Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 19, 2025
19th 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, Oscar & 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, Ralph Rothenberger, Anna Spencer, RuthAnn Goode, Pete Schmoyer, John Logan, Carole Mest, Bob McElwee, Eileen Heffner, Tammy Strunk, Mary Snyder, Wendy Bowers, Linda Bewley Sherri Schaeffer, Tammy Kemp and Mike Wyda.

Friends & Family:
Michelle Hiriak, Donald Hays, Linda Stark, Martha Van Parys, Joyce Kemp, Karen Smith and Dennis Weller.

Families of:
Jerry Bryce and Ben Delp.

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-bornaer-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!

October 19, 2025 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Today we will be receiving a Free Will Offering for The Eastern Berks Fire Dept.

Today's Worship Assistants:

Ushers: Dan & Kathy Kuser
Lector: Ruth Weiser
Acolyte: Uta Hahn

The Altar Flowers are presented to the glory of God, by Mrs. Karen Irey, in Memory of My Husband Barry Irey's Birthday.
The Bulletins are presented to the glory of God, by Lois Schwager, in Memory of My Husband Ronald's Birthday.
The Eternal Flame Candle is presented to the glory of God by Mary Kiersey, in Memory of Brother Michael McGowan.

• (those who are able may stand)

Prelude "Prayer"
C. Franck

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

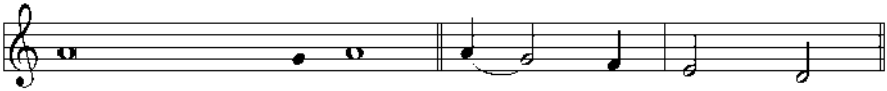
- **Processional Hymn** LBW# 383
  "Rise Up, O Saints of God"

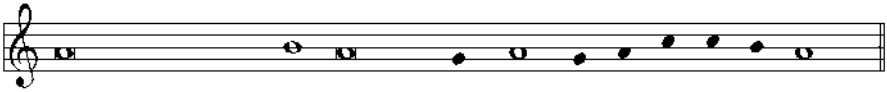
- **Greeting**

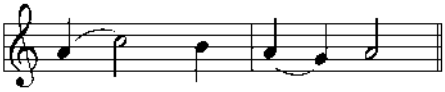
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

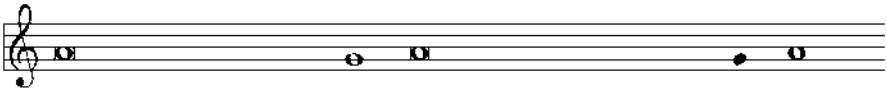
C And also with you.

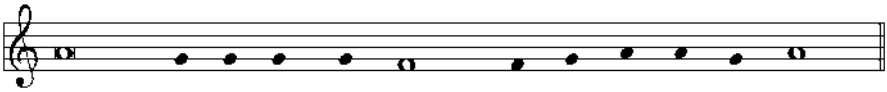
- **Kyrie**

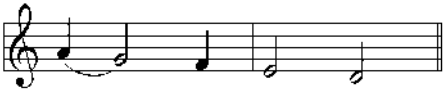

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.

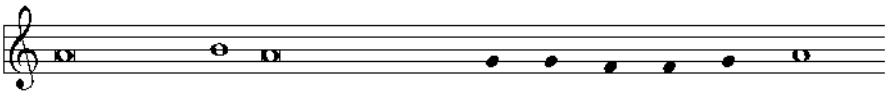

A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.

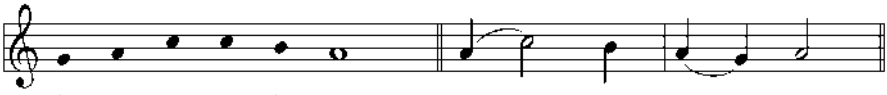

C Lord, have mer - cy.

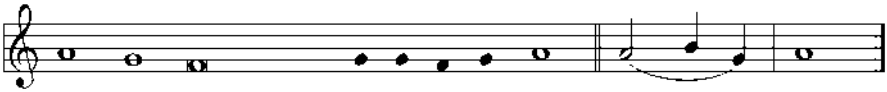

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,


and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

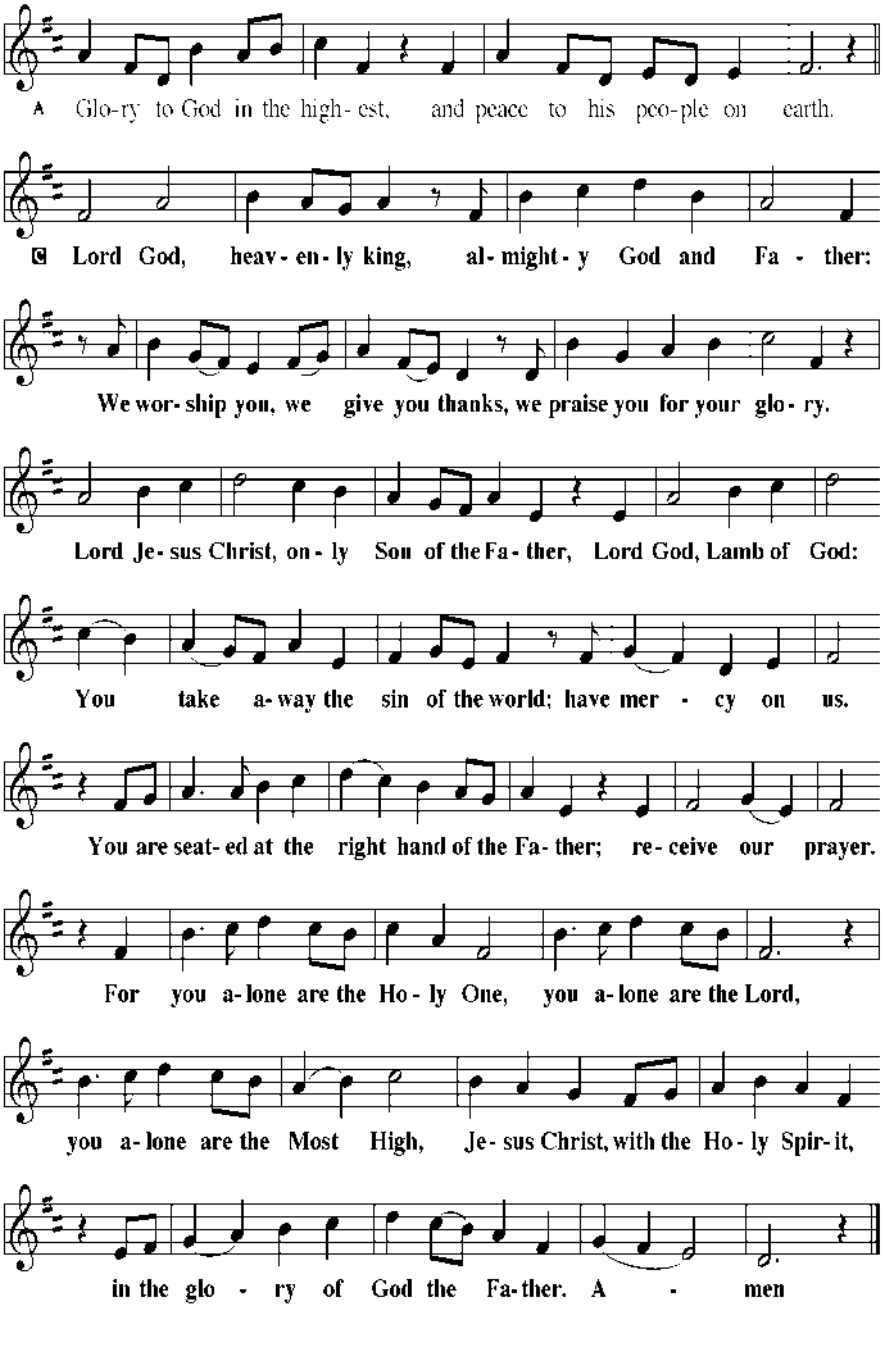

C Lord, have mer - cy.


