

# Trinity Tidings for May 2023

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

## Now the Green Blade Rises

Blessings to all as we celebrate the risen Christ throughout this Easter season. As I write this, we have been experiencing some of the warmest April days I can ever remember. Bruce and I have dusted off the patio furniture and begun the process of clearing winter out of the gardens.

Interestingly, we have purchased some new plants for the front yard. If you've ever seen our house, you know we have an odd front yard. Our house is perched on this little hill and on either side of the walkway, there is a tiny piece of front yard which is nearly impossible to safely mow.

And yet, I like the two little patches of grass surrounded by bushes, flowers, and rows of decorative rock boarder. But last summer—either from drought or over enthusiastic weed whacking—or both—the grass died. The one side was never very healthy anyway as the 100-year-old Norwegian spruces always provided better shade than sun. Looking at the dead grass just made me sad.

Bruce decided we would plant flowers and blooming ground cover instead of trying to recoup the grass. Except I hated the idea. I like my grass. Eventually, he convinced me to go shopping for new plants for the front yard and slowly, slowly I began to see the benefit of this change in front-yard plant life and am now curious to see how it will all turn out.

The point is, I didn't want to give up what I've always been used to. Grass. Sure, the backyard is still grass—but a front yard with no grass? I looked at the brown crunchy remnants of what had been our lawn and realized I had to let it go.

Bruce was determined and really, some battles are not worth the trouble. It's kind of like how we get when we are faced with the brown, crunchy winter of anything that can no longer sustain itself—like Nehru jackets, lawn jockeys, and mullets. We may have loved them at one time, but the time comes to let them go—time to risk trying something new—time to let the old die away and enjoy what is new, fresh, and alive.

And isn't that what Easter is? A time of celebrating the new life that comes in the promise of the risen Christ. Like the seed that must first die in the ground in order to produce a tender, green shoot, so must we allow what has outlived its usefulness to pass away to make room for what is new, fresh, and life-giving.

I sometimes think we forget this idea of death followed by rebirth is true for most things in life—even our churches. People still want their churches to be green grass even after the lawn is dead and gone. They are afraid to allow something new and different to bloom in the front yard. Thanks be to God the people of Trinity have welcomed what is new and blooming. The Holy Spirit is planting new things amid our community of faithful believers. And we have nurtured and watered the new seeds God has planted. And as a result, we are growing. We are growing in people of all ages, ministry, mission, and in spirit. One can feel the Holy Spirit breathing fresh life into us—and we are responding.

So, I challenge and encourage each and every one of us to take time this Easter season to “catch” the Spirit. Seek out places to water new, green shoots poking up out of the ground—to foster new relationships with someone you maybe don't know so well, and to seek out more and new opportunities to participate in Trinity's ministry with your time, talent, and treasure. For Now the Green Blade Rises . . .

1 Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid Him, Love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that He never would awake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead my living Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

### *Upcoming Events*



#### **Mother's Day--May 14<sup>th</sup>**

We are going to have everyone-children of all ages and mothers-sing Love is a Special Thing. Since this will also be Music Sunday, our Senior Choir, Sunday School Kids, Joybells, Carolbells, and Children's colored bells will be making a Joyful Noise to the Lord that day too.

There will be gifts for the mothers as well.

*And then the following Day*

### *Mother and Children Banquet*

Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

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 is in the narthex.**



Sign up for geraniums for Pentecost (5/28) begins now and ends on 5/7. Sign up sheet in narthex. Cost-\$2.50.



### **Strawberry Festival-June 10<sup>th</sup>**

Strawberry Festival Games - If you are interested in donating gently used or new stuffed animals as game prizes, please contact Stefanie Steffey @ 484-721-1161 or Barbara Debiec @ 484-599-1057.

Raffles - If you are willing to contribute a raffle basket or a handcrafted item, please contact Barbara Debiec @ 484-599-1057.

