

# *Trinity Tidings for March 2023*

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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Carla Seidel, Sexton: Roy Kline

## **A Lifetime of Lent**

Growing up a Methodist, I had no idea what Lent was all about. Of course, I'd heard the word from my Roman Catholic part of the family. My cousins were always talking about giving up something for Lent—and one time they might even have asked me what I was giving up for Lent; except I had no idea what they were talking about.

But then I became a Lutheran and suddenly Lent became a very important part of how I lived my faith. I learned about the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and charity. As an adult I understood what it meant to journey through the 40 days—what it meant to “fast” from something or rather “give up” something. Prayer was easy. And service certainly was nothing new to me as I've always thought Methodists did mission well.

As a new Lutheran, I was introduced to Wednesday night soup and worship. Everyone brought their own soup bowls so no one had to be responsible for cleanup. (I always liked the part when everyone went out to McDonald's after worship because the soup was never enough.) And then I learned that “stuff” happened between Palm Sunday and Easter morning—that is— Holy Week's Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. I was introduced to the Easter Vigil at our congregation in New Jersey.

Slowly, through the years, my understanding of how the days of Holy Week connected and led to the Resurrection of Our Lord began to deepen and truly enriched how I experienced the stories of the cross and the empty tomb. But putting all the pieces together was a lifelong Lenten journey that came to me slowly over time as my relationships with family and friends evolved, and my worship life expanded and grew.

But isn't this really true for everyone? Even cradle Lutherans. Each year we enter this time of Lent unsure of where it will take us, how we will experience it, or how we will grow in it. Some years we enter Lent at the top of our game—confident and comfortable in ourselves and in life. Other times we may enter Lent unsure of ourselves or our direction in life, or we might come into Lent overwhelmed by any number of life's travails whether it's sickness, anxiety, depression, broken relationships, or some other circumstance that threatens to crush and subdue us.

And yet, Lent comes. And we somehow find our way to the cross regardless of what kind of shape we're in. It is at the cross that Jesus finds us and clings to us in love and grace. It is at the cross that our wounds are healed and our burdens are lifted. In body and blood—in bread and cup—we celebrate the one who gives us life.

Our lifelong experiences—our lifetime of Lent—matures and expands over time yearly renewed as God reveals God's self to us in different and life-giving ways. So, this Lent, be open in mind and heart to whatever it is God has in store for you; and may your Lenten journey to the Three Days of Holy Week be a place of restoration, understanding, growth, and wonder.

Blessings,  
Pr. Julie



*Easter Flower signup has begun. Cost of flowers is \$11.00. 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

### LENTEN FAIR

Join us on Sunday, March 12 following worship.

**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 This is an event for all ages. Sign up sheets for attendance are in the narthex and you can also call the church office. **Our lunch is being provide by a Thrivent grant so we need a fairly accurate head count so we know how much to purchase.**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** for reception of reports and adoption of endowment budget will be held before worship @ 10:30 AM on Sunday 3/19. Reports will be available in the narthex by 3/5 and will be emailed to everyone who has an email address on record in the office. **To be good stewards of our resources we ask families to review their emailed copies and print if desired. We will have a limited # of copies available in the narthex.**



**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. We also funded our Advent Fun Shop and Lenten Fair Luncheon through these grants. 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.**

## Trinity's Financial Summary for January

Average Weekly Giving in January, 2023: **\$2940.16**

Total income to date in 2023: **\$14,700.80**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$16,299.92**

Total income in January: **\$14,700.80**

Total expenses in January: **\$16,299.92**

Synod Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$1607.50**, 8% of \$19,290.00.

West Berks Mission Support for 2023--**\$50.00**, 8% of \$600.00.

Thank you. It is your giving that enables Trinity to continue in outreach, evangelism, and learning opportunities; support staff; provide worship; and engage in any number of missional programs. These are difficult times for everyone—including our church family—as the cost of living, even basic necessities, is rising. So if you have not turned in your yellow Estimated Giving Card—and you are able—please consider how you might give this next year. Your card can be turned into our financial Secretary, Barbara Debiec. And remember to turn in your Time and Talent Sheet as well.

Thank you for participating in the mission of Jesus Christ through your gifts to Trinity. How gifts may be received:

\*Online giving via Trinity's website: [www.trinitywernersville.org](http://www.trinitywernersville.org)



Or scan the QR-code with your phone camera to connect to Trinity's Donate page. There you can securely make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations.

