

**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church**



**September 14, 2025
14th Sunday after Pentecost**

Good Morning and Welcome! We invite you to worship with us often, and ask if you need any assistance! If you are visiting us today, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex, please include your address and phone number. Please place your offering envelope in the plate in the Narthex. Thank You!

Remember in your prayers:

Lynn Wolfgang, Angie Smith, Erika Zaiser, Brandon Stauffer, Betty Moore, Barbara Stewart, Kathy Gamler, Bill Brensinger, Richard Eck, Becky Yescavage, BillyRay Pearce, Sr., Kathy Sell, Dennis Brooke, Donna Day, Linda Allmendinger, Karen Essig, Elaine Dotterer, Jeff Reitnauer, Jerry Bryce, Deanna Heydt, Ralph Rothenberger, Anna Spencer, RuthAnn Goode, Jennifer MacDonald, Pete Schmoyer, John Logan, LaRue Sheetz, Oscar Smith, Linda Ritter, Carole Mest, Bob McElwee, Eileen Heffner, Tammy Strunk, Terry Kemp, Mary Snyder, Howard Shafer and Wendy Bowers.

Friends & Family:

Michelle Hiriak, Donald Hays, Linda Stark, Martha Van Parys, Joyce Kemp, Diane Stauffer, Angelic Gonzalez, John McCarron, Corbin Riegner and Shirley Ciaciak.

Families of:

Dan Ritter, Ted Sheetz, Geri Passante and Nancy Umstead.

Also members, relatives and friends in the community who are serving in the military including:

Christopher Heffner, BillyRay Pearce, Jr., Noah Heydt, Ben Rhode, Steven Herbst, David Crews, Jeff Lydic, Jory Huie, Seth Kurtz, Clinton Bowen, Eli Abner and Johnne Knepp.

**Our sister congregation, the Marienkirche in Borna, Germany.
(Website: Kirche-bornae-land.de)**

Please note: Names of friends and family will be kept on the bulletin prayer list for one month. If still in need of prayers, these names will then appear in the newsletter prayer list. Names on the friends and family list will normally be kept on the newsletter prayer list for one year. If you wish for names to remain longer, please speak to Pastor Gene, Linda Ritter or contact the Church Office. Thank you for helping us keep the prayer list current!

September 14, 2025 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Worship Assistants:

Ushers: Bob McElwee*
 Lector: Mardell Blanford
 Acolyte: Mark Sheetz

The Altar Flowers are presented to the glory of God, by Sharon & Randy Renninger, in Memory of her Mother Cynthia Eshbach's Birthday and also by Mrs. Ruth Reinhard, in Memory of her Grandson Chad's Birthday.

The Bulletins are presented to the glory of God, by Lois Schwager, in Memory of her Grandson Colin Hiriak's Birthday.

The Eternal Flame Candle is presented to the glory of God by Richard & Pat Beekley, in Memory of Family.

- (those who are able may stand)

Prelude

"Melodie"
H. Alexander Matheias

Announcements and Concerns

• **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known, and from whom no secrets are
 hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our 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.

C Amen

P 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage 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

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

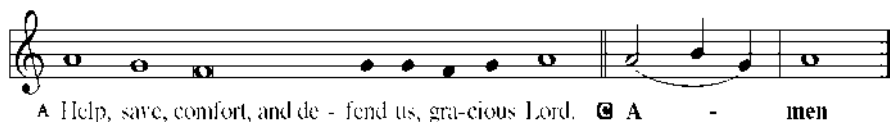
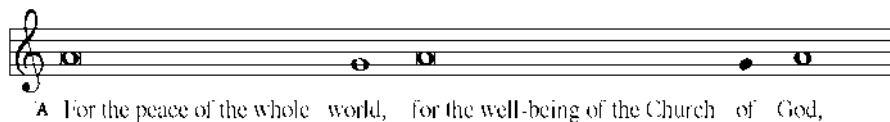
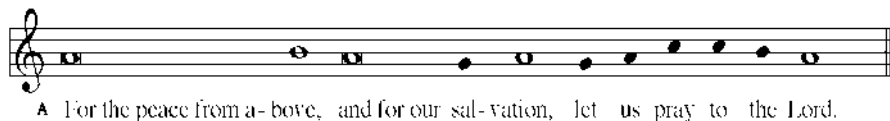
- **Processional Hymn** LBW# 499
 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
- **Greeting**

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

C And also with you.



