

# 250<sup>TH</sup>

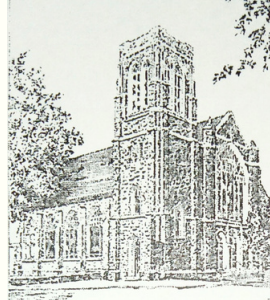


## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

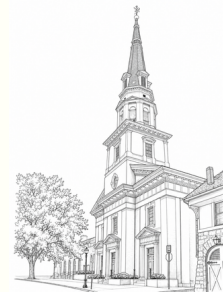
### LANCASTER CITY CONGREGATIONS



**CONGREGATION  
SHAARAI SHOMAYIM  
75 EAST JAMES ST.**



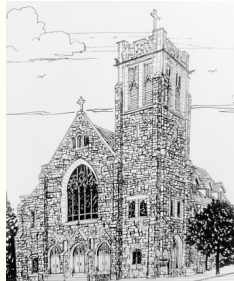
**EMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
540 WEST WALNUT ST.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
140 EAST ORANGE ST.**



**HOLY TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
31 SOUTH DUKE ST.**



**GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
517 NORTH QUEEN ST.**



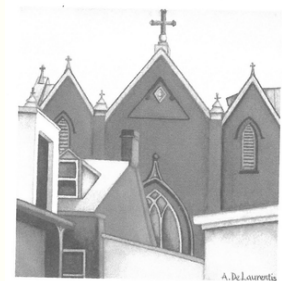
**LORD'S HOUSE  
OF PRAYER  
133 EAST VINE ST.**



**SAINT JAMES  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
103 NORTH DUKE ST.**



**FIRST REFORMED  
CHURCH  
40 EAST ORANGE STREET**



**HISTORIC  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
119 SOUTH PRINCE ST.**



**SECTION ONE - OPEN HOUSE DATES & CONGREGATION HISTORIES**

**SECTION TWO - EVENT LISTINGS**

## **OPEN HOUSE DATES**

*(unless otherwise noted)*

**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 1-4**

**JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> 1-4**

*Congregation Shaarai Shomayim*

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church*

*Grace Lutheran Church*

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*

*First Presbyterian Church*

*First Reformed Church*

*Lord's House of Prayer*

*Saint James Episcopal Church\*\**

*\*\* Open House on June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 1-4 p.m.*

*Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church*

**JULY 5<sup>th</sup> & JULY 12<sup>th</sup>**

City church bells will be rung at noon

**July 8<sup>th</sup> (Tentative)**

A reading of the Declaration of Independence at Penn Square at noon with church bells to be rung prior to the reading.



# HISTORIES

## HISTORY OF CONGREGATION SHAARAI SHOMAYIM

75 East James St. Lancaster 17602

Rabbi Jack P. Paskoff

[www.shaarai.org](http://www.shaarai.org)

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim (“Gates of Heaven”) is the oldest Jewish house of worship in Lancaster County. It was established in 1856 and today worships in its second synagogue, dedicated in 1896, on the northwest corner of N. Duke and E. James Streets.

The congregation is heir to a small Jewish community that began when German Jewish merchant and entrepreneur, Joseph Simon, settled here around 1740. He established a trading post in what is now Penn Square. Simon and his business associate, Issac Nunez Henriques, purchased land for a cemetery in 1747. These events mark Lancaster as one of the oldest Jewish communities in the United States. This burial ground on E. Liberty Street between N. Lime and N. Shippen Streets contains five burials from the colonial period and is still used by the congregation. It is the fourth oldest Jewish burial ground in North America.

Lancaster’s early Jewish community was small, made up of relatives and business associates of Simon. Some traded with Native Americans beyond Lancaster, as far west as the Mississippi Valley. This Jewish community gradually disappeared, and Joseph Simon’s death in 1804 marked the end of Lancaster’s original Jewish community.

In the 1820’s-30’s Jewish peddlers from Philadelphia made their way to Lancaster. Many settled here and established various types of businesses. By 1855 there was a large enough Jewish population for 21 men to meet and plan a formal congregation. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania chartered Congregation Shaarai Shomayim in November 1856. There was no Rabbi and no synagogue. Members worshipped in their homes or business places. In 1867 the congregation built its first synagogue on the southwest corner of E. Orange and N. Christian Streets. In 1884 Shaarai Shomayim hired its first ordained Rabbi and in 1888 became a Reform Jewish Congregation. By 1895, in need of a larger space, the current synagogue was built.

