

Trinity Tidings for July, 2023

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

Jesus said, ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'" (Matt. 25:34-36 NRS)

Vacation time has begun! As we slip into the hot, hazy days of summer (although at this writing we are inundated with rain and will be for the next week) we can hopefully take time to "slow down and smell the roses." As a child I always looked forward to vacation. I relished the adventure of traveling somewhere new and doing it while spending time with my family. Even through my teenage years—I could think of no better adventure than going on vacation. We spent summers in Tennessee and the Smokey Mountains; visited Williamsburg, Virginia; camped in the Rocky Mountains; saw Four Corners; Mesa Verde; Grand Canyon; and visited family in California. (I was in San Francisco during the "Summer of Love" in 1967. I was 8.)

But no matter where we went—unless we were so far off the beaten track there was no church for miles around—Mom always found a place for us to worship on Sunday morning—even if it wasn't our denomination. I remember spending many a morning in a strange pew in a strange church with my family following along with the service.

There was never a question that this was what a person did on Sunday morning. I am sure engaging in that kind of regular church attendance played an important role in shaping who I am as a church goer. But more. Experiencing others in worship gave me a sense of the vastness of God's people who could be found all over the United States. I was not alone. It gave me a sense of who we are as the body of Christ before I even knew what that was.

As an adult, I have a deeper, wider understanding of the body of Christ within the context of this wonderfully diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-faith society in which we live here in this United States. I am so grateful to live in a country that made number one of its top ten amendments to the Constitution to read, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*"

My ancestors came to this country—came to Pennsylvania seeking religious freedom. My Dunker heritage recounts the voyage of my 6th great grandfather, Johannes H. Garber, who arrived in the Philadelphia harbor in 1752 aboard The Phoenix. He was a pastor in the Church of the Brethren. He traveled to Lancaster County and married a Mennonite woman named Barbara Hoover. The rest is—shall we say—history.

But that story is not unique even in this day and age. Today, people of many faiths and ethnicities still flock to this country to escape whatever persecution they are experiencing—some escaping dangerous situations with only those items they can carry while others barely escape with their lives.

I could go on and on about how Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) has spent the last 80 years resettling people all over this country—but you already know that. We are currently finding living situations for those who have fled Afghanistan, Central America, and Ukraine—regardless of faith.

As we celebrate the 247th anniversary of this United States, I am inspired by the famous author, Emma Lazarus. Lazarus was a writer and activist for Jewish causes. She helped refugees come to New York who were escaping the antisemitic pogroms of Eastern Europe. You may be familiar with her most famous poem, "The New Colossus" written on the base of France's most celebrated gift to this nation, The Statue of Liberty:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

As part of the body of Christ, I am honored and heartened that we as Lutherans are able to live into the words, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Blessings,
Pr. Julie



2 Wednesday Evenings remain

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Dinner begins at 6.

July 19—Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville

August 2—Christ Lutheran Church, Reading Glenside

Sign up in the Narthex. Let us know if you want to carpool to Christ. "God's Good Gifts" are for everyone at this amazing intergenerational event. Adult-interactive Bible Study and fun learning activities for kids of all ages

Let's plan on car-pooling on August 2 to make travel easier for everyone.

Here's what to expect from 6:00—8:00 p.m. each time we meet:

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Large Group gathering for Singing, Scripture, and Prayer

6:45 p.m.—7:50 Adults gather for Bible Study with Pastors Bruce and/or Julie

6:45 p.m.—7:20 Activity #1 for Children and Youth

7:20 p.m.—7:50 Activity #2 for Children and Youth

7:50 p.m.—8:00 Closing with Songs, Sharing, and Prayer

Please join us as we explore "God's Good Gifts!"

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Daniel Hoppman, and Shadow Loring.

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

The Military: Natalie Ketner, and John Kurtz.