• Kyrie



• Hymn of Praise



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

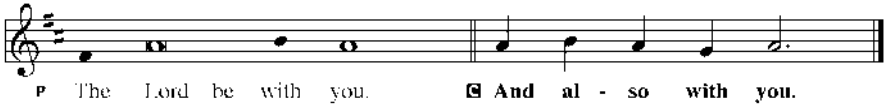


you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

- **Prayer of the Day**



- **P Let us Pray . . .**

C O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

Prior to this chapter, Moses receives instructions from God on Mount Sinai. Meanwhile, the people grow rebellious and decide to make a golden calf. Today's reading suggests a court setting in which God acts as prosecuting attorney and Moses serves as defense attorney in a lawsuit against the people.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-11

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my transgressions,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**⁴Against you only | have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified | when you speak
and upright | in your judgment.

**⁶Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

⁷For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

**⁸Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

⁹Make me hear of | joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

**¹⁰Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

¹¹Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

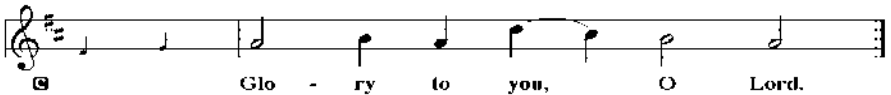
¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories about repentance to indicate that God takes the initiative in finding us. We are precious to God, and our recovery brings joy in heaven.



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter



Presentation of the Gospel by Heart

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Senior Choir Anthem

"This Is the Day"
C. Berry

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

WOV# 734

"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling"

• Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at
the right hand of the Father. He will come
again 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

- **The Prayer of the Church**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God, in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

After each portion of prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

- **The 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.

- **Our Mission Statement**

P People of Trinity, what is our mission?

C We shall, as individuals and as a congregation, strive through word, worship, and witness to further the kingdom of God by knowing and sharing Christ's Love in our hearts, in our homes, in His church, in the community, and in the world.

- **Benediction**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen, Amen, Amen.

- **Recessional Hymn** LBW# 448
"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Postlude "Postlude on a Pedal Theme"
E. Lorenz

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September Update on Church Financial Status From The Finance Committee:

As reported in the current Newsletter (Financial Reports Section), the General Fund has a Negative balance of \$7,420 (an improvement from Negative \$10,452 in July, largely due to 5 Sundays of giving in August). While this is an improvement, our congregation is not meeting the income needs of the budget for 2025, which was approved by the congregation at the December Congregational Meeting. This means some Bills are being paid by borrowing “internally” from other accounts. Also to note: This year is not the start of this issue as the General Fund is Negative by \$30,703 since the start of 2023.

The committee met in early May and again in July to discuss and is asking all members to consider the following actions to help us recover from the current situation:

- Increase your giving - even a small increase by many will help
- Start to buy, or increase your purchases of, Gift Cards from the church on the 1st Sunday of each month. The church receives a % of each sale.
- Review the Simply Giving program and consider setting up automated donations to the church which helps smooth the income stream over the whole year, and makes your giving easier and typically more consistent.
- Support fundraisers and special events at the church - note that not all fundraisers and events benefit the General Fund. And... **Thank you for supporting 2 new fundraisers in August!**

New item - if you own products through Thrivent that generate Thrivent Choice Dollars, consider directing them to our church as we generally receive over \$1000 of Thrivent Choice Dollars per year.

Kindly consider how you can help, with respect to your current individual or family situation.

If you have already done this, we thank you for your prayerful consideration and any resulting actions.

The Finance Committee thanks everyone for their financial support of the church and our 2025 budget along with all other donations and contributions you are providing to the church to support our mission.

The committee will continue to monitor our Financial situation closely and communicate further as needed.

If you have any questions, please reach out to a Finance Committee member as listed in the monthly newsletter or chairperson Kurt Yescavage.

There will be a Craft Show Planning Meeting today following worship, if you would like to help with the Craft Show, please attend this meeting. The Craft Show is Saturday, October 18th – 9AM-1PM. We are now collecting used books for the Book Sale, books can be dropped off in the Nursery. Thank You for your donation.

The Basket Party is Saturday, September 27th, ladies start getting your baskets together. Doors Open at 9AM, Drawing Begins at 10:30AM. Tickets are \$20. Please see Mardell Blanford or the church office to purchase tickets.

