



***Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024
Guest Speaker – Steve Dinning
Assisted by Vesper & Truitt Ogburn***

***Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin, Pennsylvania***

Preludes

**I Sing the Mighty of God - Mark Hayes
Grace - Carolyn Hamlin**

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity United Church of Christ.

Greeting and Announcements

Call To Worship

Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in your midst!

Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and our strength.

We place ourselves before this God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God's Spirit. Amen.

Hymn No. 10

O Worship the King

Call to Confession

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Come, then, let us confess our sins to the one who is faithful to forgive. Come, then, let us adore the one who is mighty to save!

Prayer of Confession

God of fire and wind, we confess we have missed the movement of your Spirit in our lives and in your world. We have not been a Spirit-led church. We have not pursued your anointing or your sanctifying presence. We have not lived in holiness. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from bondage to life in the Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

God of new beginnings, you call us to be resurrection people, and yet we live in the shadow of doubt and fear. In your mercy, God, forgive us. We long to be resurrection people, and yet we are bound by ways that lead to death, neglecting the poor, the hungry, and those who mourn. By your power, God, revive us.

***The Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hades.

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 quick 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

Please Remain Standing

With Joy We Now Offer Our Gifts

***Presentation of the Offering – Singing of the Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Offering Prayer

Generous and giving God, you have offered us a deep and soul-satisfying relationship with you, one that extends far beyond our earthly journey; and too many of us have opted for a “faith-lite” experience. One day a week or a couple of times a month has been a better fit. We have rejected what you so generously offer us, even as we dwell in and are sustained by your vineyard. As we offer our gifts this day, may we better receive the relationship you offer us and may we walk more closely. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Scripture

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9: 20-22

1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.

2 And on the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

3 Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king.”

5 Then King Ahasu-erus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, that would presume to do this?”

6 And Esther said, “A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!” Then Haman was in terror before the king and the queen.

9 Then said Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, “Moreover, the gallows which Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing in Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.”

10 And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

20 And Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasu-erus, both near and far,

21 enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year,

22 as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending choice portions to one another and gifts to the poor.

Psalms 124

1 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
let Israel now say—

2 if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when men rose up against us,

3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

4 then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

6 Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!

7 We have escaped as a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!

8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Epistle

James 5: 13-20

13 Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise.

14 Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15 and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

17 Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

18 Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit.

19 My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back,

20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Gospel

Mark 9: 38 - 50

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me.

40 For he that is not against us is for us.

41 For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

42 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

43 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

44 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

46 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,

48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

49 For every one will be salted with fire.

50 Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Hymn No. 463

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Sermon

Guest Speaker –Steve Dinning

Hymn No. 50

The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Now Unto Him Who Is Able

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling.

To make you stand in His presence blameless and with great joy.

To the only God our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.

Both now and forevermore, Amen.

***Going Forth**

Postlude

**Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
Carolyn Hamlin**

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer,
Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman,
Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks,
Nancy Custer, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka,
Paul Gallick, Nancy Gindlesperger,
Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith,
Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris,
Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis,
Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Cathy Meyers, Joyce Miller,
Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul,
Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Brooke Stutzman,
Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,
Lucy Wright, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday – Trinity Bells Practice 6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 09/22/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$1884.01	\$3155.58	-\$1271.57
Ben	\$20.00	\$182.69	-\$162.69
Maint	\$170.00	\$163.46	\$6.54
Mem	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total	\$2074.0	\$3501.73	-\$1427.72

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$15 and Caring for Our Churches \$100.

Worship Attendance: 61 + 17 Online = 78

Sunday School: 20

Where You May Find. . .

The Nursery: *is on the lower level for children and their parent. A big screen TV is mounted in the room so that you may watch the service.*

At the Sanctuary Entrances. . .

Large Print Bulletins

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Cohen Clark (Board), Gaye Maust (Camera)

Ushers: Bob Brown, John Wisler

Acolytes: Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

Organ: Amy Clark

Flowers on the altar in memory of my husband, Lewis, by Barb Berkley.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

Church Secretary: Pam Bush, Jean Ann Darr

Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger

Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick

Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas

Virtual Organist: Rick Kimmel

Consistory Elders:

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, 814-267-5260

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour, Tom Croner (President) 814-

442-6740, Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis,

Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mailing Address: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

October 6 – Combined Service with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

October 13 – Dave Creamer

October 20 – Dave Creamer

October 27 – Dave Creamer

Bolded dates indicate communion.

