

Trinity Tidings for Sept., 2024

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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

“Why are You Looking for Me?”

So, there's this story in scripture about Jesus as a youth at age 12. You might know it. It's in Chapter 2 of Luke right after Jesus' birth story and the stories of his circumcision and blessing in the temple. It goes like this:

⁴¹ Each year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know it. ⁴⁴ Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵ When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were shocked. His mother said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!" ⁴⁹ Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they didn't understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵² Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people. (Lk. 2:41-3:1 Common English Bible)

This particular story really touches me. Maybe because it's very real life. A young family is traveling home from the city when suddenly they can't find their child. They think he has gotten lost in the crowd so they travel the three days back to the city. When they finally find him, they are surprised, relieved, confused, and most likely angry to have found their son in the local temple. I imagine Jesus—the young tween—rolling his eyes at his parents as he admonishes them for being worried about him. They should have known where to find him, he says. (As if they were mind readers.) But Jesus obediently returns to Nazareth with them. Perhaps there are some consequences for his behavior such as, “You'll be sweeping up wood shavings from your father's shop floor for the next two months.”

Now think about the twelve-year olds you have known and know. I have several grandchildren around this age so let's hear this story in a modern setting. A family goes on vacation. Their young tween/teen goes down to the snack shop in their hotel but then finds their way to the pool and the exercise room not thinking that anyone will worry or care. But they are wrong. A half hour later mom and dad frantically begin the search for their child only to find them watching TV in the lobby. The child admonishes Mom and Dad for being worried. Then the child goes back to the room with Mom and Dad and is obedient for the rest of the trip.

I remember getting lost from parents a time or two growing up—and losing my own kids in the store. It is so easy to lose our kids in the flash of moment—and not just physically—but in this age of chat-rooms, questionable internet sites, social media, and unmonitored gaming, we can lose them and they've never left the house.

I recently spoke with a young mother who was trying to regain the life of her child after having lost them to the black hole of social media and internet communication with unsafe people. She asked, “What did we do at that age?” Well, to be honest there weren't the cybernetic dangers that exist today. Back then young people went to the mall with friends, read books, played board games, and chatted on the family telephone that was attached to the wall. TV shows were spread across a young and more innocent cable network. Facebook and snapchat didn't even exist and most families didn't even own computers, much less cell phones. I don't know if life was simpler or safer then, but dangers were certainly different and more easily avoided.

So, what can we do to build up the lives of our young people? Well, as we move into this next school year, we can live into our calling as a church family to participate in the lives of our young people. It really does take a village to raise a child. We can guide them in the way of faith and understanding. We can each show an interest in their daily struggles and rejoice with them in their successes. Ask them questions about how they are doing in school. Show an interest in what *they* are interested in. Ask them where they last saw God at work in their lives. Share your faith with them, too.

Jesus said, “Why are you looking for me? Didn’t you know it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” Is it not necessary for our young people to be in God’s house, too? It was at their baptisms that parents promised to live with their kids among God’s faithful people and bring them to the word of God and the holy supper. As a church family we promised to support and pray for them in their new life in Christ.

Are we doing that? Are we supporting and praying for and with them? How will we as the body of Christ accompany them in their faith journeys over this next school year? Let us not only keep our youth in prayer, but actively seek them out and show them the way of Christ that they may always feel “found” and a part of this community of faithful believers.

Blessings,
Pastor Julie

A Message From Carla

Thank you for sharing your favorite hymns for our summer basket hymn selections! We decided to try a different way to share favorite hymns during our worship services throughout the year. We will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex to list favorite hymn requests. These can be hymns from any hymnal, not just the ELW. We will plan the favorite hymns as they blend with the lectionary, church season and theme for our worship services during the year. We will list the date on the sign-up list when the favorite hymns will be sung.

Community Response Fund

Do you know family or friends or someone in our community who is going through hard times? You may or may not know that there are funds available through our Community Response Fund for people who may be experiencing financially debilitating illness, have experienced natural disaster, unexpected unemployment, or something else for which a small financial boost would be helpful. Our Community Response Fund serves not only the members of Trinity but those in our surrounding community as well. These funds are sustained by the proceeds raised from the Strawberry Festival.



A big thank you to all who donated food for Opportunity House. The residents are very appreciative of your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Mary Young

Fellowship trip to American Music Theatre – Christmas Show
Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 - 7:30 pm show
Helen Hummel will be finalizing our order shortly- Cost \$43

Our Mission Possible Team at Work

Called to be a DPL

By Kevin Kurtz, disaster project leader, Wernersville, Pa.

Prior to my retirement in December 2022, I was searching for a mission/service program I could offer my service to. Although an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church, in October 2022, on the invitation of a close friend, I joined a Brethren group going to a Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) project site in Dawson Springs, Ky. Could this lead to the opportunity I was looking for? While on that trip I was asked to consider training to become a disaster project leader (DPL). After much reflection, I thought, why not?