Harvest Home: The celebration of Harvest Home will be Sunday September 21st. It is the time we celebrate God's Harvest. We will be collecting donations for Boyertown Area Multi-Service throughout September. **Nonperishable items** can be placed in the box in the Narthex. Please see the list of top pantry needs in this bulletin.

Free Will Offerings will be received the 3rd Sunday of every month. The next Free Will Offering will be Sunday, September 21st for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Thank you for your support.

The deadline for the October Newsletter will be Sunday, September 21st. Please submit your information to Karen in the church office.

Prayer Listing-If you wish to make any changes, please see Linda Ritter, Pastor Gene or contact the church office, in order for the change to be made in the October Newsletter.

Help Wanted: The Bechtelsville Community Fall Fest will be held October 4, 11:00-3:00. Volunteers are needed to help with carnival games: soda ring toss and candy roulette wheel, and at the children's craft station. Please consider sharing Christ's love in the community by volunteering for an hour, two, or more and support their efforts to raise funds for playground equipment. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. For questions or more information contact Sharon Renninger.

Finance Committee Meeting: The next 2 Finance Committee meetings will be Sunday, September 21 at 6:30 PM and Sunday October 5, both in the Parish Hall. If you are on this committee, please make plans to attend,

The Christmas Cantata this year will be Sunday, December 14th at the 10:30AM Worship Service. Snow Date and Encore Presentation is Sunday, January 4th at 3:00PM.

The Eternal Flame Candle needs volunteers to light the candle for the months of October and November. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Coffee Hour—Volunteers are needed to host Coffee Hour. Please sign up for this time of fellowship. The sign up sheet for September & October is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

HOSPITAL INPATIENT STAY: Please contact Pastor Gene if you are admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, due to privacy laws, the hospital no longer contacts the church.

Bibles are available in the rack in the Narthex for you to reference during worship. You may also take home to reference, please return when you are finished.

Social Ministry provides meals for shut-ins/members who are in need of meals. If a meal is needed, please contact Kathy Kuser at 610-754-6293.

Need a ride? We have volunteers in the congregation who are willing to provide transportation to medical appointments, etc., for those who can't find a ride. Please contact Pastor Gene 610-322-0901 if you need a ride or would like to volunteer as a driver.

You may sponsor Altar Flowers, the cost is \$32.00 for one vase and \$64.00 for 2 vases, please contact Mary Snyder. If you wish to sponsor flowers and that date is not available, you can always sponsor an extra bouquet of flowers for \$40.00. When sponsoring flowers, please use a flower envelope found in the rack in the narthex or clearly mark the envelope "Flowers". If you sponsored flowers in the past but no longer wish to, please let Mary Snyder 610-473-8885 or the church office know. You may also sponsor the bulletins for \$15.00 per week, this helps offset the cost of printing them.

Trinity Gift Card Program —Orders will be taken before and after the church service the first Sunday of the month and will be distributed at church the second Sunday of the month. Order forms for Redners, Giant, and Scrip will be available at church and the Scrip order form is also found on Trinity's website. **Please note:** Weis Markets cards (\$25, \$100) can be ordered through Scrip for those who physically shop at the store. **Weis cards cannot be used for online orders. KOHL'S GIFT CARDS CANNOT BE USED TO PAY YOUR KOHL'S CHARGE.** **We apologize for any inconvenience.** Payment must be submitted with your order; checks should be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. **Be sure to include your phone number on your order form.**

WAWA Hoagie Coupons Available 1st Sunday of the month at the Scrip Table. Coupons are also available in the church office Monday—Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00PM. Tickets are \$5.00. This project benefits the Social Ministry.

Scout Troop 511 Hoagie Sales: Orders are due by Tuesday, September 30th and pick up will be Wednesday, October 8th. 8” hoagies are made from Dan’s Deli, **Cost is \$7.00.** There are ham w/onion, ham no onion, turkey w/onion, turkey no onion, Italian w/onion, Italian no onion, cheese hoagie w/onion, cheese hoagie no onion, mayo, Italian dressing, no tomatoes, no lettuce, no cheese. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Monthly Free-will Offerings 2025

A free-will offering is scheduled for the third Sunday of each month. They are as follows:

September 21 – Boyertown Area Multi-Service

October 19 – Eastern Berks Fire Dept.

