

Trinity Tidings for September 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA, 19565, 610.678.1782
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Pastor Julie Osterhout ♦ Musician-Carla Seidel ♦ Sexton-Roy Kline

God's Work. Our Hands.

The writer of First Peter says, “¹⁰Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Pet. 4:10-11 NRS)

Well, a new school year is upon us. For most kids, school is starting across the board over the next couple of weeks. Some are just starting Kindergarten while others are beginning a journey of discernment as they begin to consider which vocational path is right for them. There is much to consider: likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, gifts and talents. Two of my grandchildren are entering CTC in Lancaster. One in Healthcare Professions and another in Welding. And yet another is considering Thaddeus Stevens as a possibility for study in plumbing, welding, or automotive technology. It's hard to believe they are all preparing for adult lives when it seems I just held their bottles and changed their diapers only last week!

And yet, at some point we were all in their shoes as we made plans for our own post-graduation vocations. And I do mean vocations. At one time, the word vocation was only associated with the work of clergy, but Martin Luther's Doctrine of Vocation says more.

To put it simply, Martin Luther believed the work of the ordinary person was as sacred as that of any priest or monk. In his 1522 work, *The Estate of Marriage*, Martin Luther wrote that when a father washes a baby's diapers or does other humble chores out of Christian love, "God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling"—not just at the chore itself, but at the faith behind the act.

The work of a milkmaid, baker, or farmer is just as pleasing to God as any office of the church. Luther believed we go into the world to serve others through the work we ourselves are called to do. In doing so we are acting as Christ in the world. We do Christ's work through the work of our own vocations. You know, “God's work, Our Hands.”

For Luther, even as we say the Lord's Prayer, when we pray for daily bread, we are asking God to provide for us through the vocations and work of farmers, harvesters, bakers, truckers, and grocery clerks. We do God's work throughout our daily lives.

So, what is your vocation? How do you serve others? Are you a Healthcare Professional, Educator, First Responder, Accountant, Road Worker, Construction Worker, Librarian, Maintenance Worker, Salesclerk, Mail Carrier, Singer, Dancer, Musician, Mother, Father, Husband, Wife, or one of thousands more vocations? There isn't anything that doesn't provide an opportunity to be in service to God's people.

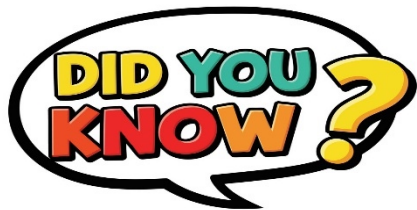
And so, we want to honor this sacred work we each do in the course of our lives, we will have a Blessing of Vocations and Education during worship on Sunday, September 13th. It is especially appropriate on this Sunday as it is “God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday.”

Later that same day we will hold our annual Free Spaghetti Dinner and Health Fair. (Plus more preschool supplies will be available for give-away.)

We ask that everyone bring some kind of artifact or representative object of their vocation, hobby, school (supplies, backpack), or anything else that is a symbol of the good work you do in this world. Place them at the foot of the altar and these objects will be blessed during our worship time together.

We do these things that “God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.”
God’s Work, Our Hands.

Blessings,
Pr. Julie



Did You Know?

This month we focus on how important it is to have lay leaders as a part of worship on Sunday morning. Martin Luther was all about the common folk participating in the work of the church. So let’s talk a little bit about acolytes, readers, ushers, communion assistants, and the work they do.

Acolytes

In the “olden days” acolytes were young people as they fulfilled various requirements in order to be confirmed. Today, acolyting is something everyone of any age can do. It is an opportunity to carry the light of Christ into the assembly before our worship begins. Traditionally, the candle closest to the gospel (pulpit) never burns alone, so it is always lit last and extinguished first. On certain celebratory Sundays, baptisms, and funerals we light the Paschal candle (the one by the Baptismal font). During each Sunday in Advent, we light candles on a wreath, and at Christmas, we light candles everywhere (on those big sconces). And on Good Friday, we put candles out as a symbol of the pain, suffering, and death of Jesus Christ.

Readers

A reader has the awesome responsibility of reading from holy scripture during worship. Traditionally, a reader reads the Old Testament reading, leads the congregation in reciting the Psalm, and then reads the second lesson. Sometimes pronunciations can be challenging but there is a book of pronunciations in the Sacristy (the room back behind the sanctuary). You can check on pronunciations there. Here at Trinity, readers also read the announcements at the end of the service. It is best to walk up to the lectern during the last verse of the Sending Hymn so you are ready to begin closing announcements.

Ushers

The job of an usher is to . . . well . . . usher people. At Trinity, our ushers see that the offering plate is brought up during the singing of “God Welcomes All” as well as direct and assist people in coming up for communion. Even more, an usher has the responsibility of seeing that people are seated on a Sunday morning, particularly that guests are made to feel welcome by making sure they are introduced to and seated next to someone who might assist them during worship if needed—to make sure they have a bulletin, are given a prayer square, and directed to sign the guest book, if they wish to do so. And even more than that, ushers should always be vigilant to the needs of the congregation—to jump in and help anyone in need of assistance whether it’s a parent needing help with a child to an older adult needing assistance with a walker or to steady themselves, water for someone coughing—you get the idea.

