

Trinity Tidings for March 2022

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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Nancy Moyer, Sexton: Roy Kline

Taste and See

Sometimes I think if I hear one more word about Covid I'm going to scream. And praise God things do seem to be better, though we continue to be vigilant. For the first time in a very long time, we will begin congregational singing starting with Ash Wednesday. A lot has happened throughout Covid. You've heard me preach and teach about the changing church—something that Covid has accelerated.

As we shortened our worship service to lessen contact time between people it became important to focus on what is most important in worship. Like a pot of stew, worship is full of song, prayer, litanies, sung liturgy, statements of faith, confession, more prayer, scripture readings, Psalms, anthems, and once and a while Holy Communion (sacrament), along with offerings of music and gifts. But when Covid hit, we had to take a long hard look at what could be "cut" and what needed to stay.

Once we boiled down our stew, it was clear that confession, prayer, word (scripture and sermon), a statement of faith, and Holy Communion were left in the pot—especially the Lord's Supper. After not celebrating Holy Communion at all during the lockdown of 2020, it became clear that the Lord's Supper was more than just some special once-in-a-while thing. People missed it. Person after person asked over and over, "Can't we figure out a way to have communion?" "When can we have communion?" I already knew we were missing it, but I was surprised at how many other people missed it, too. We were yearning for the meal that nurtures and sustains us—builds us up—especially in times of trial. And no one has to tell us Covid has been a time of trial. We needed to be blessed by the real presence of Jesus Christ before heading back out into a difficult and scary world.

It is no wonder Jesus tells us to do it. The Lord's Supper is a holy time when Jesus comes to us in bread and cup, it is as important as the air we breathe and the food we eat. And it is, of course, the food we eat. Have you ever come into the house after a long, hard day of work? The two things we usually want to do are get cleaned up and have something to eat.

These two things—getting cleaned up and having something to eat—are the very essence of our sacramental acts of baptism and Holy Communion. Our sacraments are as common to us as daily bathing and eating. And it is to be received as such. Our identity as children of God is played out in the everyday act of eating bread and drinking juice. For this is where Jesus meets us. Jesus is in, with, and under the holy food that we eat.

I don't know about you, but every time we gather as a community of faithful believers called to share in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, but do not share in it, I feel short changed—like I've been left out of something I desperately need. And I have.

As in our pre-Covid days of Lent we will again be offering Soup and Study at 6:00 p.m. followed by devotions and the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Come and be nourished once a week. Taste and see.

Blessings,
Pr. Julie



Easter Flower signup begins Sunday 3/6 thru 3/27. Cost of flowers is \$10.00. Flowers will be used to adorn the chancel at Easter vigil and on Easter morning. You may take your plant after service on Easter morning.

Upcoming Events

The Annual Congregational Meeting for reception of reports and adoption of endowment and rental management budgets will be held following worship on Sunday 3/13. Reports will be available in the narthex by 3/6 and will be emailed to everyone who has an email address on record in the office.



Join us on Sunday, April 10 (Palm/Passion Sunday) @ 11:30 AM-as we celebrate Palm Sunday and prepare for Easter.

It will be much like our Advent Fun Shop but preparing for Easter rather than Christmas.

We will begin with a light lunch and then proceed to the craft tables to make Palm Crosses and Easter items. This is an event for all ages. Sign-up sheets for attendance and food will be in the narthex later in March.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday of the Passion with Holy Communion Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, Worship and Holy Communion 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15, Tenebrae Service 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday April 16, beginning outside with bonfire @ 5:30 p.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday worship and Holy Communion April 17 in person 10:30 a.m.

My Life at Trinity: Generosity Sunday

Mark your calendars everyone! April 24th is Generosity Sunday! On this day we celebrate who we are as a people of Trinity. We will celebrate the God we love, and the joy of giving of our time, talents, and treasures born out of our love for Jesus Christ. We hope to take our 2022 group photo as well.

After worship we plan to have a delicious catered meal to say thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church over the past year and in the year to come. If there should be a Covid set-back, we will provide take-home lunches as we did last year.

Thank you all so much for your financial support particularly during Covid. We can joyfully say that we have been blessed even through Covid time.

Knowing that Lent is a time of prayer, repentance, reflection, and acts of service, it is the perfect time to prayerfully consider the time, talent, and treasures we might offer to the ministries of Trinity, the synod, and the greater church in the coming year.

The theme this year is "My Life at Trinity." In the Temple Talks leading up to April 24th, we will hear various speakers share their Trinity lives. Our guest preacher for Generosity Sunday will be the newly retired pastor, The Reverend David Rowe.

So mark your calendars now for April 24th.



Just a reminder, if you have any Thrivent insurance or annuity products, then you may have Choice Dollars to distribute. Formerly they advised you when this occurred but they no longer do this. You have to go online and check. If you direct your choice dollars to Trinity, it goes to support our preschool. **If you do not direct your dollars, it is like throwing money away.** Please check your account monthly, or at least quarterly.