### **Strawberry Festival New Addition!**

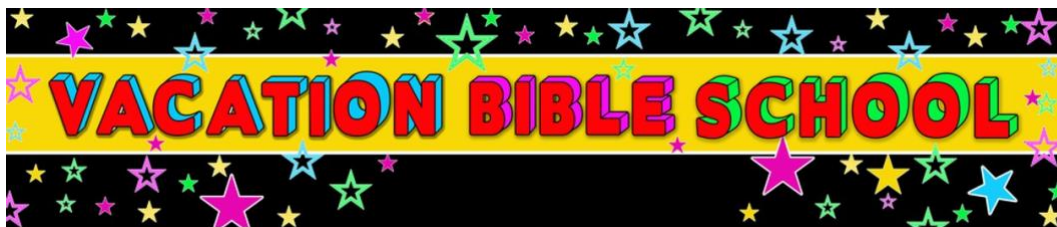
We will be adding Trinity's Attic to this year's Strawberry Festival. We will have tables to display the congregation's treasures that they are looking to depart with and give to someone else. We are looking for clean, sellable items that will be sold at the Strawberry Festival with ALL proceeds going to our church's community response fund which is used for the needs of our community. We will be collecting items starting after Easter Sunday. Items can be dropped off at the church and put in Pastor's office. Unsold items will NOT be returned unless you pick them up by 7:30 PM the evening of the festival. Unsold items will be donated at the discretion of the church. Craft items will also be accepted. Regarding handmade craft items, you are welcome to price them yourself if you desire. All other items will be priced by Trinity's Attic sub-committee.

#### **The following items are NOT acceptable:**

- Clothing
- VHS Movies
- Stuffed Animals
- Baby Items

Toys (games and puzzles are acceptable).

Any questions, please see Pastor Julie or Dawn Hickernell



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Vacation Bible School is soon upon us. Like last year, we are planning three separate VBS gatherings from 6 to 8 p.m. on various Wednesday evenings. If you recall, last year we hosted a number of people from Christ Lutheran Church in Glenside. This year we would like to expand on this shared ministry by trying something new: a traveling VBS!! We will rotate our VBS through three different churches—each church hosting and teaching one of the VBS sessions. We are still working on a theme. So stay tuned.

Here is the schedule:

Wednesday, June 21 at Trinity Lutheran in Wernersville

Wednesday, July 19 at Bethany Lutheran Church in West Reading

Wednesday, August 2 at Christ Lutheran Church in Glenside

Once again, this intergenerational VBS will begin with dinner from 6 to 6:30 followed by music and Bible stories, followed by activities for children and youth while adults engage in lively Bible Study with fun activities. So, mark your calendars!! More details to follow.



Thank you to the Sr. Choir members and instrumentalists for sharing your musical gifts! While the Sr. Choir takes a little break for the summer, we invite anyone who would like to provide music for our summer worship services to please sign-up on the list in the narthex. Carla is happy to accompany and rehearse with anyone who would like to share their musical gifts.

Thank you to all who helped with Lenten Fair-Helen Hummel and Kathy Lawry for using Thrivent Grant Money to purchase food for our meal and arrange and serve it. And to our crafters-Kerrie and Jullie Searfoss, Karen Houck, Stephanie & Kevin Kurtz, Beth Byler, Betty Lou Franzen, Betty Shaeffer, Harmony Wentzel, Lori Shoumlisky, and Elaine Briner. You are all just amazing and I thank you for always being so willing to lend a hand. Pastor Julie and I will be preparing a collage of pictures from this event as well as First Communion on Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. Our Faith Formation young people were amazing that evening. Look for it soon in the narthex.



Our First Communion Kids (Spencer Light, Chase Steffey, and Shane Strunk) with their parents and Pastor Julie

*Thank you to all who participated in food donation for Opportunity House on April 6. They are always grateful for everything we do.*

*Mary Young*

**Please remember in your prayers:**

**Members who are sick or recently hospitalized:** Eleanor Brossman, Sharon Gring, Daniel Hoppman, Shadow Loring, 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, Martin Strunk, Jr., 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.

