

Trinity Tidings for Dec. 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA, 19565, 610.678.1782,
e-mail: tlcworship@aol.com, www.trinitywernersville.org, [facebook.com/trinitywernersville](https://www.facebook.com/trinitywernersville)
Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Nancy Moyer, Sexton: Jamie Black



The Annunciation, 2000 by: John Collier



Christmas card, 2005 by: British artist Banksy



Rest on the Flight into Egypt, 1879 by: Luc Olivier Merson

Blessings to all as we enter this time of Advent and Christmas. Pictured on the previous page are three of my most favorite works of “holiday” art. I find them to be beautiful, thought provoking, and a little bit controversial. They make me think. They keep me grounded in who Jesus is and what it means for God to become a human born into this flawed, corrupt, upside-down world of human beings. It is important. For as much as I love to decorate for Christmas and get caught up in the magic of carols and cookies, coming back to these works of art help me to keep my celebration in perspective.

Seeing Mary dressed in her jumper with saddle shoes and ankle socks, hesitantly looking over the top of her book as the arch-angel Gabriel seemingly asks forgiveness for interrupting her day, pulls at my heart. How could she have known the magnitude of such an extraordinary, innocent encounter? That her decision to bear the Christ child would change the course of human life for all time and beyond? For us to experience this event in modern terms is both profound and provocative. I am caught off guard and in awe when I see this scene in a way that hits home.

And then there is the Christmas card created by Banksy. In it he portrays a heavily pregnant Mary on donkey riding alongside Joseph as they arrive at Bethlehem. Only this time they confront the modern day *Israeli West Bank Barrier*—a real place. If it had been standing in ancient times, it would have blocked the couple’s journey into Bethlehem. Take it how you will, but for me it represents so much more than a simple physical barrier. In it I see the barriers we put up between each other and our relationship with God—our inability to hear the gospel and bring down the walls of judgment, hatred, and injustice. Jesus’ birth into the world was the breaking in of the kingdom into our human lives. It changes everything. And because of that we are called to make rubble of these walls and barriers.

The final work of art depicts Mary, Joseph, and the child Jesus resting beside the Egyptian Sphinx of Giza (already more than 2000 years old when Jesus was born). There is such a sense of peace and release as they have finally reached their destination. They are exhausted having run for their lives from the murderous hand of King Herod. Here they find refuge and solace. Spent and alone mother and child lay within the massive paws of the half human, half lion stone figure as Joseph collapses onto the barren earth. The saddle lies on the ground by a weary donkey as a small fire keeps watch. This is the Silent Night, the Holy Night where all is calm.

What works of art—whether it be theater, writings, music, or dance—expand your imagination and mind in ways that enrich your faith? How will you hear the Christmas story and message this year? Where will you find a renewing of faith and a deeper understanding of the good news?

Christmas blessings to all,
Pr. Julie

Council Highlights

- Approved 2022 Budget
- Nominating Committee appointed to select 2 church council members for 2022-2025. Cindy Hassler/Schappell has agreed to serve a second term. Committee is: Scott Franzen, Helen Hummel and Pastor Julie.
- Settlement on sale of property at 108/110 S. Walnut St occurred on 11/16 for \$133,724.51.
- Continue to evaluate covid protocols.
- No Council meeting in December. Next meeting on Tuesday, 1/18/2022 @ 7:30 PM.



On December 5th we will have our annual Advent Fun Shop following worship. We will begin with a light lunch and then proceed to the craft tables to make Christmas items. This is a family event.

We have 8 craft tables this year.



Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, Dec. 19th for election of council members and approval of 2022 budget.



Christmas Eve candlelight worship services with Holy Communion on Friday, 12/24 @ 3:30 & 7:30 PM

Sunday Morning Flower Arrangements



We love Sunday morning altar flowers, especially on a cold, snowy Sunday. There is no better way to be reminded of God's creation than to have flowers in church. So, in order to continue having flowers, some things must change. **As a result of a cost increase from Royer's Florist, the cost of flowers will go up to \$40.00. We will also be responsible for taking liners to the florist and picking up the flowers on a Saturday. Barb Debiec has graciously offered to do this. However if you would be willing to help Barbara when she is unable, please let Barb or Deacon Carol know that you would be willing to be her backup on occasion.** We are also blessed to have several artificial arrangements which have been skillfully prepared by Helen Hummel to use on any Sunday when we do not have a sponsor.

How are We Doing?
Trinity's Financial Summary for October

Average Weekly Giving in October, 2021: **\$3,026.80**

Average in October, 2020: **\$3,928.50**

Total income to date in 2021: **\$153,885.00**

Total income to date in 2020: **\$150,776.73**

Total expenses to date in 2021: **\$156,844.42**

Total expenses to date in 2020: **\$147,238.56**

Total income in October: **\$15,134.00**

Total expenses in October: **\$15,843.89**

Percentage of Mission Support for 2021: to Synod: **83%**, to Mission District: **83%** **Thank you for your generosity.**

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Elaine Briner, Mary De Long, Cheri Giangiacomo, Tedd Hickernell, Karen Houck, and Sandra Miller.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Joan Kava, Diane Klinger, Rosie Putt, Betty Reber, Pat Sickles, and Kay Weatherholtz.

The Military: Rena Butcavage, Natalie Ketner, and Justin Klinger.

Family and Friends: Wanda Barnett, Carolyn Bryant, Fred DeLong, Marge Dietrich, Peggy Guido, Glenn Helbert, Betty Kauffman,

Shirley Kerchner, Tom Koerner, Hannah Kramer, Jake Powers,

Clairre Putt, Tom Reppert, David Smith, Jerry Zachousk, and Ann Zimmerman.

Special Ministries: Our missionary in Tanzania-Stephen Friberg and his Family.

Please let us know when our prayers are answered so we can keep our prayer list current.

Looking for ways to give back this Holiday Season? Why not consider a gift to Western Berks Shepherding! This important ministry provides transportation to doctor appointments, the pharmacy and the grocery store to individuals in need in our community. While many of us take these simple acts for granted, our clients cannot. For them, our services are not a convenience, they are a necessity. We do not charge our clients for these services. While we accept donations, many are on a fixed income and can only afford to give very little. Because of this, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to cover our operating expenses. Your tax-deductible gift, this holiday season, will allow us to continue to actively serve them in 2022. Checks may be made payable to Western Berks Shepherding Ministries, Inc. and mailed c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 108 S. Robeson St., Robeson, PA, 19551. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$40.00 as of December 5th. If you are sponsoring the flowers, please note that there are flower envelopes in the narthex beside the sign up list for altar flowers. Please put your check (payable to Trinity) or cash in the envelope and place in the offering plate. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins is **\$15.00**. We also want to remind you that the week you are an altar flower sponsor, please call the office, Nancy Moyer, or contact the altar guild person listed in the bulletin if you want to keep the flowers. Otherwise, the flowers will be given to the sick, shut-ins, or others in need. Thanks. **We need bulletin sponsors for 12/12, 12/24 and 12/26. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for December: 12/5-Marie and Joe Rosati in honor of their wedding anniversary, 12/12-Barbara Debiec in memory of loved ones, 12/19-Jordan and Megan Wagner in loving memory of their grandparents Dallas and Erma Wagner, 12/24 & 12/26-Anne Marie Rineheimer in memory of her parents.

Bulletin Sponsors for December: 12/5-Mary Young in memory of her husband's birthday, 12/12-Available, 12/19-Janice Lamm in remembrance of the birth of Jesus, 12/24 and 12/26-Available.

Helpers for December

Altar Guild: Anne Marie Rinehimer

Communion Assistant: Allison Given (12/5), 12/24-3:30 PM-TBD,
12/24-7:30 PM-Deacon Carol.

Acolytes: 12/5-Tacy Grippon, 12/12-Emily Kaiser, 12/19-Alexis Shoumlisky, 12/24-(3:30 PM)-Quentin Light and Alexis & Sam Shoumlisky, (7:30 PM)-Jocelyn & Carson Enck and Owen Wentzel, 12/26-Bob Bashore

Lay Readers: 12/5-Ed Evans, 12/12-Aislin Given, 12/19-Charlotte Moyer, 12/25 and 12/26-TBD

Ushers: 12/5-Bashores, 12/12-Lawrys, 12/19-Kurtzes, 12/24-TBD, 12/26-Givens.

Sound System: 12/5-Stephanie Kurtz., 12/12- Scott Franzen, 12/19-Wendell Byler, 12/24 (3:30 PM)-Scott Franzen, (7:30 PM)-Stephanie Kurtz, 12/26-Wendell Byler, 1/2-Scott Franzen.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 12/5-no Sunday School/Advent Fun Shop after church, 12/12-Betty Lou Franzen, 12/19-Helen Hummel, 12/26 & 1/2-no Sunday School.

Counters: 12/5-Debiec/Rinehimer, 12/12-Franzens, 12/19- Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 12/24-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 12/26- Debiec/Rinehimer

Bulletin Assemblers: 12/2-June Rapley, 12/8-Connie Fritz, 12/15-Linda Weiss, 12/22-Kathy Lawry and Bonnie Giamotti, 12/29-Laura Krick.

Newsletter Assembly: Kathy Lawry

Church Council Members

Harmony Wentzel, President 610-390-9986

Glen Given, Vice President 484-955-1780

Izannah Bashore 610-488-0520

Wendell Byler, 610-670-8512

Scott Franzen 610-781-7674

Dawn Hickernell 717-507-3549

Jerry Jarsocrak 610-670-0954

Elwood (Woody) Noll 484-638-2057

Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131



Charlotte Moyer will be 83 and James Klinger will be 80. Happy Birthday to both of you.