

Trinity Tidings for November/Mid December, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA, 19565, 610.678.1782,
e-mail: tlcworship@aol.com, www.trinitywernersville.org, facebook.com/trinitywernersville

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

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.” (1 Cor. 12:27-31 NRS)

When I was a young teacher, I had a colleague who was also a faithful church-goer. One Monday morning another teacher challenged her saying, “I tried to call you yesterday morning. Where were you?” Her response was, “I was in church so I could be nourished and get prepared for the week ahead.” I didn’t think much about it then, but as the years have rolled on, her response has left me with some things to think about.

I mean, it *is* true, we go to church because we are looking for something meaningful—something that fills us spiritually. Perhaps there is something in worship that moves and touches us. In general, we go to church because we want something from it. Which brings us to the thing I have been thinking about: Do we go to church to “get” or to “give?”

And so, I have come to believe that we need a good balance of both. For sure we come to church with open hearts looking for a message of hope through the Word of God and open hands waiting to meet Jesus at the table in the meal of bread and juice—and we come to pray and sing praises to God, too.

But if we only ever come into the church building looking to receive, we miss the part about being a part of the body of Christ—the part where our various gifts and talents are needed and used in service to others. And there are so many ways to serve with our whole selves.

Too often we think of service as ministry outside the walls of our church building whether it’s a mission trip to Honduras or Kentucky, or gathering in kind gifts for Bethany Children’s Home or In Ian’s Boots. And yes, our gifts can be financial to support the ministry of the Trinity, the food pantry, and the missions of the greater church.

But here’s the thing. Our service can be inside the walls of the church building, too. In fact, in order to address the bigger needs of the whole church, we must be able to address the needs of our own faith community.

Have you ever thought how you might participate in the actual workings of Trinity Lutheran Church Wernersville? In other words, play an active role in the committees and teams that make Trinity a place of meaningful and abundant worship, study, mission, and praise.

Think about this: How are you being asked to give of your time and talent? There are some very real shoes that need to be filled right here at Trinity and here they are:

Preschool Board members*
Preschool treasurer*

Mutual Ministries (evangelism) members*
Mutual Ministries Chair
Worship and Music members*
Co-Mission Interpreter (shares stories of mission happening all over the church locally, nationally, and globally and is a part of Stewardship and Mutual Ministries.)
Council Members
Council Secretary
Chancel Choir, drumming circle, bell choirs, and other music opportunities*
Property (maintenance of the building and grounds)*
Stewardship
Altar Guild* (help prepare Holy Communion, altar, etc. . . .)
Mission Possible*
Strawberry Festival*
Audit/Finance
Office Help* (folding bulletins/newsletters, assisting Deacon Carol)

(*Committees and teams that do **not** require formal membership in the congregation.)

You are a part of the body of Christ! And you are needed. Someone just might have noticed your gifts and ask you to serve. So, please consider how you might do that.

Blessings,
Pr. Julie

P.S. Please talk to Pastor Julie or Deacon Carol if you feel called to one of these ministries and we will point you in the right direction.



Joyful Rhythms is the name for our new drumming group! In addition to drums, we will be playing various rhythm and other percussion instruments. This is an intergenerational group. We invite children, teens and adults to join us! We will gather the first Sunday of the month after worship and every other Wednesday 6:30PM - 7:15PM - opposite weeks of the Wednesday evening Bible Study instead of the same week as the Bible Study. Please come join us!



On November 5th, All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us, particularly those who have passed away over the last year. At a given time during the worship service we will name those individuals. If you would like a loved one named in addition to Trinity's names, a basket will be provided by the offering plates in which to place those names and they will be read during worship.

We will remember the following persons from our Trinity family who entered the Church Triumphant since the last All Saint's Sunday.

Audrey Eshbach	11/7/2022
Rosalie Putt	2/22/23



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.



Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, Dec. 10th for election of council members and approval of 2024 budget.



And finally, remember to save the date of December 17th @ 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.

- Sign up to sponsor Poinsettias will begin on 11/5. The cost is \$6.00. Sign up at the table in the narthex. Sign up sheets for Christmas wreaths and trees will be out a week or two after that. The cost for wreaths is \$25.00. We do not have a tree price at this point.
- The 2024 Flower and Bulletin charts will be available in the Narthex soon.

Devotions for Wednesdays in Advent Beginning November 29th

This year for the first time we will offer a Wednesday evening devotional throughout the season of Advent. Our first Wednesday devotion will be November 29th at 7:00 p.m. This will be a time of reflection, candle lighting, song, and word (Holy Communion will not be offered). Please join us for this time of respite and reflection during the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Peace!

