



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 20

August 17, 2025



Initial E depicting the Crossing of the Red Sea (1500-1525)
artist unknown

The author of Hebrews contrasts the Israelites' successful crossing of the Red Sea with the drowning of their Egyptian pursuers to illustrate the importance of faith. In this spectacular initial from a manuscript, we are able to see the consequences of faith's presence (and its absence).

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.
Becklin*
SENIOR PASTOR



*Deaconess Deborah
Matern Graf*
DEACON FOR
FORMATION
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron
Lee Wenz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION



Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR



Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER

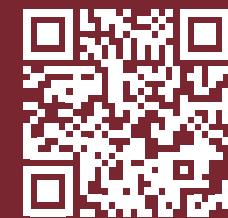


Dave Troche
SEXTON

+

*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.

DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.

WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in **bold print**.

*After the prelude,
please stand in body
or spirit and face the
processional cross.*

*All may make the
sign of the cross, the
sign that is marked
at baptism, as the
presiding minister
begins.*

*Silence is kept for
reflection.*

PRELUDE

Pentecost Prelude

Lisa Speece, flute

Charles Callahan

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts
are open, all desires known, and
from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your
holy name, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us. We confess
that we have turned from you and
given ourselves into the power
of sin. We are truly sorry and
humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our
sins, known and unknown, things
we have done and things we have
failed to do. Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit, so
that we may live and serve you in
newness of life through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin, and
made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved. In the
name of \dagger Jesus Christ, your
sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with
power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.

Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*We praise God
throughout this
service using
Setting Three from
Evangelical Lutheran
Worship.*

*Continue to follow
the processional cross,
turning as it
passes you.*

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

*Continues on the
next page.*

God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer relates to the readings appointed for the day and asks for God's help in applying them to our lives.

Please be seated.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants

and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to

Jeremiah 23:23-29

make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*The psalm is read
responsively; the
congregation reads
the bold text.*

PSALM

Psalm 82

God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

**“How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**

Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.

They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in
darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’”

**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand
in body or spirit to
welcome the Gospel.*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff is in G major and the second is in C major. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with 'Al-le-lu-ia.' appearing at the beginning and end of the first section, and 'You have the words of eternal life.' and 'Al-le-lu-ia.' appearing in the second section.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

ELW 516



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scand and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.



Text: John Cawood,
1775-1852, alt.

Music: ST. FLAVIAN
J. Day,
Psalter, 1562

*Together, we confess
the faith of the
Church.*

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 to the dead.
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 living 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.**

*After the final
petition:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

*The offering, bread,
and wine are
brought forward
and the altar is set.*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

I Will Sing Of Thy Great Mercy, O Lord! *from St. Paul*

F. Mendelssohn

Rob Speece, tenor

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have
made is good, and your love
endures forever. You bring forth
bread from the earth and fruit from
the vine. Nourish us with these

gifts, that we might be for the world
signs of your gracious presence in
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ David Ruth
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ David Unruh
(brother of Ralph
Unruh)
- ♦ Jerry Rhodes
- ♦ Sandi Sittler
- ♦ Frances Frezeman

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Cecilia, Jacinda,
Josh & Christine
Motley
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Owen, Olivia, &
Noah Redmond,
McKenzie, Cobi,
CJ, Ben & Jen
Motley
- ♦ Chris & Rodger
Mountz Jr.
- ♦ Nancy Nagle

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Nancy Souders-
Negri & Fred Negri
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ Yadar (friend of Pat
McMahon)
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl
(Amy Barrett's sister)
- ♦ Susan Templin
(Robin Oberholtzer's
cousin)
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Noah Kaufmann
(friend of Pr. Hans)
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Danielle Andress
(Sonon/Mazur family
member)
- ♦ Carlton Palmer
(friend of the
Norton's)
- ♦ Nancy Nagle
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Raymond Donald
Diesinger (Donnie)
- ♦ Carol Batdorf
- ♦ Mary Drehs

The presider greets the assembly and invites all to give thanks.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

