

Trinity Tidings for Jan. 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church 130 S. Walnut St., Wernersville, PA, 19565, 610.678.1782,
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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Nancy Moyer, Sexton: Jamie Black

Epiphany Light

As I write this it is still Advent and Christmas is a week from today. As we navigate stores and shops amid the blare of “Rock around the Christmas Tree” and the glare of twinkling lights our hope and conversation surrounding the return of Jesus Christ never wains.

And yet, December 26 through January 5th the Christmas season continues even as the stores have turned off their music and packed up their lights. Red hearts and boxes of Russel Stover’s candy don the shelves of Redner’s but we still celebrate the birth—and hoped return—of Jesus Christ.

God’s time has never coincided with worldly time. As followers of Jesus we know that we are “in” the world but not “of” the world. (We get twelve days of Christmas while the rest of the world seems to get only one day!) Also by the time you receive this, January 5th, the Twelfth Night of Christmas, will have come and gone. And in case you didn’t make it to Pastors Julie and Bruce’s Twelfth Night gathering, you might be interested to know there are a number of traditions attached to Twelfth Night. Twelfth Night involves a time of singing Christmas Carols, chalking the door with the date of the new year and the initials of the wise men (20+M+C+B+20), blessing one’s house, and placing a cake in the middle of the table that has a dry pea and a bean placed inside. Whoever finds the pea or bean in their piece of cake is to be treated like royalty for the rest of the day regardless of their standing in society.

The next day January 6th, Epiphany, is a one day celebration of the arrival of the wise men bearing their unusual gifts. It is a celebration of the light of knowing—knowing who Jesus is and what his birth means to the world. Epiphany means understanding who Jesus is as forgiver of sins and Savior of the world. I like to think of Epiphany as a lightbulb going off over our heads. It represents the light of understanding.

Understanding means we “get” what it means to live in the promises of our baptisms. God promises forgiveness, grace, and a forever relationship with us. In return, we acknowledge our callings to worship in community with others, share with others in Holy Communion, learn about faith and scripture (perhaps use the Small Catechism), take care of the environment, and work for peace and justice in the world.

These baptismal promises are good New Year’s resolutions to consider and set as goals for the year. Jesus—Emmanuel—“God with us,” promises to accompany us in all these things. For us, “these things” are a tall order. You know how resolutions go . . . Perhaps the real Epiphany is knowing that regardless of how many failures we experience, we understand that God’s grace and mercy abounds. We are forgiven and set right with God that we might continue to try again and again.

In God’s grace we are renewed in faith and love. It is because of God’s grace that we can share God’s gift of renewal and “Epiphany light” with others; and then together—not individually—we will have the gifts to engage the world in renewing ways. What was broken and crumbling can be rebuilt, what was dangerous and violent can be healed and restored. Our communities and cities can be transformed into places of light and life. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we have the power to change everything that is in darkness. That is the power of “Epiphany light!”

The writer of Matthew writes, *“the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”* (Matt. 4:16 NRS)
This is the light of Christ—the light of Epiphany.

Blessings in this New Year and new decade,
Pr. Julie

Members in the News

- Helen Hummel won first place at the PA Farm show for her Strawberry Jelly and Peach Jam.
- Paige Shannon won first place for Individual Animal Systems in the Conrad Weiser FFA PA Agriscience Fair Results for 2020.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Elaine Binkley, Dan Eshbach, Sandra Miller, Phil Schaeffer, Sue Sickler, and Rodney Weiss, Jr.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Sharon Gring, Ryan Harman, Ardelle Heffner, Joan Kava, Diane Klinger, Ed & Pat Paine, Barbara Pennypacker, Cathy Richards, Clarence Schein, Pat Sickles, Kay Weatherholtz, and Jane Wilkinson.

The Military: Kiley Gring Mohn, Natalie Ketner, and Justin Klinger.

Family and Friends: Michael Barber, Wanda Barnett, Larry Brossman, Carolyn Bryant, Fred DeLong, Marge Dietrich, Peggy Guido, Glenn Helbert, Jennifer Hemstreet, Jessey Homan, Shirley Kerchner, Sharon Kleczynski, Hannah Kramer, Cindy Marsh, Destiny Olivarares, Jake Powers, Tom Reppert, Jerry Zachousk, and Ann Zimmerman.

