

Trinity Tidings for April 2022

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

Resurrection Promise

It was this past Sunday that I asked our Faith Formation class, “Was ist das?”—you remember Luther’s great question in the Small Catechism, yes? We were talking about the Creed and the Holy Trinity and trying to explain all the parts. Mostly our conversation centered on the Holy Spirit so I asked them to draw a picture of what they thought the Holy Spirit looked like. Their responsive drawings included a ball of light, angelic looking halos and bodies, one drawing was very human-like. We talked about wind and fire and what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

But then there was that part of the Creed that says, “[I believe in] the resurrection of the body.” Luther explains it this way, “On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.” As adults, we’d like to think we know what that means, but I had to be honest with our young students. We don’t really know what that means. We don’t know what resurrection is. We just don’t.

We know Jesus was raised from the dead. It is the reason for our faith. It is the whole point of the oldest observation in the Christian church—the Easter Vigil—that time of waiting for darkness to reveal the light of the risen Christ. Our theology, beliefs, and language are centered in resurrection. We say things like, “If we are to die like Christ then we will be raised like Christ,” and we live our lives in the promise of the resurrection.

Jesus raised children and adults from the dead—he physically brought them back to life. Even as Jesus wept over the death of his beloved friend, Lazarus, he brought Lazarus back to life that all might know the glory of God.

But when it comes right down to it—we don’t really know what resurrection means for us. And if it is to happen on the last day, then when and what *is* the last day? Does it mean the day we die? Or does it mean the end of time? Or is it something less concrete and something more metaphorical or abstract? I suppose these are the kinds of questions that are best deliberated around a campfire in the wee hours of the morning as they can only be answered by the skin of our faith—that is what we know on the surface. We just don’t know the meat of it all and I doubt we will until . . . well, until the last day.

Our human God-talk—our theology—can only take us so far. And yet, we celebrate this mystery of life not only on Easter Sunday, but every single Sunday—in fact every single day. We revel in the knowledge that we will not die. The promise of resurrection is a promise of life every time death brushes against us. Every time our lives are encapsulated with grief and despair, loss and pain, resurrection becomes our hope and our light. When darkness cannot be penetrated, when we are up against dead ends—those places with no way out—our faith is in God who will resurrect us to new life.

As we come together on this Resurrection of Our Lord 2022, we come together as those who have known grief, sickness, and despair. We have known Covid, the death of friends and family—both physically and in spirit. We will gather as one people united in Christ bound by the Holy Spirit’s promise that we will be resurrected not only in the life to come, but each and every day.

May the Spirit open our eyes to holy places of resurrection both in our own lives and in the world around us. Let war and violence give way to reconciliation, justice, and peace that we may know new thinking, new directions, new hopes, and new purpose. This is resurrection.

Peace and grace,
Pr. Julie

Dear Trinity Family,

Blessings during this Lenten season. This Lent of 2022 is unlike any other we have experienced for two reasons. The first is that we seem to be coming out from under the threat of severe Covid. Numbers are way down, mask restrictions are lifted, and more and more people are vaccinated. It feels like we are coming around the corner. But there is something else. While there is good news on the horizon, our days and nights are fraught with news reports of war and devastation in Ukraine. Our hearts are breaking. There are so many unanswered questions. Why is this happening? How could Putin do this to innocent people? And of course, the biggest question: What can we do to help? As usual, our Lutheran church is one of the first to respond with supplies and first aid. Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services have sprung into action.

And yet, it is personally frustrating to not be able to do something “real” like rescue people, or get Putin to stop, or send actual supplies. But the reality is that while we can’t physically be there to help—and sending actual items is nearly impossible—what we can do is send our dollars to buy supplies and pay for the things people need right now wherever they are.