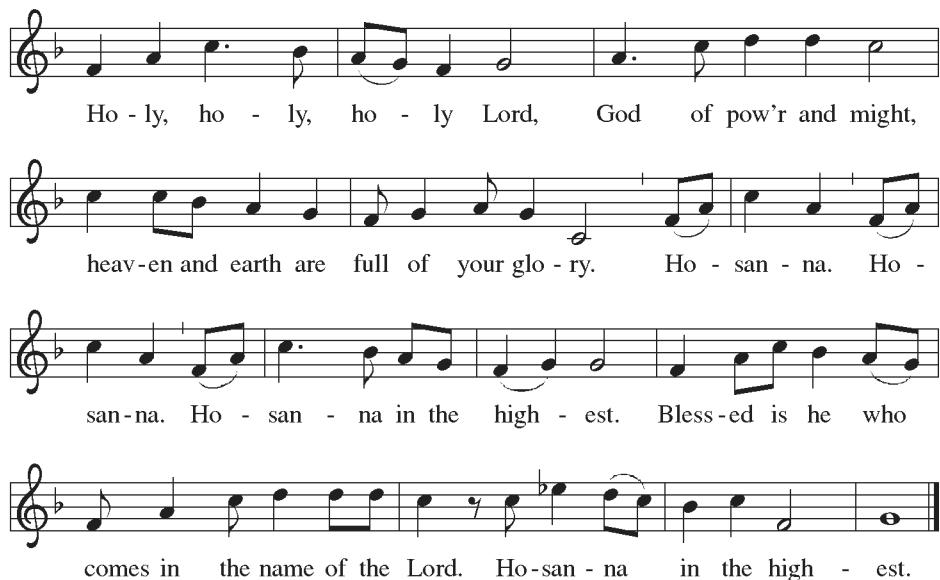
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*During the Words of
Institution, the bread
and wine are elevated
for the congregation
to revere and adore
Christ's presence in
our midst.*

IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED,
OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS;
BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING:
TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS,
AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING:
THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD,
SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those

 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Thou Wilt Keep Him In Perfect Peace

Oley Speaks

Rob Speece, tenor

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

WOW 798



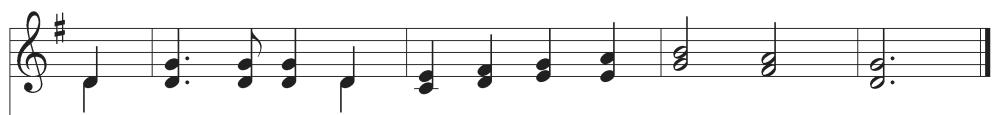
Bless the Lord, O my soul; bless the Lord, O my soul;



and all that is with - in me bless God's ho - ly name.

Text: Psalm 103:1

Music: PRAISE
PSALM
Traditional



*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that
you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to
serve all in need and to give

ourselves away as bread for the
hungry, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

*As a sign of God's
blessing, you may
make the sign
of the cross.*

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn can
be found on page 18.*

SENDING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Adagio & Allegro Moderato *from Sonata for Violin*

Henry Purcell

Lisa Speece, flute

Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.

SENDING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus-tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev -'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is

Text: Edward Mote
1797-1847, alt.

Music: THE SOLID
ROCK
William B. Bradbury,
1816-1868

sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER

ASSISTING MINISTER

CANTOR

LECTOR

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

ACOLYTE

GREETER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin

Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

Joseph Speece

Linda Motley

Avery Mazur

Larry Kummerer

USHERS

Donna Osborne, Jennifer Mazur,

Amy Reinsel

Kate Speece, Veronika Shick,

Jorge Tomas

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, David Himes,

Amy Stewart-Himes, Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Jill Hull & Don Bechtel

WORSHIP SPONSORS

These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.

DAR UNGER

In loving memory of her husband, Richard

SUE & BOB BREMS

in celebration of their 62nd wedding anniversary

The flowers at the baptismal font are given by the Becklin family in loving memory of Alexandra Becklin on the one year anniversary of her death.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

6:00 PM

LEARNING MINISTRIES COMMITTEE- Offsite

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

4:00 PM

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Bard House

7:00 PM

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE - The Highlands

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by Lisa & Rob Speece. Next week's special music will feature Mason Shultz.

Lisa Speece holds degrees in music and education from Susquehanna University and Duquesne University. She is a long-time member of Trinity and teaches privately at the Yocom Institute in West Lawn.

Rob Speece is a senior music major at Susquehanna University. He would like to thank Trinity for their support in his education and career!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

4:00 PM

OUTREACH & SERVICE COMMITTEE-
Birthday Party at the Lighthouse Center

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 10: 83