

Trinity Tidings for May 2024

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

This is the Day!

I dearly hope it's true when we say, "April showers bring May flowers." The month of April has certainly brought us grey mornings, drippy afternoons, and stormy nights. The days after Easter Bruce and I experienced the rainy season up close and personal. It happened when—in order to "relax" a bit after the Holy Week blitz—we traveled to New York City with my daughter, her two young teens, and my sister-in-law along with her nine-year old grandson. The weather prognosis wasn't very good, but we decided to forge ahead anyway. On Monday we ventured through the Lincoln Tunnel and straight to the Natural History Museum without any problems. It didn't rain much, but then we were inside enjoying T-Rex and the stuffed lions of the African Savanna.

The next day, after an evening of great hospitality at the Jersey house of my sister-in-law, we all headed back into the city by way of the Staten Island Ferry. Though foggy, damp, and rainy, the great torch-bearing arm of the Statue of Liberty rose out of the mist to light our entry into the Big Apple.

We were all excited. The promise of a great—albeit wet—adventure lay ahead of us. We should have realized we were "in for it" when Bruce missed the ferry while parking the car. Even so, happy to be on our adventure, our first stop was Trinity Church where Alexander Hamilton is buried. This was a meaningful experience for our young folk who love the musical, *Hamilton*. Trinity Church was regaled in its most lavish Easter finery. Ethereal Baby's Breath, Pussy Willows, vines, and a plethora of colorful spring flowers and ribbon wove their way around the Paschal Candle, altar, and pillars. It was gorgeous.

Next stop, Ground Zero where Bruce finally caught up with us. . . on foot . . . in the rain. The pouring rain. I think I forgot to mention how hard it rained on Tuesday, April 2nd. For the entire day. Non-stop. So, by lunch time we were drenched through to the skin. Thank goodness it wasn't cold. Just wet. We decided to take the subway into Times Square where we settled on the Shake Shack for lunch followed by a trip to the Lego Store and the Harry Potter Store.

By then, my 33 year-old daughter was melting down. This was the worst day of her life, she informed us. (I found out later my sister-in-law was looking for the right moment to ditch all of us and head for the train station.) And yet, amid the discomfort of cold, wet feet, dripping rain coats, soggy umbrellas, and clammy, wet clothing and skin, my grandson looked at his mother and said, "Mom, I know you're having a terrible day . . . but this is the best day of my life." Amazing.

I couldn't not think of the one Bible verse that has stood the test of time with me—especially on my worst—rainiest—days. And it's not really an inspiring verse that instills hope or courage. It is simply that phrase from Psalm 118, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." That's it.

I like often use this verse to call our church family into worship. Maybe I like it because it's true. Each Sunday, as we celebrate the risen Lord, we celebrate the day God has made for us. This Bible verse helps me stay focused on what is most important. For no matter how awful my day is, no matter how bad life feels, I know God has hand-molded each and every day. Whatever transpires, the choices we make, or whether things are in our control or not—each day is made by God.

I know the experience of each day—regardless of what happens—is a day blessed and created by God. For better or worse, I will somehow make it through the day because it belongs to God. That's something in which to rejoice. Rejoice in knowing the worst days can become the best days—or at least manageable—because they are in God's hands.

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice, and be glad in it." May flowers are coming!

Blessings,
Pr. Julie



**Pentecost is
May 19th**

**Please join us as we confirm
five of our young folk:
Owen Wentzel Carson Enck
Caidyn Schaeffer Jocelyn
Enck Michael Weiler
And remember to wear **RED!****




Thank you to all who helped with Lenten Fair on March 10-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, Kathy Bashore, Stefanie Steffey, Beth Byler, 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.

Thank you to Juliana Clery, Jim and Bonnie Giamotti's daughter, for carrying on the tradition of the Wenrich, Hain, Porter and Giamotti families by providing flowers on Easter Sunday (3/31) for the Sunday School teachers and children. Also thanks to Cindy Hassler-Schappell for providing chocolate crosses for the children as well.

Thanks to all who
donated or prepared food
for Opportunity House.
We couldn't continue this
outreach without your
generosity.

