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# AUGUST

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## *Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville, PA*

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**“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2Co 5:17 NRS)**

As I write this it is about 90 degrees in the shade. I’m thinking it’s time for a cool dip in a pool somewhere—at the very least a cool

bath before bed. And maybe another cool shower in the morning. All are attempts to combat the hot, sticky, sweaty summer days we are experiencing lately.

Luther said we are to remember our baptisms every time we wash our faces. Indeed it is difficult to forget these words of Luther when I do bathe or go swimming. The early Christians took the image of

“bath” seriously.

Baptism in the late first and second centuries meant complete emersion in a baptismal font that closely resembled a bathtub. Likewise, baptism was often referred to as “the bath.”

Normally, adults were baptized. After intense catechetical



study during the 40 days of Lent, the catechumenate was ready for baptism during the Easter Vigil. Men and women were baptized Separately. All clothing was removed and the catechumenates stepped into the icy cold water of “the bath.” Cold, running water was recommended for baptisms. As the newly baptized stepped from the water, a white robe was slipped over them.

This white robe was a sign that this person was now cloaked in Christ having been made new in the waters of baptism. In fact, every single person who attended worship wore a white robe to signify they had been baptized. Over the centuries, this custom dropped away until only those people leading worship wore white robes regardless of whether they were lay people or the one presiding over worship. We wear the alb for the whole people of God and as a constant reminder and symbol that we have been baptized and are cloaked in Christ forever.

It is customary for not only pastors to wear the white alb, but also

lay leaders as well. Luther lifted up the importance of empowering the laity to lead the people in the order of worship. It is why today we have lay readers, communion assistants, and acolytes participating in the “work of the people.” That’s what worship is: the work of the people.



Currently we are considering the purchase of white albs for use in worship. Wearing the alb is not only a visible and constant reminder that we are all baptized children of God but that we are also all

equal members in the body of Christ. Worship is truly a shared experience among all God’s people—those who have been washed in the bath and fed in the meal—and so we wear the white robe of Christ.

We are indeed a new creation in our baptisms and the alb is an outward sign of that baptism in Christ.

Grace and peace to you, Pastor Julie

### **Some Pictures from our first two Wednesdays of Bible School**

Thanks to Thrivent for helping to fund our projects through action grants.

#### **Tying fleece blankets for Camp Noah the First Week**





## Making First Aid Kits the Second Week



## Singing and acting out the Bible Story





Have a garden?

If God blesses you with an abundance  
bring your “overage” to the basket on the back windowsill.  
If you don’t have a garden or are not growing what’s in the basket  
take what you would like, leave a donation.  
All donations will be given to **World Hunger**.

*Thank You*

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the raffle at the Strawberry Festival 🍓🍓 it was greatly appreciated. Connie Fritz

As I sit here crying, I just want to say Thank You. I also want to say how amazingly unexpected this is. That money will go a long way towards helping us weather this tough time and will help put my mind at ease as to how we were going to financially get through this. I thank God every day that my injury wasn't worse than it is and also for all of the thoughts, prayers, help, and support that we have received from everyone. This is why I am involved in scouting, I hope to help raise our boys to grow up and be members of society who help out and give back. I've been told that I am good with words, but at this time, I don't know what else to say, so Thank You again. Please, let me know if there is anything that we can do to help out the church in the future. *Matt Farn*

(Matt is the leader of the cub scouts of our church. We sent him \$500 from the Community Response Fund/Strawberry Festival proceeds after we found out he suffered a severe injury to his leg and ankle while on a camping trip.)

### **Conrad Weiser 76'ers are back!!!**

The Conrad Weiser 76er's are back. They are doing *Nonsense, the Mega Musical*, on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, at the Conrad Weiser Middle School. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), or from any cast member (Betty Lou Franzen, Izannah Bashore). See you there, for an evening of great entertainment.

