



***Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
September 1, 2024
Guest Speaker – Pastor Jay Shaffer
Assisted by Cohen Clark***

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

Preludes

Voluntary on “Slane” – Jason Payne
Prelude on “Kelvingrove” – 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

Prayer

Hymn No. 8

“Praise To the Lord, the Almighty

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us humbly offer our confessions.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we often read your Holy word but then go our own way. We quickly forget your teachings to love and care for one another. The ideals of this world are constantly before us while your teachings are laid aside from week to week. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we failed to follow your law of grace and mercy. Renew within us a desire to live each day as your followers, setting an example for others to follow. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gracious God, forgive our lack of steadfastness, forgive our shortsightedness, and forgive our unfaithfulness. Guide us to walk in your ways, to sing your praise, and to share your love freely.

***The Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in Jesus Christ the Lord, Who was promised to the people of Israel, Who came in the flesh to dwell among us, Who announced the coming of the rule of God, Who gathered disciples and taught them, Who died on the cross to free us from sin, Who rose from the dead to give us life and hope, Who reigns in heaven at the right hand of God, Who comes to judge and bring justice to victory. We believe in God His Father, Who raised Him from the dead, Who created and sustains the universe, Who acts to deliver His people in times of need, Who desires all men everywhere to be saved, Who rules over the destinies of men and nations, Who continues to love men even when they reject Him. We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is the form of God present in the church, Who moves men to faith and obedience, Who is the guarantee of our deliverance, Who leads us to find God’s will in the Word, Who assists those whom He renews in prayer, Who Guides us in discernment, Who impels us to act together. We believe God has made us His people, To invite others to follow Christ, To encourage one another to deeper commitment, To proclaim forgiveness of sins and hope, To reconcile men to God through word and deed, To bear witness to the power of love over hate, To proclaim Jesus the Lord over all, To meet the daily tasks of life with purpose, To suffer joyfully for the cause of right, To the ends of the earth, To the end of the age, To the praise of His glory, 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

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Scripture

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

1 “And now, O Israel, give heed to the statutes and the ordinances which I teach you, and do them; that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, gives you.

2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it; that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

6 Keep them and do them; for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

8 And what great nation is there, that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day?

9 “Only take heed, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Epistle

James 1: 17- 27

17 Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19 Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger,

20 for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing.

26 If any one thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Gospel

Mark 7: 1-23

1 Now when the Pharisees gathered together to him, with some of the scribes, who had come from Jerusalem,

2 they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands defiled, that is, unwashed.

3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, observing the tradition of the elders;

4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they purify themselves; and there are many other traditions

which they observe, the washing of cups and pots and vessels of bronze.)

5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with hands defiled?”

6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

8 You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men.”

9 And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God, in order to keep your tradition!

10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die’;

11 but you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, What you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)

12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother,

13 thus making void the word of God through your tradition which you hand on. And many such things you do.”

14 And he called the people to him again, and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand:

15 there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him.”

16 17 And when he had entered the house, and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a man from outside cannot defile him,

19 since it enters, not his heart but his stomach, and so passes on?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

20 And he said, “What comes out of a man is what defiles a man.

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery,

22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man.”

Hymn No. 349

“Trust and Obey”

Sermon
Garbage in – Garbage out?
Guest Speaker – Jay Shaffer

Hymn No. 323

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Sacrament of Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

***Communion Prayer**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

It is right to give God Thanks and Praise.

Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in

every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you.

Holy, Holy, Holy God of Love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who come in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Please be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives us.

Resurrection Acclamation

Alleluia! Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. **I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia!**

Sharing of the Elements

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

The body of Christ, the living bread.

Amen!

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

Amen!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scatter, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray.

Amen.

***Hymn No. 604**

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

***Going Forth**

Postlude

Postlude on “St. Denio” – Jason Payne

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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.

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

Please keep the Gotchen family in your prayers due to the passing of our good friend, Rev. Art Gotchen. May God comfort them during this time of loss.

Please keep the family of Bearett Rakes, 9-day old child, who passed away. He is the son of Abi & Cody Rakes, and family of some of our Berlin School Staff.

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Next Sunday – 16th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 06/25/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2132.00	\$3155.58	-\$1023.58
Ben	\$55.00	\$182.69	-\$127.69
Maint	\$355.00	\$163.46	\$191.54
Mem	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total	\$2542.00	\$3501.73	-\$959.73

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

Worship Attendance: 52 + 12 Online = 64
Sunday School: 8

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: Lori Gindlesperger (Board), Chris King (Camera)

Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary

Acolytes: Cohen Clark

Organ: Ann Slifco

Flowers on the altar in celebration of our parents' 60th Wedding Anniversary by Larry W. McCullen, Jr. and Cynthia L McCullen – Janicki.

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.

September 8 Dave Creamer

September 15 Dave Creamer

September 22 Steve Dinning

September 29 Steve Dinning

Bolded dated indicate communion.

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

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.

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!

J B Schrock Community Park Birthday Party/Fundraiser

Please join us for our second annual celebration of the playground's birthday! We are 76 years old this year! We're going to have a CAKE WALK again, free games for the kids, face painting, yard games, a Basket Raffle, birthday cake, music, and good food for sale!

Saturday, September 7 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
at J B Schrock Community Park 700 South St., Berlin
[Donations of cakes and baskets would be greatly appreciated. Please contact our Facebook page or text Linda Karchner 570-599-2635 to donate.]

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 and 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.

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, July 8, 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Berlin Community Veterans' 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.



Heavenly Father, help me to be still before You this week. I'm not good at being silent before You. Help me to calm my racing thoughts, quiet my body and my mind, and come before You in silence, offering You my whole self. I want to hear Your voice so that I can walk in Your ways for me.

Blessings for a wonderful week!