

JANUARY



Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville, PA

**Trinity Lutheran Church
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Wernersville, PA 19565
610-678-1782**

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The Reverend Julie Osterhout, Pastor	717-687-8682
Carol A. Koch, Associate in Ministry	610-670-1436
Nancy M. Moyer, Organist/Senior Choir Director	610-775-1839
Frank & Laura Krick, Sextons	484-509-5838
Peter Schmehl, Treasurer	610-670-0645
Barbara Debiec, Financial Secretary	610-670-2841

Happy New Year!

The old cry resounds once again. Another year of holidays, observances, and traditions has once again slid by us with light-year speed. In Advent we began the new church year, and now we begin the new calendar year. We count days, weeks, months, and years. We look back over the past year and forward to yet another birthday.

It seems our days are full of planning for the coming days and weeks, but when, O Lord, will we plan for today? When will we ever get to sit in the moment and experience God's presence? I don't know about you, but I feel like my time spent with God is mostly done on the run. I pray while I'm driving and doing dishes. I think

about scripture when I'm vacuuming and cleaning the bathroom. But I have a really hard time simply being still and silent in the presence of God.

Sadly, setting aside that quiet time becomes just another thing I have to schedule into my calendar. I know that after about a week my scheduled "God time" will become like so many other events and plans. I will find myself postponing my "God time" until further notice and eventually it will turn into cancelled "God time."

So here's the plan. The plan is to have no plan. Instead, I'm going to seek out the quiet moments that come into my life everyday on a regular basis. I want to be sensitive to the moments of "God time" that creep into my "schedule" every day—usually unnoticed. I will let God come to me (as God always does) and I will notice. The plan will be to hone my skills of observation by expecting those moments each day and allowing them to surprise me and move me when they happen.

Here's what I'm talking about. A number of years ago I had a fairly long commute to the school at which I taught. I drove from Leesport to the southern end of Lancaster five days a week. Often I would take back roads where I passed by Amish wagons loaded with pumpkins, gourds, and mums. Once I even saw a loaded wagon rolling through the covered bridge which I used on my daily sojourn into Lancaster city. One day I saw a lone calf with its mother standing in the middle of a field all by themselves. I saw them every day for about a month. On another occasion I drove by a bald eagle perched in the top of a dead tree. I turned around and went back to see it.

It was in those moments that I stumbled upon the presence of God. I took time to engage what was sacred and holy in places where they would normally be missed and overlooked. I have seen God in the faces of people I have met and in the words spoken by them.

My prayer is that as we enter a new calendar year we encourage each other to look for the God moments of our lives. That we might open our eyes and ears to discover God in the ordinary places of our comings and goings. Caught off guard, we may find we encounter what is sacred and holy out in the world far more often than we encounter them in church. We need only open ourselves to the

presence of God in our lives.

I know that at the end of the day I will recall the places I've been, the people I've met, and the things I've heard, and I will be able to answer this question, "Where did I see God today?" So where have you seen God today? May your year be full of places.

Blessings in this new year,
Pastor Julie

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity,

Sunday, February 7, is our congregation's Consecration Sunday. I urge you to attend two important events: Sunday morning worship and the Celebration Luncheon immediately following worship that same day (a catered meal, not a potluck dinner).

This spiritual-growth-oriented process is designed to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship. Rather than focusing on the need of the church to receive, the experience concentrates on the need of giver to give for his or her own spiritual development.

We believe that you are concerned enough to attend on Consecration Sunday and make your financial commitment as an act of worship in the church sanctuary.

No one will call on you at your home for a pledge. However, we will contact you personally to secure your commitment to attend morning worship on Consecration Sunday and the Celebration meal immediately after worship.

Cordially,
Jerry Jarsocrak
Council President

A reminder to all Committee Chairs that the deadline for all reports for the February 21st Congregational Meeting is Thursday, January 27th. They can be e-mailed (preferred method) to the office @ tlcworship@aol.com. Otherwise, a hard copy should be in Carol Koch's mailbox by the above date.

Over the course of December if you were homebound and did not

receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion or know of someone who is homebound and did not receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion please call the church office @ 610-678-1782.

We wish to thank the following Church Council Members for their dedicated service over the past three and six years.

Diane Brown for (2) three year terms
Nick Eshbach for 2 years as youth representative
Diane Klinger for (1) three year term
Donald Oxenreider for (1) three year term

At the congregational meeting on December 27, 2015 we elected the following people to church council:

Diane Klinger for a second three year term
Donald Oxenreider for a second term of 3 years
Bob Bashore for a 1 year term
Wendell Byler for a first term of 3 years.
Congratulations!

We also adopted the budget that finance committee prepared based on the recommendations of our committee and teams.

Annual Congregational Meeting

For reception of reports and adoption of endowment and rental management budgets
February 21, 2016
Immediately following worship

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in January

Eleanor Zimmerman will be 82, Richard Reber will be 89, and Doris Ketner will be 83. Happy Birthday Eleanor, Richard, and Doris.