### **Save the Date**

Summer months are so busy with vacations and outdoor activities. So, we are asking you to please save the date of **Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00** for our next Western Berks Shepherding Ministries training for new volunteers. Training lasts one hour and is held at St. John's (Hain's) UCC in Wernersville. Just a reminder that our volunteers are only asked to drive once a month, are covered with insurance, can request mileage reimbursement, DON'T have to drive in icy or snowy weather and, most important, are providing much needed help to those in our communities who are no longer able to drive. Please call Cheryl Young at 610-670-5945 if you have any questions.

### **“God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday is September 11**

September 11<sup>th</sup> is a day that most people will not soon forget. During worship we will take time to prayerfully reflect on the events of that day; even so we move ahead living in the hope and promise of the resurrection and Christ come again to bring the kingdom of God into fullness. Martin Luther said, “If I knew that tomorrow was the end of the world, I would plant an apple tree today.”

With that in mind, we will participate in “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday by planting trees! The Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of



Pennsylvania (LAMPAs) has encouraged each synod in Pennsylvania to plant trees. These trees are a symbol of the growth and stewardship of God's creation. In real ways, the planting of trees replenishes and rejuvenates our entire ecosystem. With all these things in mind, **our service project for September 11<sup>th</sup> will be the planting of trees at Furnace Creek Retirement Community after worship.**

T-shirts will be available for \$10.00 apiece. They will say "God's Work. Our Hands" on one side and *Trinity Lutheran Wernersville* on the other. A sign up for T-shirts will be in the Narthex. We must order in the next couple of weeks. Please join us!!!

Blessings,  
Pastor Julie

**Rally Day will be September 18<sup>th</sup> this year because of the above. Stay tuned for what we will do this year. It will be a family event so mark your calendar.**

**relive history**  
**GETTYSBURG**  
**National Military Park bus trip**  
Sponsored by the Friends of the Robesonia Community Library

**\$60 per person**  
Depart: Library - 8am  
Depart: Gettysburg - 4pm  
Approx. 2 hour drive each way

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPT 17**  
**2016**

Includes: Gettysburg Museum Experience, the film *A New Birth of Freedom* narrated by Morgan Freeman, the Cyclorama ... and a 2-hour battlefield tour with a park ranger  
Also includes gratuities for bus driver and park ranger.

**Robesonia Community Library**  
75-A So. Brooke Street  
More info? 610-3-693-3264

**Reserve your seat(s):**  
call **Peg Henderson**  
**610-693-8039**  
or email **Leslie Pirl-Roth**  
**lpr1958@hotmail.com**

## COMPANION SYNODS

### THE SOUTH CENTRAL DIOCESE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA

Imagine ... a youth group from our synod along with two adults visited our Companion Synod in Tanzania. While they visited a number of ministries, one of the most memorable events was an overnight at the Bulongwa Orphanage, where the group helped care for the children alongside the five staff members. They assisted with meals, and even cut firewood. Some are members of congregations in our synod that have companion congregations in Tanzania. The group split into three and visited each of those congregations for three days and two nights, including worship. Pastor Kurt Garbe presided at a baptism during a three-hour worship service. Other highlights of the trip included visits to the Bulongwa Secondary Lutheran School, the Bulongwa Health Science Institute, the Tandala Diaconical Centre, the Cathedral for the Dioceses in Makete, and a safari at the Mikumi National Park and Game Preserve.

- *32 orphans were cared for by the youth and staff of the orphanage*
- *In Youth Vision trips to Tanzania, 24 youths, 3 young adults, and 7 adults have experienced the blessings of the South Central Diocese*
- *Over the years, more than 200 folks of the Synod have visited our 4 Companion Synods*



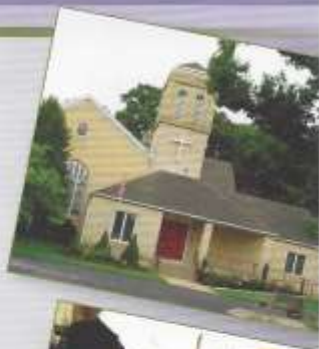
## OPEN ARMS SENIOR CONNECTION

### ARNDT'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FORKS TOWNSHIP

Imagine ... the parking lot is empty when Karen and Alice arrive every Tuesday and Thursday. They begin transforming the lounge, choir room, nursery and main hall into a homey atmosphere. Tablecloths with seasonal centerpieces appear. Coffee perks ... hot water steams ... extra tables and chairs are set up. Karen and Alice are technically seniors themselves, which is part of the charm — you can't tell the staff from the participants.