Special Ministries: Our missionary 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.



Thank you, Kathy Bashore and Kathy Lawry for coordinating our Advent Fun Shop. Thanks to all who had a craft table-Izannah Bashore, Kathy Bashore Diane Brown, Morgan Enck & Beth Byler, Karen Houck, Kurtz Family, Sandy Shadel, Megan Shannon & Mary Jane Evans.

Thanks to the Fellowship Committee and bakers who provided goodies for the social after the Christmas Concert on December 15th. Everything was delicious. We appreciated your generosity.

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

Thank you to the Boy Scouts for decorating help and getting decorations out of the attic.

Thank you to Helen Hummel and Charlotte Moyer for helping with the pew decorations.

Thank you to Jamie Black and Frank Krick for finding a Christmas tree supplier and setting up the trees.



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.

Women's Daytime Bible Study Christmas Luncheon



Children's Chime Choir at the Christmas Concert



Back row-Owen Wentzel and Carson Enck
Front row-Rylee Enck, Sammy Shoumlisky, Alexis Shoumlisky

Trinity's Financial Summary for November

After the third Tuesday of the month Council Meeting, we will print the financial information for the previous month.

Average Attendance in November, 2019: **83**

Average in November, 2018: **80**

Average Weekly Giving in November, 2019: **\$5,244.53.**

Average in November, 2018: **\$3,327.50**

Total income year to date: **\$168,543.28**

Total income year to date in 2018: **\$150,632.89**

Total expenses year to date: **\$168,802.32**

Total expenses year to date in 2018: **\$159,380.84.**

Total income in November: **\$20,978.12**

Total expenses in November: **\$14,607.17**

Percentage of Mission Support made year to date:

to Synod: **103%**, to Mission District: **92%**

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 **\$15.00**. 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 1/26. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for January: 1/5-Carol Koch in memory of her husband, Bob, 1/19-Kurtzes in honor of Stephanie and Carly's birthday, 1/26-Ron & Cherie Giangiacomo in memory of Dawn Giangiacomo's birthday

Bulletin Sponsors for January: 1/5-Janice Lamm in honor of her New Year's Day Birthday 1/19-Ann Sentz in memory of her husband and her daughter, Sue, 1/26-available.

Helpers for January

Council Devotions and Snack: Pastor Julie

Communion Assistant: Diane Brown & Kevin Kurtz

Greeters: 1/5- Cindy Hassler-Schappell & Bob Schappell, 1/12-Diane Brown, 1/19-Owen Wentzel, 1/26-Laura & Frank Krick

Lay Readers: 1/5-Laura Miller, 1/12-Betty Lou Franzen, 1/19-Joe Perrone, 1/26-Beth Byler

Ushers: 1/5-Lawry's, 1/12-Bashore's, 1/19-Kurtzes, 1/26-Berkenstocks

Acolytes: 1/12-Aislin Given, 1/19-open, 1/26-Aislin Given

Sound System: 1/5- Scott Franzen, 1/12-Patrick Berkenstock, 1/19-Wendell Byler, 1/26-Stephanie Kurtz

Counters: 1/5-Franzens, 1/12-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 1/19-Jarsocrak, 1/26-Debiec/Rinehimer

Bulletin Assemblers: 1/8-Helen Hummel, 1/15-Eleanor Brossman, 1/22-Mary Young, 1/29-Mary Jane Evans, 2/4-June Rapley

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 1/5-Sandy Shadel, 1/12-Allison Given, 1/19-Kathy Lawry, 1/26-Kathy Bashore.

Church Council Members

Wendell Byler, President 610-670-8512
Harmony Wentzel, Vice President 610-390-9986
Scott Franzen 610-678-7330
Jerry Jarsocrak 610-670-0954
Laura Miller 610-678-2152
Elwood (Woody) Noll 484-638-2057
Joe Perrone 484-949-4829
Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131

Church Council Highlights for December

- Approved the Endowment Committee Budget for 2020.
- Accepted April Schwartz's resignations from council with regret.
- Approved 3 council nominees for 3 year terms-Joe Perrone (First term), Laura Miller (Second term), Elwood (Woody) Noll (Second Term).