Sunday School

How do you approach prayer? Do you worry you are not doing it “correctly”? Do you see it as an obligation to check-off a to-do list? Do you think of it as a last resort – a kind of supernatural SOS when you need help? In this Pray First video Bible Study, Pastor Chris Hodges shares proven ways to help you spend time in conversation with God – and enjoy every minute of it. Pray First is a 6-part revolutionary study for anyone who wants to experience a dynamic, intimate prayer life with God, that begins on October 27th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:10 following worship service. Questions about this class may be directed to Sue Coughenour.

Sunday School Teachers would like to make a Lego Room out of the part of the Nursery that has carpeting. There are Parables and other Bible Lessons that can be taught using Legos. If anyone has any Legos or a Lego table or Lego storage options that they would like to donate to this project- please bring them and put them in the nursery downstairs. Thank you!

Hugs & Kisses

Saturday, October 19th – Pumpkin Carving at the Lutheran Church 6:30 PM – Bring your own pumpkin and carving tools if you have any. They will be providing apple cider and snacks. This is ALL ages. Please let Amanda Custer know if you plan on attending so they can have an approximate count.

Bethlehem Experience

Planning is underway for the 5th biennial “Bethlehem Experience in Berlin PA. This year’s event will be held Sunday December 8th, on the Block Party Lot in Berlin. In an effort to cut down on the waiting time, we are planning to offer a “walk through” from 200-4:00 p.m. and a “drive through” from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

How can you help?

- 1) Pray that the people coming to the event experience Jesus and pray for favorable weather.
- 2) Donate funds to purchase supplies for building sets; pay for rental of sound/lighting systems.
- 3) Volunteer to help with making the sets, costumes, painting, etc.
- 4) Volunteer to serve as actors – we will need approximately 40 volunteers.
- 5) Volunteer to help with set up and tear down December 7-8

If you are able to donate, please make check payable to:

Bethlehem Experience, 500 South St., Berlin PA 15530

If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following:

Joanne Stoltzfus – 814-233-5905

Cheryl Hay – 814-267-5642

Angie Klink – 814-442-9195

Jeanette Landis – 814-267-3020

April Logue – 814-267-5072

Lorrie Shaw – 814-521-8852

Veterans Sunday Preparation

In preparation for our annual Veterans Program, please submit new or changes of information to Sheron Engleka prior to October 27. Sheron puts a lot of time and effort into this program so the sooner we get this information to her the better.

Heritage Sunday, October 6th, 2024

Both the Council of Trinity Lutheran Church and our Consistory have graciously agreed to return an old tradition called Heritage Sunday. This is based on our common heritage beginning in 1777 when both congregations built one building for both congregations to share. The date selected and approved is October 6th, 2024. There will be no church or Sunday School at our church that Sunday. Church Service will be at 10:40am that Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Berlin. Sunday School will be there also at 9:30am. The following year we, Trinity UCC, will then host Trinity Lutheran at our church. Please join in this celebration of our Common Heritage on Sunday, October 6th, 2024.

Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy

We are excited about the progress that is being made in the Caring for Churches, Caring for Clergy campaign of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ! We hope to raise \$500,000.00, with \$450,000.00 being directed toward our Mission Grants program and \$50,000.00 being directed toward the Pension Boards (United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance) Generations of Service Campaign. The Generations of Service campaign helps with financial assistance to current and future retirees, development of leadership programs, and improvements toward the financial wellness of those in ministry. The Penn West Conference Mission Grants program provides grants to local churches for operational expenses, programs that reach out to help meet community needs, and initiatives that strengthen churches. We anticipate and expect that this program will also help with new church starts and church growth initiatives in our Conference's life. So far, we are excited to share that we have raised \$423,163.83 in pledges and gifts toward the campaign!

At our last Consistory meeting we discussed the above request and approved making it our mission effort for September. Please consider contributing to CFC this month, and hopefully we can help Penn West reach their goal of \$500,000 before they conclude the effort in December.

Congregational meeting called for, TODAY, September 29th following worship service. We want to have the Congregation determine what they would prefer regarding our projector (which has to be replaced due to the lightning damage) and screen capabilities. We can either use the screen with the projector with higher resolution or convert to a large TV screen measuring 88 x 51.

Care Committee conversations are continuing as Jay Shaffer has shared with us a manual for setting up and organizing a committee. Thanks to those who have reached out with thoughts, shared interest, and ideas of how God is calling us to serving our members and those in need. If you would like to learn more, please reach out to Tom Croner or call the office.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner, President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



**Holy Father, We come before You with grateful hearts,
celebrating the beauty of Autumn.**

**Thank You for the vibrant colors that adorn the trees, the
crisp air that refreshes our spirits, and the bountiful harvest
that nourishes our bodies.**

**May we always recognize Your handiwork in nature and find
joy in the changing seasons.**

Help us to reflect Your beauty in our lives.

Amen.

Have A Blessed Week!