A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

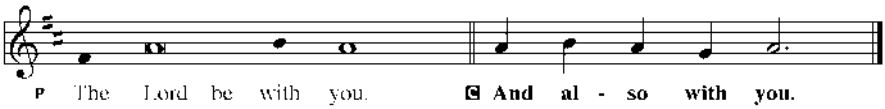

let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men

- **Hymn of Praise**



- **Prayer of the Day**



- P Let us Pray . . .

C Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with an adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and
his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. [23]He took them and
sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. [24]Jacob
was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. [25]When the
man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip
socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. [26]Then
he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let
you go, unless you bless me." [27]So he said to him, "What is your name?"
And he said, "Jacob." [28]Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called
Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have
prevailed." [29]Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he
said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. [30]So
Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face,
and yet my life is preserved." [31]The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel,
limping because of his hip.

PSALM: **Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
[2]My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.
[3]He will not let your | foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not | fall asleep.
[4]Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel
shall neither slum- | ber nor sleep;
[5]the LORD himself watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand,
[6]so that the sun shall not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.
[7]The LORD shall preserve you | from all evil;
it is he who shall | keep you safe.
[8]The LORD shall watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.

SECOND READING: **2 Timothy 3:14–4:5**

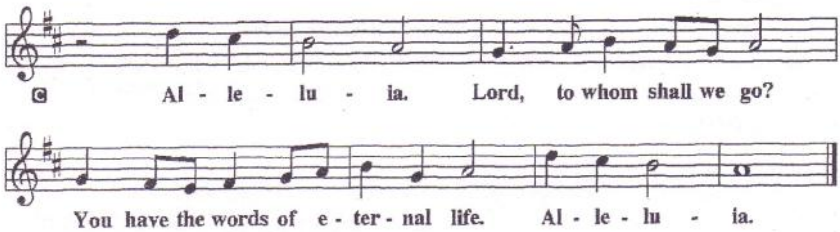
Paul continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, [15]and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16]All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17]so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

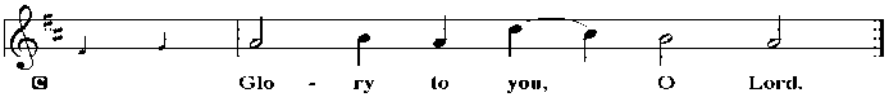
[4:1]In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: [2]proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. [3]For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, [4]and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. [5]As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

GOSPEL: **Luke 18:1-8**

Jesus tells a story reminding his listeners they are to be persistent in prayer, unceasing in their appeals. If an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea a persistent widow, how much more will our loving God hear those who call upon him!



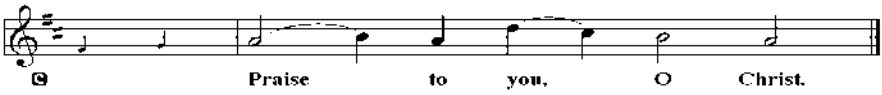
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter



Presentation of the Gospel by Heart

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. [2]He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. [3]In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' [4]For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, [5]yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " [6]And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. [7]And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? [8]I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Senior Choir Anthem

"I am Light, I am Life, I am Love"

M. MacDonald

Sermon

Hymn of the Day LBW# 230
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

- **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# 341
"Jesus, Still Lead On"

Postlude "Fanfare Postlude"
R. Graham

October 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 $1,817 - this significant improvement from Negative $7,420 at end of August was largely due to Memorial Contributions being elected by Ritter and Sheetz families to go to the General fund and the successful Basket Party allocating 50% of profits to the General Fund. Thank you to all responsible for these allocations and support.

Our congregation is, however, still not meeting the income needs of the budget for 2025, which was approved by the congregation last December. This means some Bills are being paid by borrowing "internally" from other accounts with positive balances.
Also to note: This year is not the start of this issue as the General Fund is Negative by $25,100 since the start of 2023.

