



*Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran
Church, Wernersville, PA*

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Wernersville, PA 19565

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Carol A. Koch, Associate in Ministry	610-670-1436
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Frank & Laura Krick, Sextons	484-509-5838
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Barbara Debiec, Financial Secretary	610-670-2841

Life and Harbor

So one day Jesus and his disciples are walking along the crowded streets of a Galilean town when suddenly a leader of the synagogue rushes up to Jesus, falls at his feet, and begs Jesus to come to his house because his 12 year old daughter is dying. As Jesus

begins to follow Jairus, a woman reaches out to touch the end of Jesus' cloak and she is healed. She had been bleeding for 12 years.

But in the meantime, the little girl dies—and yet Jesus goes to the house of this grieving family anyway. He enters the house, and shoos everyone away allowing only Peter, James, John, and Jairus and his wife to accompany him. Jesus takes the hand of the lifeless girl and speaks to her, “Child, get up!” And she does.

Now consider this story of death to life. We can think about it both literally and figuratively. For Jairus and his wife there was surely the pain of the physical loss of the daughter whom they loved and then the joy of her life returned. And yet we can also experience the loss of life even as one continues to breathe and exist.

There are those who feel the loss of life as they journey through the shadows of chronic illness, broken relationships, and chemical dependency. But even more tragic are those whose lives have been tragically damaged through abuse, neglect, and violence. Imagine the life of a child who has been wounded by the events of abuse and violence.

As Jairus advocated for the life of his daughter, so too are we charged to be advocates for the lives of the children and all people of Trinity. In our baptisms we promise to pray for and support those who are baptized. In baptism we carry with us the responsibility of working for justice and peace so as a faith community we are called to advocate for and be a part of the process that creates safe harbor, places of peace, and sanctuary from violence.

As bearers of the light of Christ we *can* bring life where there was death. We *can* participate in the work of preventing harm to all of our children. For us Lutherans it is a matter of law and gospel. As Lutherans we are bound to follow the law even though we know that our salvation is not in the law but rather in God's abundant grace.

It is in the law of Pennsylvania that we are required to provide background checks for all children and youth volunteers. It is in God's grace that we provide a safe haven and a place of peace and sanctuary for those who walk through the doors of Trinity's building.

As you have heard in our most recent Temple Talk, our children and youth volunteers will need to acquire the following:

1. PA Criminal Background Check

2. PA Child Abuse Background Check
3. Sign a disclosure form
4. Fill out an information sheet

- The background checks are free for volunteers (employees must pay \$8.00 for each)
- If you already have the two background checks, then the church office needs 1 copy of each.
- You can find links to do the background checks on **godslove.org** (synod website)
- If you have lived in PA less than 10 years you must complete Federal Fingerprinting as well. The church will pay for this. (Paid employees must be fingerprinted. The cost is around \$27.00.)
- Fingerprinting registration and payment is on-line. Next, visit the BCIU (Berks County Intermediate Unit) at your convenience for the actual fingerprinting.
- This must be completed every three years.
- We have until July 1, 2016 to be in compliance with the law.

There is a list of names in the office and Narthex of people who we think need to do this. If you want to be on the list, please add yourself. If you need help, Pastor Julie or Carol will help you with the on-line work.

Our lives are a gift from God. It is in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that we are lifted out of death into new life. It is in new life that we are charged to love one another. This is how we can do that. Amen.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Julie

Student Loan/Grants

Applications for the Student Loan/Grants from the Endowment Fund are available now. We ask that applications be returned by June 30, 2016 so that we can evaluate the amount available for each student. Please contact Diane Klinger, Endowment Treasurer, for applications (610-670-3198).



Mother's Day is May 8th

The Ladies and children of the church will sing our traditional
Love Is a Special Thing

And ladies-don't forget your hat!

Join the ladies of Trinity for a trip back to the 1950-60's. Wear your best Sunday "go to meeting" hat. There are always extra hats available in the narthex if you don't have one. There are gifts for the mothers as well. We invite the men to dress up as well in honor of this occasion.

And then on Monday, May 9th @ 6:30 PM the annual Mother-Child Banquet

This year we are expanding our invitees to all children, male or female. Chef Tedd Hickernell is preparing the meal and the menu includes:

Chicken and stuffing, glazed carrots, salad and fruit salad.

Homemade desserts by the men of the church

Entertainment following provided by the Conrad Weiser High School Jazz Band. (3 of our members are involved in Jazz Band- Kevin Gemmell, Forrest Lamm, Jr. & Bethany Miller)

Pink Sign up sheet is in the narthex.

And stay tuned in June as we are going to have a special event around Father's Day for the fathers and children.