You are also eligible for **activity grants**. We have been funding our VBS through activity grants the last 3 years. Each account holder is eligible for 2-\$250.00 grants a year. They can be used to fund things like Strawberry Festival, Community Dinner, Generosity Sunday Dinner, etc. Please see Carol Koch or Pastor Julie for more information. **Again, not using available money is like throwing it away.**

Prayer Chain

If someone you know-- or you yourself-- are in need of prayer, allow us to add your prayer request to our daily prayers. Prayers will always remain confidential. Prayer requests may be as detailed or as anonymous as you prefer. Ex. "Pray for my Aunt Nellie who has cancer," or "Pray for healing for a friend." To activate the prayer chain, please call Mary Young at 610-678-4470. If there is no answer, please leave a message or call at a later time if you are not comfortable leaving a message. Your prayer request is important and we do not want to miss it.

How are We Doing?

Trinity's Financial Summary for January

Average Weekly Giving in January, 2022: **\$2,365.00**

Average Weekly Giving in January, 2021: **\$2,658.60**

Total income to date in 2022: **\$11,825.00**

Total income to date in 2021: **\$13,293.00**

Total expenses to date in 2022: **\$15,823.40**

Total expenses to date in 2021: **\$14,490.76**

Total income in January: **\$11,825.00**

Total expenses in January: **\$15,823.40**

Percentage of Mission Support for 2021: to Synod: **8%**, to Mission District: **8%**

Thank you for your

generosity.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Karen Houck, Sandra Miller, Pamela Moyer, and Joe Sickler.

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

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

Family and Friends: Robin Balog, Wanda Barnett, Carolyn Bryant, Fred DeLong, Marge Dietrich, Kevin Hartman, Glenn Helbert, Tara Hills, Betty Kauffman, Shirley Kerchner, Tom Koerner, Hannah Kramer, Ian Pirl, Jake Powers, Clairre Putt, Tom Reppert, Wendy Wolfe, 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.**

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$40.00. 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 need altar flower sponsors for 3/6 and 3/20 and bulletin sponsors for all the Sundays in March. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.

Altar Flower Sponsors for March: 3/6-available, 3/13-Scott & Betty Lou Franzen in memory of Lydia Beth, 3/20-available, 3/27-Pam Moyer in memory of her mother and Annie McKinney

Bulletin Sponsors for March: All Sundays available.

Helpers for March

Altar Guild: Betty Lou Franzen

Council Devotions and Snacks: Betty Lou Franzen

Communion Assistant: Tacy Grippon

Acolytes: 3/6-Tacy Grippon, 3/13-Alexis Shoumlisky, 3/20-Barbara Debiec, 3/27-Jocelyn Enck.

Lay Readers: 3/6-Dawn Hickernell, 3/13-Anne Marie Rinehimer, 3/20-Elaine Briner, 3/27-Kathy Lawry.

Ushers: 3/6-Lawrys, 3/13-Bashores, 3/20-Kurtzes, 3/27-Givens

Sound System: 3/2-Scott Franzen, 3/6- Scott Franzen, 3/13- Stephanie Kurtz, 3/20-Wendell Byler, 3/27-Scott Franzen.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 3/6-Harmony Wentzel, 3/13-Lori Shoumlisky, 3/20-Beth Byler, 3/27-Kerri Searfoss.

Counters: 3/2 (Ash Wednesday)-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 3/6-Debiec/Rinehimer, 3/13-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 3/20-Franzens, 3/27-Rapley/Pirl-Roth.

Bulletin Assemblers: 3/2-June Rapley, 3/9-Connie Fritz, 3/16-Linda Weiss, 3/23-Kathy Lawry, 3/30-Bonnie Giamotti.

Newsletter Assembly: Kathy Lawry

Council Members

Harmony Wentzel, President 610-390-9986

Glen Given, Vice President 484-955-1780

Izannah Bashore 610-488-0520

Betty Lou Franzen 610-781-8132

Tacy Grippon 484-878-9345

Dawn Hickernell 717-507-3549

Jerry Jarsocrak 610-670-0954

Elwood (Woody) Noll 484-638-2057

Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131

Church Council Highlights for January

- We will resume hymn singing in church as of Ash Wednesday (3/2) barring anything unforeseen in present Covid numbers.
- Pastor Julie has been asked by the synod to be the designated pastor at St. Daniel's, Robesonia while they are in the call process. This means she will attend their council meetings and give guidance, preside at baptisms, weddings, and funerals when requested. Trinity will continue to be her first priority.
- Shed will be delivered within the next month. This is to replace the garage usage.
- Soup and Study will begin on Ash Wednesday @ 6 PM and will continue on Wednesdays at that time through Lent.
- Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th @ 7:30 PM.