



Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville, PA

Trinity Lutheran Church
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What God has done for us!

Wow! These past two months have flown by and I'm having a great time as your pastor. I've always heard that if you do what you are passionate about, you will never work a day in your life. I know not everyone gets that kind of opportunity in life—but I surely feel as though I'm living that ideal right now.

Of course, I know there are many ups and downs in ministry—but isn't that part of the passion? Isn't being passionate about God's ministry in the world encompass both the good the bad, the sad and the joyful phases of life? When we live closely in relationship with others we ride the waves of life and journey through all the curves, valleys, and hills of life with them.

So I am enjoying the ride—I hope you are, too. As one who is

a cradle Christian (someone born into the faith) I have been fortunate enough to follow a path that has daily become enriched and nurtured in the love and faith of Christ.

As I ponder this life journey in which God has accompanied me, I have encountered astounding signs of God's presence in all aspects of my life. Over the years some life events were not so good while others seemed like gifts of the Holy Spirit. I am grateful to God for lifting me up in times of sickness, and caring for me through grief and hard times. And I am grateful to God for dancing with me when my children were born, during times of family celebration, and in my calling to ordained ministry.

I am reminded of the words of Mary's song, "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." Throughout the ages the Mighty One surely has done great things for the people of God. It is out of my gratefulness that I am moved to respond in ways that allow me to use my holy gifts to serve other people. Serving others as Jesus taught us to do is how we respond to all that God has done for us. The holy gifts that I offer in service to others are born of my time, my talents, and my financial resources.

I am inspired by the mission that is happening at Trinity. Here are just a few of our ministries: our own pre-school ministers to young families and their young children in helping to prepare for them for the real world of Kindergarten by teaching them needed social and age appropriate readiness skills. Our Mission Impossible team searches and plans for ways to reach out to those in other places here and abroad who need assistance in attaining sustainable living standards—and so we will travel to the Honduras to build a well which will provide life-giving, clean water to those who have none.

And our annual Strawberry Festival funds that provide financial support to community people and families who are in need of a financial boost. Our support reaches from our local food bank to our missionaries in Tanzania—the Fribergs. So what can you do to respond to all that God has done in your life? What will you offer? Your time? Your talent? Your financial gifts?

February 7th is Consecration Sunday. On this Sunday, the Stewardship Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider how

you will respond to the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church. Maybe you will continue to give as you always have, maybe times are difficult and you must reconsider what you've always given, or maybe you are in a place in life where you will be able to increase your giving. Consecration Sunday will be the time and place to make your commitment for the next year.

Following worship there will be a catered luncheon for our church family. It is a way of saying thank you to everyone for their past gifts to the ministries of Trinity. Katheryn's Katering will provide a meal for us which will be served at St. Daniels Lutheran Church in Robesonia. The meal will be served at 12:30pm. Please make sure you sign up for this event and prepare to celebrate what God has done for us and what we have done for our neighbors!

God's blessings to all as we prepare for the coming year,
Pastor Julie

Lent 2016: Exodus to Exile: Captivity to Freedom

It seems we have no sooner completed Christmas and here we are preparing for Lent. I am very excited to be experiencing my first Lent, Holy Week, and Resurrection of Our Lord with all of you. Lent is my favorite time of year as I find the journey to be introspective, prayerful, and God-filled. It is a time to experience the solitary flame of a candle, the word of God, and the soft, prayerful melodies of the church.

In times of old, Lent was a period of adult catechetical instruction. In preparation for baptism, catechumens would study with their sponsor for the 40 days leading up to the celebration of the resurrection. This celebration took place during the Easter Vigil—the oldest Christian celebration in existence. During the Vigil, catechumens approached the “bath” unclothed. They were then cloaked in white robes as though cloaked in Christ as they emerged from the cold waters of renewal. In this way they would join the community of fellow believers for the first time that they might share in the holy meal. Bath to meal. Baptism to Eucharist.

In the spirit of this 40 day process of learning and growing there will be an offering of study each Wednesday in Lent beginning at 4:30pm. We realize the time may not be optimum for all, but our

prayer is that as many as are able will attend. Soup and Holden Evening Prayer will follow the study. Our topic will be: *Exodus and Exile: Captivity to Freedom*. This study is for adults and high school students.