Over the years, the congregation's rabbis and lay leaders have worked together to continually update worship and religious education. Reform Judaism arose in Europe in the early 19th century as a response to Enlightenment values to make Judaism more "modern". In recent decades, some earlier, traditional practices have been reintroduced.

Following the commitment of Tikkun Olam ("repair the world"), the congregation is very involved in the community. Among the outreach efforts are: the partnership with Grace Lutheran Church to serve Community Meals; collections for the Lancaster Food Hub, blood drives in partnership with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, supply kits for guests and volunteers for the Tenfold winter overflow shelter, and activities to support various community programs during our annual day of service (Mitzvah Day). The congregation supports our neighborhood school, Ross Elementary, with clothing drives, food drives, reading, tutoring, school supplies, etc. In 2023 we sponsored a Syrian refugee family.

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**540 West Walnut St. Lancaster 17603**  
[www.elclanpa.org](http://www.elclanpa.org)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church traces its beginnings to Lancaster's westward expansion. In the late 19th century, as new homes were built in the West End, a group of Lutherans recognized the need for a new church. [1] In 1888, they formed a "Working Society" and met in four members' homes during the year. Because the meeting locations changed often and private homes offered limited space, the group worked to secure a permanent site and build a chapel. On April 1, 1889, they purchased a two-story brick house at West Walnut and Pine Streets for \$1,500. The mission used the second floor for Sunday School and rented out the first floor to provide operating income. Those upstairs rooms soon became too small, for the growing Sunday School, so the group decided to construct a proper building. With donated labor and materials, an architect prepared plans, and ground was broken on July 29, 1889, for a new brick chapel. The 30-by-48-foot Gothic-style building was dedicated on December 8, 1889, a remarkable accomplishment for such a small but devoted group. The mission had an indebtedness of \$3,300 upon completion of the chapel. Ongoing costs of property maintenance alone challenged the faithful members to the extreme but they stood by their mission which many had toiled to establish.[2]

In spring 1896, the mission entered a major new phase. It took steps to organize formally as a congregation and to call a pastor. After corresponding with the Philadelphia seminary, the mission invited senior student P. George Sieger to "survey the field". Following three Sundays of preaching, the congregation extended a call to him, effective June 20, 1896. Sieger was ordained at the Ministerium meeting in Allentown on June 1, 1896, and the new Emmanuel congregation was received into membership the next day.[2]

As the congregation grew, numerous changes were made in the physical facilities. The modest chapel soon took on more of the characteristics of a church. In February 1898 action was taken to enlarge the building. It was made 20 feet longer, a side annex and a library room were added, and the corner tower erected. It is believed that the bell in the chapel tower came from one of Lancaster's early firehouses. In spring of 1901 the congregation purchased a 40 by 150-foot lot adjoining the church grounds. Four years later a parsonage was erected at a cost of \$5178.

Today this building serves as the church office and until 1975 was also used as living quarters for our interns from seminary. (Utilization of this property solely as a parsonage ended in March 1965 when Pastor Strube began his ministry at Emmanuel under a monthly housing allowance which permits a pastor to purchase and maintain his own family residence.) [2]

In the fall of 1905, a new pipe organ was installed. It was later to be rebuilt and placed in the new Emmanuel church building in 1917. [2]

In 1907, Emmanuel introduced a "District System of Oversight". Under this plan, several council members were assigned to each of six geographic districts, much like the "Shepherd Plan" adopted 55 years later. [2]

The vision for a larger Emmanuel church building emerged as early as 1908. In the years that followed, especially in 1913 and 1915, momentum increased with the appointment of a 25-member church study commission. The commission recommended immediate construction. On April 26, 1916, the congregation awarded the construction contract to David S. Warfel for a new church designed by A.A. Richter, an architect from Reading. The contract totaled \$42,083, and the final cost, including furnishings, came to \$56,000. [2]

A series of Art Glass windows added significantly to the new building. They portray events in the life of Christ associated with seasons of the church year. Dedication of the new building took place Sunday 25, 1917. Provision was made to include a modest kitchen facility in peripheral changes to the old chapel. [2]

