



*Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran
Church, Wernersville, PA*

Sign up for Easter Flowers. Cost of flowers is \$8.00 again this year.
Deadline to sign up is March 13th.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Wernersville, PA 19565

www.trinitywernersville.org

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
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Peter Schmehl, Treasurer	610-670-0645
Barbara Debiec, Financial Secretary	610-670-2841

To Support and Pray For

“People of God, do you promise to support (names) and pray for them in their new life in Christ?” Response: **“We do.”**

Perhaps these words are familiar to you. They are the question and answer our church family hears and speaks whenever a new person or child is baptized. As a community unified in Christ we promise to pray for and support the newly baptized. But there is another question imbedded in this simple request to “support and pray for.” And it is this: what does it mean to support and for what exactly are we praying?

Propped up on a shelf in my office sits a framed eight by ten photo that was taken at least 54 years ago. It is an old black and white photo of six children who are two and three years old—all girls by

the way. One is being held by an older woman while another caregiver is standing by, smiling for the picture. Two of the children are standing in a white painted crib while three more children stand in a row in front of the crib. In the picture one can see other cribs and a jumpy seat.

It is a class picture of the church nursery at Winton Place Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was taken around 1961. The child who is being held is me. I was two years old and don't remember this picture being taken. I have been asked a number of times why I keep this photo in my office. My answer is simple. When I look at this picture I am reminded that I have been lifted up, prayed over, and supported by the community into which I was baptized from a time before I can remember. It is a support that has continued over my entire lifetime and is one in which I still feel supported and prayed over. I am comforted to know that I have been cloaked in Christ and swaddled in God's promises since before I can even remember.

And it is this nursery picture that reminds me that I have never traveled alone on this journey of faith. I have always been accompanied by parents, grandparents, caregivers, friends, teachers, and pastors. The community of faithful believers who professed their prayers and support of me have never failed me. Though I have attended a number of churches in my life, I have never left behind a community—I have only added to it and seen it grow as I met new people in which I both supported others and was supported in return.

It is at Winton Place Methodist Church in which I have my earliest church memories—participating in the Christmas pageant, singing in the children's choir and practicing in the church basement while the teacher played an old upright piano as we learned "I Will Make You Fishers of Men"—with motions. I remember going to church with my mother so she could help cook church dinners in the basement kitchen. There I would be placed in the pantry with the door open so I could see everything that went on without being in the way. The ladies would set up a folding chair in front of me and I would stand there and color.

Whenever someone passed by they would talk to me and ask me how I was and what it was I was doing. They paid attention to me,

they talked to me, and I'm pretty sure they prayed for me when I wasn't looking.

As I grew older my talents as a musician were recognized and I was asked to play piano and teach songs to children in Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. After college I was directing the children's choir, playing organ, and acting as substitute choir director for the adult choir. As time went on, my church family tapped into my teaching experience and I began to teach about Jesus to others. Most importantly, my brothers and sisters in Christ—of all ages—continually spoke to me, asked me about my life, and encouraged me in all I pursued and experienced in life. The church was my home—a place where I felt special, lifted up for my talents and given opportunity to be included and involved in the Body of Christ.

But that's not all. The times in my life when I was sick, in pain, and hurting, I was visited and prayed over. I was showered in cards, letters, phone calls, and love. My church family were God's angels in my life. This is what it means to support and pray for one another.

And yet, the idea of "support" can be challenging. Today the lives of our church families have so many demands with hard working parents and clogged schedules. Young people are overbooked, bombarded by social media and current events that are frightening and "in your face." The demands on their time, their academic requirements, and their social lives leave little time for prayer, meditation, self-reflection and self-care. In fact, I truly believe young people need the prayers and support of their church families now more than ever.

But how do we do that? We do it by welcoming their presence. Each member of the Body of Christ has made a baptismal promise—has a calling—to engage the young people who are present in our lives. They are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today.

