

Trinity Tidings for October 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA, 19565, 610.678.1782
E-mail: tlcworship@aol.com, www.trinitywernersville.org, facebook.com/trinitywernersville

Pastor Julie Osterhout ♦ Musician-Carla Seidel ♦ Sexton-Roy Kline

You are of More Value than Many Sparrows

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matt. 10:29-31 NRS)

These verses from Mathew 10:29-31 are words that Jesus speaks to the twelve as they depart into the mission field. He says a lot more to them, too—some of it focusing on persecution which was important for Matthew to share with his ancient readers as they faced many persecutions under the oppressive hand of the Roman Empire.

But in these modern times we read these verses a little differently. Not being faced with persecution, we read these verses as a word of comfort. Often when we are feeling neglected, isolated, and insignificant in a world that can be harsh, uncaring, and overwhelming, there is great comfort in hearing how God is so attentive to us as individuals that God counts and knows the number of hairs on our heads. Jesus says, “Even the hairs of your head are all counted.”

In truth, how many people do you know who know you as intimately as God does? Most likely no one. For sure, not even my husband or anyone else in my family knows how many hairs are on my head.

And to be honest, it matters to me that God knows me so well—especially in a world that knows nothing about me. Often our society is moving so fast and changing so rapidly that it is easy to feel lost and abandoned. There is the frenetic rise of AI, division and hatred found in our own backyards, discord in the rest of the world, a failing economy—locally and globally, wars, natural disasters, the misuse and impersonal effects of social media on our well-being, shall I go on? I don’t know about you, but I feel unknown and unimportant while being crushed beneath all these things.

It seems we are losing ourselves and I wonder how we can ever find ourselves again—become more grounded, slower, more deliberate in experiencing the ups and downs of each day. How can we know each other more deeply and care more? How can we begin to count the hairs on the heads of those we love?

For me, my roots and my grounding are not only found in my personal family, they are also found within my faith community. It may sound trite to say this, but worship is where it gets “real” for me. It is in worship that I can stand outside of human time and lose myself in God’s time rather than worldly time. I can see the faces of those people I care about, and I can pray for the family and friends who are not in community with me in that moment.

I can let the sounds of beautiful music wash over me and delight in the words of scripture—for I need good news very badly, and the gospel is better than any other news I’ve heard recently. And most importantly, Jesus is in the room. I can find him in the bread and juice. It is as a community that we enjoy this meal together—and not only alongside my

earthly church family, but I know I stand alongside the Great Cloud of Witnesses as we gather round the table.

I need community. I need the people who make it community and I miss them when they're not there. Maybe you do, too. And yes, we miss being a part of community when we are away, sickness hits, the weather's bad, we get tired and worn out, or we become too complacent in staying home. Believe it or not, we have some people who don't come to worship because of a physical malady they're ashamed of or embarrassed by or they think their kids are too wild or too loud to be in worship. But the truth is, I don't just come to worship because I have to, (well . . . I am the pastor) but I come because I need my church family and my church family needs me. It's the same for all of us. We come not just because we need others, but others need us right back. We can't be community without each other. And when we are together, Christ is there counting the hairs on our heads, loving us and feeding us.

Did you know that we have approximately 85 people who attend Trinity anywhere from 3 or 4 times a year to nearly every Sunday? Those are our regular attenders. And there are about another 14 or 15 people who come maybe once or twice a year. And yes, we have had devastating loss over the last year. Kerri Searfoss, Deacon Carol, Ron Rush, Ruth Rush who went into Country Meadows, Kay Hassler, Helen Hummel and two of our beloved homebound people, John Stine and Betty Reber have entered the Church Triumphant.

The loss of these beloved sisters and brothers in Christ have taken an emotional toll on our church family. They were part of what made us feel whole. These siblings in the faith were part of the glue that holds Trinity Lutheran Church in Wernersville together.

And more. Our community—our church family—is in a time of transition as old ministries pass away and new ministries are born—as people change and the church family evolves.

In baptism we are reborn in Christ and are made new each and every day in the promises of that baptism. As people leave us, new faces join us, and the work of the Spirit among us calls us in different ways, we are reminded that God knows us, loves us, and cares for us. God knows how many hairs are on the top of my head and your head! God knows our abilities, our gifts, our trials and our tribulations. Individually we may struggle, but together as one community, one body in Christ we are stronger and better.

“You are of more value than many sparrows.” See you in worship.

Blessings,

Pr. Julie

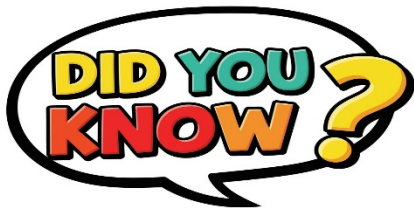
Stewardship Update

As you know, in the final months of 2025 and the beginning months of 2026, we were saddened by the loss of 5 of our very faithful members and good givers, including our beloved Deacon Carol, who alone gave nearly a quarter of our total income. We reported this to you in a series of temple talks in May and June. The result is that our total giving is \$15,703 or 13% lower than last year through the end of August and our income is \$18,738 or 15% short of our expenses.

In our temple talks we talked about the importance of the mission and ministry we have been involved in for many years, including our strong support for the work of the larger Church, including our Synod and the ELCA, our mission trips, and the local social ministry responses like the Conrad Weiser Food Pantry, Opportunity House, and the Western Berks Free Medical Clinic, to name a few.

We asked ourselves to prayerfully consider if we could increase our giving, and 15 of us have responded yes. We believe we can expect an additional \$10,000 in giving between September and the end of the year. We are very heartened and grateful for the response from our congregational family, but we are still falling short of our expenses. We ask that if you have not been able to increase your giving you prayerfully reconsider, and if you have been able to increase, that you ask in prayer if there is more that you can do. We are a strong congregation with a history of good stewardship, and we trust that with God's help we will recover from this setback.

In Christ,
Your Stewardship Committee



Did You Know?

... that we have a number of opportunities for adult education? And more can always be added for the asking. Have you ever had questions about scripture? Wondered why we worship the way we do, or most

importantly, wanted to talk more about how to be a follower of Jesus Monday through Saturday when you're out in a world that seems to be going in the opposite direction than your faith? Well, we have the perfect opportunities for you:

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Normally taught by Bob Bashore our Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in training, each week there is a discussion based on the readings for that Sunday's worship. Not only is there conversation about scripture, but there is time to connect personally with friends and catch up on church and life happenings. This group meets at 9:30 a.m. year-round in the library.

Women's Bible Study

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. Attendees take turns bringing snacks. Bible study lessons are taken from *Gather Magazine*—the magazine for Women of the ELCA. Studies encourage scripture reading and discussion on how faith intersects with daily life. (If any women are interested in an evening women's Bible study please see Pastor Julie.)

Men's Group

Meets the Fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Furnace Creek Manor. The address is 270 S. Freeman St., Robesonia, PA. They are currently studying Church History. Please see Bob Bashore or Jerry Jarsocrak for more information.

Lenten Soup, Study, and Sacrament

During the six weeks of Lent there is a Bible Study (for youth and adults) every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. This study focuses on aspects of scripture or other Lenten themes. We meet in the library. Participants take turns providing soup and bread. The hour-long Soup and Study is followed by Evening Prayer—a time of Lenten devotion and Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

A person can also come for Soup and Study only at 6:00 or Sacrament only at 7:00.

Vacation Bible School (when in season)

Some years we have offered an intergenerational Vacation Bible School on various Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. These evenings begin with a dinner followed by a time of group singing and scripture reading after which children and youth engage in various learning activities while adults meet for an hour-long Bible Study that includes special fun activities.

Come join us for one, some, or all of these learning experiences!

Kids of the Kingdom
Sundays During Service



Kids of the Kingdom will be offered to children ages preschool through 4th grade. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month in the library. Kids of the Kingdom will meet after the Sunday morning Children's Message. 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.

Enhanced Music Ministry Update

We are in the final stages of transitioning the preschool room and are thrilled to share that the Family Music Outreach Program will begin on Monday, October 26th!

This is the music and movement program Carla started 24 years ago at Bethany Lutheran that is now being held at Trinity. This program is geared for infants to children age 5. A parent or caregiver must participate in the classes with their child. Classes will be offered Monday and Thursday mornings 10 AM – 10:30 AM for our fall semester which will be held the weeks of October 26th thru November 16th. Families choose which day they want to attend. This program is open to the community and is a self-sufficient ministry supported by the families participating in the program. There are no instructor fees. All of the donations received from the families participating in the classes are used toward the cost of instruments, materials, and curriculum for the classes. There is a flyer with additional information about the classes and registration forms attached. Please share this with your family and friends.

Plans are being finalized for the After-School Music Program which we plan to start in January. More information will be coming very soon about this program!