The front art window, depicting Christ blessing little children, was dedicated on November 20, 1927. In 1929, the church was renovated and a new three-manual Moller organ was installed at a cost of \$11,000. In 1931, Pastor Sieger marked his 35th year in Christian ministry. After 36 1/2 years of devoted and pioneering service to Emmanuel, Dr. Sieger died on December 27, 1932, bringing his ministry to a close. [2]

After Pastor Sieger's death, the congregation called the Rev. Ernest Hoh, who also served a lengthy pastorate before retiring in 1965. During his ministry, Emmanuel's educational program expanded significantly, and in 1953 the congregation added a new education building designed by member and architect William "Bill" Heim.

Pastors Sieger and Hoh served Emmanuel for a combined 68 years. Their three immediate successors served a total of 21 years. The Rev. Kurt Strause was then called to serve as Emmanuel's sixth pastor in 1987 and served until his retirement in 2019. During his tenure the congregation established a nursery school that served the neighborhood for 20 years. Youth mission trips, two renovations of the nave, and the installation of a Rogers electronic organ also took place during his ministry. Since 2019, Emmanuel has been led by intentional part-time pastors.

Emmanuel is currently served by the Rev. Michael Fischer, whose interim will conclude on July 1, 2026. As that date approaches, the congregation faces important decisions about its near-term future and how it will continue serving Christ's Kingdom beyond 2026.

#### References

[1] "A Century of Faith 1896-1996" and 1996 Directory of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, by Charles Melchert and The Rev. Kurt S. Strause, Pastor (1996)

[2] 75th Anniversary – A Brief History of Emmanuel Lutheran Church 1896-1971, by Richard Pontz, Lancaster, PA, Forry & Hacker (1971)

## **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**40 East Orange St. Lancaster 17602**

**Dr. Dominique Denman**

**[www.firstreformedlancaster.org](http://www.firstreformedlancaster.org)**

From 1725 to 1729 German families, primarily from the Palatinate region, were worshipping in their homes on the Lancaster frontier. In 1730 James Hamilton laid out the Borough of Lancaster and awarded lots to the groups that were worshipping in their homes. Four “churches” were awarded one lot each; the German Reformed Church of the High Dutch Protestants (now First Reformed Church), St. James Episcopal, Trinity Lutheran, and First Presbyterian. They are known collectively as the “Hamilton Land Grant Churches.” At that time there were about 200 inhabitants in Lancaster, living in a few scattered houses and businesses, within two to three blocks of the Square.

First Reformed built the first house of worship, a log cabin at what is now the corner of E. Orange St and N. Christian St, and conducted the first worship service on June 20, 1736. By 1750 the existing log cabin church was too small and the congregation decided to build a stone church, which was dedicated in 1753. The congregation outgrew that facility and built the present brick church, which was dedicated on February 19, 1854. The plot of ground, upon which the current brick church building stands has never been used for any purpose other than the service of God. Today, First Reformed Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. We are proud of our history and our role in the growth and development of Lancaster City. We are equally honored and grateful for our service to the Lancaster community into the 21st Century.

First Reformed Church continues to serve the people of Lancaster as a “Church for the City”; partnering with 18 other churches serving 16,000 meals annually, during our Tuesday evening dinners, and our Saturday morning breakfasts. Additionally, the church provides a prayer room and clothing distribution center on Saturday mornings. FRC provides much needed space for various groups including: four recovery groups, a Girl Scout Troop and other worship organizations. Our outreach includes a partnership with George Ross Elementary School, providing supplies for students and staff.

First Church also partakes in the arts with our “Organic Reflections” concerts on the First Friday of every month, and our “Arts in the Garden” gatherings in the Spring and Summer months.

First Reformed is an “Open and Affirming Church”, meaning “whoever you are, and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” Come Join us! After 290 years “we are still here”, and looking forward to observing our 300th anniversary.

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**140 East Orange Street, Lancaster 17602**

**Rev. Dan Snyder**

**[www.fpclancasterpa.org](http://www.fpclancasterpa.org)**

First Presbyterian Church stands on land purchased by the father of Robert Fulton for the congregation's cemetery in 1742. Some of our prominent worshippers include Edward Shippen, William Montgomery, Jeremiah Mosher (Brigadier General in the War of 1812), Thaddeus Stevens, and President James Buchanan. Our first pastor, Rev. John Woodhull, served as Chaplain on the Revolutionary battlefield under Colonel John Boyd in 1777.