If I asked you, "What are your prayers for the young children and youth of our faith community? What do you want them to attain in life?" Would you answer, "I want them to be the next generation of this church. I want them to see that the doors never close. I want them to take over the workings of this congregation?" Or would you say, "I want to empower and equip our children and youth to be

Christians in the world now and for the rest of their lives?”

So here’s what you can do: pray daily for our youth (by name if you can), talk to our young people by asking them questions, for their opinions—engage them in real conversation. Encourage and support their parents both in worship and in the world. Do youth need a ride to events? Do they need to see you at an academic, arts, or sporting event? Have you invited confirmed youth to participate on committees, in worship, and in leadership roles within our faith community? (They are, after all, considered adults in the eyes of the congregation.)

And above all, accept them the way they are right now. God does. That means we too can love and welcome screaming babies and snarky teenagers regardless of fashion or hair style. In the end, we *all* come to the table kneeling and standing side by side with open hands and hearts.

As we look forward to the Resurrection of Our Lord we also look forward to a deeper understanding of our baptisms. In a number of weeks we will experience the oldest observation in the history of the Christian church—the Easter Vigil. On March 26th at 5:30pm we will begin our service outside with a bonfire—the light of Christ. We will light candles from the fire and carry them into the darkened church. There we will hear the stories of our faith from Adam and Eve to the hopes of the prophet Isaiah. It will be a child-friendly service. We tell these stories as we wait for the Resurrection. When the story telling and songs have completed, we will wash the church in light and celebration as we invite our baptismal candidates to come forward and be united with the Body of Christ and splashed in the promises of God in the cleansing waters of baptism. There we will make our promise to support and pray for the baptized. It is our calling. Amen.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Julie

You're invited to join Pastor Julie on Wednesday Evenings during Lent @ 6:00 PM for soup, bread and Bible Study in the Library. This is followed by Worship at 7 PM. Please look at the calendar for the schedule of all Lenten Services.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Dawn Giangiacomo, Ardelle Heffner, Sue Holde, and Elwood (Woody) Noll.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Ruth Bachman, Janet Dissinger, Ron Harman, 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: 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, George Krick, Nick Moore, Shirley Noecker, 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.

We have a couple slots available for the trip to Honduras on October 30 through November 5. If you have any interest, please call Dawn Hickernell at 610-685-4672 or speak to any team member going on the trip. (Kurtzes, Bob Bashore, Mark & Kerrie Searfoss) Thanks.

Rental property committee needs people to serve on this committee. Contact Joe Sickler at 610-678-9796 if you would be willing to serve and/or if you have any questions about this committee.

Western Berks Free Medical Clinic in Robesonia seeking part-time RN averaging 10 hours per week. Minimum 2 years nursing experience. Bilingual preferred. Resume to WBFMC, 480 Big Spring Road, Robesonia, PA 19551, or clinic@wbfmc.comcastbiz.net.

2nd Sunday continues on March 13th @ 4 PM with Kay Stout continuing her presentation on Mental Health.



Our sincere sympathy to the Bashore and Heffner families. Earl Heffner (Ardelle's husband) entered the Church Triumphant on Saturday, Feb. 6th and Raymond Harp (Kathy Bashore's father) entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, February 7th. We also extend our sincere sympathy to Laura Miller on the loss of her brother. Please remember all these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Cub Pack 459 of Trinity is selling tickets for Kauffman's Chicken BBQ on Saturday, 4/2 from 10 AM to 2 PM with pick up at Conrad Weiser Middle School. Cost of tickets is \$8.00 and includes half a chicken, potato and roll. If you are interested, please call the church office or e-mail @ tlcworship@aol.com and place your order. Deadline is 3/15.



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.

Stay well. John C. Moulton, Volunteer Coordinator

Members in the News

50th



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Evans

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Evans, Wernersville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

They were married Jan. 29, 1966, in West Lawn United Methodist Church by the Rev. Rollin Reiner.

Evans, son of the late Edward and Faustina Evans, is retired from CNA Insurance. He is the Mayor of Wernersville.

