

# Trinity Tidings for October, 2023

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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Carla Seidel, Preschool Teacher/Director: Betty Lou Franzen,  
Preschool Aide: Stefanie Steffey, Sexton: Roy Kline,

## Where Two or Three are Gathered: Living in Community

When I was a teacher, the beginning of the school year was always very emotional for me. I don't know what it was, maybe the first day of school outfits and photos—maybe it was seeing my own kids go off to school—but when those buses came rolling up in front of the school as the walkers poured through the front doors, I would get all choked up. I always thought it was silly but there was something very overwhelming and wonderful about beginning the new year. But of course, after about a month the shine wore off and I was counting the days until Thanksgiving break.

Everyone—teacher's, too—would be on their best behavior at the start of the year, but then real life would settle in and true colors would begin to show. Every class I taught (all 30 + of them) was full of every kind of personality and character. There were those students who were kind, hard-working, and motivated. And then there were those who needed an especially watchful and caring eye—those who struggled academically or behaviorally.

As a music teacher, I found that many of the “difficult” kids found a place in music where they could express themselves and experience something in which they could excel. A few found their place in instrumental music—others singing. The simple act of community playing and singing brought children together in ways that other subjects did not; it was a totally different experience than the usual focus on individual academic achievement. As you know, it is one thing to excel individually, it is another to excel as a whole community or team. If you've ever played sports, you know what I mean.

It's like that for us as a community of faithful believers, too. We come together as one people in music,\* prayer, word, and sacrament in ways that we don't normally come together in our careers or our daily lives.

It is in community that we not only worship as one people in Christ we care for one another as one body—asking after one another, making sure each other's needs are met—and beyond. And, as the body of Christ, we have the capacity to love beyond the walls of the church. We live in a day and time where neighborhoods are fractured by busy lives and the belief that we must keep to ourselves rather than reach out to our next-door neighbors with a kind word or a helping hand. Yet, God made us for one each other. Humans are not beings of isolation. We are social beings meant to be in community. Even introverts need someone sometime!

Unfortunately, we live in a time when people are falling away from community groups and organizations as social media, on-line meetings, and technology have in many ways replaced the “need” for communal, in-person gathering.

But the good news is this: the church is still a place of face-to-face meeting, fellowship, worship, and community! And while in some places it, too, may seem to be waning, the church is in the here and now and isn't going anywhere soon. It may be under construction—rebuilding and reshaping—in ways that you and I can barely imagine, but it is going strong. I know for sure that the Holy Spirit is burning hot!

So, as we move forward into this new school year, I encourage everyone to look for opportunities to build community within Trinity and within the community of Wernersville. We have a new Every-other-Wednesday Study group starting October 4th, our Women's and Men's study/fellowship groups, a new drumming group beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, our Chancel Choir, bell choirs, and committees—all ways of building up the community of faithful believers in worship and in community. Think about where the Holy Spirit might be sending and inspiring *you*!

But wait! There's more! Did you know there is a group called the Ecumenical Affairs Committee of Wernersville (EACoW)? This group gathers into community our siblings in Christ from St. John Hain's United

Church of Christ, St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church, and us—Trinity Lutheran Church! Together we offer a number of opportunities to gather as both a community of faithful believers AND as Wernersville neighbors.

- An annual summer service: Memorial Weekend service or other
- An annual Thanksgiving service: Sun., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at Hain's UCC at 3:00 p.m.
- Participates in the Wernersville Tree Lighting event: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-6 p.m.
- An annual spring event: Past events have been an interfaith forum, lectures, retreats, and Taizé services. This year we will be offering another Taizé service during Lent. Stay tuned for more information about what Taizé is, and where and when it might be held.

These are all opportunities to build up community and be the body of Christ not only in worship, but as a people of God in the world. And remember, Christ is in and amongst all gathered communities binding us together in grace and love. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." And he is.

Blessings,  
Pr. Julie

\*Did you know that hymn singing is the last vestige of communal singing found anywhere in the United States? (That and singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame.") In addition, we are rarely presented with opportunities to sing even our national anthem as it is most often sung as a performance.

### **Volunteer Reading Tutors needed for Ready.Set.READ! Program**

Help make a difference in a child's life! Volunteers are needed to tutor 2nd grade students who need extra support with reading at Conrad Weiser East Elementary on Wednesdays from 3:15 – 4 PM and West Elementary on Tuesdays from 11:45 – 12:45 PM. No previous teaching experience is required. This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering weekly for one hour during the 2023-2024 school year. Current background clearances are required prior to assignment. Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or [darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org).

### **West Berks Shepherding Ministry needs you!**

Do you like to drive? Meet new people? Have a few extra hours a month? If so, volunteering for Western Berks Shepherding Ministries might be for you! Becoming a volunteer driver for WBSM is an extremely flexible and rewarding way to serve.