UPCOMING MUSIC SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 4

Kid's Music Time – 10 AM

Joybells Play – 11 AM

Wednesday, October 7

Chancel Choir – 2 PM & 7:30 PM

Carolbells Practice – 6:30 PM

Joyful Rhythms – 7:15 PM

Sunday, October 11

Joyful Rhythms Play

Wednesday, October 14

Chance Choir – 2 PM & 7:30 PM

Carolbells Practice – 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 18

Kid's Music Time – 10 AM

Instrumentalists Practice – 12 Noon

Carolbells – 12 Noon (right after Instrumentalists rehearsal)

Wednesday, October 21

Chancel Choir – 2 PM & 7:30 PM

Carolbells Practice – 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 25

Instrumentalists and Carolbells play – 10:30 AM

Carolbells & Joybells combined rehearsal – 12 Noon

Monday, October 26

Family Music Class – 10 AM – 10:30 AM

Wednesday October 28

Chancel Choir – 2 PM and 7:30 PM

Carolbells & Joybells combined rehearsal – 6:30 PM

Joyful Rhythms – 7:15 PM

Thursday, October 29

Family Music Class – 10 AM – 10:30 AM

Fall 2026 Family Music Class Schedule

**Weeks of October 26th - November 16th
Infants to Children age 5 with a parent(s) or guardian
participating with their child(ren)**

**Monday's
10:00AM – 10:30AM
Thursday's
10:00AM – 10:30AM**

**Pre-registration is required – class size is limited
Please see Carla or email her at cbell522@aol.com or
call the church office at 610-678-1782**

**Suggested donation - \$25.00 per family/per semester
All donations go towards the cost of instruments, materials and
curriculum used in the classes.
There are no instructor fees.**



**Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St. Wernersville, Pa. 19565
610-678-1782 Rev. Julie Osterhout, Pastor
trinitywernersville.org**

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- December Congregational Meeting will be on December 6, 2026.
- Cindy Hassler-Schappell's resignation with thanks for serving.
- Betty Lou Franzen elected Vice President of Church Council the remainder of 2026.
- Trunk or Treat on Halloween from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.
- A small task force was set up to develop parameters for Carol Koch's legacy.

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, 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.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for October: 10/4-Available; 10/11-Ron & Cherie Giangiacomo in memory of Dawn Giangiacomo, 10/18-Scott & Betty Lou Franzen in honor of Laura & Kara Laudenslager's birthdays; 10/25-Terry & Connie Fritz in honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary

Bulletin Sponsors for October: 10/4-Charlotte Moyer in memory of her son, David; 10/11-Leslie Pirl-Roth in memory of her parents; 10/18-Cindy & Bob Schappell in honor of her daughter Tina's birthday; 10/25-Connie & Terry Fritz in memory of their mother, Gladys Price.

Helpers for October

Altar Guild: Cherie Giangiacomo

Communion Bread: 10/4- Julie Sutliff; 10/11-Julie Sutliff; 10/18-Barbara Debiec; 10/25-Barbara Debiec

Communion Assistant: 10/4-Kathy Lawry; 10/11-Dawn Hickernell 10/18-Harmony Wentzel; 10/25-Betty Lou Franzen

Acolytes: 10/4-Pam Guigley; 10/11-Cheyenne Loring; 10/18-Emma Holmes; 10/25-Barbara Debiec

Lay Readers: 10/4-Julie Sutliff; 10/11-Beth Byler; 10/18-Stephanie Holmes; 10/25-Elaine Briner

Ushers: 10/4-Lawry; 10/11-Bashore; 10/19-Kurtz; 10/25-Loring

Sound System: 10/4-Stephanie Kurtz; 10/11-Scott Franzen; 10/18-Owen Wentzel; 10/25-Wendell Byler

Counters: 10/4-Debiec/Rinehimer; 10/11-Jarsocrak/Sutliff; 10/18-Franzens; 10/25-Hassler-Schappell

Snacks: 10/4-Julie Sutliff; 10/11-Available; 10/18-Cherie Giangiacomo; 10/25-Julie Sutliff

Bulletin Assemblers: 10/4-Frank & Laura Krick, 10/11-Barbara Debiec; 10/18-Betty Schaeffer; 10/25-Mary Young

Newsletter Assembly: Kathy Lawry

Church Council Members

Bob Bashore/Stewardship, President 484-336-3638
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 October

Margie Stine will be 85. Ron Giangiacomo will be 81. Eleanor Brossman will be 89. Daniel Hoppman will be 96.