Mary Young

Student Loan grants are available this year from the Endowment Fund. Applications are available from Pam Moyer @ 610-670-5896 or the church office. Once an application is completed please return it to Pam Moyer's mail slot or the church office. Applications must be received by June 1st. Thank you.

Trinity Strawberry Festival 2024
Saturday June 8, 2024 
3:30 pm to 7:30 pm



This year, back by popular demand, we will have a Baked Goods Stand. So dust off the baking tins and make something delicious to sell at the Festival. We will also be looking for contributions of gently used Stuffed Animals, Raffle Baskets, and Costume Jewelry.

Please note, we will not have Trinity Treasures or Plants stands this year.

We will need to fill at least 60 volunteer slots for Thursday (6/6) set up, Festival day Saturday 6/8 morning set up, during the Festival 3:30—7:30 p.m. and clean up, so please mark your calendars and decide how you would like to share in this great ministry. Our Sign-Up Strawberry Sunday will be May 5, but sign up forms will also be available later in the Narthex.

As in the past, the Festival proceeds will go to the Trinity Community Response Fund so we can help our neighbors in need. If you know of a family or individual, or local non-profit organization with a medical or emergency need, please let Pastor Julie know so we can consider them for funding.

If you have any suggestions or questions about how you could help, please contact Betty Lou at blou-clue@comcast.net or 610-781-8132.



~ The Strawberry Festival Task Force

FROM FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you for your weekly donation of snacks for the morning fellowship. The committee has a new request: If you are bringing drinks please plan when fellowship time is over to take the drinks home with you. We appreciate your willingness to leave the drinks but we seem to have so many partial containers left in several refrigerators. Please consider a pitcher of water (no need to buy drinks) if that is more convenient for you.

Thanks again.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Mary DeLong, Sharon Gring, Harriet Helbert, Joan Kava, Diane Klinger, Bob Kohler, Carolyn Kurtz, Janice Lamm, Betty Reber, David Schwalm, Pat Sickles, and Kay Weatherholtz.

The Military: John Kurtz.


Family and Friends: Karen, Barry Chapman, Arline G, Delores Hickernell, Shirley Kerchner, Tom Koerner, Vanna Piedras, & True Portalatin.

Special Ministries: The ministries of our Lutheran Pantries and community food pantries and 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.



**COME ON ALONG!!
WERNERSVILLE
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024 10:00 a. m.**

Come walk with us in the parade! The Sunday School Orchestra will play on the trailer and we'll hand out strawberry candy and flyers to remind folks of our Strawberry Festival in June. What a unique way to express our fellowship at Trinity and honor our Veterans. If you would like to be a part of our Trinity entourage, please sign up in the Narthex so we can notify you of weather cancellation. Details can be found on FaceBook Wernersville Memorial Day Parade, the route will be the same as last year. Any questions?? Call Betty Lou 610-781-8132

Speaking of Memorial Day, there will be no service at Trinity on 5/28. Instead we will worship as an ecumenical community @ St. John's (Hain's) Church Grove on N. Church St. @ 11:30 AM that day. Hope to see you there.

How are We Doing?

Trinity's Financial Summary through March

Average Weekly Giving in 2024: **\$3988.72**

Average Weekly Giving in 2023: **\$3,125.06**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2024: **116**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2023: **75**

Total expenses to date in 2024: **\$49,723.84**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$51,567.52**

Year to date giving: **\$51,853.25**

Percentage of increase in giving from 2023 to 2024: 22%

Percentage of Increase in expenses from 2023 to 2024: 0%

Synod Mission Support to date for 2024-\$4093.32, 24% of \$17,100.00 committed.

West Berks Mission Support to date for 2024-\$150, 25% of \$600.00 committed.

Thank you. It is your giving that enables Trinity to continue to do ministry as well as provide for the cost of insurance, salaries and benefits, heat, air conditioning, worship and learning opportunities, engage in outreach and evangelism initiatives 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.

Please note a change in the labeling of offering envelopes. What was once labeled "Maintenance and Repair," is now labeled, "Major Property Expense Fund". Hopefully, this clarifies any confusion as to how this fund is used. Its purpose is not for everyday maintenance but rather extraordinary building expenses such as a new furnace should the need arise.