Family and Friends: Barry Chapman, Arline G, Delores Hickernell, Jessey Homan, Shirley Kerchner, Tom Koerner, Danny Kuhn, Ian Pirl, Nathan Resch, 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 May

Average Weekly Giving in May, 2023: **\$3,996.00**

Total income to date in 2023: **\$78,137,90**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$86,530.44**

Total income in May: **\$15,984.00**

Total expenses in May: **\$18, 832.29**

Synod Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$6,398.33**, 33% of \$19,290.00.

West Berks Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$250.00**, 30% 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**



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.



We need cans for altar flowers. Please return any you may have used and/or bring new ones. Place them in the sacristy on the counter. Thank you from the Altar Guild.



Check your cupboards!

If you have any gallon or quart sized plastic containers, consider donating them to the church. Our Opportunity House food preparers are running out of containers to use. Just place them on the windowsill in the narthex. Thanks.



The fellowship committee is most grateful for all the items donated to our Sunday snack area. Thank you so very much. At this time we are fully stocked and will send a request again when needed. Many thanks also to those who bring in the weekly snacks. That seems to be appreciated by everyone. The grateful Fellowship Committee

A big thank you to all who donated to the meal for Opportunity House on June 1st. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. You make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Mary Young

Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to go to the Area 2 Handbell Conference in Lancaster from 6/23 thru 6/25. We had fun as we learned a lot and have come back with many tips, new ideas and renewed enthusiasm. We hope to show you some of the things we learned in the future. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!! A special shout out to the Endowment Committee for underwriting the cost of this learning experience.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lawry, Kay Stout, and Deacon Carol



We enjoyed a concert by a solo ringer and his accompanist after the dinner.

Sunday School Orchestra on Flag Day at the Heritage Society



Our Fathers and Sons Singing on Father's Day



FYI-there is also one of our boys, Shane Strunk, up there beside his dad but you can't see him.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in July

Sharon Gring will be 81 & Carol Yachnik will be 82. Pete Schmehl will be 80, and Mike Renzo will be 85. Congratulations to all of 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 Sponsors for 7/23 & 7/30. We need Bulletin Sponsors for 7/9, 7/23, & 7/30.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for July: 7/9-Frazens in memory of Betty Lou's parents-Pauline & Sylvan Colove, 7/16-Amy & Martin Strunk in honor of their 10th wedding anniversary, 7/23 & 7/30-available.

Bulletin Sponsors for July: 7/9, 7/23, & 7/30 available. 7/16-Amy & Martin Strunk in honor of their 10th wedding anniversary.

Helpers for July

Altar Guild: Anne Marie Rinehimer

Snacks: 7/9-Sharon Black, 7/16-Kay Hassler, 7/23-Stefanie Steffey, 7/30-available.

Acolytes: 7/9-Betty Lou Franzen, 7/16-Barbara Debiec, 7/23-Bob Bashore, 7/30-Kay Stout.

Lay Readers: 7/9-Deacon Carol, 7/16-Charlotte Moyer, 7/23-Helen Hummel, 7/30-Dawn Hickernell.

Communion Assistants: 7/9 & 7/23-Kay Stout, 7/30 & 8/6-Kevin Kurtz.

Ushers: 7/9-Lawrys, 7/16-Bashores, 7/23-Kurtzes, 7/30-Givens

Sound System: 7/9-Wendell Byler, 7/16-Scott Franzen, 7/23-Stephanie Kurtz, 7/30-Wendell Byler

Counters: Unavailable

Bulletin Assemblers: 7/6-Mary Young, 7/12-Amy Strunk, 7/19-Mary Jane Evans, 7/26-June Rapley, 8/2-Connie Fritz.

Newsletter Assembly: Kathy Lawry

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

Church Council Highlights for June

- Reviewed our Insurance Policy options with agent.
- Discussed Synod Resolutions.
- Talked about gift from Preschool of \$1000.00 to General Fund.
- Talked about moving \$750.00 from a secondary Maintenance and Repair Fund to General Fund.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, August 15th @ 7:30 PM.