

Flags on Display at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster PA

Located outside the chancel rail are two flags, The American flag and the Christian Flag.

The American flag, known as the Stars and Stripes, has been our national emblem since June 14, 1777. The colors of the flag are significant. The red is for courage; white for purity; and blue for truth and loyalty.

"The Christian flag, envisioned on September 26, 1897 by Charles C. Overton, signifies Christianity in its entirety—the faith, worship, tradition, responsibilities, and all its other blessings. The cross on the flag symbolizes the Christian Religion, God's love for man as exemplified in Jesus' life and death, and the promise of eternal life."

Eight other flags are periodically displayed from the galleries. These represent periods in our nation's history during the early years of Trinity Church.



On the East Gallery proceeding from north to south, we see first the **Betsy Ross flag- the original Stars and Stripes of 1777**. A committee of three including George Washington, George Ross (Lancaster), and Robert Morris (Manheim) was commissioned by Congress to propose a flag for the new nation. They chose thirteen stars on a blue field with thirteen red and white stripes. Betsy Ross, niece of George Ross was chosen to make the first flag.



The Grand Union flag of 1775, the first Continental Navy flag was hoisted by John Paul Jones December 3, 1775.



The Continental flag 1775, carried at **Bunker Hill**, bears the pine tree, symbol of the Massachusetts Bay Colony which minted pine tree shillings in 1652.



The Kings Colors, the red, white and blue flag of the United Kingdom (Great Britain) was carried by the British Red Coats during the Revolutionary War.

From the West Gallery, displayed from north to south are:



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania flag which bears the state seal on a blue field



1st Pennsylvania Regiment flag was presumably the flag used by the Battalion of Pennsylvania Riflemen in which **Lancastrians served during the Revolutionary War.**



The Gadsden flag, 1775 was presented to Commodore Hopkins as commodore's flag of the First Fleet Command by Colonel Christopher Gadsden. It was **hoisted** at the same time as the Grand Union flag and the First Navy Jack, **December 3, 1775**. The yellow flag bears a coiled serpent and the words "DON'T TREAD ON ME".



Washington's Cruisers flag or the Pine Tree flag, 1776, banner of the First American Naval Fleet was flown by Washington's six cruisers in 1775 before adoption of the Continental Navy Flag. This white flag with a green pine tree bears the words "AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN".