

# Trinity Tidings for May 2026

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 ♦ Musician-Carla Seidel ♦ Sexton-Roy Kline

## “I Have Seen the Lord!” John 20:18



I love this image of Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles, telling the good news of the risen Christ to the disciples. Sadly, I have no idea who painted it. I found it on-line as I was looking for images of Mary Magdalene delivering the Good News. I even went to the website where it came from and—surprisingly—discovered it came from the Jehovah Witness’ website.

I know. Right? We are so skeptical and reticent to give any worthwhile attention to anything JW related. Mostly we are annoyed by and joke about JW evangelists knocking on our doors. And while I am hard put to include them as a Christian denomination (they do not adhere to the doctrine of the Trinity and their own version of the Bible has come under much criticism along with their understandings of salvation, God’s kingdom, blood transfusions, and a host of other things), this depiction of Mary Magdalene delivering the Good News to the hiding disciples is spot on. The joy in her face is such a contrast to the surprise on the faces of the disciples. “I have seen the Lord!” she shouts. The proclamation of the risen Christ crosses all barriers regardless of religion or belief.

Mary and her joyous proclamation walks with us as we journey deep into the heart of these 50 days of Easter. But what if Mary’s words become not only a statement but a question for you and me? Where *have* I seen the Lord?

Where have *you* seen the Lord? Sometimes we see the Lord in the most unusual and unexpected places. Interestingly, I saw the Lord in the Artemis II moon mission! Amid all the turmoil on this planet—war and violence and heartache in the Middle East, the struggle to make ends meet in this time of great inflation and soaring gas prices—the Artemis II journey into space and around the moon gave us a moment of eager anticipation and joy as our attention diverted into something new and positive. There was this collective sigh of relief in the ability to engage in something that could potentially bind together the total of planet earth’s human habitation.

Upon their return, Mission Specialist Kristina Koch and her crewmates were interviewed about their experience. When talking about what it meant to be a crew, she described crew members as “being ‘inescapably, beautifully, dutifully linked’—people who share the same purpose, sacrifice for one another, and offer grace while working together towards a common goal.” And then in profoundly prophetic words she added, “Planet earth, you are a crew.”



*Kristina Koch*

Whether she knew it or not, Koch’s words were a reflection of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. And it is as the body of Christ that we humans are a sign of the risen Christ through all that we say and do. We are a “crew.” As Mary Magdalene ran back to her “crew,” she cried out to them, “I have seen the Lord!” instructing them to go to Galilee where they would find Jesus. And so they do. They go to Galilee where they look for Jesus.

Not finding Jesus, they go fishing in their old fishing hole, The Sea of Galilee. Maybe you know this part of the story . . . The disciples throw their nets into the sea, but they can’t catch anything, until Jesus, standing on the shore, directs them to throw their nets to the right of the boat. Immediately, their nets fill to bursting. It isn’t long before they recognize Jesus. Once ashore, they sit down to a charcoal fire and share some of their fish with Jesus. It is here that Jesus questions Peter about his love for him. Ultimately, Jesus asks Peter to feed his sheep—you know, tend the flock. We’re asked to do that, too.

For to see the Lord is to know Jesus, is to follow Jesus, is to serve others in the name of Jesus. To see the Lord is to come together as one people as the body of Christ. It means to live and work together as a “crew.” And more. In truth, it doesn’t matter what your faith is or what you believe or don’t believe. The people of Planet Earth are one people. We are indeed a crew charged with caring for one another as we hurl through space on this tiny blue marble.

May the Holy Spirit bind us together as one people—one crew—empowered to reveal the risen Christ to others.

Blessings,  
Pastor Julie

**Kids of the Kingdom**  
Sundays During Service



### **Kids of the Kingdom**

Beginning Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, a new Sunday School for children ages preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

April 5, 19

May 3, 17

June 7, 21

July 5, 19

August 2, 16

Fall Schedule TBD



Dear Members of Trinity

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the beautiful memorial service you provided for my sister, Carol Koch. The scripture lessons, sermon and music provided by musicians, bell choir and chancel choir meant so much to me and my family. Carol was there in spirit and in our hearts. Thank you to the many members who shared in the celebration of Carol's life and stayed for the luncheon prepared by the women of Trinity. It was a special day.

Trinity is blessed to have such a wonderful church community. You supported and cared for me during the weeks of Carol's hospitalization. A special thank you to Pastor Julie and Pastor Bruce, Rick and Kathy Lawry, Bob Bashore, and Wendell and Beth Byler for rides to Lancaster.

I also want to thank the many members who contributed to Carol's memorial fund at the church. As most of you know, Trinity was Carol's family. She loved her church family and was very blessed by your love and compassion.

Mary Long

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 (4/5) for the Sunday School teachers and children.

## **TEMPLE TALK FROM SUNDAY APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> WITH WENDELL BYLER AND JERRY JARSOCRAK**

### Deacon Carol's Gift

As you all know our congregation lost a good and faithful servant when Deacon Carol passed away on Jan 26. To her this congregation was her family. I would like to share with you that the church is receiving a gift from Deacon Carol's estate. Carol had told me on several occasions "When I die the church is going to be getting money from my estate". I really had no idea what that meant.