The sanctuary is defined by a collection of twelve large stained-glass windows. They were given over a period from 1909 to 1923. Nine were made by Tiffany Studios in New York City. The other three are by Nicola D'Acenzo of Philadelphia after the Tiffany Company went out of business. The sanctuary is also home to one of the finest organs in America, the Aeolian-Skinner with nearly 5,000 pipes in 75 sets.

The Celtic Cross at the front of our sanctuary was forged on the island of Iona, Scotland and brought to the church in 1967. Cast in Philadelphia in 1864, the bell in our steeple still rings out on notable occasions.

Also visit the tranquil Memorial Garden behind the northern section of the building where many prominent leaders of Lancaster are laid to rest. And while enjoying the peaceful garden, ponder the early founders of the City of Lancaster still buried beneath the Evans Chapel built over the site of that first cemetery.

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**517 North Queen St, Lancaster 17603**

**Rev. Stephen Verkouw**

**[www.gracelutheranchurch.com](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.com)**

Come visit Grace Lutheran, a beautiful church designed by Lancaster's famous and accomplished architect, C. Emlen Urban. At 517 N. Queen Street since 1874, its former building had a bell tower in which rang a most distinguished bell, until it cracked - just like the real Liberty Bell! Lancaster's Liberty Bell was cast in 1745 in England and was originally intended for the Ephrata Cloister, but the community refused it and sold it instead to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. There it rang for many years as a call to worship, but also as the main bell in the center of town to alert the citizens to important events. These included the public reading of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the brief meeting in Lancaster of the Continental Congress in 1777.

When Trinity built a new bell tower with new bells, this bell was sold to the Washington Volunteer Fire Company in 1853 where it rang for many more years to call the firefighters from their homes.

When the City of Lancaster established its professional fire service in 1823, the bell was bought and gifted to the newly built Grace Lutheran Church where it rang until it cracked in 1886.

In 1926 it traveled to Philadelphia to be displayed with 6 other similar "Liberty Bells" from other PA cities.

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**31 South Duke St. Lancaster PA 17602**  
**Rev. Joel Petruschke**  
**[www.trinitylanaster.org](http://www.trinitylanaster.org)**

Holy Trinity Lutheran church was formed in 1730, the same year Lancaster was established. In four years, the congregation celebrates its 300th anniversary. Construction of the present sanctuary was begun in 1761 and completed in 1766, such that Holy Trinity is truly a pre-Revolutionary church. The church's steeple was built between 1785 and 1794. At the time of its completion, the steeple rose to 195 feet, making it the second tallest structure in all of North America, dwarfed only by the steeple of Christ Church in Philadelphia. Trinity's building and steeple are in fact modeled after Christ Church.

We invite you to come and see Holy Trinity, as well as ascend the church steeple. Please call (717-397-2734) in advance to schedule a tour of the steeple. Come and see the church where the parents of Milton Hersey were married, and where Charles Demuth was baptized. Come and see the historic Tannenberg organ case in our church's sanctuary, which at its completion in 1774 was the largest and most expensive piece of American furniture. Come and see our pew boxes; members rented their individual pew boxes until 1945. Come and see the prominent raised pulpit designed by Samuel Sloan, who designed the Fulton Opera House and Lancaster Court House.

Recognizing our segregated past, and striving to reconcile with that past, today Holy Trinity partners with the Lancaster branch of the NAACP and the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania. Holy Trinity also works closely with the MLK Scholarship Board.

Every Sunday, members of our congregation provide a warm breakfast and worship to the impoverished community in Lancaster, serving as many as 150 individuals each week.

We partner as well with Quest, a lecture program consisting of a Fall and a Spring weekly series. And much much more...

Of course, you are welcome to join us for worship in our main nave every Sunday morning at **9:30a.m.** and for stimulating weekly programs in our Parish House next door at **11:00a.m.** each Sunday.