CALLING ALL YOUTH and THEIR PARENTS (6th through 12th grades)

Things are about to start happening!

*There is an upcoming event that is sure to stir up
the Holy Spirit in you!*

Sunday, January 10, 6:00PM at church “First Things First”

This will be our official first time to meet as a youth group. Parents are asked to attend, too, so we can all talk, laugh, eat, and pray together and get to know each other. It will be a time to learn each other's desires, hopes, and dreams for a youth group. Everyone's input is so very, very important. Can't wait to learn more about each of you! It's a great way to start the new year. There will be hot dogs with fixin's and other goodies.

Please let Pastor Julie know if you plan to attend the January 10th meeting. It's going to be a great year!!!!

Peace,

Pastor Julie

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Dawn Giangiacomo and Sue Holder.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Ruth Bachman, Fern Bagenstose, Janet Dissinger, Ron Harman, Raymond Harp, Marlene Ochs, June Page, Mary June Yackera.

The Military: Eric Alderman, Marie Rosati Clark, Allison Rosati Martin, Justin Klinger, Brent Naveiro, Eric Ochs, Scott Schaffer, Nick Taatjes, and Jeffrey Troutman, Jr.

Family and Friends: David Alderman, Robin Ansbach, Wanda Barnett, Catherine Brettell, Larry Brossman, Carolyn Bryant, Marge Dietrich, Sharon & Larry Hamilton, Amy Hatlee, Deb Himmelmann, Nicholas Hydock, Letitia Jarsocrak, Sam Jarsocrak, Mary Koenig, Hannah Kramer, Nick Moore, Jake Powers, Holly Shaffer, Rodney Weiss, Jr., Jerry Zachousk and Ann Zimmerman.

Special Ministries: Our missionaries in Tanzania-Dr. Stephen Friberg and his family,
Please let us know when our prayers are answered so we can keep our prayer list current.

The next Berks Festival of Faith Ecumenical Worship Service for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, their families and friends, as well as the whole Berks County Christian community, will be held on Thursday, January 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the totally accessible Bern Lutheran Church, located one block off of Rt. 183 on the road to Berks Heim This month's service will center around the birth of Jesus as well as the visit from the wisemen. We will be singing familiar carols as participants act out the Christmas and Epiphany stories. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. BFF services will continue to take place at Bern Church on the third Thursday of every month. Mark your calendars and please join us as you are able.



Thank you, Kathy Bashore and Kathy Lawry for coordinating our Advent Fun Shop.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

Thanks to all who provided goodies for the social after the Christmas Concert on December 13th. Everything was delicious. We appreciated your generosity.

The Fellowship Committee

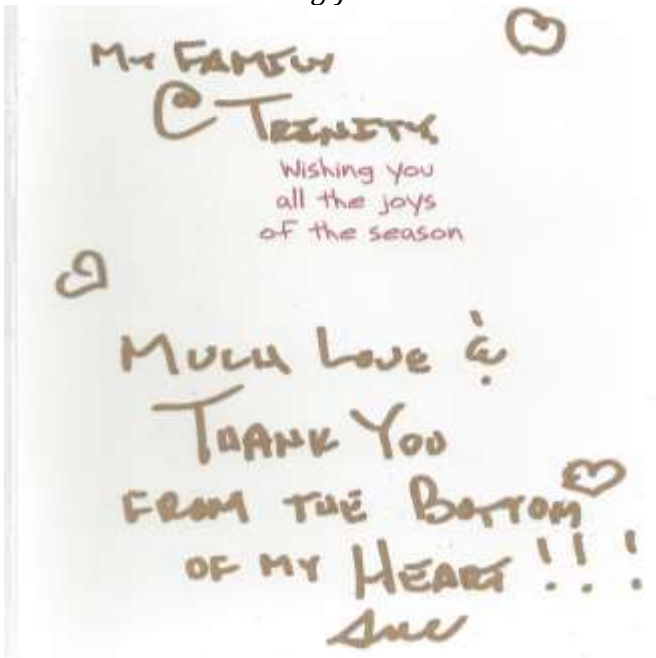
To my Trinity Family,

It's true! The members of Trinity are a very special congregation and I've experienced that in so many ways over the past two months.

From the day we received the diagnosis that my Mother had pancreatic cancer until her passing six weeks later, I have been seen God in my life in many ways. Words cannot express my appreciation for all that your acts of kindness have meant to me. Please know that the cards of support and sympathy, the food shared with my family, phone calls, hugs and prayers have made the difficult days a little easier to get through. Mom often commented on how nice everyone was to her as she came to be a regular visitor at Trinity ... that meant a lot to both of us. Christmas will be different this year, but the "reason for the season" remains the same. I rejoice in the comforting news of the birth of our Lord and Savior and pray that God will continue to bless each of you throughout 2016!

*Blessings and peace,
Diane*

From Sue Holder who was a recipient of Social Ministry Christmas gift.



TRINITY LUTHERAN
CONGREGATION

It's nice to know
that there are still people
who take such pleasure
in doing special things
and making others feel good...