About a month ago Carol's sister Mary, who is the executor of her estate, told me I would be getting a phone call from Thrivent. The following day, I received the phone call. They told me Carol had some investments with them and upon her passing those funds were to be given to our church. Those funds totaled \$385,000.00. Half are to go to the endowment fund and half to the memorial fund. The funds going to endowment will be added to the funds they already manage. With this gift, we will have over one million dollars in our endowment fund.

The half for the memorial fund, since it is such a significant amount, Church Council decided it would be best to create a separate interest-bearing account to keep this money in until we can thoughtfully decide how we would want to use it.

I was at a loss for words when I received that phone call.

Just to let you know, Stephanie Kurtz and I have met with Thrivent to initiate the transfer of those funds.

I would also like to share with you some other information.

I was invited to meet with the Personnel Committee to discuss how we were going to accomplish all the tasks that Carol did. When the discussion turned to how much we could pay someone to be an administrative assistant I told the group that we may not be able to afford to pay someone because our expenses have been about \$2,000 more than our income the past few months. I was asked to look at our finances and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

In doing my research, I discovered that Deacon Carol was a very good giver.

I was on Council when Carol graduated and became a deacon. PD, our pastor at that time, told us that if we wanted to keep Carol at Trinity we needed to create a call for her. We decided to do that and along with that you are required to pay a deacon an amount specified by the synod. I would have say, at the time, I wasn't sure we could

afford the additional salary. But as the years went on, it never seemed to be a problem. What I found out, in my research, is that Carol gave everything we paid her back to the church, Plus. Most years almost double what she was paid. And in the last 3 years that amount increased even more. In 2023, 18% of our giving came from Carol. In 2024, 22% came from Carol and in, 2025, 24% came from Carol.

I hope Carol forgives me for telling you this because I know she did not give to be recognized for it.

But I felt you needed to know that our giving could be 24% less this year, but, most of our expenses will still be the same.

Between myself and council, we will be working on how to address this and will be keeping you updated as time goes on. I just want to be transparent with our financial situation moving forward. God has blessed our congregation in the past and as long as we have faith he will bless us in the future.

Thank you

Wendell Byler

When we lost Deacon Carol from our staff, the Personnel Committee and staff knew we had a difficult task in filling her position. After all, Carol did numerous jobs frequently held by different persons in other churches. First, and foremost, she was our Deacon; she was also the pastor's administrative assistant; she performed the duties of the church secretary; she directed the bell choirs; oversaw parish education and coordinated the volunteers among other things.

Not only did she provide her talents, but she did so at a low cost for the church. For over 5 years, when she had met with personnel regarding her salary, (which was determined by the Synod and based on her position as a deacon and time in that or a similar position,) she asked that she be given the least possible raise. In order to honor her request, we provided her a weekly hourly rate, the rate based on the number of hours provided by the dollar amount she received. Therefore, each year she was required to work fewer hours, but somehow managed to get all her work done and more.

Julie Sutliff came to pastor asking about the position. She has the required skills for the secretarial and administrative assistant duties. Personnel and the pastor met with Julie and decided to hire her for the position. At that time though, reality struck in an unsuspected way. Our treasurer, Wendell Byler, who was called from home at the last minute to attend the meeting, advised us that although we had added

additional money in the budget for an assistant to help Carol, we were running at a deficit. The reason was the loss of Carol's offering. She had provided around 23% of our budget.

We knew, at that point, that we could not hire a new administrative assistance/church secretary. A new plan was devised utilizing those persons who had been volunteering to complete Carol's duty including Julie who has volunteered to assist with some of the work that she was going to do as our new hire.

For the moment, and until we can figure out how to offset the shortfall in offering, we will need to continue doing the best we can to complete the various tasks Carol performed. So, at this point in time, those assisting in the office are Barbara Debiec, Leslie Pirl-Roth, Julie Sutliff, and Dawn Hickernell who will be helping with emails. We will let everyone know what our established office hours are as soon as we have that figured out.

We will keep you posted on any changes.

Jerry Jarsocrak

### **Church Council Highlights from April**

- Council Retreat is on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM.
- A keyboard was given to us from Carol Koch's estate.
- Sign-up for Strawberry Festival Sundae is on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> is the Wernersville Memorial Day Parade. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- Voting members for the WBMD Spring Assembly and the NEPS Synod Assembly @ Split Rock will be Betty Lou and Scott Franzen. Bob Bashore will attend as a non-voting member.



On Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, we invite all children and youth to join us to drum with the Prelude. It will be simple and fun to celebrate Mother's Day making a joyful noise to God!

Carla Seidel



Mother's Day--May 10<sup>th</sup>

And then the following Day

May 11<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 PM

Mother's Day Banquet

All the women of the church are invited. Children may attend with their mothers.

This year our chef, Wendell Byler, will be preparing the meal with the help of the men in our congregation.

