

TRINITY TIDINGS for FEBRUARY 2026

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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Carla Seidel, Sexton: Roy Kline

Lent in Joy and Sorrow

Have you ever noticed how this time of year is just perfect for the season of Lent? We often think of Lent as sparse, somber, and prayerful. And though the color for Lent is purple, if I had to reassign a color, it might be grey. And honestly, February and March feel grey to me (think rain, sleet, cold, and ice).

And yet, even in the grey of February and March, you can find tender shoots of life poking through crumbles of dirt, leftover fall leaves, and wintery debris. That's Lent—new shoots of life poking through the wintery debris of our lives. By the time we get to the Resurrection of Our Lord we are often full-swing into spring and looking forward to the green and warm of summer. Just as the weather moves from cold dreariness into soft spring breezes, Lent moves from the greyness of Ash Wednesday to the gold and white of Easter morning.

It's as if Mother Nature follows along with us through the 40 days of Lent and regales us with light and brilliance on Easter morning. If we are attentive to the movement and change of God's creation, then we will be well accompanied through the Lenten season.

And more. Like winter and spring, Lent holds in one hand the joys of our lives and in the other, the sorrows of our lives. There is the sorrow that surrounds the reality of Jesus' crucifixion on the cross. And there is the sorrow—and sometimes discomfort—which surrounds the reality of our own ashy immortality. And then there are the daily sorrows which permeate the difficult events of our lives.

And yet, equally surrounding us is the joy of resurrection—the knowledge that life always comes out of death—and maybe sorrow, too. There is the joy that God's love abounds and is found amid the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

This Lent, I encourage you to spend each day in prayer and solitude. And in that prayer lift up to God what is sorrow and what is joy in your life. Then be silent and listen. As you walk through your day, look and feel for God's presence in both your sorrows and your joys. And most importantly, what new thing is God giving you on this day?

Peace be to all as we enter this time of Lent.

Blessings,
Pr. Julie

Lenten Schedule for 2026

February 18—Ash Wednesday

NO 10:30 Holy Communion

12:30 Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion followed by lunch

6:00 Soup and Study *Making Sense of the Cross*

7:30 Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

February 25, Wednesday

12:00 Ministerium Lenten Service at Trinity Lutheran Robesonia

6:00 Soup and Study

7:00 Evening Prayer

March 4, Wednesday

12:00 Ministerium Lenten Service at UCC of Robesonia

6:00 Soup and Study

7:00 Evening Prayer

March 11, Wednesday

12:00 Ministerium Lenten Service at St. John's Hains

6:00 Soup and Study

7:00 Evening Prayer

March 18, Wednesday

NO 10:30 Holy Communion

12:00 Ministerium Lenten Service at Trinity Wernersville

6:00 Soup and Study

7:00 Evening Prayer

March 25, Wednesday

12:00 Ministerium Lenten Service at TBD

6:00 Soup and Study

7:00 Evening Prayer

March 29, Palm Sunday of the Passion

10:30 Fellowship

11:00 Worship

March 30, Monday

5:30 Tentative Vigil practice

April 2, Maundy Thursday

7:30 Worship

April 3, Good Friday

7:30 Tenebrae Service

April 4, The Easter Vigil

2:00 Practice for those involved in the service

5:00 Easter Vigil begins outside

April 5, The Resurrection of Our Lord

10:30 Fellowship

11:00 Worship

Kids of the Kingdom
Sundays During Service



Kids of the Kingdom

Beginning Sunday, February 1st, a new Sunday School for children ages preschool through 4th grade will be offered. Kids of the Kingdom will meet after the Sunday morning Children's Message. We will meet twice a month in the library. Our time will be filled with Bible stories and activities. On Sundays when we don't meet, children will receive an activity bag to enjoy during worship. Following are dates for Kids of the Kingdom:

February 1, 15	June 7, 21
March 1, 15	July 5, 19
April 5, 19	August 2, 16
May 3, 17	Fall Schedule TBD



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 1st following Worship.
We will review and approve the
2025 Annual Report
as well as the 2026 Endowment Budget.

