

Trinity Tidings for June, 2022

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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Sexton: Roy Kline

“Welcome to Trinity!”

“Good morning, how are you? My name is _____. Glad to have you with us this morning.” Believe it or not, these can be some of the most difficult words to say—especially when we’re feeling a little shy and unsure about talking to people we don’t know. And yet, these words are golden to the ears of someone who has walked into Trinity for the first time. Imagine how shy and unsure a new person feels—particularly when it is their first time to come to Trinity and they don’t know anyone. It feels good to know you are welcome and that others want to include you.

Greeting a Sunday morning visitor can be difficult—especially if we’re worried we’ll offend someone who might be a member but hasn’t attended in a long while. But unless you greeted them with, “Hey buddy, about time you showed up!” your “hello” will be just as well received as if they had never been to Trinity before.

As pastor, it is my job to see that everyone attending on a Sunday morning feels welcome and accepted—which includes encouraging others to say hello to newcomers. Some of you may even have had Pastor Julie ask you to please greet a visitor. You see, being a welcoming church is not an accident. It doesn’t just happen. Being welcoming is something that is deliberate, thought out, and practiced. The more we get used to greeting newcomers, the easier it gets.

You may not believe this, but your pastor is quite introverted. As a young person I was too shy to speak up and say hello to people. But as I got a little older, about age ten or eleven, my mother taught me how to greet people. She said, “The next time you see Mrs. Peters, I want you to say, ‘Hello, Mrs. Peters.’” Then my mother would practice with me while she pretended to be Mrs. Peters. And the next time I saw Mrs. Peters, I said, “Hello, Mrs. Peters.” After I accomplished that, I practiced saying “hello” to other adults, as well.

It wasn’t long before I was an expert at saying hello to people. My mother’s patient prodding paid off. To this day, whenever I am going into a new situation, I still practice what I’m going to say. (If you are an introvert, you know what I’m talking about.) Welcoming people verbally and handing them a prayer square (just ask them if they received one, and give them one if they haven’t) sends a message to Trinity’s guests that they are special and there is a place for them here.

But then what? Getting beyond “hello” can be trickier. How do we get people to come through the door a second time? As a pastor, I try to follow up with visitors with a phone call or a letter. Of course, that can only happen if they sign the guest book with the right information (and it’s legible).

Ultimately, a person must have a reason to come back to worship a second time. Figuring out what that reason is can be challenging. But perhaps the answer lies with us—not our guests. So, let me ask this question: Why *do* we want people to come back a second time? Why do we want people to join the church—especially young families with little kids? Now, think about your answer long and hard before reading on . . .

Ok. Now normally, when asked this question, people will answer very honestly. They will say we need new members—especially young families—to carry on the traditions of the church—keep it going so it doesn’t die out (maybe secretly thinking—we need their money, too).

It sounds very reasonable. But what if we turn the tables around. Let’s say you are the guest and I say to you, “Please join our church so it doesn’t die out,” would you join? Would you join if I said we needed your money to help pay the church bills? Well, maybe you *would* say, “Yes! Yes! Sign me up!” But my guess is, your answer would be, “No! No! No! Get me out of here!” And frankly who could blame you for wanting to make a fast exit. Often our reasons for wanting people to join is self-centered. We want them for ourselves.

So, what is the answer to this question? Perhaps the answer lies in another question—one directed at ourselves. Why do *you* come to worship? What is there about worship and Trinity’s faith community that makes

you want to show up every Sunday, and at special events, and serve on committees, and do mission projects? Why do *you* come?

Your answer to that question is what we want for other people. We want them to know and experience what *we* know and experience. We want them to know the transforming love and grace of Jesus Christ. Our hope is that being a part of Trinity's faithful community of believers will change their lives—and in turn change the lives of those they know as well.

That's what it means to evangelize—to share the hope, grace, and love—the transforming power of Jesus Christ—with others. We want people to come to Trinity because this is the place where they will be renewed in Christ—strengthened and nourished in a faith steeped in love that will change how they think, how they make decisions, how they work and play, and relate to others. And one changed life can lead to another changed life and another, and another. Changed lives can change the world.

Just remember, it all begins with a simple, “Hi my name is . . .”

Blessings,
Pr. Julie

Student Loan Grants are available again this year from the Endowment Fund. Applications are available from Pam Moyer @610-670-5896 or the church office. Once an application is completed, please turn it in to Pam Moyer's mail slot or the church office. Applications have been extended to July 1st to be received. Thank you.