Communion Assistants

The job of a communion assistant is to commune people. Here at Trinity this person offers the wine/juice with bread saying the words, “Blood of Christ shed for you.” But not just when their dipping bread in the cup. Even when children or adults don’t take any bread or juice, you can still say to them, “Blood of Christ shed for you.” Because it is. Sometimes communion isn’t done by intinction and you may be asked to pour wine/juice into a small glass cup. It is okay to gently guide a person’s cup hand into position for better pouring. Sometimes, a CA may even be asked to offer the bread saying, “The body of Christ given for you.” You will always offer both bread and wine to the pastor at the end of communion. Once in a while there may be prayers to offer before and after communion. When praying, stand tall while placing your hands into the Orans position. Speak in a strong, clear voice saying, “Let us pray . . .” (Orans position is arms and hands lifted up and open to your sides, palms facing up, elbows close to your sides.)

Other ways to assist

Traditionally an assistant also helps during worship by leading the congregation in the Kyrie (if it’s the kind of Kyrie that needs a leader), reads the Intercessory Prayers, sets the table for communion, says the offertory and post-communion prayers, and says the dismissal at the very end of the service. At Trinity, the pastor usually does these things, but on occasion has asked others to assist with these portions of the service.

And of course there are so many others who make worship happen: Altar Guild, Sound Crew/Bell Tower ringers, Fellowship snack providers, Communion bread providers, Bulletin squad, bulletin folders/staplers, our musicians, flower and bulletin sponsors. Stay tuned to hear about these people in future “Did you Knows?”

MUSIC MINISTRY – CARLA SEIDEL

New choir members are welcome to join us anytime! There is always room for more singers, more bell ringers and more drummers! You don't need to know how to read music to join us! Come join us to share God's gift of music and great fellowship!

A huge thank you to everyone who has been helping with the transition for the enhanced music ministry program. All of the help with moving instruments to Trinity, moving music to the new music office are, sorting music, donating filing cabinets, etc. has been amazing and greatly appreciated! More information about our enhanced music ministry program will be coming very soon!

Kids of the Kingdom
Sundays During Service



Kids of the Kingdom will be offered to children ages preschool through 4th grade. 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. Dates for the remainder of the year are TBD.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST

- Council continues to carefully monitor the church finances. There will be a follow up article in the October Newsletter.
- We will be accepting the membership transfer of Geraldine Kramer from Zion Lutheran Church Womelsdorf to Trinity Wernersville.
- Gods Work Our Hands is on Sunday, September 13, 2026 with blessings of vocations in worship and the spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6pm.
- September 20th, 2026, Faith Formations starts. They will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
- Choir starts on September 23, 2026 at 2:00 and 7:30pm.
- Mission Possible trip to Kentucky is September 27 through October 3, 2026.

FREE MEAL

Trinity Lutheran Church Wernersville
Sunday, September 13th, 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 13th, 4-6 p.m.

Take-out available upon request.

Please remember in your prayers:

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

The Military: John Kurtz.

Family and Friends: Justin Audet, Barbara Cox, Arline G., Delores Hickernell, Karen Kline, Thomas Levesque. Eileen Rhoad, Pat Zerby, Karen and Linda.

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



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 altar flower sponsors for 9/6, 9/13, and 9/20. We need bulletin sponsors for 9/6, 9/13, and 9/27. Please sign up in the book in the narthex.

Altar Flower Sponsors for September: 9/27-Charlotte Moyer in memory of her husband, Donald.

Bulletin Sponsors for September: 9/20-Connie & Terry Fritz in memory of our father, Earl Price.

Helpers for September

Altar Guild: Betty Lou Franzen

Communion Bread: 9/6-Betty Lou Franzen; 9/13-Betty Lou Franzen;
9/20-Betty Lou Franzen; 9/27-Betty Lou Franzen

Communion Assistant: 9/6-Kathy Lawry; 9/13-Stephanie Kurtz; 9/20-Bob Bashore; 9/27-Kay Stout

Acolytes: 9/6-Stefanie Steffey; 9/13-Owen Wentzel; 9/20-Quentin Light, 9/27-Tedd Hickernell

Lay Readers: 9/6-Kathy Lawry; 9/13-Bob Bashore; 9/20-Stefanie Steffey; 9/27-Betty Lou Franzen

Ushers: 9/6-Lawry; 9/12-Bashore; 9/20-Kurtz; 9/27-Hassler-Schappell

Sound System: 9/6-Scott Franzen; 9/13-Stephanie Kurtz 9/20-Wendell Byler; 9/27-Owen Wentzel

Counters: 9/6-Jarsocrak/Sutliff; 9/13-Franzen; 9/20-Hassler-Schappell; 9/27-Rapley/Pirl-Roth

Snacks: 9/6-Available; 9/13-Available; 9/20-Available; 9/27-Available

Bulletin Assemblers: 9/6-Kathy Bashore; 9/13-Barbara Debiec; 9/20-Leslie Pirl-Roth, 9/27-Sharen Black

Newsletter Assembly: Kathy Lawry

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

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in September

Ed Evans will be 87.