**How are We Doing?**

**Trinity’s Financial Summary for March**

Average Weekly Giving in March, 2023: **\$3,189.00**

Total income to date in 2023: **\$40,625.80**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$52,567,52**

Total income in March: **\$12,756.00**

Total expenses in March: **\$18,785.19**

Synod Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$3769.50**, 20% of \$19,290.00.

West Berks Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$100.00**, 17% 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 are able--please consider how you might give in the weeks ahead.

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.

\*To make changes to automatic withdrawal use invite code hpfk34.

Student Loan Grants are available this year from the Endowment Fund. 1/2 the amount awarded is a grant and 1/2 the amount is a loan. 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 must be received by June 1st. Thank you.

### **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 and Bulletin sponsors for 5/28. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

**Altar Flower Sponsors for May:** 5/7-Carol Koch in memory of her mother, 5/14-Betty Lou and Scott Franzen in honor of David's and Benjen's birthdays, 5/21-Kathy and Bob Bashore in honor of Izannah's birthday, 5/28-available.

**Bulletin Sponsors for May:** 5/7-Lori & Joe Shoumlisky in honor of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. 5/14-Mary Young in memory of two loving mothers-Grace Alderman & Marie Young, 5/21-Rick & Kathy Lawry in honor of Brian's birthday, 5/28-available.

### **Helpers for May**

**Altar Guild:** Tony Ludovici.

**Snacks:** 5/7-Bylers, 5/14-Helen Hummel, 5/21-Bashores, 5/28-Stefanie Steffey

**Acolytes:** 5/7-Owen Wentzel, 5/14-Sam Shoumlisky, 5/21-Alexis Shoumlisky, 5/28-Tony Ludovici

**Lay Readers:** 5/7-Elaine Briner, 5/14-Ed Evans, 5/21-Kelly Light, 5/28-Cindy Hassler-Schappell

**Communion Assistants:** 5/7 & 5/14-Jerry Jarsocrak, 5/21 & 5/28-Dawn Hickernell

**Ushers:** 5/7-Lawrys, 5/14-Bashores, 5/21-Kurtzes, 5/28-Givens

**Sound System:** 5/7-Wendell Byler, 5/14- Stephanie Kurtz, 5/21-Scott Franzen, 5/28-Wendell Byler

**Counters:** 5/7-Debiec Rinehimer, 5/14-Franzens, 5/21-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 5/28-Hummel/Jarsocrak

**Bulletin Assemblers:** 5/3-Connie Fritz, 5/10-Linda Weiss, 5/17-June Rapley, 5/24-Laura Krick, 5/31-Kathy Bashore

**Children's Sunday School Teachers:** 5/7-Deacon Carol, 5/14-no Sunday School, 5/21-Lori Shoumlisky, 5/28-Kathy Bashore

**Newsletter Assembly:** Kathy Lawry

**Council Devotions and Snacks:** Helen Hummel

### **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

# Happy Birthday

## *Birthday Milestones in May*

Mary Young will be 82, Catherine Richards will be 85, Frank Krick will be 83, Joan Kava will be 94, Jane Pfennig will be 84, Robert Youtz will be 81, Helen Hummel will be 85, Elaine Briner will be 80 and Ann Sentz will be 81. Congratulations to all of you. Appears if you have longevity in mind, it is good to be born in May.

### **Church Council Highlights for April**

- Our Vacation Bible School will be a joint ministry of Trinity, Bethany, West Reading, and Christ, Glenside.
- Narthex plans completed.
- We are contacting other churches regarding services they use for pest control and property/casualty insurance to see if we can reduce our expenses. Also exploring electricity costs.
- Received update on Boy Scout Trailer.
- Matt & Harmony Wentzel are our lay delegates to WBMD spring assembly on 5/3 @ Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, May 16th @ 7:30 PM