## **SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**103 North Duke Street, Lancaster 17602**

**Rev. David Peck**

**[www.saintjameslanaster.org](http://www.saintjameslanaster.org)**

The congregation of Saint James was formed in 1744 when a minister from the Church of England's missionary society, arrived in Lancaster. At first the people met in the courthouse but in 1753 the first church was completed. The church building you see today was built in 1820 and was extensively renovated in the 1870s and 1880s by the Philadelphia architect C. M. Burns when Saint James embraced the beauty and theology of the high church Oxford Movement.

For nearly 300 years, parishioners have been active citizens in our community and nation. The church closed in 1776 when the loyalist clergyman refused to submit to the demand of the patriot congregation to remove prayers for the King. Among the many fine stained glass windows you will find one dedicated to George Ross, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a lay leader here and one to Harriet Lane Johnston's family. A niece of President James Buchanan, she attended this church before serving as his First Lady in the White House. Here too you will find plaques to famous clergymen as well as many educationalists including Thomas Burrowes, President of Penn State University, and J.P. McCaskey, after whom the public high school is named.

In our historic churchyard there are gravestones for revolutionary patriots, church and civic leaders and their families. Along with General Edward Hand's grave, you can see the those of Edward Shippen and Stephen Chambers, after whom are named the towns of Shippensburg and Chambersburg. However, many gravestones are lost, or were never provided, especially for women and enslaved Africans.

Two remarkable women we remember but who lack a marker are Charlotte Rowe, who after becoming a Baptist became the first American female to be officially recognized as a missionary; and Dinah McIntyre, who after securing her freedom became a business woman. To learn more see the panels on Orange Street.

We invite you to join us for prayer, study, and more throughout the week and to check out The Urban Well, a center for contemplative prayer and spirituality by visiting our website [Saintjameslanaster.org](http://Saintjameslanaster.org).

## **HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**119 South Prince St. Lancaster 17603**

**Fr. Brian Olkowski**

**[www.stmaryslancaster.org](http://www.stmaryslancaster.org)**

### **THE HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

St. Mary's is the fourth oldest Catholic Church in the original thirteen colonies, following the Maryland, Philadelphia, and Conewago missions. Its long history reveals the important part it played in the beginnings of Roman Catholicism in this country. In Colonial America, Catholics faced persecution, rugged terrain, and constant obstacles. It is a formidable story of dauntless characters in the most challenging of times. In 1741, two German Jesuit priests, Fr. William Wappeler, S. J. and Fr. Theodore Schneider, S. J., arrived in Lancaster to begin the county's first Catholic mission, which is now St. Mary's Church.

Fr. Wappeler was St. Mary's first pastor. His letters give us an invaluable portrait of our parish's beginnings. They describe his arrival in Lancaster, conditions of the early settlement, and his efforts to serve his flock of 100 people, spread out over a 20-mile area. Despite the challenges, his congregation doubled, and six new assembly places were established in the first year.

### **ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILDINGS**

The first church, completed in 1742, was a log chapel, despite Fr. Wappeler's desire for a stone church. In 1760, arson destroyed the log chapel. Parishioners gathered limestone from the fields and erected a new stone church. The corner stone was laid in 1762, and the church was officially named the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This second church building was erected on the site of the original log chapel, where the adjacent school and convent building now sit.

### **CURRENT CHURCH BUILDING**

The growth in numbers and prosperity of local Catholics in the mid-1800s brought about a need for a new and larger church building. The departure of the German Catholics to establish nearby St. Joseph's Parish in 1850 did not eliminate overcrowding, as Irish Catholic immigrants continued to add to the congregation. Thus, the present church was erected next to the stone church. The foundation wall stone came from the old jail at King and Prince Streets.

The vigorous building of the church, begun in 1852., was described by a past church historian and pastor in this way: “A healthy rivalry (with the Germans at St. Joseph’s) – true Irishmen do not like to be outdone in anything, especially in generosity to God – brought out the best results.”

The church was consecrated in March of 1854 in the presence of Bishop John Neumann (now St. John Neumann) and Fr. Bernard Keenan, as well as a good portion of the Lancaster community. Fr. Keenan, who was pastor of St. Mary’s from 1823 until 1877, was a friend of President Buchanan and Thaddeus Stevens and was well-loved by the community during his 54 years of guiding the parish.

After an 1867 fire and an extensive reconstruction, the roof and gables were raised from two stories to the present height. The rebuilt church was re-dedicated in 1868, and the congregation defrayed the cost of repairs by selling tickets of admission of the dedication services.