His wife, Mary Jane, is a daughter of the late William and Anna Smith. She is retired from Wernersville State Hospital.

They have three children: Todd, husband of Allison, Denver, Colo.; Susan, wife of Tod Dawson, Lancaster; and Megan, wife of Thomas Shannon, South Heidelberg Township. There are seven grandchildren: Bryce, Hannah and Riley Dawson; Cade and Reece Evans; and Paige and Leah Shannon.

The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise to Bermuda and the Caribbean with their children and their families.



Furnace Creek Manor

Celebrates 20 Years of Affordable Senior Housing

Furnace Creek Manor, a Phoebe affordable senior housing community in Robesonia, celebrated its 20-year anniversary in November. Annamae Kiscadden, Therma Weidner and Lorraine Raihl, three of the original residents who moved in to their apartments in 1995 are still residing in the beautiful rural setting in Berks County.

Some of the early residents, like Kiscadden, spent their entire lives in the area and were thankful when a senior housing solution was built in their own backyard. As a child, Kiscadden remembers blocking up the Furnace Creek with her friends in order to make a swimming hole on the hot days of summer. Now her apartment overlooks that same creek, which is located behind the building.

More commonly these days, residents from outside the Robesonia area have moved back to Berks County after living in other parts of the country. Although a resident for 20 years, Weidner was one of the latter and found Furnace Creek to be a perfect fit for her housing needs throughout her years of residence.

Both of these women attribute part of what makes Furnace Creek so special to Kevin Kurtz, manager for the last six years, who worked as the property's maintenance worker for two years prior. "We have a wonderful manager," says Weidner. "Kevin is the tops!" According to the residents, nothing is ever too much trouble for their manager and he demonstrates his thoughtfulness in so many ways.

Kurtz says the uniqueness of the apartment complex is the "compassion and strong sense of community among the residents." He points out the sharing of meals, baked goods and produce (from their own gardens on the grounds), and the weekly movie and game nights, which are all resident organized as examples of the camaraderie.

Kiscadden and Weidner, both in their 80s, continue to give back within their close-knit community. Weidner decorates the building for each holiday, including the glass windows on the second floor that overlook the common space. Kiscadden calls each resident on their birthday

and sings the familiar song to them, helping to make their day special. She also helps some of the newer residents to become accustomed to the family-like environment. "Some people aren't that outgoing and you have to help them along," she adds in her bubbly manner.

The 25 apartments are currently occupied by 26 seniors who enjoy life in the quiet neighborhood that is close to all of their needs. Members of St. Paul's UCC church in Robesonia worked for nearly 10 years to make the senior apartments a reality in their community, but it was the connection their pastor, Rev. George Miller, made with Phoebe Ministries that was the key to moving forward on the project.

"I am so grateful and thankful for Phoebe to have this place to live," says Kiscadden. "Phoebe couldn't have done a better job for me. My old swimming hole is right in my back yard!" ☺

Learn more about Phoebe's senior affordable housing communities at Phoebe.org/housing.

Farm Show Winners

Helen Hummel-3rd open, Russet, Norkotah, or other Russeted Skin varieties of potatoes.

Helen Hummel-1st-Canned Foods open, 1 Jar Canned/Pickled/Fermented Vegetable-Sauerkraut

Charlotte Moyer-2nd-Canned Foods open, 1 Jar Canned/Pickled/Fermented Vegetable-Sauerkraut

Bethany Miller-1st-Environmental Natural Resource Systems, Environmental Sciences-Teams of Two in grades 7-9.

It takes a village of Trinity folks



Michael Schwartz at his first piano lesson. Ruth Rush donated a keyboard to Michael to use at home. Barbara Debiec is driving him to his lessons with Debbie Lockwood.

Special Sunday School Events in March
March 20, 9 AM
You are invited
to



At Road to Resurrection we'll step back in time and follow Jesus' footsteps through the week leading up to his death and resurrection. Along the path we'll encounter people who've met Jesus and become part of an incredible experience. Draw closer to Jesus at this memorable event.

