

# Trinity Tidings for November/Mid December, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA, 19565, 610.678.1782,  
e-mail: [tlcworship@aol.com](mailto:tlcworship@aol.com), [www.trinitywernersville.org](http://www.trinitywernersville.org), [facebook.com/trinitywernersville](https://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

## Happy Holidays



It's that time of year again—the clash of the holidays when pumpkins adorn your next door neighbor's porch while it is clear Santa and his elves have exploded Christmas all over the front yard of the neighbor across the street. And maybe they, too still have one or two pumpkins withering away next to the holly and ivy. And somewhere in there is Advent. This year Advent begins Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Meaning the church's Advent calendar will actually match those chocolate Advent calendars you can buy at the local grocery store. And so it goes . . .

So, here's what's coming up:

November 28, 29, December 2: Office closed for Thanksgiving

December 1, Sunday, Advent I

December 7, Saturday, Wernersville Tree Lighting (of which the Wernersville Ecumenical Affairs Committee supports) will be held a half hour before sunset at the Library.

December 8, Sunday, Advent II

Christmas Concert at 3:00 p.m. followed by refreshments

December 15, Sunday, Advent III

Congregational Meeting after worship to approve the 2025 budget and new council members.

Advent Family Fun Fair and Lunch after the Congregational Meeting

December 22, Sunday, Advent IV

December 24, Tuesday, Christmas Eve Worship at 9:00 p.m.

December 25, Wednesday, Christmas Day

This year our Advent offering will benefit Carolina Rebuilding Ministries—but more on that closer to Advent. A number of our members worked with CRM this past summer and fall.

But I suppose it doesn't really matter how or when or if you decorate your house for the holidays. What is most important is that we remember *who* we are to thank and *why*. As followers of Jesus, we live our lives in thanksgiving for the One who was humbly born in a

stable to a mother and father who loved him dearly, yet barely understanding the scope of what their son's mission in the world would be. And yet, Jesus Christ was born to be savior of this world: born to die and rise again that all might have abundant life in Christ. That's it. That's Thanksgiving and Christmas in a nutshell . . . and oh yeah, Advent too as we wait in between Thanksgiving and Christmas—always living in the in between times knowing that Christ will come again.

Blessings to you in this Holiday Season,  
Pastor Julie

### October Council Highlights

- 2025 budget reviewed and approved for submission to congregation for approval on December 15, 2024.
- Nominating Committee preparing to nominate two people for council.
- Long Range Planning Committee has been formed and will be meeting November 13th to continue conversation.
- St. John's Sinking Spring has extended an invitation to congregations to discuss the health of local Lutheran congregations. Bob Bashore will be attending. If you are interested in attending as well, please see Bob for date and time.
- Next regular council meeting is Tuesday, 11/19 @ 7:30 PM



On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 place to write your loved ones name will be provided by the offering plates 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.

Catherine Richards	3/2/24
David Schwalm	5/22/24



Save the date of December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3 PM for the Christmas Concert featuring the Bell Choirs, Chancel Choir, and Joyful Rhythms. 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.



On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our Congregational Meeting following worship for election of council members and approval of 2025 budget. Immediately following the meeting we will have our annual Advent Fun Fair. We will begin with a light lunch and then proceed to the craft tables to make Christmas items.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

**Members who are sick or recently hospitalized:** Diane Shoumlisky, and Joanne Stoudt.

**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 (deployed to South Korea).

**Family and Friends:** Rich Campbell, Barry Chapman, Arline G, Delores Hickernell, Shirley Kerchner, Karen Kline, Karen, Linda, Susan and Karl.

**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.**

**How are We Doing?**

**Trinity's Financial Summary through September**

Average Weekly Giving in 2024: **\$3,578.94**

Average Weekly Giving in 2023: **\$3,658.28**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2024: **75**

Average Weekly Attendance in 2023: **73**

Total expenses to date in 2024: **\$142,641.51**

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

Year to date giving: **\$135,999.64**

Percentage of decrease in giving from 2023 to 2024: 2%

Percentage of decrease in expenses from 2023 to 2024: 7%

Synod Mission Support to date for 2024-\$12,642.32, 74% of \$17,100.00 committed.

West Berks Mission Support to date for 2024-\$450, 75% 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. 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.**

**From our Personnel Committee**

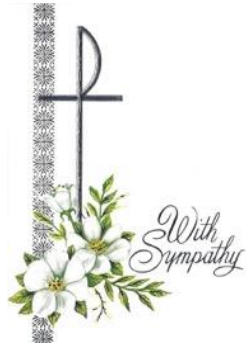
Two duties of the Personnel Committee are to determine if there are any problems that the congregation has with any staff member and conversely, if there are any issues that the congregation may help solve for the staff. During the upcoming holiday season and Easter, our Pastor and Deacon our terribly busy with services, event coordination and all those things that make holidays demanding for all of us.

