



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Guest Speaker – Rev. James Vander Schuur

Assisted By – Cohen Clark

Trinity United Church of Christ

600 Main Street

Berlin, Pennsylvania

Preludes

**The God of Abraham Praise – Hal Hopson
I Need Thee Every Hour – Emma Lou Diemer**

Announcements

Welcome

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

Call to Worship

Father God,

You introduce yourself to us in Genesis (1) as the God who works. Who created this beautiful world we are privileged to inhabit.

We thank you for your work

You created us to till the ground, to work the land, to become craftsmen and craftswomen.

We thank you for your work

But then we rebelled against you, and our work was tainted by "thorns and thistles"

We thank you for your work

You loved us nevertheless, and when the fullness of time came, you sent your son to redeem us, including our work.

We thank you for your work

As we enter worship today, we are grateful that work is part of your good creation, help us to serve with integrity, with diligence, and with grace.

Come, let us worship the God who labors.

Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven, you are the only true God. Thank you for all the grace and wonderful deeds you continue to give us. We ask for your blessing and guidance in celebrating this worship in your name. Make us one with your army of angels through this worship service. And we ask that you would be in our midst today and forevermore.

***Hymn No. 98**

Jesus, We Just Want to Thank You

Call to Confession

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Prayer of Confession:

Behold, my God, I come to Your sacrament of Confession to ask for forgiveness and to be restored to Your grace. You so loved us that You sent us Your only Son, and He is a shepherd willing to go searching after even one of His sheep. Guide me as I prepare to approach this sacrament. I would like to be free of guilt, to be pardoned, to have peace, and to be restored to You. Grant me all that is necessary for it to be so. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Lord God, as followers of Your Son, we do not live our lives as hopeless people. Even though our sins may be great and innumerable, we know that we have a God who can save even the greatest of sinners. Nobody is beyond redemption. Lord, refresh our hope that is in You. Fix our eyes upon Your return, that we may know our sins are forgiven and ready at all times. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Based on The Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

In joy, we now offer our gifts to God.

***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**

Offertory Prayer

You are the giver of all good things, and your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from you. We ask that you accept these gifts and use them to your glory. May these gifts bring shelter to the homeless, comfort to the sick, rest to the weary, and hope to the hopeless. Just as you multiplied the offering of fish and the loaves that were freely given for others, we pray that you would multiply these, our offerings to you, and accomplish with them more than we could ask or imagine.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Exodus 14:19-31

19Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them,

20 coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night.

21Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians,

25 clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.”

27 So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained.

29 But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore.

31 And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Psalms 114

1 When Israel went forth from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

2 Judah became his sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.

3 The sea looked and fled,
Jordan turned back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.

5 What ails you, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?

6 O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

24 When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents;

25 and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

27 And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’

29 So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’

30 He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt.

31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me;

33 and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’

34 And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt.

35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Sermon
“The Lukewarm Church”
Rev. James Vander Schuur

***Hymn No. 256**

He Is Here, He Is Here

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen**

Postlude

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
– Emma Lou Diemer**

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Lew & Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring,
Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Bill Arandt, Melvin & Bonnie Baughman, Donnie
Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda
Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour,
Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, John Durst, Reon Engleka, Sheron
Engleka, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry
Hay, Fae Hetrick, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little,

Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Lois Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Owen Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Mark Stahl, Peggy Stayrook, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY –16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 Sunday School – Fellowship Hall

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting

Tuesday – 1:00 – 4:00 Fae Hetrick’s Birthday Celebration

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells

Next Sunday – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School (Fellowship Hall Only)

Worship Attendance: 62

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

Hearing Amplifiers

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger (Board), Gaye Maust (Camera)

Ushers: Larry Pritts, Rus Ogburn

Acolyte: Cohen Clark

The Flowers on the altar are in memory of Edna Mae Chappie (Grandma Mae) & in honor of Bob Chappie (Pap) by Dave, Missy, Mathew & Kaitlyn Miller

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:

*Tom Calvert, President, 814-267-3771
Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650
Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166*

Consistory Deacons:

*Amy Clark, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco
Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner
Amanda Custer, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust*

**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.

September 24 Peter Kaltendbaugh

October 1 Steve Dinning

October 8 Dwayne Hay

October 15 James Vander Schuur

October 22 Peter Kaltendbaugh

October 29 Dottie Grew

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

UPDATE: All adult Sunday School Classes will now be meeting as one beginning today in the Fellowship Hall. Sue

Coughenour will be starting an in-depth study of I & II Peter. This study will give you a look at how to get the most out of your Bible reading. The apostle Peter wrote two short letters that are packed with so much that we need to hear in our culture today. Join us as we dig in and find many hidden treasures that you might miss in general reading. Please bring your Bible, a pen, and be ready to dive in. Hope to see you there!

Keystone Family Alliance

On July 16th Lydia Shaffer presented information about their successes working with Foster Parents. Consistory has designated **September** as a special offering to assist in the need of orphans and vulnerable children. Their focus is to bridge the gap between the desperate need in the child welfare system and Pennsylvania churches. If you choose to donate to this cause, please mark your offering envelopes “Keystone Alliance”.

Christmas Program

We are looking for a program director to head up the Christmas Program scheduled for 12/10/23. We can do adult/youth combined play this year with practice on 12/03/23 during Sunday School.

A message from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Sight and Sound

We have purchased the tickets and reserved the bus for the show, “The Miracle of Christmas” on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in Lancaster, PA for the 3:00 PM show.

The cost is \$110 per adult and \$90 for child ages 3-12. This includes your admission and the cost for the bus.

If you would like to reserve a spot, please call the church office at 814-267-5014. Please note that payment will be due to reserve your ticket and seat on the bus.

It will be non-refundable unless you can find someone to attend in your place.

A Special Tribute for our active military and all living veterans has been given to us from the **Knotty Knotters**, Lutheran Church, Berlin. The Knotters will make throws for all of our active military and Veterans as a special **“thank you for your service”** to be given on Veterans Sunday. Any active military or veterans that

have not given their names to Sheron, please contact Sheron Engleka at 814-267-4166.

The Berlin Brethren Church is planning to present a Christmas cantata at their church on Sunday, December 24th at the 10:30 service. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Norman or Joan Menhorn at (814) 289-3777 for more information.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

With a deadline of November 13th, we will be gearing up for our shoebox collection in September and October. We have boxes available if you would like to start or possibly start collecting now. Renee Gindlesperger will be doing a presentation on October 1st (as she is on a much-needed vacation now) but most of you know what we do. If you need further information, please contact the church office. We will have boxes available across from Fellowship Hall.

Adopt-A-Family

As a reminder, Adopt-A-Family will begin with a special collection during the month of October as well. We have been helping local families for over a decade by supporting them with essential gifts and food for the holiday season. Last year we helped 5 families make Christmas extra special by purchasing gifts for a total of 19 children. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Petro (814) 442-5124.

This Tuesday!!!! Save the date to celebrate Fae Hetrick!

Fae will be celebrating her 99th birthday on Tuesday, September 19th! We are planning an open house here at Trinity in Fellowship Hall from 1-4 p.m.

Please stop by to wish Fae a happy birthday....she'd love to see everyone! Cards are welcome but as requested, please, no gifts.



Rally Sunday Brunch!

**Our Sincere Blessings for A Wonderful
Week Ahead!**