Our volunteers usually drive once a month and can choose when and where they drive. We are looking for new volunteers help drive our clients to their medical appointments.

Please call/email us for more information! 484-294-7394  
[WesternBerksShepherding@gmail.com](mailto:WesternBerksShepherding@gmail.com)

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



## **Community Choir Opportunities!**

Christ Lutheran (1301 Luzerne St. Reading, 19601), is hosting a *Community Reformation service* on Sunday October 29th at 4PM. Anyone who would like to sing with the combined choir is invited to come to Christ Lutheran at 2:30PM on October 29th for a rehearsal. Carla is leading the music for this community service. All are invited to this community Reformation service.



On December 3rd we will have our annual Advent Fun Shop following worship. We will begin with a light lunch and then proceed to the craft tables to make Christmas items. There may also be a new attraction-drumming in the Youth Room.



And finally, remember to save the date of December 17th<sup>th</sup> @ 3 PM for the Christmas Concert. It is returning after a 4 year hiatus. The Bell choirs, Children's Chime Choir, and Chancel Choir will participate as well as some surprises. There will also be a time to sing some of our favorite carols. This will be followed by a light supper organized by the Fellowship Committee.

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

**Members who are sick or recently hospitalized:** Beverly James & Janice Lamm.

**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, Shirley Kerchner, Mary Kirkner, Tom Koerner, True Portalatin, Wendy Wolfe & Betty Woodring.

**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 August

Average Weekly Giving in August, 2023: **\$3,486.16**

Total income to date in 2023: **\$123,462.30**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$135,425.31**

Total income in August: **\$13,944.63**

Total expenses in August: **\$15,505.81**

Synod Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$10,044.54**, 52% of \$19,290.00.

West Berks Mission Support to date for 2023--**\$400.00**, 67% 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.

**It is important to know that, to date, our giving is up almost \$18,000.00 over this time last year.**

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.



Thank you to Joe & Kelly Perrone for their work in preparing our God's work, Our Hands Community meal.

### **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 an Altar Flower Sponsor for October 29<sup>th</sup> and Bulletin Sponsors for 10/22 and 10/29. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

**Altar Flower Sponsors for October:** 10/1-Mary Jane and Ed Evans in honor of their children, 10/8-Cheri and Ron Giangiacomo in memory of Dawn Giangiacomo, 10/15-Betty Lou and Scott Franzen in honor of the birthdays of Laura and Kara, 10/22-Hummel Family in memory of Dick, 10/29-available

**Bulletin Sponsors for October:** 10/8-Bob Wilkinson Family in memory of his mother, Jane Wilkinson, 10/15-Rosati Family in honor of Patrick Berkenstock's birthday, 10/22 & 10/29-available.

### **Helpers for October**

**Altar Guild:** Sharon Black

**Snacks:** 10/1-Shoumlisky Family, 10/8-Kay Stout, 10/15-Helen Hummel, 10/22-Sfenanie Steffey, 10/29-Bashore Family

**Acolytes:** 10/1-Aislen Given, 10/8-Tedd Hickernell, 10/15-Betty Lou Franzen, 10/22-Bob Bashore, 10/29-Kay Stout

**Lay Readers:** 10/1-Mary Nace, 10/8-Lector Exchange, 10/15-Dawn Hickernell, 10/22-Stefanie Steffey, 10/29-Elaine Briner.

**Communion Assistants:** 10/1-Bob Bashore, 10/8 & 10/29-Harmony Wentzel, 10/15 & 10/22-Kathy Lawry

**Ushers:** 10/1-Lawry, 10/8-Bashore, 10/15-Kurtz, 10/22-Given, 10/20-Shoumlisky

**Sound System:** 10/1-Stephanie Kurtz, 10/8- Wendell Byler, 10/15-Scott Franzen, 10/22-Stephanie Kurtz, 10/29- Wendell Byler

**Counters:** 10/1-Hassler-Schappell, 10/8-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 10/15-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 10/22-Debiec/Rinehiner, 10/29-Franzens.

**Bulletin Assemblers:** 10/4-Sharon Black, 10/11-Marilyn Weatherholtz, 10/18-Amy Strunk, 10/26-Cindy Hassler/Schappell, 11/1-Diane Shoumlisky

**Children's Sunday School Teachers:** 10/8-Lori Shoumlisky, 10/22-Lori Shoumlisky.

**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

# Happy Birthday

## *Birthday Milestones in October*

Margie Stine will be 82, Albert Pfennig will be 86, John Stine will be 84, Eleanor Brossman will be 86, and Daniel Hoppman will be 93. Happy Birthday to all of you.