In the same vein of Lenten study and preparation, First Communion Instruction will begin as well. There will be four Sundays of instruction which will be held February 28, March 6, 13, and 20 following worship each Sunday. Students will fully participate in the Lord's Supper for the first time on Maundy Thursday, March 24th at 7:30pm. These classes are for children grades pre-school and up who want to take communion. Students who only take the bread *should* attend these classes, too.

Each Wednesday in Lent will include Study, Soup, and Sacrament (Holden Evening Prayer with Eucharist). There will be a sign up in the Narthex for providing soup on Lenten Wednesdays. Following is a complete schedule of Lenten observations and events.

February, Sat. 6 & Sun. 7

Consecration Sunday & Appreciation Dinner at 12:30 at St. Daniel's

Burning of the Palms after Sunday worship
also weekend of WBMD youth lock-in

February 10, Wednesday—Ash Wednesday services and study
12:00pm service followed by a simple Lenten lunch of soup and bread

4:30pm Study

7:30pm Eucharist and imposition of ashes (no soup ahead of time)

February, Sat. 13 & Sun. 14

Boy Scout Sunday

We put away the Alleluias

February 17, Wednesday

12:00pm Ministerium Lenten worship and lunch at Zion Lutheran Womelsdorf

4:30pm Study

6:00pm Soup
7:00pm Sacrament

February, Sat. 20 & Sun. 21
Sunday Congregational Meeting

February 24, Wednesday

12:00pm-Ministerium Lenten worship and lunch, St. John's UCC
(Hain's)
4:30pm Study
6:00pm Soup
7:00pm Sacrament

February, Sat. 27 & Sun. 28
After Sun. worship—first communion instruction #1

March 2, Wednesday

12:00pm Trinity Wernersville hosts the Ministerium Lenten worship
and lunch
4:30pm Study
6:00pm Soup
7:00pm Sacrament

March, Sat. 5 & Sun. 6

Girl Scout Sunday
After Sun. worship—first communion instruction #2
Youth Bowl-a-Thon in afternoon (see youth info for details)

March 9, Wednesday

12:00pm- Ministerium Lenten worship and lunch, St. Paul's UCC,
Robesonia
8:00am WBMD Lenten Breakfast at The Inn at Reading (sign up in
Narthex)
4:30pm Study
6:00pm Soup
7:00pm Sacrament

March, Sat. 12 & Sun. 13

After Sun. worship—first communion instruction #3

March 16, Wednesday

12:00pm—Ministerium Lenten worship and lunch, St. Daniels's Lutheran, Robesonia

4:30 Study

6:00 Soup

7:00 Sacrament

March, Sat. 19 & Sun. 20

Palm Sunday of the Passion (beginning of Holy Week)

After Sun. worship—first communion instruction #4

(No Wednesday 3/23 activities)

The Three Days (The Triduum)

March 24, Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday

7:30pm First Communion

March 25, Good Friday

7:30 Tenebrae Service

March 26, Saturday

5:30pm Vigil and celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord

and finally, March 27, Sunday, Resurrection of Our Lord

Youth Sunday School

January 31st at 9:00am—and for all Sundays ever after will be

Youth Sunday School for high school and middle school students.

We will be studying *re:form*. *re:form* allows young people to explore, ask questions, and engage in God-talk about the Bible, science, school, religion, life, and everything else. It helps us answer the big question: How do we live our lives as faithful people of God? This will count as confirmation class for those students who have started confirmation and not finished or have reached 9th grade and not

been confirmed. (We will discuss any other requirements there might be for designated confirmation students.) Pastor Julie will teach this class. Parents are invited to be a part of this class. In fact, having at least two parents present at each Sunday School class is a must! See you then!!

Snow Days Are Here

In order to find out if Church is cancelled due to bad weather, we will be placing a notice on WFMZ Channel 69, Stormcenter News (over-the-air Channel 69.1; Comcast cable, Channel 9), both of which will scroll closings and delays. The same information may be found on the Internet at WFMZ.com's homepage on the upper right side. