

# **THE 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

***Fourteen Sunday after Pentecost***

***August 25, 2024***

***Guest Speaker – Dave Creamer***

***Assisted by: Colton Custer***

***Trinity United Church of Christ***

***600 Main Street***

***Berlin, Pennsylvania***

## **Prelude**

**Great is Thy Faithfulness - Jason Payne**  
**Behold the Lamb – Jason Payne**

## **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: (based on Psalm 84)**

My soul yearns for the courts of the Lord, my heart cries out for the living God!

**Even the sparrow has found a home, the swallow a nest, a place near the alter of the All-mighty Lord.**

Blessed are those who dwell in lords house, ever praising his name.

**Blessed are those whose strength is in the Lord, whose hearts are set for the journey.**

Better is one day in your court than 1000 elsewhere.

**O Lord almighty blessed are those who trust in you.**

## **Hymn No. 2**

**“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

## **Call to Confession:**

Gathered as brothers and sisters in Christ we look to God for Salvation. Our nature to be human to strong to overcome by ourselves. Calling out to God we seek forgiveness.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

**Loving and merciful God we need your compassion.**

**Frustration, anger, resentment cause us to stumble. We have sinned. Help us to overcome our faults. Guide us on our journey and strengthen us to be better Christians. Heavenly Father forgive us.**

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

God's compassion for us is forever. As we seek forgiveness, strive to be better, work to be more like what God wants, he forgives us. God knows how weak we are, each of our hearts, and loves us just the same. For that we rejoice!

#### **\*Response**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

#### **\*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**

**Offertory Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before you. Grateful for the blessing you give us. Thankful we have measure to share. We are grateful for this Earth, our homes, and the people you surround us with. We ask that you care for and bless them. Help us dear Lord to care for them.

We lift up to you those on our prayer list. The people in our hearts, those we worry for. We ask for your healing touch, your comforting presence, your steadying hand. Help the care givers to stay strong and compassionate always seeking to do your will. Watch over the ones who protect us, near and abroad. Please keep them safe. We pray for the ones who don't change, don't think they want your help. Let your will be done.

Bless us with the presence of your spirit. Help us to pray to you and petition things that bless those around us. Help and guide us to be fruitful and productive people, accomplishing your will.

We are grateful for your Son Jesus Christ, the Grace he gives to us. Help us to always seek his love. The words he taught us to pray we offer to you now.

**The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)**



**Special Music**  
**“Gene Kennedy”**

**Scripture:**

**Joshua 24: 1-2, 14-18**

**1** Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

**2** And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Your fathers lived of old beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

**14** “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

**15** And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

**16** Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;

**17** for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;

**18** and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land; therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

**Epistle:****Ephesians 6: 10-20**

**10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

**11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

**12** For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**13** Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**14** Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**15** and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace;

**16** besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

**17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**18** Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

**19** and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

**20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Gospel:****John 6: 56-69**

**56** He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

**57** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me.

**58** This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever."

**59** This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Caperna-um.

**60** Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

**61** But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, “Do you take offense at this?”

**62** Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before?

**63** It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

**64** But there are some of you that do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him.

**65** And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

**66** After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him.

**67** Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”

**68** Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life;

**69** and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

### **Sermon**

#### **“Gut Check”**

**Guest Speaker – Dave Creamer**

**\*Hymn No. 18**

**“Come, We That Love the Lord”**

**\*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**

**“Jesus Shall Reign” - Anna Laura**

+ + + + + + +



**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.

**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,  
Art & 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, Diane Walker, Robin Walker,  
Nancy Weighley, Lucy Wright, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

**Please Update**

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed on the Prayer List.



## The Saints In Action

TODAY- 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Next Sunday – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

### Giving From 08/18/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$2667.00	\$3155.58	-\$488.58
<b>Ben</b>	\$230.00	\$182.69	\$47.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$135.00	\$163.46	-\$28.46
<b>Mem</b>			
<b>Total</b>	\$3032.00	\$3501.73	-\$469.73

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$15.

**Worship Attendance = 61 + 12 Online = 73**

**Sunday School: 9**

### ***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:** Jim Darr (Board), Russ Hillegas (Camera)

**Ushers:** Russ Ogburn, Jim Walker

**Acolytes:** Colton Custer

**Organ:** Nancy Bittner

**Flowers on the altar** in memory of Charles & Mary Ester Smith by Nancy Bittner and Family.

**Special flowers** on the altar are in memory of Kay Barnard's passing by her sister Karol Saylor.

### ***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](mailto:berlinucc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.berlinucc.org](http://www.berlinucc.org)

## **Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

### **September 1 Jay Shaffer**

September 8 Dave Creamer

September 15 Dave Creamer

September 22 Steve Dinning

September 29 Steve Dinning

**Bolded dates indicate communion.**

## **Sunday School**

Are you going through a difficult period of life? During these desert times, it's easy to think God has disappeared. Instead, discover that it's only when we are totally dependent on him that we find him closer than ever and can experience God's amazing grace and provision. Ray Vander Laan will take us on a trip in the desert to experience what it was like for the Israelites as they wandered in the desert to find the Promised Land. This seven-part series began August 11 and is led by Sue Coughenour. Sunday School begins at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall, everyone is invited to join in.

## **Rally Sunday**

Back to school means back to Sunday School! Join us for Rally Sunday on September 8th during the Sunday School hour for a light continental breakfast, games for all ages and a time of fellowship. We look forward to welcoming back children of all ages, and the adults also, as we begin the new Sunday School year. Join us at 10:10 am in the Fellowship Hall

## **Thank you Hugs & Kisses**

Once again, Hugs & Kisses has done amazing work! This past Tuesday, they went to the Croner Farm and picked ears of corn, for the **second time**, and brought it to our local Food Pantry for distribution to those less fortunate. They are planning another trip as long as the corn is available if you are interested in helping. This group does God's work in so many ways. You are truly a blessing.

**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!

### **Bethlehem Experience**

Planning is underway for the 5<sup>th</sup> biennial “Bethlehem Experience in Berlin PA. This year’s event will be held Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

## **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.

**If anyone is interested in singing with the Holy Lutheran choir on Heritage Sunday, please contact Maria Mowry at 814-932-1839. Call or text would be great.**

**Maria Mowry will start joint choir practices for Heritage Sunday music.**

**At this point she has scheduled Sunday, August 18 and August 25 following our 10:40 AM service.**

**The time should be approximately 11:30 AM.**

## **Hospice Volunteers Needed**

Hospice volunteers come from all ages and walks of life, with an extraordinary love and compassionate concern for others. They contribute to the overall well-being of our patients, families, and UPMC Volunteers help Family Hospice and those we serve in many ways.

- Patient/family companionship
- Bereavement support
- Pet assisted visits
- Clerical
- Share musical talents
- Barber and hair stylist

All volunteers receive free training and orientation. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Family Hospice, call Daun, volunteer & bereavement coordinator at 814-515-6056.

**Blood Drive:** Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Berlin Community Veteran's Home Association of Berlin, Social  
Hall, 419 Meadow Street, Berlin



**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.





A NEW  
Week is Here

This week, may the Lord satisfy your every need and fill your heart with contentment. Trust in His provision and be grateful for His abundant blessings. Be satisfied and blessed!

**Blessings For a Wonderful Week!**