedley*.**

**Offering**

**Anthem:**

**All That Dwell Below the Skies  
Senior Choir**

**Gordon Young**

**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: #498 United at the Table

HOLY COMMUNION

## United at the Table

*Unidos en la fiesta*

498

*Refrain / Estribillo*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo and mood are indicated by the title and the use of a refrain. The lyrics are provided in English and Spanish, with some words in Spanish appearing in italics. The score includes a refrain and a final line of lyrics.

U - ni - dos en la fes - ta, la a - le - grí - a  
U - nit - ed at the ta - ble: all our joy is  
se ha - ce can - ción. U - ni - dos en la fe,  
joined in song. U - nit - ed in the faith:  
la a - le - grí - a to se ha - ce o - ra - ción.  
all our joy to God be - longs.  
1 Can - ta - re - mos al Se - ñor  
1 We will praise God, we will sing  
2 We will praise God, we will feast  
3 We will praise God, we will play  
a - le - lu - yas con him - nos y sal - mos,  
al - le - lu - ias with hymns and with psalm - o - dy;  
at the boun - ti - ful ta - ble of life and grace;  
al - le - lu - ias with rhy - thm and in - stru - ments;  
por - que gran - de es el a - mor  
we will praise God for the love  
we will praise God for the give thanks  
we will praise God for the love  
que en no - so - tros por siem - pre mos - tró,  
that sus - tains us e - ter - nal - ly.  
for com - mu - nion with ev - 'ry race.  
that in - vites all cre - a - tion to dance.

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: #878 Soli Deo Gloria**

**(Next Page)**

# Soli Deo Gloria

878



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -  
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and  
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and  
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and  
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the  
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it  
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of  
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate  
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -  
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y  
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic  
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and  
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:  
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:  
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:  
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:  
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

*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 honor of the wedding of Zachary and Kylee (Reinhart) Morrow.

Also in memory of Zane Rist on his birthday September 23rd by wife, Linda, daughter, Courtney, and Family.

*Bulletins* are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Ruth Ann and Jim Kerrick on their 44th Wedding Anniversary,

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

*Radio Ministry & Digital Ministry* is presented to the Glory of God and in honor of John Joseph "Jack" Spotts on his 80th birthday, September 1st, by wife, Sally, & Kim, Dan, Jack, & Ella Kimmel, John & Alicia Spotts, Lisa, Kevin, Kevin Jr., & Kyle McGeever, Stephen, Lindsay, Logan, & Cole Spotts.

## **MEMORIALS**

### **Bendle Scholarship Fund**

*In memory of Albert Schneider by Amie & Michael Tobash*

### **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Devin McGonigle by mom, Shirley*

### **World Hunger Fund**

*In honor of Sullivan Elliott Wood on his baptism by his extended family*

## ***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***

## **Prayer List**

**Members of Trinity with immediate concerns:** Donna Albert, Andrea Antolick, Cindy Bohr, John Bordonaro, Gary Bruen, Mike Ciccanti, Susan Fees, Carolyn Gauntlett, Arline Hufnagle, Richard Kline, Thelma Mansfield, Barbara Miller, Donna Rohrbaugh, 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, Nancy Fellows, Sharon Fessler, Margaret Gretskey, Jeff Holley, Diane O'Leary-Hughes, Ruth Ann Juranis, Ruth Ann Kerrick, Jodi Klein, Kathy Kritak, Sandy Lewars, Christina Linder, Betsey Lord, Dennis Lord, Andrea Madara, William Manness, Missy White Marshall, Margie Mataka, Megan McGeever, 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, David White, 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, Leah Brokhoff, Marsha Ehlers, Mary Evans, Helen Harvey, Carole Kline, Richard Kline, Nancy Schriener, Carolyn Spiess, Ann Spotts, Edna Uranko, Carolyn Wire, Kathryn Wodack