Mother's Day--May 12th

And then the following Day
Mother and Children Banquet

Monday, May 13th
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 and Choraliers. If you just want to hear the music, 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 in the narthex.



Sign up for geraniums for Pentecost (5/19). Sign up sheet in narthex. Cost-\$3.00. Geraniums will be planted in church garden after use in church



Baptism of Brody Stroup (L) on Easter and Lilly Calpino (R) at Easter Vigil.

**FELLOWSHIP TRIP
AMERICAN MUSIC
THEATRE
CHRISTMAS SHOW
7:30 PM
FRI. NOV. 15, 2024
COST \$43**

TRANSPORTATION – CAR POOLING

NAME	# ?	NAME	# ?	NAME	# ?
BASHORE		B. DEBIEC			
HASSLER		FRANZEN			
LAWRY		KOCH			
BLACK					
M. YOUNG					
BYLER					
PR. JULIE					
RINEHIMER					



Easter Egg Hunt before worship on Easter Sunday

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 a Bulletin Sponsor for 5/19. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for May: 5/5-Carol Koch in memory of her mother, 5/12-Betty Lou & Scott Franzen in honor of David's and Ben's birthday, 5/19-Kathy & Bob Bashore in honor of Izannah's birthday.

Bulletin Sponsors for May: 5/5-Betty Schaeffer in honor of Caidyn's 15th birthday, 5/12-Mary Young in honor of wonderful mothers-Grace Alderman & Marie Young, 5/19-available.

Helpers for May

Altar Guild: Betty Lou Franzen & Betty Schaeffer

Communion Assistant: 5/5-Kevin Kurtz, 5/12 & 5/19-Harmony Wentzel

Acolytes: 5/5-Stefanie Steffey, 5/12-Tony Ludovici, 5/19-Cindy Hassler-Schappell.

Lay Readers: 5/5-Dawn Hickernell, 5/12-Bob Bashore, 5/19-Beth Byler

Ushers: 5/5-Lawry, 5/12-Bashore, 5/19-Kurtz

Sound System: 5/5-Caidyn Schaeffer, 5/12-Stephanie Kurtz, 5/19-Scott Franzen, 6/2-Wendell Byler

Counters: 5/5-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 5/12-Debiec/Rinehimer, 5/19-Franzen.

Snacks: 5/5-Byler, 5/12-Franzen, 5/19-Bashore

Bulletin Assemblers: 5/1-Helen Hummel, 5/8-Sharen Black, 5/15-Marilyn Weatherholtz, 5/21-Amy Strunk, 5/29-Cindy Hassler-Schappell.

Children's Sunday School Teacher: 5/12-Kevin Kurtz

Newsletter Assembly: Kathy Lawry

Church Council Members

Bob Bashore, President 484-336-3638

Betty Lou Franzen, Vice President 610-781-8132

Beth Byler 610-781-2161

Dawn Hickernell 717-507-3549

Helen Hummel 610-678-1377

Kevin Kurtz 610-413-5240

Rick Lawry 610-670-1401

Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131

Stefanie Steffey 484-721-1161

Church Council Highlights for April

- Approved removing carpet from screen front to the steps of chancel. Center carpet will remain as is. Side carpet will remain up to front pew.
- The Fellowship Trip to the American Music Theater is set for Friday, 11/15. Cost should be \$43.00 per person. Sign up is still available.
- Update of Constitution is nearly complete. Once task force completes it, it then goes to Synod for review-they return with any needed corrections-then it goes back to them for final approval before being brought to congregation for review and approval.
- Narthex construction will begin in June
- The new copier is installed. Costs are over \$100.00 a month less than previous copier plus it can scan to computer, and self report supply and counting needs.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in May

Mary Young will be 83, Frank Krick will be 84, Joan Kava will be 95, Jane Pfennig will be 85, Bob Youtz will be 82, Helen Hummel will be 86, Elaine Briner will be 81, and Ann Sentz will be 82. Happy Birthday to all of you. Looks like May is a winner for longevity.