The initial date scheduled for the Disaster Project Leadership training did not work for me. So be it, I thought, maybe this isn't for me. However, the training was rescheduled, and I could attend after all. Maybe this is the program where God wants me.

At the training, we had "getting to

know you" exercises with the participants and the senior leadership. I think this is something I can do.

Our instruction covered many aspects of the BDM program: finances; scheduling work and volunteers; managing unforeseen challenges; funding streams; BDM partnerships. There is much more that happens out of sight of the weekly volunteers than I had ever imagined. I pray I can do this.

Following the training, I was asked if I would continue and serve a month as an intern, after which, if I was successful, I would become a DPL. I pray I can do this.

The month that I served was filled with real time project management; meeting and working with Habitat partners daily; leadership meetings; and fellowship with weekly volunteers. Working in coordination with other leadership, and leading volunteers in construction tasks—this was just the



Kevin Kurtz (r) and other participants at the on-site BDM Disaster Project Leadership Training in February 2024. Photo courtesy of BDM

volunteer effort I was looking for. I have become a DPL. I can do this.

When you are presented with opportunities to serve, please consider them carefully. If it is something God places in your path that you are meant to do, God will find a way to make it happen. We can do this.

8/25/24

Just a note to tell you that I really appreciate all the work you all did in order to give me a new smooth floor to walk on after the flood of ~~April~~ July 9th 2023. It's so nice to have an even floor instead of rough boards. All of you worked together very well. It was wonderful for me. It is very well done and looks very nice. Please tell and thank everyone for the excellent job they did and I like it alot.

It was very thoughtful of you. Thanks!
God Bless you all,
Marilyn Miller

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 2024-2025 school year. Current background clearances are required prior to assignment. Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or darbyw@uwberks.org.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Sharen Black, Mary Nace, and Ruth Rush.

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

The Military: John Kurtz.

Family and Friends: Anne Alderman, Barry Chapman, Arline G, Delores Hickernell, Shirley Kerchner, Karen Kline, Tom Koerner, True Portalatin, Bill Rapley, Karen and Linda.

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

For confidential prayers for yourself or others,
call Mary Young at 610-678-4470 to activate the prayer chain.

How are We Doing?

Trinity's Financial Summary through July

Average Weekly Giving in 2024: **\$3,672.82**

Average Weekly Giving in 2023: **\$3,650.59**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2024: **82**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2023: **75**

Total expenses to date in 2024: **\$112,436.99**

Total expenses to date in 2023: **\$119,919.50**

Year to date giving: **\$106,511.79**

Percentage of increase in giving from 2023 to 2024: 1%

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

Synod Mission Support to date for 2024-\$9,793.32, 57% of \$17,100.00 committed.

West Berks Mission Support to date for 2024-\$350, 44% 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.

Note:" Major Property Expense Fund" is for large, future, expenses.

FREE MEAL

Trinity Lutheran Church Wernersville

Sunday, September 8th, 4-6 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner and Health Fair

Community Invited

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church (follow the signs)

130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA

- From Rt. 422 Penn Ave.
- Turn on Werner St. (near the train station)
- Right on Lincoln St.
- Right on S. Walnut St.

(Parking lots on S. Walnut in front of the church or Hill St. behind the church. Special needs parking on the street.)

Enter: through the Social Hall doors in the church basement

(Down the steps in front of church on S. Walnut. There is an accessible entry by going up the front ramp. There you will be directed to an elevator.)

Date/Time: Sunday, September 8th, 4-6 p.m.

Take-out available upon request.



We are excited to announce we will be back at Isaac's for this year's CROP Walk kick-off fundraiser! We will again have the Walk materials and envelopes to distribute at the Spring Ridge Isaac's on **Thursday, September 5th between 11 AM and 8:00 PM.** Isaac's will share 15% of their dine-in, take-out and online orders with curbside pick-up and gift cards purchased that day for anyone who shows the CROP Hunger Walk fundraiser flyer, either printed or on their phone. **Help support our CROP Walk and our local Isaac's by joining us September 5th!**

As in year's past, 75% of the money raised at our Virtual Walk goes to support Church World Service's mission to feed hungry people around the world by helping them develop self-sustaining methods of growing crops and raising livestock. 25% of the money raised will go to Helping Harvest, which provides food for those in need in Berks and Schuylkill Counties.

Encourage folks to share information about the Walk with their Facebook friends and share the link for them to donate online. Our local Helping Harvest food bank reports that they continue to serve more families than before the pandemic. The same is true everywhere so your generous support is much needed and greatly appreciated!