The old stone church stayed in place next to the current church building until 1881, when it was removed for construction of the present school and convent, which opened in 1884 under the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

## **WORKS OF ART**

Nearly all of the fine works of art that grace St. Mary’s Church today came about through the inspiration and effort of our parish’s 26th pastor, Rev. Dr. Peter J. McCullagh. In 1885, under his direction, the entire exterior and interior were renovated and transformed. The sanctuary was enlarged and the Gothic arches were constructed, with new side altars replacing former storage rooms. These new side chapel were formed after St. Peter’s in Rome. The choir loft was lowered at this time, and spiral staircases were added. The reconstruction of the organ, with its large front pipes ornamented with gold leaf, was one of the main attractions.

During the late 1800s, Fr. McCullagh commissioned the creation of the stained glass windows, the marble altars, the marble statues of Mary, St. Anne, and St. Joseph, the relief-sculptured Stations of the Cross, and the three altar paintings.

**LORD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
**133 East Vine St, Lancaster 17602**  
**Rev. Matthew Kroll**  
**[www.LHOP.com](http://www.LHOP.com)**

The Lord's House of Prayer vision is to Establish, Equip, and Encourage individuals to fulfill their God given destinies in Lancaster County and around the world.

### **WE ARE THAT CHURCH**

Our mission is to be like Jesus.

We TRUST the WORD of GOD and follow His Spirit.

We LOVE abundantly and WORSHIP passionately.

We EXPECT miracles and BELIEVE in the power of prayer.

We operate in the GIFTS of the SPIRIT and stand on His promises.

We live with HOPE and give generously.

We ENCOURAGE one another and KNOW that God made us for a PURPOSE.

Together, our FAITH can MOVE MOUNTAINS and IMPACT THE WORLD.

The Lord's House of Prayer is actively involved generationally in our community, county, state and the world. We believe standing on and living in God's truth and love truly changes lives. We believe that everyone is unique with special giftings and talents that are to be used for His glory

To learn more please check us out and plan your visit at [www.LHOP.com](http://www.LHOP.com)

You are welcome to experience the presence, love and power of our heavenly Father with us as we worship Him every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. We would love you to join us.

# EVENT LISTINGS

## CONGREGATION SHARAI SHOMAYIM

75 EAST JAMES ST.

**Friday evening, June 19** The Shabbat Service will honor the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

**Sunday, July 5 from 11:00-12:00**

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim Cemetery East Liberty St. between North Lime and North Shippen Streets.

You are invited to join us as we commemorate the refurbishment of the grave sites at our historic 1747 cemetery in honor of our nation's 250th birthday and in memory of our congregation's premier historian, David Brener.

# EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

540 WEST WALNUT ST.

*This is a jubilee year, the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. As church bells ring across the land, we are reminded of the biblical command in Leviticus 25:10 to sound the horn throughout the land and proclaim liberty to all the inhabitants therein. These words are engraved on the Liberty Bell and originally meant to be observed every fifty years by the Israelites under Moses.*

- **Sunday Worship Services – Communion Weekly.**  
September thru May – 10:15 a.m.  
June, July, August – 9:00 a.m.
- **Adult Sunday School – September thru May, 9a.m.** Various topics.
- **Bible Study – All year, no summer break.**  
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.
- **Guttenberg Gab** -Discussion of selected books, meets monthly.
- **2nd Thursday in the Neighborhood** – Fellowship, games, activities, light refreshments, 10 a.m. to noon. Adult neighbors and congregational members.
- **Ash Wednesday Service** – with imposition of ashes.  
*May be during the day or evening.*
- **Holy Week Services** – includes Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
- **Maundy Thursday** – service concludes with stripping the alter. May be during the day or evening. Evening would be 7 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – Tenebrae, service of shadows, 7 p.m.
- **Blessing of the Animals** – first Saturday in October, 11 a.m. Rain or shine
- **Halloween Trick or Treat** – 6-8 p.m.as designated by City, usually the 31st.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight service, 7 p.m.**

## FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

40 East Orange Street

**FIRST FRIDAY, JULY 3, 8:00 P.M.**

The First Friday "Organic Reflections" concert series will feature Guest Organist, Ken Krause. The program "Stars, Stripes & Pipes" will feature 30 minutes of majestic pipe organ music that will refresh your soul and inspire your spirit.