Of particular importance is communications. Both the Pastor and Deacon must make innumerable calls to manage and arrange events and determine who is available and able to assist. At times, one person not responding may stop the progress in organizing important events and concluding tasks. We're all busy and forget to return calls and communications, but to help our Staff, would you all assist by prioritizing Church communications thereby sharing the joys and burdens of the holidays?

Thank you,

Jerry Jarsocrak

Personnel Committee



Our sincere sympathy to Charlotte Moyer whose son David Moyer entered the Church Triumphant on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Charlotte and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Thank You**

*Thanks to all who contributed to the meal for Opportunity House on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are pleased that we can continue this important community outreach due to your generosity.*

### **To our Endowment Committee**

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for the generous loan-grant program. Bethany graduated Penn State Univ. in 2023 and entered Ohio State Univ. Veterinary School this Aug. Thank you again for your love and support.*

*Laura Miller  
& Bethany*

### **An invitation from Carla**

Do you like to sing? Would you like to try playing the drums? Would you like to join us but are not able to participate on a regular basis? We invite you to join us for Christmas Eve or whenever it works for you! You do not need to know how to read music to sing with the Chancel Choir or drum with Joyful Rhythms! Please see Carla for more information or just come to any rehearsal that works for you!

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

A  
 Celebration  
 of Musical  
 Gifts

Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Events | Trinity Lutheran...  
[www.trinitywernersville.org](http://www.trinitywernersville.org)

*A Thanksgiving concert of inspirational music.*

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

**Blessing of the Animals on October 6, 2024  
 5 dogs, 1 hamster, and a turtle**





### **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. You may also request we use our own artificial flowers and donate the \$45 to the general fund. 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. We need Altar Flower Sponsors for 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/29. We need Bulletin Sponsors for all 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/15, 12/22 & 12/29. Please sign up on the appropriate chart.

**Altar Flower Sponsors for November:** 11/3-Pat Zerby, 11/10-Cindy Hassler-Schappel in memory of Heath Hassler, 11/17-Shoumlisky family in honor of Sam's birthday on 11/20, 11/24-Pat Zerby.

**Bulletin Sponsors for November:** 11/3-Rick & Kathy Lawry in honor of Rich's birthday, 11/10-Cindy Hassler-Schappel in memory of Heath Hassler, 11/17 & 11/24-available.

### **Helpers for November/mid December**

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

**Communion Assistant:** Betty Lou Franzen (11/3 & 11/10), Cindy Hassler-Schappell (11/17 & 11/24), Kevin Kurtz (12/1 & 12/8)  
Barbara Debiec (12/15 & 12/22)

**Acolytes:** 11/3- Stefanie Steffey, 11/10- Alexis Shoumlisky, 11/17- Sam Shoumlisky, 11/24-Cindy Hassler-Schappell, 12/1-Quentin Light, 12/8-Betty Lou Franzen, 12/15-Bob Bashore

**Lay Readers:** 11/3-Stefanie Steffey, 11/10-Allsion Given, 11/17-Elaine Briner, 11/24-Ed Evans, 12/1-TBD, 12/8-Betty Lou Franzen, 12/15-Dawn Hickernell

**Ushers:** 11/3- Lawrys, 11/10-Bashores, 11/17-Kurtzes, 11/24-Givens, 12/1-Lawrys, 12/8-Bashores, 12/15-Kurtzes.

**Sound System:** 11/3-Caidyn Schaeffer, 11/10-Scott Franzen, 11/17-Stephanie Kurtz, 11/24-Wendell Byler, 12/1-Stephanie Kurtz, 12/8-Wendell Byler (11 AM), 12/8-Scott Franzen (3 PM)

**Counters:** 11/3-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 11/10-Franzens, 11/17- Hassler-Schappell, 11/24-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 12/1-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 12/8-Debiec/Rinehimer,12/15-Franzens.

**Snacks:**11/3-Pat Zerby, 11/10-Helen Hummel, 11/17-Byler, 11/24-Bashore, 12/1-open. 12/8-Pat Zerby, 12-15-open.

**Bulletin Assemblers:** 11/6-Connie Fritz, 11/13-Laura Krick, 11/20-Kathy Bashore, 11/26-Barb Debiec, 12/5-Jarsocraks, 12/12-Helen Hummel.

**Children's Sunday School Teachers:** 11/10-Harmony Wentzel, 11/17-Kerrie Searfoss, 11/24 and 12/1-no Sunday School, 12/8-Advent Fun Fair, 12/15-Stefanie Steffey.

**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  
Stefanie Steffey 484-721-1161  
Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131

## **Happy Birthday**

### **Birthday Milestones in November & December**

Carol Koch will be 83, Ron Rush will be 86, Mike Renzo will be 84, Betty Reber will be 100, Connie Fritz will be 82, Diane Klinger will be 85, Kay Weatherholtz will be 86 and Charlotte Moyer will be 86. Happy Birthday to all of you.