If you have questions or need more information, please call Dawn at 610-223-2305 or go to www.crophungerwalk.org/readingpa OR check our Facebook page! This link will get you there: <https://www.facebook.com/Reading-Berks-CROP-Hunger-Walk-332030921042472/>

You should also be able to copy and paste this QR code:




When you zoom in on this with a smart phone camera it will take you to the Facebook page.

2023 CROP Walk Report – Total Amount Raised was \$20,296!


The Ecumenical Committee of Wernersville which brings you the Memorial Weekend Grove Worship Service and other events sponsored by our local churches is hosting a new event this fall **A Celebration of Musical Gifts** on November 10, 2024. We are inviting musicians of all skill levels and ages to share their gift of inspirational music at a 3:00 pm afternoon concert. The concert will be hosted at Trinity Wernersville this year. The first 12 to 15 registrants will be accepted to make up an approximately 90-minute program. A run-through type rehearsal will be held on Saturday November 9 at Trinity. A free-will offering will benefit the Reading

Musical Foundation programs for providing refurbished instruments, scholarships, and lessons for young musicians. More information and a registration form are available on our website www.TrinityWernersville.org If you have any questions contact Betty Lou Franzen 610-781-8132.

Hosted by the Ecumenical Affairs Committee of Wernersville
at Trinity Lutheran Church
130 S. Walnut Street, Wernersville, PA
on November 10, 2024
3:00 pm



**A
Celebration
of Musical
Gifts**



Trinity Lutheran Church
Events | Trinity Lutheran...
www.trinitywernersville.org

All inspirational musical talents welcome. Please register by October 10, 2024, so a program can be planned. Registration forms available at www.trinitywernersville.org click Events.

Free admission ~ a free will offering for the Reading Musical Foundation providing refurbished instruments, scholarships, and lessons for young musicians

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$45.00. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins is \$15.00. If you choose, you may decide how you want to sponsor flowers. There are any number of ways to do that: cut your own when appropriate, provide potted plants or flowers like mums, poinsettias, lilies, etc. . . . You are free to design your own arrangements. As always you may take your arrangements home with you after worship. Or please feel free to purchase them the traditional way: simply sign up, put \$45 in an envelope, and place it in the offering plate. **Most importantly, you must indicate on the flower sign up if you are going to provide flowers yourself so Barbara knows not to order them from Royer's.**

Envelopes for bulletin and flower sponsorship are under the sign up sheets. During renovation the sign up sheets and envelopes are on the back window sill in the nave.

Altar Flower Sponsors for September: 9/1-Mary Young in memory of her wedding anniversary, 9/8-Carol Koch in memory of her wedding anniversary. **9/15, 9/22, and 9/29 available.**

Bulletin Sponsors for September: 9/1-Pat Zerby, 9/8-Tedd & Dawn Hickernell in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary, **9/15-available,** 9/22-Kay Hassler in honor of her grandchildren, 9/29-Kay Hassler in honor of her great grandchildren.

Helpers for September

Altar Guild: Cheyenne Loring

Communion Assistant: 9/1-Harmony Wentzel, 9/8-Kay Stout, 9/15 & 9/22-Pat Zerby.

Acolytes: 9/1-Bob Bashore, 9/8-Barb Debiec, 9/15-Quentin Light, 9/22-Owen Wentzel, 9/29-Kay Stout.

Lay Readers: 9/1-Bob Bashore, 9/8-Stefanie Steffey, 9/15-Kathy Lawry, 9/22-Helen Hummel, 9/29-Anne Marie Lawry

Ushers: 9/1-Lawry, 9/8-Bashore, 9/15-Kurtz, 9/22-Given, 9/29-Shoumlisky.

Sound System: 9/1-Scott Franzen, 9/8-Caidyn Schaeffer, 9/15-Stephanie Kurtz, 9/22-Scott Franzen, 9/29-Wendell Byler

Counters: 9/1-Franzens, 9/8-Hassler-Schappell, 9/15-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 9/22-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 9/29-Debiec/Rinehimer.

Snacks: 9/1-Pat Zerby, 9/8-Bashore, 9/15-Pat Zerby, 9/22-Helen Hummel, 9/29-Pat Zerby

Bulletin Assemblers: 9/5-Amy Strunk, 9/11-Cindy & Bob Hassler-Schappell, 9/18-Betty Schaeffer, 9/25-Diane Shoumlisky, 10/2-Kay Hassler

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

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in September

Ed Evans will be 85. Happy Birthday Ed.

August Council Highlights

- Annual Congregation Mtg. to approve 2025 budget & elect council members will be held on 12/15 following worship.
- Audits are ongoing.
- Constitution continues to be revised.
- All Committees are working on 2025 budgets which are due by 10/1.
- Prepared a statement on Community response Fund for this newsletter.

Next meeting Tuesday, September 17th @ 7:30 PM