How are We Doing?

Trinity's Financial Summary for April

Average Weekly Giving in April, 2022: **\$4,397.75**

Average Weekly Giving in April, 2021: **\$4,204.50**

Total income to date in 2022: **\$55,157.00**

Total income to date in 2021: **\$61,467.00**

Total expenses to date in 2022: **\$66,957.53**

Total expenses to date in 2021: **\$59,969.51**

Total income in April: **\$17,591.00**

Total expenses in April: **\$16,160.46**

Percentage of Mission Support for 2022: to Synod: **33%**, to Mission District: **33%**.

Thank you for your generosity.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Audrey Eshbach, Bonnie Giamotti, Daniel Harman, Karen Houck, Bob Schappell, Janet Searfossand Dawn Drexel.

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

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

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, Melissa Shoumlisky, 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.

Wernersville, PA 19565
610-927-8868



We will recognize the fathers in church on Sunday, June 19th. Hope to see you there.



Thanks to Mary Jane Evans and Bonnie Giamotti for the Mother's Day flowers that were distributed on Mother's Day and to all those who sang *Love Is A Special Thing*. Thanks to Tedd Hickernell who planned and prepared our Mother's Day Banquet the following evening. And thanks to the guys who set up, served, brought desserts, and cleaned up. We also appreciate the music of the Conrad Weiser High School Jazz Band and Choraleers.







Reminder of Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 11 from 3:30 to 7:30 PM.
Rain Date, June 12



Enrolling Now Fall 2022
Preschool & PreKindergarten

2-day, 3-day
Morning Classes for ages 3-5 years
plus Full-day PreK Thursdays

—Afternoon STEAM curriculum

—Tuition Scholarships available—



A faith-based Education Program of
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
130 S. Walnut Street, Wernersville, PA

610-678-1791 tlcworship@aol.com

www.trinitywernersville.org

New families welcome!

— Trinity Lutheran Preschool admits students of
any religion, race, color, national and ethnic origin.



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 an Altar Flower sponsor for June 19th (Father's Day). We need bulletin sponsors for all the Sundays in June. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.

Altar Flower Sponsors for May: 6/5-Barbara Debiec in memory of her husband, Richard, 6/12-Pamela Moyer in memory of her dad, 6/19-available, 6/26- Bonnie & Jim Giamotti in memory of June Porter.

Helpers for June

Altar Guild: Laura Krick

Council Devotions and Snacks: Jerry Jarsocrak

Communion Assistant: Cindy Hassler-Schappell

Acolytes: 6/5-Sam Shoumlisky, 6/12-Arianna Sitlinger, 6/19-Emily Kaiser, 6/26-Aislin Given

Lay Readers: 6/5-Cindy Hassler-Schappell, 6/12-Laura Miller, 6/19-Beth Byler, 6/26-Helen Hummel

Ushers: 6/5- Lawrys, 6/12- Bashores, 6/19-Kurtzes, 6/26-Givens.

Sound System: 6/5-Wendell Byler, 6/12-Scott Franzen, 6/19-Stephanie Kurtz, 6/26-Wendell Byler.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 6/5-Lori Shoumlisky.

Counters: 6/5-Franzens, 6/12-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 6/19-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 6/26- Debiec/Rinehimer

Bulletin Assemblers: 6/2-Kathy Lawry, 6/8-Connie Fritz, 6/15-Mary Jane Evans, 6/22-Linda Weiss, 6/29-June Rapley.

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 May

- Received update from Property Committee on various projects being evaluated and request for help to set up and tear down canopies for Strawberry Festival.
- Reviewed drawings of roof over back door.
- Approved hiring of new church musician.
- Approved allowing Lions Club to use front parking lot for overflow parking for their Car Show on 8/27.
- Police have been notified of abandoned car in the parking lot & we await their action.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, June 21st @ 7:30 PM.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in June

Pat Sickles will be 89, June Rapley will be 81, Barbara Klinger will be 81, Rosie Putt will be 99, and Ed Paine will be 96. Congratulations to all of you.

Our Sincere Sympathy to the family of Dick Ketner and Joe Sickler. Dick entered the Church Triumphant on April 30th. Joe entered the Church Triumphant on Tuesday, May 24th. Please remember these families in your thoughts and prayers.