As a congregation we are currently collecting money for Lutheran Disaster Response: Ukraine. Thank you to all who have responded. In addition to this great sign of generosity, this year’s Lenten offering will also go to support Lutheran Disaster Response’s efforts in Ukraine. Even better, a recent email from Lutheran Disaster Response mentions that a “generous donor” has offered to match any gift up to \$50,000 for aid to Ukraine. That means all our donations will be doubled. It is also good to know that one hundred percent of our designated donations will go to support only Ukraine at this time. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts for Ukraine. May God’s justice and peace prevail for the people of Ukraine.

There are several ways to deliver your Lenten offering.

- If you receive a Lenten offering envelope by mail, use that envelope.
- If you attend in-person worship, please pick up a Lenten envelope on the table in the narthex and place it in the special basket.
- Give on-line through **Give plus+**.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Julie and the Generosity Team

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday of the Passion: April 10, Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. followed by Lenten Fair
(No Wednesday night Soup, Study, and Sacrament)

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

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

Easter Vigil: April 16, at 5:30 beginning outside, inside with dramas and Holy Communion.

Resurrection of Our Lord: April 17, Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. No Faith Formation



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 pasta dinner prepared by the Shoumliskys and then proceed to the craft tables to make Palm Crosses and Easter items. This is an event for all ages. You don't have to do a craft. You can enjoy a meal and just visit, if you so desire.

Sign up sheet for attendance and donations of salad, dessert, or drinks to share are in in the narthex but we must know the number by Monday, April 4th so our chefs know how much pasta to buy and prepare.

Please sign up or call me on my cell 484-336-7336 if you want to attend.

Deacon Carol

Student Loan grants are available this year from the Endowment Fund. Applications are available from Pam Moyer at 610-670-5896, pmoyer507@verizon.net (with name & address) or the church office. Once an application is completed, please return it to Pam Moyer's mail slot or the church office. Applications must be received by June 1st. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Recently, Western Berks Shepherding has had a big increase in new clients seeking our transportation services. We are in need of new adult volunteers to drive our clients to local medical appointments. Volunteers can choose when and where they wish to drive as well as how often. It is a great way to volunteer that is flexible, very little commitment and extremely rewarding!!!!

For more information, please contact us at:
484-294-7394 or WesternBerksShepherding@gmail.com

Jodi Eisenhauer
Executive Co-Director
Western Berks Shepherding Ministries, Inc.
484-294-7394

Upcoming Events



Mother's Day--May 8th

We are going to have everyone-children of all ages and mothers-sing Love is a Special Thing. We haven't done that in a few years as a group.

And ladies-don't forget your hat!

Join the ladies of Trinity for a trip back to the 1950-60's. Wear your best Sunday "go to meeting" hat. There are always extra hats available in the narthex if you don't have one. There are gifts for the mothers as well. We invite the men to dress up as well in honor of this occasion.

And then the following Day Mother and Children Banquet

Monday, May 9th

6:15 PM

All the women of the church plus children, male or female are invited to our annual banquet. Chef Tedd Hickernell is preparing the meal. I feel sure we can expect the men will be providing some good homemade desserts as well.

Entertainment following provided by the Conrad Weiser High School Jazz Band.

If you just want to hear the band, come to the narthex around 7:30. Many of their parents do this so you will not be alone. This is wonderful 30 to 45 minute concert.

Sign up sheet will be in the narthex on Easter Sunday.

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 from Kathryn's Katering 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 February

Average Weekly Giving in February, 2022: **\$3,111.25**

Average Weekly Giving in February, 2021: **\$3,935.75**

Total income to date in 2022: **\$24,274.00**

Total income to date in 2021: **\$29,036.00**

Total expenses to date in 2022: **\$33,989.32**

Total expenses to date in 2021: **\$29,067.80**

Total income in February: **\$12,449.00**

Total expenses in February: **\$18,165.92**

Percentage of Mission Support for 2021: to Synod: **17%**, to Mission District: **17%** **Thank you for your generosity.**

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Bonnie Giamotti, Karen Houck, Dick Ketner, Carolyn Kurtz, Sandra Miller, Joe Sickler, Ted Stoudt, and Dawn Trexler.