Wednesday Evening Study Will be Every Wednesday in Advent Beginning November 29th

That's right, during Advent, our every other Wednesday study will meet EVERY Wednesday. Come with us as we follow the story of the nativity from the prophetic proclamations of John the Baptizer to the wise men's journey to Bethlehem. Join us for one, two, three, or all of these study experiences. We meet at 6:00 p.m. No food is provided, but feel free to bring your own drink, snack, or dinner.

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

Thank you! Jodi Eisenhauer, Executive Co-Director

Western Berks Shepherding Ministries, Inc.

484-294-7394

Greetings from your sister in ministry, Phoebe! (In particular, the community of Phoebe Berks in Wernersville.) I am reaching out because we need volunteers to help with Sunday afternoon chapel worship services. We would love to have volunteers who:

- Are able to transport residents in wheelchairs to and from services
- Ministers who can preach and lead worship
- Special music groups or an accompanist to lead music for services

If your congregation or organization is looking for service opportunities, we would love for you to consider Phoebe Berks as an avenue for volunteering!

Leah Knox

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Beverly James, Jerry Jarsocrak, Joan Kava, Janice Lamm & Sandy Miller.

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: Karen, David Benjamin, Barry Chapman, Arline G, Delores Hickernell, Shirley Kerchner, Mary Kirkner, Tom Koerner, True Portalatin, & 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 September

Average Weekly Giving in 2023: **\$3564.38**

Average Weekly Giving in 2022: **\$3321.79**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2023: **68**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2022: **52**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$152,493.49**

Total expenses to date in 2022: **\$124,688.41**

Year to date giving: **\$139,014.84**

Percentage of Increase in expenses from 2022 to 2023: **22%**

Thank you. It is your giving that enables Trinity to continue to pay insurance, salaries and benefits, heat, Air Conditioning, to provide worship and learning opportunities, and to engage in outreach, evangelism, and 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.

Thank You

The Opportunity House committee wishes to thank our loyal cooks and all others who contribute to ensure our outreach program is successful. You are a blessing to our church.

Pictures from the Baptism of Laura and Frank Krick's great Grandchildren on 10/29



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 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/10, 12/17, and 12/31. We need Bulletin Sponsors for all the Sundays in November & December. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for November: 11/5-Cindy Hassler-Schappell in memory of her son Heath Hassler.

Helpers for November/December

Altar Guild: Barbara Debiec & Anne Marie Rinehimer (November), Anne Marie Rinehimer & Cheyenne Loring (December)

Communion Assistant: Aislin Given (11/5 & 11/12), Dawn Hickernell (11/19 & 11/26), Cindy Hassler-Schappell (12/3 & 12/10)

Acolytes: 11/5-Quentin Light, 11/12-Stefanie Steffey, 11/19-Tony Ludovici, 11/26-Owen Wentzel, 12/3-Sam Shoumlisky, 12/10-Alexis Shoumlisky.

Lay Readers: 11/5-Charlotte Moyer, 11/12-Helen Hummel, 11/19-Cindy Hassler-Schappell. 11/26-Deacon Carol, 12/3-Anne Marie Rinehimer, 12/10-Kathy Lawry.

Ushers: 11/5- Bashores, 11/12-Lawrys, 11/19-Kurtzes, 11/26-Givens, 12/3-Lawrys, 12/10-Bashores, 12/17-Kurtzes.

Sound System: 11/5-Scott Franzen, 11/13-Stephanie Kurtz, 11/20-Wendell Byler, 11/27-Wendell Byler, 12/3-Scott Franzen

Counters: 11/5-Hassler-Schappell, 11/12-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 11/19- Hummel/Jarsocrak, 11/26-Debiec/Rinehimer.

Snacks:11/5-Stefanie Steffey, 11/12-Franzens.

Bulletin Assemblers: 11/1-Diane Shoumlisky, 11/8-Mary Young, 11/15-Mary Jane Evans, 11/21-June Rapley, 11/29-Connie Fritz, 12/6-Laura Krick, 12/13-Kathy Lawry.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 11/5-Kathy Bashore, 11/19-Harmony Wentzel, 12/10-Betty Schaeffer.

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 November & December

Carol Koch will be 82, Ron Rush will be 85, Mike Renzo will be 83, Betty Reber will be 99, Connie Fritz will be 81, Diane Klinger will be 84 and Kay Weatherholtz will be 85. Charlotte Moyer will be 85. Happy Birthday to all of you.

Church Council Highlights for October

- Budget Meeting will be held on 11/13 to finalize and approve budget for 2024.
- Evaluating our expenses with UGI
- Congregational Meeting following worship on 12/10 to review and adopt 2024 budget & elect new council members.
- Awaiting construction bids for narthex project.
- Advent Fun Shop following worship on 12/3
- Christmas Concert returning after 4 year hiatus. Will be 12/17 @ 3 PM. Light supper follows.
- Next regular council meeting is Tuesday, 11/21 @ 7:30 PM