**Nursing Home/Personal Care Residents:** Yvonne Blankenhorn, Earlamay Downing, Hope Fisher, Tom Fredericks, Louise Gradwell, Dianna Hutton, Mary Leary, 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:** Joseph Alfonsi, Michael Allen, George Allison, Mackensie Archibald, Bonnie Baker, Martha Balboa, Bob & Christine Baum, David Bechtel, Dennis Benjamin, Tawnya Bickelman, Heather Boltz, Xavier Bowman, Robert Bruce, Joan Koslosky Buehner, Jerry & Brenda Christensen, Aiden Corby, Jean McHugh Cosby, Rebecca Cronin, Hayden Daubert, Donna Dayson, Jackie Dercole, Monique Derfler, Dolores Ege, Neil Eisenhard, John Fees, Ryan Fees, Arlene Fehr, Carol Fenton, Michelle Furman, Caitlin Sheehan Gaffney, Jeff Gates, Jamie Johnson, Connie Hale, Patricia Hallman, Maureen Hill, Shalee Hindes-Ball, Melinda Hinnershitz, Tim Holden, Brenda Hostetter, Elizabeth Brady Jones, Warren Jefferson, Lindsay Kastner, Landon Killian, Kaylynn Klunk, Carol Lasco, Pastor Burlington Latshaw III, Samantha Lease, Margaret Ledford, Julia Leibensperger, Regnal Leibensperger, Cindy Liddick, Barry Long, Ronald W. Lord, Helen Love, James Lucas, Christine Masteller, Maria Masteller, Lenny McHugh, Margaret Meyer, Jess Marie Michael, Liz Navitsky, Brenda Nungst, John Olfhinski, Pastor Mary Owens, Carolyn Pahir, John Passierb, Joy Paterson, Aimee Penny, Pastor Peggy Sue Pfeffer, Sue Petresky, Joe Piazza, Ava Potts, Evelyn Potts, Alice Powers, Cheryl Powis, Kathy Pritchard, Daniel Prutzman, James Pryce, Jr., Stacy Reed, Elaine Riotto, Tina Robinson, Derek Roland, Nancy Roshannon, Don Roth, Pastor Stephanie Roth, Andrew Rothermel, Kay Russell, Angel Saez, Michael Scharadin, William Schuettler, Linda Schweigert, Sandy Schlemmer, Anne Schock, Donna Schumacher Katei Schumacker-Cawley, Cameron Schuster, Julia Shemanski, Pastor Jim Seifert, Ethan Selfridge, John Smolock, John Sullivan, Patti Travisano, Faye Tom, Steven Tom, Tammy Uhrin, Gloria Uzick, Charlie Wagner, Karen Ward, Carol Weiss, Jean Wenger, Eilene Witmier, Kelly & Jason Yondura, Donna Zermeno,  
Emily Zick

**Those who mourn:** Especially the family and friends of Peggy Allen & Martin Haney.

*\*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:**

|                           |                        |                                                                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, Sept. 26</b> | <b>6:00 pm</b>         | <b>Worship</b>                                                       |
| <b>Sunday, Sept. 27</b>   | <b>9:30 am</b>         | <b>Worship</b>                                                       |
|                           | <b>10:30 am</b>        | <b>Sunday School, First Communion &amp; Confirmation Orientation</b> |
| <b>Tuesday, Sept. 29</b>  | <b>10:00 am</b>        | <b>Exercise Club</b>                                                 |
|                           | <b>1:00 pm-6:00 pm</b> | <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b>                                         |
|                           | <b>6:30 pm</b>         | <b>Football Tailgate Night &amp;</b>                                 |
| <b>Friday, Oct. 2</b>     | <b>10:00 am</b>        | <b>Exercise Club</b>                                                 |

| <b><u>Date</u></b>        | <b><u>Pastor/LLM</u></b>                         | <b><u>Worship Assistant</u></b> | <b><u>Lector</u></b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Saturday, Sept. 26</b> | <b>Minister Bob Thomas</b>                       |                                 |                      |
| <b>Sunday, Sept. 27</b>   | <b>Pastor Chris/ Lay<br/>Minister Bob Thomas</b> | <b>Ellie Misstishin</b>         | <b>Ed Hauck</b>      |

**“THE CONNECTING LINK”**

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

**E-Mail Addresses:**

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Bob Thomas, LLM: [rthomas@trinitypottsville.org](mailto:rthomas@trinitypottsville.org)

Janet Little, Administrative Assistant: [jlittle@trinitypottsville.org](mailto:jlittle@trinitypottsville.org)

Melissa Amburn, Administrative Assistant, Senior/Family Coordinator: [mamburn@trinitypottsville.org](mailto:mamburn@trinitypottsville.org)

Main email address: [tlccares@trinitypottsville.org](mailto: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.**



# Celebrate

Sunday, September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

## Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and

right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.