\*Regular mail: 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville 19565

\*Vanco Mobile App. using debit or credit. Use invite code hpfk34.

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

**Members who are sick or recently hospitalized:** Kathy Bayer, Eleanor Brossman, Sharon Gring, Daniel Harman, Tedd Hickernell, and Marilyn Weatherholtz.

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

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

**Family and Friends:** Barry Chapman, Arline G, Delores Hickernell, Jessey Homan, Shirley Kerchner, Tom Koerner, Danny Kuhn, Michelle Nordstrom, and Wendy Wolfe.

**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.**

### **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.

On display in the Narthex are two picture boards that show "People Throughout the Years at Trinity". Many thanks to Helen Hummel, Charlotte Moyer, and Anne Marie Rinehimer who made these picture boards.

*Pictures from Our Ash Wednesday Luncheon*



### **Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship**

The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$40.00. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins is \$15.00. If you are sponsoring the flowers or bulletins, please note that there are blank envelopes in the narthex below the sign up lists. Please put your check (payable to Trinity) or cash in the envelope (be sure your name is on the envelope) and place in the offering plate. **We need Altar Flower Sponsors for 3/19. We need Bulletin Sponsors for 3/19 and 3/26. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

**Altar Flower Sponsors for March:** 3/5-Amy Strunk in honor of the birthdays of Cody, Martin, and Shane, 3/12-Scott & Betty Lou Franzen in memory of Lydia Beth, 3/19-available, 3/26-Anne Marie Rinehimer in memory of her parent's anniversary.

**Bulletin Sponsors for March:** 3/5-Carol Yachnik in memory of her son, Michael Yachnik, Jr., 3/12-Mary Young in memory of our dear friend, Rosalie Putt, 3/19-available, 3/26-available.

### **Helpers for March**

**Altar Guild:** Tony Ludovici.

**Snacks:** 3/5-Franzens, 3/12-Evans and Young, 3/19-Bylers, 3/26-Steffy

**Acolytes:** 3/5-Aislin Given, 3/12-Caidyn Schaeffer, 3/19-Alexis Shoumlisky, 3/26-Tony Ludovici

**Lay Readers:** 3/5-Charlotte Moyer, 3/12-Mary Nace, 3/19-Helen Hummel, 3/26-Dawn Hickernell

**Communion Assistants:** 3/5-Cindy Hassler-Schappell, 3/12 & 3/19-Barbara Debiec, 3/26-no communion.

**Ushers:** 3/5-Lawrys, 3/12-Bashores, 3/19-Kurtzes, 3/26-Givens.

**Sound System:** 3/5-Scott Franzen, 3/12- Stephanie Kurtz, 3/19- Wendell Byler, 3/26-Scott Franzen.

**Counters:** 3/5- Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 3/12-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 3/19- Debiec Rinehimer, 3/26-Franzens.

**Bulletin Assemblers:** 3/1-Helen Hummel, 3/8-Jarsocraks, 3/15 Sharen Black, 3/22-Mary Young, 3/29-Amy Strunk.

**Children's Sunday School Teachers:** 3/5-Stefanie Steffy, 3/12-no Sunday School due to Lenten Fair, 3/19-Betty Schaeffer, 3/26-Carol Yachnik

**Newsletter Assembly:** Kathy Lawry

**Council Devotions and Snacks:** Betty Lou Franzen

### **Church Council Members**

Glen Given, President 484-955-1780

Jerry Jarsocrak, Vice President 610-670-0954

Beth Byler 610-781-2161

Betty Lou Franzen 610-781-8132

Tacy Grippon 484-878-9345

Dawn Hickernell 717-507-3549

Helen Hummel 610-678-1377

Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131

Harmony Wentzel 610-390-9986

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Rosalie Putt who entered the Church Triumphant on 2/22. Rosie was our oldest member. She would have turned 100 in June. Graveside services were held on 2/28.

### **Church Council Highlights for February**

- Our sexton, Roy Kline, will be out for at least a month as of 3/23 due to knee replacement. We are looking for volunteers to sign up in the narthex for various times and duties during this period.
- Lenten Fair will be 3/12 following worship
- Congregational meeting will be 3/19 @ 10:30 AM, preceding 11 AM worship.
- Our financial situation is a challenge right now as we face a financial shortage. We are looking forward to results of our Generosity Sunday & the pledges that have been made.
- We will welcome 2 new members on March 12-Cheyenne Loring and Diane Shoumlisky.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, March 21st @ 7:30 PM