Graduates

Please let Carol Koch or Pastor Julie know if you or your child or grandchild is graduating from high school, college, graduate school,

or any institute of higher learning. We would like to recognize them on June 12th.



Is May 15th

Geraniums will again be used to beautify the church on Pentecost Sunday and then be planted on the church grounds to provide beauty throughout the summer. Sign up at the table in the narthex. Cost is \$2.50 each. Last day to sign up is May 8th

And don't forget to wear red that Sunday to signify the fire of the Holy Spirit.



To Bethany Miller and Kevin Gemmel for being selected to participate in the Berks Junior County Musical Festival at April 9th @ Muhlenberg High School. Bethany played Bass Clarinet in the Band and Kevin played Timpani in the Band and Orchestra and sang Bass in the Chorus.

Also to the many members of our church who were involved in the recent production of Shrek at Conrad Weiser High School. Kevin Gemmell as Pinocchio, Bethany Miller in the Pit Orchestra, and Forrest Lamm, Jr. as part of the stage crew. We also had 3 adults that helped with costumes - Izannah and Kathy Bashore and Darlene Gemmell.



Trinity Strawberry Festival 2016 Saturday, June 11 3:00 to 7:00 P. M.



Once again we are looking for donations for the Raffle at The Strawberry Festival on June 11, 2016. Baskets filled with goodies, art work, crafts, etc. Please contact Connie Fritz 610-678-3876 Thank you.



STARTING YOUR SPRING CLEANING?? Our annual Strawberry Festival will be here before you know it. Donate your books, media & puzzles for resale. Place them on the windowsill in the narthex. Thanks for helping make our festival a success!



We are looking for extra help to set up games and prizes the morning of our Strawberry Festival. Please contact Barbara Debiec @ 610-670-2841.

Thank you.

As always, we appreciate your donations of new or gently used stuffed animals for our game stands at the Strawberry Festival. Please contact Barbara Debiec @ 610-670-2841 or drop them off in the church narthex.



My sincere thanks to everyone for your thoughts, prayers and cards regarding the passing of my mother. Thanks also to Carol for preparing a beautiful bulletin and to Pastor Julie for helping lay my mother to rest. You have all been a great comfort to me. -Mary Nace



Cross Training will be held on the THIRD SUNDAY MAY 15AT 5 PM. The subject will be Immigration, led by Pastor Bruce Osterhout.

Something new has been added



We now have a doorbell at the office entrance. Thanks, Wendell.



Pastor Julie is looking for people who would like to create a prayer shawl ministry here at Trinity. If you like to crochet, knit, quilt, or sew, talk to Pastor Julie or call or e-mail the office and we'll see what is created.

Youth Events

May 1st

Hike at Hawk Mountain

Meet after church

May 7th -

Canoe Trip

Hamburg to Leesport on the Schuylkill River

See following page for more information.

(All are invited to attend this event.)

Join the Creation Care Task Force & Bishop Zeiser on the Schuylkill River

Saturday May 7, 2016



As baptized children of God, we connect with God quite literally through water. Come and get to know this historically significant body of water on kayak or canoe. We will hear the story of the river's resurrection from death back to life after decades of clean-up efforts.

- Bring your own kayak or canoe! (A limited number of kayaks are available for rent for \$50 per person and must be reserved in advance)
- \$20 per person includes lunch, safety instruction, and transport of people and boats to back to launch site
- All participants **MUST** sign a waiver form on the day of the event
- Registration and payment required by **April 30, 2016**
- Make checks payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church Youth Group" and send with registration form to the attention of Lydia Beck, c/o St. John's Lutheran Church, 99 Church Street, Hamburg, PA 19526
- For registration form, directions, and more information, visit nepasynod.org/events/upcoming-events
- Questions? Contact Inge Williams, pastor.inge.williams@gmail.com

Schedule for the day
9 a.m. Registration opens at Hamburg Boro Park
10 a.m. Reflections by Bishop Zeiser
10:30 a.m. Launch - Lunch along the river -
3 p.m. Thanksgiving for Baptism at historic Leesport Lock House

A joint effort of the NE PA Synod's Creation Care Task Force and East Berks Mission District

Contact Pastor Julie if you are interested.

Where your offering goes

4 YOUR CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES

responds to local and worldwide ministry opportunities, helping to feed those who are hungry, train future leaders and advocate for justice on behalf of your neighbors around the world.

Some Mission Support funds may return to your congregation in the form of grants, services, programs and resources.



1 YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING

at your congregation supports the mission of the whole ELCA doing God's work in the world.

2 YOUR CONGREGATION

shares a portion of your offering – called Mission Support – with the other two expressions of this church. Mission Support is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA.