Our request for your consideration :
The committee has met 4 times this year 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.

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 continues to monitor our Financial situation closely and will communicate further as needed.

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

A Special Thank You to all who came out and supported the Craft Show, it was a big success!!! Thank you also to the Men in the kitchen and to Howard Shafer & Dennis Schaeffer for arranging the tables and chairs in the Parish Hall and also a Big Thank You to Cathy Yoder for organizing this event and also to Sharon Renninger for organizing the Bake Sale. Many hands make light work!!!

A Special Thank You to Karen Irey for her help in the church office this week.

Today is the November Newsletter Deadline, please submit your information to Karen in the church office.

Prayer Listing: Any changes to the Prayer List, please see Linda Ritter, Pastor Gene or contact the church office in order for the change to be made in the November Newsletter.

Youth Happenings: All young persons and those young at heart are invited to the annual Pumpkins and Pizza event on Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 4:30-7:00pm. There will be pizza, drinks and snacks, a costume parade, singing of the "Monster Mash," creative pumpkins, fun treats, and fellowship. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please let Jenn know by Thursday October 23rd by calling 267.664.3394 so we can make sure we have enough for everyone. See you on the 26th for a spooktacular time together!

Operation Christmas Child: Once again, we are collecting “filled shoe boxes” for children, as a Christmas Project. Gift suggestions: School supplies, small toys, hygiene items, other items (t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, etc.) Please include the “How to Pack A Shoebox” Insert along with a check or cash for $10.00, filled boxes must be returned to church by **Sunday, November 9th.** Thank you for your support! Any questions, please see Kathy Kuser.

PJ Project: In conjunction with the Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Trinity will once again create “Elf Bags” for needy families for Christmas Eve and are looking for our help to fill these bags. The items needed besides new Children’s Larger size pajamas (10/12 & 14/16), Adult Size pajamas for older children (Small-XL), Children’s Christmas Books, Family games for older children (Card Games, Sorry, Monopoly, etc.), Monetary donations to purchase items needed, hot chocolate packets and microwave popcorn packets. **Please bring your donation to the box in the Narthex by November 16th.** Any questions, please see Kathy Kuser. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

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

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.

Coffee Hour—Volunteers are needed to host Coffee Hour for November & December. Please sign up for this time of fellowship. The sign up sheet 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.

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, <u>the cost is $32.00 for one vase and $64.00 for 2 vases,</u> 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's Gift Card Program - Gift card orders are accepted before and after the church service the first Sunday of each month and distributed the second Sunday. Order forms for Redners, Giant and Raise Right (for other retail gift cards) are available in the narthex. The Raise Right order form is also available for download on Trinity's website. Payment must be submitted with your order. **Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and include your phone number on your order form.** If you have any questions regarding this fund raising program please see Sharon Kemp, Kathy Kuser or Kurt Yescavage.

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, November 4th and pick up will be Wednesday, November 12th**. 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:

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, October 19th-	8:00	Cont. Worship Service
	9:15	Sunday School
	10:30	Worship Service
Monday, October 20th-	6:30	Scouts
Tuesday, October 21st-	6:30	Worship & Music Mtg.
		Scouts
Wednesday, October 22nd-	6:30	TLC Stitchers
Thursday, October 23rd-	6:30	Sr. Choir Practice
	7:30	Cantata Practice
Sunday, October 26th-	***Reformation Sunday***	
	9:15	Sunday School
	10:30	Worship Service w/Communion
	4:30	Youth Halloween Party

Next Week's Worship Assistants:
Sunday, October 26th:

Assisting Minister: Erika Zaiser
Server: Waynette Shafer
Ushers: Howard Shafer* & Dennis Schaeffer
Lector: Jennifer McCarron
Acolyte: Jennifer McCarron
Crucifer: Diane McElwee