This is for everyone, not just the children.

Our set design folks, our actors, are getting in gear for this special presentation.

Easter Sunday, March 27th @ 9 AM



We are doing a special Easter Event in Fellowship Hall. Again all ages are encouraged to attend. At 10 AM (weather permitting) the younger children will go outside for our Easter Egg Hunt. Children should bring a basket with them to Sunday School that morning.

Can you help us with our Easter Egg Hunt?



On March 6th on the back window in the Narthex you will find a basket filled with empty plastic eggs to be used for the children's Egg Hunt on Easter March 27th

Please take a bag of 12 eggs, fill them with candy and return them to our basket by March 24th.

Thank you.
Kathy Lawry



DO YOU KNOW any children ages 3 or 4?

Registration forms and brochures for Fall 2016 are now available.

Early enrollment is offered to families of presently enrolled students and members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Their registration forms and application fee must be received before March 1st.

If you have neighbors and other friends who might be interested in our Preschool programs, our annual **Registration Night** will be held on **Thursday March 10, 6 to 7 pm at the church**. Offer to show them around and introduce them to our experienced staff. Not so familiar yourself? Observers are welcome 9:30 am to noon Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

Registration forms, brochures, and more information about tuition, fees, and class schedules are available on our website www.trinitywernersville.org.

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 an altar flower sponsors for 3/20 . We also need bulletin sponsors for Maundy Thursday (3/24) and Good Friday (3/25).**

Altar Flower Sponsors for March: 3/6-Dick and Helen Hummel in honor of sons', Jeff and Paul, birthdays, 3/13-Betty Lou & Scott Franzen in memory of Lydia Beth, 3/20-available, 3/27-Pamela Moyer in memory of her mother and Annie McKinney.

Bulletin Sponsors for March: 3/6-Forrest Lamm, Jr in honor of his 17th birthday on 3/8, -3/13-Leslie Pirl-Roth in honor of Rick's 20th birthday on 3/9, 3/20-Rick & Kathy Lawry in memory of Dorothy Strydio's birthday, 3/24 (Maundy Thursday)-available, 3/25 (Good Friday)- available, 3/27- Joe & Sue Sickler in memory of Sebastian Bodanza

Helpers for March

Communion Assistant-Bob Bashore

Altar Guild- Anne Marie Rinehimer

Greeters: 3/6-Charlotte Moyer, 3/13-April & Matthew Schwartz, 3/20-Eleanor Brossman, 3/27-Janice & Forrest Lamm, Jr.

Acolytes: 3/27-Forrest Lamm, Jr.

Lay Readers: 3/6-Girl Scouts, 3/13-Carol Koch, 3/20-Charlotte Moyer, 3/27-Diane Brown.

Ushers: 3/6-Lawrys, 3/13-Bashores, 3/20-Kurtzes, 3/27-Berkenstocks,

Counters: 3/6-Franzens, 3/13-Jarsocrak, 3/20-Rapley/Pirl Roth

Sound Technician: 3/6 & 3/13-Donald Oxenreider, 3/20-Wendell Byler, 3/27-Scott Franzen.

Bulletin Assemblers: 3/2-Diane Brown, 3/9-Sandra Miller & Pat Sickles, 3/16-Darlene Lundy, 3/23-Linda Weiss, 3/30-Ann Sentz.

Newsletter Assemblers: Linda Weiss and Ann Sentz

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 3/6-April Schwartz & Lori Shoumlisky, 3/13-Kim Scheider. 3/20 (Palm Sunday) and 3/27 (Easter)-special events.

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 February

- Training of council and others for communion assisting.
- Encouraging families to participate in Sunday School for grades 5 through 12.
- Sound System upgrade approved.
- Changed time for Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday to 6 PM so that soup supper and study will be combined.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in March

June Page will be 92. Happy Birthday June.