In your congregation you support:

- Ministry within your congregation
- Local outreach in your community



3 YOUR SYNOD

supports congregations and rostered leaders as they work in their communities and throughout the world.

TOGETHER WE FUND THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES:

- 70 new congregations, 50 percent in multicultural, ethnic communities or among people living in poverty
- More than \$2.6 million in grants awarded to 164 existing congregations intentionally focused on renewal
- 240 missionaries serving in 40 countries, including 57 young adult volunteers
- 26 ELCA colleges and universities
- 8 ELCA seminaries
- Over 180 campus ministries, with cooperating congregations in campus ministries at an additional 400 campuses nationwide
- Advocacy work with the United Nations and the federal government
- Partnerships with The Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in Christ

Thank you!

Together we do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Bold Women's Day!!

May 14, 2016

8:30 am to 2 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
108 S. Robeson Street
Robesonia, PA 19551

Created by Vicar Bonnie Opplinger

Be inspired to be a Bold Woman presenters are Rev. Carol Kehler of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Reading and Diane Ross-spiritual director who walked 500 miles of the El Camino as a 60th birthday present to herself. Pastor Julie and Carol are attending. Let one of us know by May 1st if you would like to attend as they need a headcount for lunch. See you there!!!!

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Dawn Giangiacomo, Beverly James, Elwood (Woody) Noll, Joe Shoumlisky, and Pat Sickles.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Ruth Bachman, Janet Dissinger, Ron Harman, Ardelle Heffner, 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: Wanda Barnett, Catherine Brettell, Larry Brossman, Carolyn Bryant, Marge Dietrich, Sharon & Larry Hamilton, Amy Hatlee, Deb Himmelmann, Nicholas Hydock, Letitia Jarsocrak, Sam Jarsocrak, Hannah Kramer, George Krick, Caelen Mills, 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, Incarnation Lutheran, Reading and Pastor Ebling.

Please let us know when our prayers are answered so we can keep our prayer list current.

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 bulletin sponsors for 5/15, and 5/29.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for May: 5/1-Carol Koch in memory of her mother, 5/8-Marie Rosati and Karen Berkenstock in memory of our mother, 5/15-Granny & Grandpa Franzen in honor of Benjen's 1st birthday, 5/22-Bob & Kathy Bashore in honor of Izannah's birthday, 5/29-Linda & Kirsten Weiss in memory of husband and father, Rodney Weiss, Sr.

Bulletin Sponsors for May: 5/8-Sue & Joe Sickler in honor of Sue's birthday, 5/15-available, 5/22-Barry & Lorraine Coldren in honor of Jennifer's birthday, 5/29-available.

Helpers for May

Communion Assistant-Kevin Kurtz

Altar Guild- Barbara Debiec

Greeters: 5/1-April & Matthew Schwartz, 5/8-Audrey & Dan Eshbach, 5/15-Clarence Schein, 5/22-Kay Stout, 5/29-Bashore Family.

Acolytes: 5/1-Carly Kurtz, 5/8-Kevin Gemmell, 5/15-Bethany Miller, 5/22-John Kurtz, 5/29-available.

Lay Readers: 5/1-Helen & Dick Hummell, 5/8-Stephanie & Carly Kurtz, 5/15-Bonnie Giamotti, 5/22-Kathy Lawry, 5/29-Bob Bashore.

Ushers: 5/1- Lawrys, 5/8-Bashores, 5/15-Kurtzes, 5/22-Berkenstocks, 5/29-Laura Miller & April Schwartz

Counters: 5/1-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 5/8-Jarsocrak, 5/15-Debiec/Rinehimer, 5/22-Hummels, 5/29-Franzens.

Sound Technician: 5/1 & 5/8-Donald Oxenreider, 5/15-Scott Franzen, 5/22-Wendell Byler, 5/29-Donald Oxenreider.

Bulletin Assemblers: 5/5-Mary Jane Evans, 5/12-Carolyn Kurtz, 5/19-June Rapley, 5/26-Connie Fritz, 6/2-Diane Brown.

Newsletter Assemblers: Linda Weiss and Ann Sentz

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 5/1-April Schwartz and Darlene Gemmell, 5/8-Kathy Lawry, 5/15-Megan Shannon, 5/22-Kim Scheider.

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 April

- Carol Koch presented an overview of rostered leaders meeting with the bishop. We are a very healthy congregation, both in our mission and our stewardship.
- Discussed memorial fund and memorial gift ideas.
- Need 2 lay delegates for West Berks Mission District Assembly Meeting and Synod Assembly.
- VBS Planning meeting next week.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in May

Jane Wilkinson will be 94 and Joan Kava will be 87. Happy Birthday Jane and Joan.