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, Michelle Nordstrom, Ian Pirl, Jake Powers, Tom Reppert, Wendy Wolfe, Jerry Zachousk, and Ann Zimmerman.

Special Ministries: Our missionary in Tanzania-Stephen Friberg and his Family (see below).

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

Friberg Tanzania Update

March 2022

Two-month old Hosiana came to us with pneumonia, sepsis, hypoxia, and dehydration. We could only give oxygen, IV antibiotics and IV fluids. She had to fight to live on her own. She maintained a respiratory rate of 80-90/min for 36 hours. Her parents wanted to put her in God's hand and asked our evangelist Mika to come and baptize her.



At 48 hours she opened her eyes and her exhausted parents shed tears as they realized she might survive. We discontinued oxygen and started tube feedings of expressed breast milk. On day 4 she began nursing and seemed to fully recover.



Neonates cannot contain infection in one part of the body— infections tend to generalize. On day 7 Hosiana spiked a fever to 40°C and Laiti, our experienced nurse, noticed that she had a bulging fontanelle. Hosiana had developed meningitis and required high doses of antibiotics for ten more days. She kept defying the odds, stayed alert, and continued nursing.

Hosiana survived because our motivated medical team of 5 people kept praying and addressing new problems as they arose. On day 19 she was bundled up between her mother and the driver of a motorcycle for the 1-hour ride up Ketumbeine mountain. Hosiana is safely home and reminds us of the fragility of life and that each new day is a gift from God.

Thanks for being part of our team.

Steve and Bethany



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 a bulletin sponsor for April 17th (Easter Sunday).** Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.

Altar Flower Sponsors for April: 4/3-Cindy Hassler-Schappell in memory of Heath's 36th birthday, 4/10-Carol Koch in memory of her husband, 4/17-Shoumlisky family in memory of Rocky, 4/24-Bob & Kathy Bashore in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Bulletin Sponsors for April: 4/3-Cindy Hassler-Schappell in memory of Heath's 36th birthday, 4/10-Barbara Debiec in honor of Jim's birthday, 4/24-Cindy Hassler-Schappell in honor of Olivia's & Shawn's birthday.

Helpers for April

Altar Guild: Anne Marie Rinehimer

Council Devotions and Snacks: Tacy Grippon

Communion Assistant: Tacy Grippon

Acolytes: 4/3-Tacy Grippon, 4/10-Bob Bashore, 4/17-Betty Lou Franzen, 4/24-Sam Shoumlisky.

Lay Readers: 4/3-Jerry Jarsocrak, 4/10-Aislin Given, 4/17-Carol Koch, 4/24-Kathy Lawry.

Ushers: 4/3-Bashores, 4/10-Lawrys, 4/17-Kurtzes, 4/24-Givens

Sound System: 4/3-Scott Franzen, 4/10-Stephanie Kurtz, 4/14 - Scott Franzen, 4/15-Scott Franzen, 4/16-Wendell Byler, 4/17-Stephanie Kurtz, 4/24-Wendell Byler

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 4/3-Betty Lou Franzen, 4/10 & 4/17-no Sunday School, 4/24-Kathy Lawry.

Counters: 4/3-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 4/10-Debiec/Rinehimer, 4/17 & 4/24-not available at this time.

Bulletin Assemblers: 4/6-Kathy Bashore, 4/13-Barbara Debiec, 4/20-Beverly James, 4/27-Helen Hummel, 5/4-Sharon Black.

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
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 March

- Strawberry Festival will be held this year on Saturday 6/11 from 3:30 to 7:30 PM. Rain date is 6/12.
- Mask updates discussed and masks are now optional for the foreseeable future.
- Appointed an audit committee to do year 2020. They are Ed Evans, Barb Debiec, and Rick Lawry.
- We have closed the Rental Management Account.
- We continue to work on various permits for the shed.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, April 19th @ 7:30 PM

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in April

Carolyn Kurtz will be 93, Audrey Eshbach will be 80, and Sandra Miller will be 82. Happy Birthday ladies.