November 16 – Elf Bags (Multi-Service)

December – No free-will offering. Thank you for supporting the various Christmas giving opportunities.

Thank you for your contributions to these special causes!

Trinity's events for the upcoming week:

Sunday, September 14th- 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship Service
 Craft Show Planning
 Mtg.

Monday, September 15th- 6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, September 16th- 6:30 Scouts

Wednesday, September 17th-6:30 TLC Stitchers

Thursday, September 18th- 6:30 Sr. Choir Practice

Sunday, September 21st-**Harvest Home**
 8:00 Cont. Worship Serv.
 9:15 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship Service
 6:30 Finance Comm. Mtg.

Next Week's Worship Assistants:
Sunday, September 21st:

Assisting Minister: Jennifer MacDonald
 Server: Erika Zaiser
 Ushers: Kay McGowan* & Linda Brunner
 Lector: Kathy Farrington
 Acolyte: Diane McElwee

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS: 09/07/2025

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>		
<u>Worship/S.S.</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Hunger</u>	<u>Scrip</u>
57/15	\$3,486.00	\$10.00	\$9,190.00
	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Bldg. Maint.</u>	
	\$50.00	\$277.00	

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
<u>Worship</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
20	\$2,205.00	0
	<u>Build. Maint.</u>	
	0	

Total Attendance
77

Total Offering
\$5,691.00

**Boyertown Area Multi-Service
Non-Perishable Items Needed:**

1. Paper Towels
2. Tissues
3. Laundry Detergent
4. Shampoo and Conditioner
5. Syrup
6. Pancake Mix
7. Instant Mashed Potatoes
8. Stuffing Mix
9. Hamburger Helper
10. Chef Boyardee Meals
11. Cake/Brownie Mix
12. Jelly
13. Peanut Butter
14. Canned Chicken
15. Canned Mixed Vegetables

Sodium free, sugar free, gluten free and low-fat items are also appreciated for clients with dietary restrictions.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

THE

CREATIVE

PATH

TO

\$\$\$\$\$ RAISERIGHT (SCRIP)

FOR

YOUR

CHURCH

FAMILY



PLAN! WHEN? END OF PREVIOUS MONTH. **WHAT?** EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS (CVS, Staples, Walmart, WAWA, cards) GROCERIES (Giant, Redners, Walmart, Target, Visa cards) BIRTHDAYS (Amazon, Starbucks, Gap, Old Navy, Macy's cards) HOME IMPROVEMENTS (Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware cards) VACATIONS (Hotels, Airlines, Cruises, Fuel cards) ANNIVERSARY'S (Long Horn Steakhouse, Macy's, AMC theater cards)

IMPLEMENT! FILL OUT THE FORM! WRITE A CHECK OR BRING CASH! TURN IN AT THE SCRIP TABLE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! COLLECT YOUR CARDS THE SECOND SUNDAY!

GET CREATIVE! THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX! ADD'L GIFT CARDS ON THE WEBSITE raiseright.com

The Community Clothing Rack Schedule

1st Wednesday
Donations Accepted

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays
Shoppers Welcome

2nd Thursday
Shoppers Welcome
6:00PM-8:00PM

5th Wednesday
CLOSED

Hours
1:00PM-4:00PM

Summer Hours Only
June-August
9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed on all major holidays.
In the case of inclement weather,
Refer to Boyertown Area School district closure.
CCR is a ministry of St. Luke Lutheran Church
Our mission is to serve Jesus Christ by providing
necessary clothing to the underserved.

www.StLukeGilbertsville.org

Readings for Personal Devotion



M Amos 7:1-6
T Jonah 3:1-10
W Luke 22:31-33, 54-62
Th Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6
F 1 Timothy 1:1-11
Sa Psalm 73

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Eugene C. Zaiser, DMin.,
Pastor

Ms. LaRue Sheetz, Director of Music

Mrs. Karen J. Smith, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Catherine M. Yoder, Sexton

The Members of this Congregation are its
Ministers

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Or by Appointment)

1749 South Main Street, Bechtelsville, PA
19505
610-369-1281

Church Office E-Mail:
trinitybech@outlook.com

Pastor Zaiser's E-Mail:
pastorzaiser@outlook.com

Website: www.trinitybech.com