Thank you.
You're really someone special.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
KINDNESS, LOVE AND GENEROSITY
DURING THIS TIME OF THE
YEAR. MY FAMILY AND MYSELF
WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GIFT,

MR Rodney WEISS JR + FAMILY

Rodney was a recipient of money from our Community Response Fund (Strawberry Festival), as well as Social Ministry Christmas gift.

Opportunity House-Club 1095 Says Thank You!

Thank you from all the clients and staff at Opportunity House for volunteering in our kitchen last night. Please share our thanks and deep gratitude with all the members of your Trinity Lutheran cooking team.

Happy Holidays!

John



A big year for the Laudenslagers!

New Baby

New Jobs:

Software QA Engineer @ Apple,
New address: Full-time Mom
603 Millich Drive
Campbell, CA 95008

Anything bigger than a letter:

David Laudenslager
1 Infinite Loop MS20-1RR
Cupertino, CA 95014-2084

Love, Laura, David, & Benjen
Laura.Laudenslager@gmail.com

Benjen and family visited Grandma and Grandpa Franzen over the Christmas holidays.

Upcoming Sunday School Study for the Children will be on the Disciples and begins 1/10.



There is a special class on 1/3 about the Epiphany taught by April Schwartz and Lori Shoumlisky.

Youth and Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 AM each Sunday in the Library.



Alec Dougherty, Jocelyn Enck, Matthew Schwartz, and Emily Kaiser in Sunday School. Alec was helping his mother, Kelly Thompson, teach.



Decorating the Christmas Tree on 12/13 as we sang the Sending Hymn.

If you would like to change your Simply Giving Amount or if you would like to participate in the program or withdraw from the program, just pick up a form in the narthex, fill it out and place it in a sealed envelope with Barbara Debiec's name on it.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring the flowers is **\$38.00**. If you are sponsoring the flowers, please note that there are flower envelopes in the narthex beside the sign up list for altar flowers. Please put your check (payable to Trinity) or cash in the envelope and place in the offering plate. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins is **\$12.00**. We also want to remind you that the week you are an altar flower sponsor, please call the office, Nancy Moyer, or contact the altar guild person listed in the bulletin if you want to keep the flowers. Otherwise, the flowers will be given to the sick, shut-ins, or others in need. Thanks. **We need altar flower sponsors for 1/3 and 1/10 and bulletin sponsors for 1/31.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for January: 1/3-available, 1/10-available, 1/17-Kurtz Family in honor of Carly's 15th birthday, 1/24-Diane Klinger in memory of Bruce Klinger, Ed & Mary Jane Evans in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bulletin Sponsors for January: 1/3-Janice Lamm in honor of her birthday on New Year's Day, 1/10- Sue and Joe Sickler in honor of Andy's birthday, 1/17- Sue & Joe Sickler in memory of Joe's dad, Charles Sickler, 1/24-Sue & Joe Sickler in memory of Sue's mother, Helen Rapp, 1/31-available.

Helpers for January

Communion Assistant-Jerry Jarsocrak

Altar Guild- Nancy Moyer

Greeters: 1/3-Clarence Schein, 1/10-Connie & Terry Fritz, 1/17-Laura & Frank Krick, 1/24-June Rapley, 1/31-Betty Lou & Scott Franzen.

Acolytes: 1/3-Carly Kurtz, 1/10-Bethany Miller, 1/17-Kevin Gemmell, 1/24-Patrick Berkenstock, 1/31-Forrest Lamm, Jr.

Lay Readers: 1/3-Elaine Briner, 1/10-Beth & Wendell Byler, 1/17-April Schwartz, 1/24-Kathy Lawry, 1/31-Carol Koch

Ushers: 1/3-Lawrys, 1/10-Coldrens, 1/17-Kurtzes, 1/24-Berkenstocks,
1/31-Bashores.

Counters: 1/3-Franzens, 1/10-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 1/17-Jarsocrak/Brophy, 1/24-Debiec/Rinehimer, 1/31-Hummels.

Sound Technician: 1/3 & 1/10-Donald Oxenreider, 1/17-Wendell Byler, 1/24-Scott Franzen, 1/31-Donald Oxenreider

Bulletin Assemblers: 1/6-Linda Weiss, 1/13-AnnSentz, 1/20-Mary Nace, 1/27-Eleanor Brossman, 2/3-Sandra Miller & Pat Sickles.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 1/3-April Schwartz & Lori Shoumlisky

Church Council Members

Bob Bashore 610-488-0520

Wendell Byler 610-670-8512

Diane Klinger 610-670-3198

Mary Nace 610-207-4104

Pamela Moyer 610-670-5896

Kelly Thompson 610-468-8920

Jerry Jarsocrak, President 610-670-0954

Kevin Kurtz, Vice President 610-693-5233

Donald Oxenreider 610-678-4866

Church Council Highlights for December

- Set 2/21 as date for congregational meeting
- Set 2/7 as date for Consecration Sunday
- Established team to look @ Child Safety Policy
- Approved transfer of Robert Snyder to Christ Lutheran in Grill, PA at his nephew's request.