On February 1, is Generosity Sunday. Our guest preacher will be The Reverend Seminarian & LLM Candidate, Doug Blair, from Zion Womelsdorf. On this Sunday, we will celebrate the good work of the ministry and mission of Trinity Lutheran Church as we prayerfully consider what our gifts will be for the coming year. We will turn in our estimated giving cards on that day. A congregational picture and then a potluck dinner in the Social Hall will follow worship.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Karen Houck, John and Margie Stine, Ron Rush, Cindy Hassler-Schappell, Carol Koch

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

The Military: John Kurtz.

Family and Friends: Justin Audet, Eleanor Brossman's daughter Kim, Arline G., Delores Hickernell, Karen Kline, Bronwyn Morgan, Eileen Rhoad, Doug Sutcliffe, Richard Zimmerman, Karen and Linda.

Special Ministries: Our missionary in Tanzania-Stephen Friberg and his Family.

Please let us know when to remove people from the prayer list.

PRAYER CHAIN

For confidential prayers for yourself or other
Call Mary Young at 610-678-4470 to activate the prayer chain.

Church Council Highlights from January

1. Elected New Council President Bob Bashore and Vice President Cindy Hassler-Schappell.
2. Council said the list of new liaisons for 2026 should be listed in the Newsletter.
3. Trees were removed from the back parking lot on January 7 & 8, 2026.
4. Wendell is exploring alternatives for our current Internet and phone provider (Comcast) to bring down the cost of our rising bill.
5. Council Retreat date is May 9, 2026 from 9am to 2pm at Trinity.

Church Council Members

Bob Bashore/Stewardship, President 484-336-3638
Cindy Hassler-Schappell/Endowment, Vice President 610-451-6131
Sharen Black/Fellowship 610-678-1713
Beth Byler/Future Ministries 610-781-2161
Betty Lou Franzen/Finance/Strawberry Festival 610-781-8132
Ron Giangiacomo/Property 610-670-1869
Kevin Kurtz/Long Range Planning 610-413-5240
Stefanie Steffey/Mutual Ministries 484-721-1161
Julie Sutliff/Worship & Music/Personnel 610-780-0802

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.**

We need Flower Sponsors for 2/22 and all of March. We need bulletin sponsors for 2/15, 2/18, an 2/22. Please sign up in the book in the narthex.

Altar Flower Sponsors for February: 2/1-Cheri & Ron Giangiacomo in memory of Dawn Giangiacomo's birthday, 2/8-Betty Schaeffer in honor of her 75th Birthday, 2/15-Ray & Betty Schaeffer in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 2/22-Available.

Bulletin Sponsors for February: 2/1-Cheri Giangiacomo in memory of Dawn Giangiacomo, 2/8-Cindy Hassler in honor of Tina & Shawn's Anniversary, 2/15-Available, 2/18-Available, 2/22-Available

Helpers for February

Altar Guild: Sharen Black & Anne Marie Rinehimer

Communion Bread: Cindy Hassler-Schappell 2/1 & 2/8, Julie Sutliff - 2/15 & 2/22

Communion Assistant: 2/1-Kevin Kurtz, 2/8-Kathy Lawry, 2/15-Kay Stout, 2/18-Bob Bashore, 2/22-Cindy Hassler-Schappell

Acolytes: 2/1-Ariana Sitlinger, 2/8 Sam Shoumlisky, 2/15-Barbara Debiec, 2/18- Barbara Debiec, 2/22-Betty Lou Franzen

Lay Readers: 2/1-Cindy Hassler-Schappell, 2/8-Beth Byler, 2/15-Dawn Hickernell, 2/22-Allison Given

Ushers: 2/1-Lawrys, 2/8-Bashores, 2/15- Kurtzes, 2/22-Givens

Sound System: 2/1-Michael Weiler, 2/8-Scott Franzen, 2/15-Owen Wentzel, 2/18-Scott Franzen (12:30 PM), 2/18-Wendell Byler (7:30PM) 2/22-Stephanie Kurtz

Counters: 2/1-Hassler-Schappell, 2/8-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 2/15-Debiec/Rinehimer, 2/18-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 2/22-Franzen

Snacks: 2/15-Julie Sutliff. All other Sundays available.

Bulletin Assemblers: 2/1-Connie Fritz, 2/8-Helen Hummel, 2/15-Sharen Black, 2/18-Barbara Debiec, 2/22-Betty Schaeffer

Newsletter Assembly: Barbara Debiec