Arndt's is a congregation surrounded by the suburbs of Easton, which recognized the aging as a growing population in need. Soon the doors open, and folks come in to warm hellos, hugs, and greetings from friends. A new community has been established. Gathering time, planned programs, music, monthly communion ... the air is filled with connections from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. twice a week, 50 weeks a year. Alice and Karen are the last ones to leave.

- *Three years of operations*
- *75 registered participants*
- *25 registered volunteers*
- *Annual budget of \$12,000*
- *No fees required. Donations accepted*



## **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 a bulletin sponsor for 8/7.**

**Altar Flower Sponsors for August:** 8/7-Carol Koch in memory of her dad, Rev. William Marburger, 8/14-Mary Young in memory of her wedding anniversary, 8/21-Kathy & Rick Lawry in honor of their wedding anniversary, 8/28-Diane Brown in memory of her father.

**Bulletin Sponsors for August:** 8/7-Available, 8/14-Joe & Sue Sickler in memory of Joe's mother, Elsie Sickler, 8/21-Charlotte Moyer in honor of the Brossman Family, 8/28-Patrick Berkenstock in honor of his mother's birthday.

## **Helpers for August**

**Communion Assistant**-Diane Klinger

**Altar Guild**- Suzanne Kreider

**Greeters:** 8/7-Kurtz Family, 8/14-Dick & Helen Hummel, 8/21-Sharon Gring, 8/28-Linda & Kirsten Weiss.

**Acolytes:** 8/7- Forrest Lamm, Jr., 8/14-John Kurtz, 8/21-Bethany Miller, 8/28-Carly Kurtz.

**Lay Readers:** 8/7-Bonnie Giamotti, 8/14-Betty Lou Franzen, 8/21-Anne Marie Rinehimer, 8/28-Jerry Jarsocrak.

**Ushers:** 8/7- Lawry's, 8/14-Bashores, 8/21-Kurtzes, 8/28-Berkenstocks,

**Counters:** 8/7-Franzens, 8/14-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 8/21-Jarsocraks,  
8/28-Debiec/Rinehimer.

**Sound Technician:** 8/7-Wendell Byler, 8/14-Scott Franzen, 8/21-  
Wendell Byler, 8/28-Scott Franzen.

**Bulletin Assemblers:** 8/4-Mary Young, 8/11-Mary Jane Evans,  
8/18-Carolyn Kurtz, 8/25-June Rapley, 9/1-Diane Brown.

**Newsletter Assemblers:** Linda Weiss and Ann Sentz

**Children's Sunday School Teachers:** 8/7-Sandy Schadel, 8/14-  
Heather McFadden, 8/21-Harmony Wentzel, 8/28-Laura Miller.

**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

Mark Searfoss 610-670-9674

Jerry Jarsocrak, President 610-670-0954

Kevin Kurtz, Vice President 610-693-5233

**Happy Birthday**

**Birthday Milestones in August**

Clarence Schein (our oldest member and in church every Sunday) will  
be 98. John Ketner will be 85.

Happy Birthday Clarence and John.

Our sincere sympathy to Kevin and David Oxenreider and their families on the loss of their father and grandfather, and to Anne Marie Rinehimer and Elaine Daschler on the loss of their brother, G. Donald Oxenreider. Donald entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Services were held at Trinity on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Please remember these families in your thoughts and prayers.