Entertainment following provided by the Conrad Weiser High School Jazz Band and Choraleers (7:30 PM)

If you just want to hear the music, come to the narthex at that time. Many of their parents do this, so, you will not be alone. This is a wonderful 30 to 45 minute concert.



Sign up for geraniums for Pentecost (5/24) will continue through May 17<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Cost-\$4.00. Geraniums will be planted in the church garden.



### **Strawberry Festival**

- The Festival date is June 13, 2026, 3:30 to 7:30 PM.
- Sign -up Strawberry Festival Sundae will be May 17, 2026
- We will like to have a presence in the Wernersville Memorial Day Parade by having members walk/ride bicycles/strollers to help publicize our Festival, handing out flyers and strawberry candies on Monday, May 25, 2026, 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- We will be looking for donations of Baked Goods (Sharen Black), Raffle Baskets (Barbara Debiec), gently used stuffies (Stefanie Steffey), costume jewelry (Kathy Bashore) and “All things Plants,” plants, garden tools, pots, plant books, etc. (Pastor Julie).
- Entertainment will be provided by Wayne Thompson, guitarist, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.
- Bring your own chairs to relax, visit, and enjoy the food and entertainment.

It's **Student Loan/Grant** time for Trinity Lutheran Endowment Fund. Applications are available from Stephanie Kurtz (snkurtz38@gmail.com). They can be emailed to you or you can obtain a paper form. Your application needs to be returned to Stephanie by June 7th in order to be considered for this year. An example of how the Loan/Grant works is if you receive a check of \$3,000 for year one of college, you will need to repay \$1,500 one year after you graduate or stop going to college. Any other questions, please contact Stephanie Kurtz.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Tedd Hickernell, Helen Hummel, and Leslie Pirl-Roth.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Sharon Gring, Joan Kava, Diane Klinger, Bob Kohler, Carolyn Kurtz, Janice Lamm, Betty Reber, Ruth Rush, Pat Sickles, Bonnie & Margie Stine.

The Military: John Kurtz.

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

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](http://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.

### Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$50.00. 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 \$50 to the general fund. Or please feel free to purchase them the traditional way: simply sign up, put \$50 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 an altar flower sponsor for 5/31 and a bulletin sponsor for 5/31. Please sign up in the book in the narthex.

**Altar Flower Sponsors for May:** 5/10-Betty & Ray Schaeffer in honor of Caidyn's birthday, 5/17-Scott & Betty Lou Franzen in honor of David & Ben Laudenslager's birthdays, 5/24-Jennifer Coldren in honor of her 50th birthday, 5/31-Available

**Bulletin Sponsors for May:** 5/10-Mary Young in memory of mothers, Marie Young & Grace Alderman, 5/17-Connie & Terry Fritz in honor of the Cooper's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, 5/24-Kathy & Bob Bashore in honor of Izannah's birthday, 5/31-Available

### Helpers for April

**Altar Guild:** Cheri Giangiacomo

**Communion Bread:** 5/3-Julie Sutliff, 5/10-Betty Schaeffer, 5/17-Betty Schaeffer, 5/24- Betty Schaeffer, 5/31-Betty Schaeffer

**Communion Assistant:** 5/3-Kevin Kurtz, 5/10-Betty Lou Franzen, 5/17-Cindy Hassler-Schappell, 5/24-Harmony Wentzel, 5/31-TBD

**Acolytes:** 5/3-Owen Wentzel, 5/10-Kay Stout, 5/17-Cheyenne Loring, 5/24-Ariana Sitlinger, 5/31-Cindy Hassler-Schappell

**Lay Readers:** 5/3-Kay Stout, 5/10-Julie Sutliff, 5/17-Stephanie Holmes, 5/24-Allison Given, 5/31-Carol Yachnik

**Ushers:** 5/3-Lawry, 5/10-Bashore, 5/17- Kurtz, 5/24-Given, 5/31-Shoumlisky

**Sound System:** 5/3-Stephanie Kurtz, 5/10-Wendell Byler, 5/17-Scott Franzen, 5/24-Owen Wentzel, 5/31-Stephanie Kurtz

**Counters:** 5/3-Hassler/Schappell, 5/10-Raply/Pirl-Roth, 5/17-Debiec/Rinehimer, 5/24-Hummel/Jarsocrak, 5/31-Franzen

**Snacks:** 5/3-Julie Sutliff, 5/10-Beth Byler, 5/17-TBD, 5/24-Kathy Bashore, 5/31-Barbara Debiec

**Bulletin Assemblers:** 5/3-Mary Young, 5/10-Mary Jane Evans, 5/17-Marilyn Weatherholtz, 5/24-June Rapley, 5/31- Kathy Lawry

**Newsletter Assembly:** Kathy Lawry

**Effective 5/1/26**, the flowers from Royer's will increase to \$50.00 due to rising shipping costs and fuel prices. These flowers are brought in from South America. If you choose to cancel your sponsorship (those who have already signed), simply cross your name off the flower list.

#### **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