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

517 North Queen St, Lancaster 17603

## LANCASTER'S LIBERTY BELL

The bell will be viewable inside the church from **1-4 p.m. during the Open House on July 5, 2026**, and through the window of the Grace Church solarium just off the North Queen St sidewalk at any other time.

## **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

31 South Duke St.

### **JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> FIRST FRIDAY SPEAKER SERIES:**

“HOLY TRINITY AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR”

Please join us at 5:00 p.m. for the ringing of our steeple bells, followed by a brief organ demonstration. The speaker for this evening will be Tim Slaugh who will share information about Trinity members and their connection to the Revolutionary War. Refreshments will follow the presentation. No fee. No Reservation required.

### **JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Please join us for a special worship service at 9:30 a.m. The service will begin with a fife and drum processional and a reading of the Declaration of Independence. The sermon for the day will focus on “What would God say about the Declaration of Independence?”

### **STEEPLE TOURS ON JUNE 7 & JULY 12 1-4**

If you would like to join a tour of the steeple during the open houses on June 7th and July 12th, please contact Holy Trinity at 717-397-2734.

### **VIEW THE CHURCH – THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.**

During the summer, you are invited to view and photograph the church decked out in its patriotic best. The pre-Revolutionary building, constructed from 1760 -1766, will be decorated with red, white and blue bunting, making a perfect photo op.

## **LORD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER**

133 EAST VINE ST

### **JUNE 7 & JULY 12 OPEN HOUSE THEME**

“How Faith and the Clergy Helped Shape the Revolutionary Movement”

## **HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

119 South Prince St.

*Come and see the fourth oldest Catholic church in the colonies.*

### **DOORS OF THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN ON:**

**JUNE 7TH FROM 1-4 P.M.**

We will have:

- Displays detailing some interesting history of the church
- Light refreshments
- Guided tour from **1-2 p.m.**
- Self- guided tour and scavenger hunt at the other hours
- Prayer and evangelization team- if you would like to pray together or have questions about the faith, members of our prayer and evangelization team will be available.

**JULY 12TH FROM 1- 4 P.M.**

We will have:

- Displays detailing some interesting history of the church
- Light refreshments
- Guided tour from **1-2 p.m.**
- Patriotic hymn sing-a-long at **2 p.m.**
- Self- guided tour and scavenger hunt at the other hours
- Prayer and evangelization team- if you would like to pray together or have questions about the faith, members of our prayer and evangelization team will be available.

## **SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

103 North Duke Street

### **SUNDAY BRUNCH REVOLUTIONARY TEXTS LECTURE SERIES**

Many texts contain “revolutionary ideas” that have shaped American history and identity. In a four part lecture series, leading social historians and theologians will reflect on a range of radical texts that challenge, expand or declare unfulfilled the aspirations set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 11.45 A.M. AT THE PARISH HOUSE**

Father David will focus on the specifically religious language at the heart of the Declaration of Independence and Dr Cordelia Moyse will explore the impact of the Declaration on the people of Saint James.

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 12, 11.45 A.M. AT THE PARISH HOUSE**

Dr Drew Hermeling will explore the 1613 Two Row Wampum Treaty between the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois) and the colonial Dutch government and its spiritual and culturally importance in indigenous social history and American socio-political understanding.

Registration is required for each lecture with a suggested donation of \$25 for adults. Visit [saintjameslancaster.org](http://saintjameslancaster.org).

The next two lectures will be in the fall.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT MASS: A MASS IN BRASS FOR AMERICA**

#### **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 5 P.M.**

This celebratory Mass, led by the Gene Clark Brass Ensemble, will blend scripture, hymns, reflections and virtuoso performance to rejoice in the history, landscape and spiritual breadth of our country.

### **READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 4, 10 A.M. IN THE CHURCHYARD**

Join us for brief morning prayers, a reading of the Declaration of Independence and a singing of our National Anthem.

**BETHEL AME CHURCH  
450-512 E. STRAWBERRY ST.**

**READING OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS' "WHAT TO THE SLAVE IS THE 4TH OF JULY?"**

**SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2 P.M. DOORS WILL OPEN AT 1 P.M.**

Join a community reading of this powerful document as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Organized by the African American Historical Society of South Central PA.