To <sup>1</sup>you, O LORD,

I lift <sup>1</sup>up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be <sup>1</sup>put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph <sup>1</sup>over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be <sup>1</sup>put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame <sup>1</sup>who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your <sup>1</sup>ways, O LORD,  
and teach <sup>1</sup>me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your <sup>1</sup>truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all <sup>1</sup>the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- <sup>1</sup>sion and love,  
for they are from <sup>1</sup>everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and <sup>1</sup>my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your good- <sup>1</sup>ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- <sup>1</sup>right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners <sup>1</sup>in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- <sup>1</sup>ly in justice  
and teach the low- <sup>1</sup>ly your way. R

## Second Reading

## Philippians 2:1-13

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## Gospel

## Matthew 21:23-32

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by

what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

**TLC September 26—October 2, 2026**

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

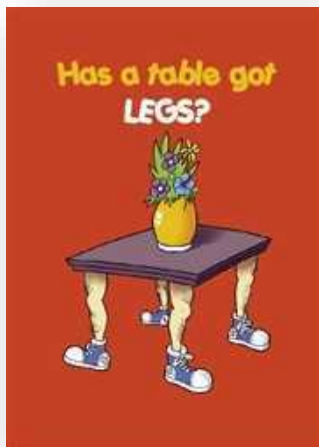
**Altar Flowers: 10/4, 10/25**

**Bulletins: 10/25**

**Radio Ministry: 10/4, 10/18, 10/25**

**Digital Ministry: 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25**

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



**Apparently, YES!**

As the 8 tables (plastic, 6 foot)  
Bought for Trinity Hall several years  
ago have all disappeared.  
Thankfully, one of them recently found  
its way home. If you see any of the  
wayward children, please encourage  
them to do likewise.

**New Members Classes**

Sunday, October 25th &  
November 1st after  
worship, we will meet in  
the church lounge.

Sunday, November 8th  
during the 9:30 worship

service, new members will be welcomed into the  
Congregation.

Please see Pastor Chris if you have any questions or call the  
church office (570) 622-9910.



# **SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS**

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

To date, 73 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.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. If you are unfamiliar with this outreach, Samaritans Purse takes the boxes that you fill with items for the child and delivers them to the children in the most remote areas of the world. Samaritans Purse shares the joy of being a follower of Jesus to the local people. It is a wonderful outreach program to participate in, and in the past has been very successful outreach here at our church. Thank you to those who participated in the past and we look forward to another successful outreach this year.



## **National First Responders Day**

We will once again be collecting prepackaged snacks for the first responders. They provide such an incredible service for us, they deserve to be recognized. We will be collecting from now until mid October. We will be delivering the snacks on 10/28/2026.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

Who is ready for an ADVENTURE?

Join us as we kick off our new Sunday School year! Classes are getting ready for all age groups, offering a great space to learn, grow, and connect as we travel back in time to experience Jesus alive today through the stories of the Bible, with snacks and crafts after our story time.

**Confirmation, First Communion, and Sunday School orientation Sunday,  
Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.**

**Sunday School and Confirmation/First communion classes will start  
Sunday Oct 4th at 10:30am**

***STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES...***

Come and Join the ADVENTURE!!

Speak with Pastor Chris, Minister Robert Thomas, Minister Candidate  
Brandon Miller,  
or Christian Ed chairperson Debbie Sheehan if you would like to  
volunteer...

**Our kids would love YOUR help!**

*"Let the next generation know the Lord." — Psalm 78:4*

## **SENIOR/FAMILY MINISTRY**

**September**

Also coming up on Tuesday, **September 29th** we are having a Football Tailgate Night with a Maroons presentation by the Sch. County Historical Society at 6:30pm. \$7.00 admission includes presentation, food and drinks. **October 8th** we will be heading to Kitchen Kettle to do some shopping. It is a great way to do some Christmas shopping! **October 21st** join us in the St. Clair Halloween Parade. We need people to walk and pass out candy and some to ride on the bus. Sign up in the Church Office.

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

**Bible Study: Women of the Bible** starting Thursday, September 10th, then Monday, September 14, 21, 28, and ending on Thursday, October 1. Bible Study will take place at 6:30pm. If interested see Minister Bob. All are welcome, come as you are, grow in faith with us.

**Movie Night: *Luther* October 25th 4pm** Main Sunday School Room. Come see the remarkable true story of Martin Luther—his faith, courage, and the stand that changed history.

**November 7th** we are looking to do a kids Santa themed breakfast. We will be looking for volunteers. If you are interested please call the church office or see Mike Vigoda.



### Circle V

**October:** On the October 1, 2026 meeting we will have a program by Martha Fletcher, dietitian at Life Geisinger. The hostesses are Circle V Leaders.

**November: \*\*Program is changed due to Hemlock Hannah's personal schedule she will be unavailable until our March 4, 2027 meeting.** November Program TBA  
The hostesses will be announced later.

**December:** Thursday, December 3rd meeting will be our Christmas Gift Exchange Meeting.

### Frieda Hoh

**October:** On October 20th at 6:30pm we will have our Rummageless Rummage Sale. Each member is asked to donate \$5. Hostesses to be determined.

**November:** On November 17th at 6:30pm we will be making Christmas cards for our shut-ins. Hostess is Susan Morgan.

**December:** Christmas Party, date & place to be determined.