



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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# Trinity Messenger

October 2023 Issue 2

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*Alleluia. Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you to go  
and bear fruit that will last. Alleluia. John 15:16*

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During the past year, the consistent news regarding the growth of white Christian nationalism in this country has become concerning to me, and I imagine I am not alone.

By its nature, this brand of Christianity runs counter to the love-filled teachings of Jesus that call all those who profess Christianity as their faith to strive for inclusivity and welcome to all of God's beloved children no matter the color of their skin, their race, or other characteristic of their nature that some have chosen to use as a means of division. It clearly flies in the face of the fact that Jesus was not Caucasian but rather a Jewish man of Middle Eastern decent; thus, likely with darker features unlike the lighter-haired and skinned man with blue eyes with which he is often times depicted.

Placing Jesus' likely physical features aside, because we do not have descriptions of him when he was alive, we only have to explore the Holy Scriptures, which are awash with his universal message of unrestricted love, to understand the intent of his teachings. Jesus elevated the act of loving ones neighbor and welcoming the stranger over all else and did not place restrictions on these. Jesus' message was consistently one of life-giving redemption and new life, made possible by God, through his death and resurrection. This is gift freely and universally given and not reserved for one group of people over another group that is deemed unworthy of Jesus' sacrifice and the unconditional love it guarantees God's children—you, me, and all humankind.

If you follow the daily news you may have heard or read stories regarding groups of professed Christians and disturbingly pastors and other church leaders who are claiming that Jesus' teachings are far too lenient and too universally accepting. Instead, they profess and embrace a far more judgmental and exclusionary God, whom, if one is the right kind of Christian, should embrace, worship, and fear above all else. By their measure, this God is the true God, because He surely believes what they do. And as such is surely a God who would not tolerate, include, or offer forgiveness to any individuals or groups whose actions and in some cases very existence lies beyond the reach of God's grace-filled love. It is this self-defined God, who comfortably fits their world view and the biases they hold, who reigns as the one true God.

I imagine those of us who strive daily to humbly follow Jesus, despite our brokenness, see within this exclusionary world view and its goal to redefine Jesus' gracious mission, a glaring dismissal of the intent of this mission which is to bring the message of the Good News—sins forgiven and new life—to all the earth without prejudice or judgement. However, this mission and its goals are not up for debate and are not awaiting our desire to redefine them to fit our levels of comfort or our personal ideologies. Rather, it is we, if we choose to be faithful and sincere in our attempts to best follow Jesus, who must conform to Jesus' need for us to embrace his grace-filled message of love and be doers of that life-giving love for all to witness and experience without exception.

Embracing God's universal love,  
**Pastor Mark**

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**The Stewardship Committee is honored to present  
Clare House as the focus for Special Giving for the month of October.**

Clare House transforms the lives of women and their children through an employment-focused program providing safety, housing, and supportive services with the goal of financial stability. Founded in 1980.

**Our mission and vision**

We believe dignity and value are the keys to helping women move forward. While women and their children are here, they can expect everyone at Clare House to treat them with respect, regardless of who they are or where they came from. We believe in our residents' success – and we'll provide the tools and opportunities to make it happen.

**Requested donations for Clare House:** Clare House Wish List Laundry - Detergent, Disinfecting Wipes, \*Bathroom Cleaner, All Purpose Cleaner, Toilet Cleaner, \*House Brooms, Casserole Dishes, Nonstick Baking Pans (Metal), Pots/Pans sets, Sturdy laundry baskets, Scrubber dish sponges, Dish Drying Racks w/ drain tray, Personal Items: RRTA Bus Passes (10 trip), Gift Cards (UGI, Giant, Weis, Target, Wal-Mart, Lowes, Home Depot.)

Phone: (717) 291-8967 | Fax: (717) 291-6830 [www.ClareHouseLancaster.org](http://www.ClareHouseLancaster.org) \*\*Clare House is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.\*\*

Clare House transforms the lives of women and their children through an employment-focused program, providing safety, housing, and supportive services with the goal of financial stability.

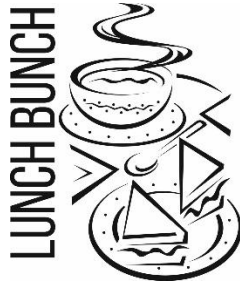
Our vision is a community where all women and their children are empowered to build a stable foundation.



*Notes of* **THANKS**

The officers and members of the Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company would like to graciously thank you for your contribution to our 2023 Fund Drive. Your contribution does not go unnoticed and will be used to help provide lifesaving equipment for our members to ensure the residents of Ephrata Borough and Township are protected 24/7/365 days a year. **Again, thank you from us at EPFC!**

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**THE ADULT (all adults are welcome)  
LUNCH BUNCH**

Will be going Willow Street Diner after the liturgy on October 8. We'll meet downstairs after the liturgy. All are welcome. For reservations, please call Cheryl Plummer by October 7 at 625-3187. Plan to join us!



**October 8-14 Calendar**

|                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, October 8</b>     |                           |
| 8:15am                       | Celebration Choir         |
| 9:00am                       | Worship                   |
| 10:00am                      | Coffee Hour After Worship |
| 10:15am                      | SCS                       |
| 11:00am                      | Lunch Bunch               |
| 2:00pm                       | Trinity Game Day          |
| <b>Monday, October 9</b>     |                           |
| 10:00am                      | Women's Prayer Group      |
| 6:30pm                       | Yoga                      |
| <b>Tuesday, October 10</b>   |                           |
| 3:30pm                       | Trini Mini                |
| 7:00pm                       | Bell Choir                |
| 7:00pm                       | Finance Committee         |
| 8:00pm                       | Executive Council         |
| <b>Wednesday, October 11</b> |                           |
| 6:45pm                       | Senior Choir              |
| <b>Thursday, October 12</b>  |                           |
| 3:30pm                       | Trini Mini                |
| 7:00pm                       | Yoga                      |
| 7:00pm                       | Thursday Worship          |
| 7:30pm                       | Council Meeting           |
| <b>Saturday, October 14</b>  |                           |
| 7:30am                       | Walking Group             |

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

## October 8th Servers

**Council:** Ed Quirke, Lisa Garrett

**Assisting Minister:** John Weiss

**Lector:** Wendy Young

**Acolyte:** Natalie Mull

**Ushers:** Allen Nace, John Weiss,  
Adam Doughty, Gary Nace

**Altar Guild:** Barb & Steve Sweigart,  
Andy Sweigart

**Linen:** Brenda Wangman

**Deliver Flower:** Winnie Gerlach



## Office Hours: October 9-13

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

**Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831**

| Day       | Sue                | Pastor             |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monday    | 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM   | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM |
| Tuesday   | 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM   | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM |
| Wednesday | 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM   | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM |
| Thursday  | 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM   | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM |
| Friday    | 8:00AM -12:00 noon | OFF                |

*Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!*