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS: 10/12/2025

Attendance	Offerings	
Worship/S.S.	General	Hunger
64/14	$2,501.00	$60.00

Benevolence	Bldg. Maint.
0	$85.00

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

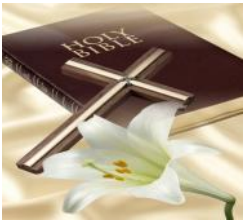
Hours
1:00PM-4:00PM

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	1 Samuel 25:2-22
T	1 Samuel 25:23-35 [36-42]
W	Luke 22:39-46
Th	Isaiah 54:11-17
F	2 Timothy 2:14-26
Sa	Psalm 57

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

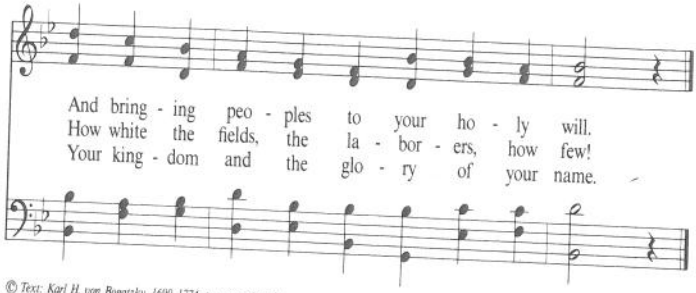
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Or by Appointment)

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

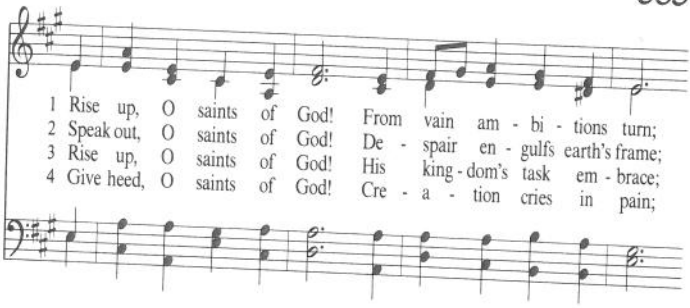


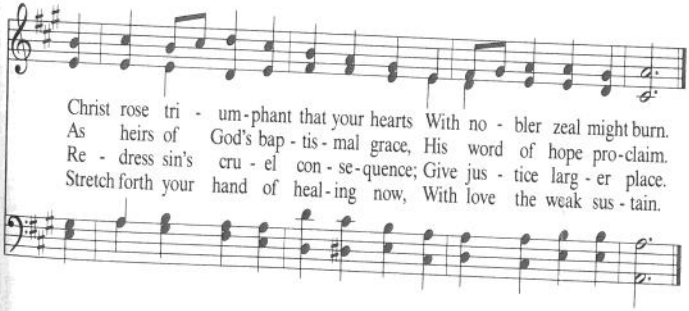
© Text: Karl H. von Bogatzky, 1690–1774; tr. composite, alt.
Tune: J. A. Freylinghausen, Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, *1704*

DIR, DIR, JEHOVA
9 10 9 10 10 10

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

383

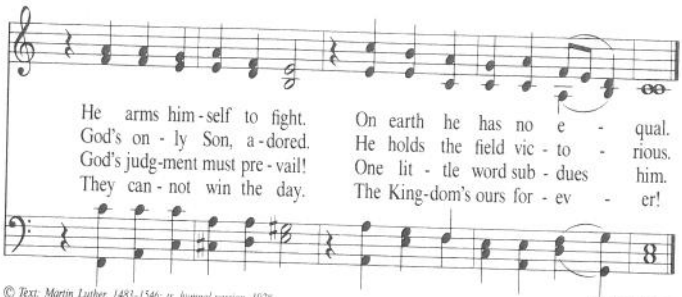




5 Commit your hearts to seek
The paths which Christ has trod
And quickened by the Spirit's power,
Rise up, O saints of God!

© Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1926
Tune: William H. Walter, 1825–1893

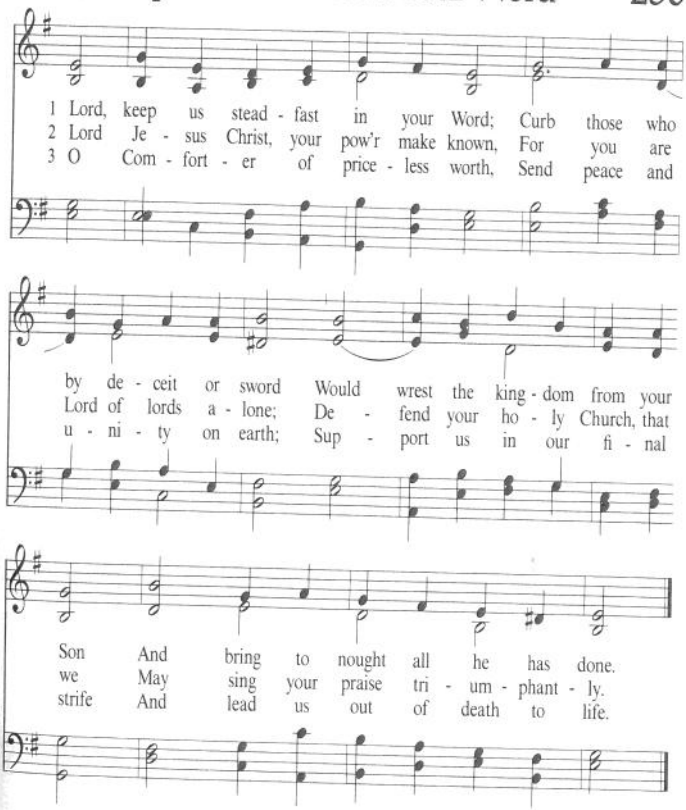
FESTAL SONG



© Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version, 1978
Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

EIN FESTE BURG
87 87 66 66 7

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word 230



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Tune: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

ERHALT UNS, HERR
LM

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
For his members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear his voice;
Dying, they will never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

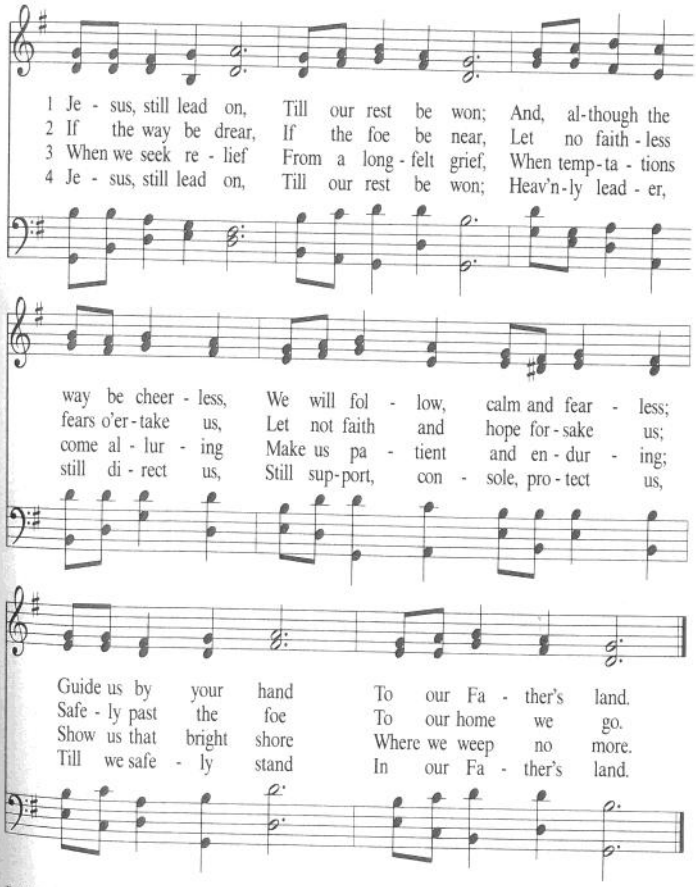
7 Oh, then, draw away your hearts
From earth's pleasures base and hollow.
Strive to share what he imparts
While you here his footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise,
Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

Text: Berlin, 1653; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT
78 78 77

Jesus, Still Lead On

341



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701

SEELENBRÄUTIGAM
55 88 55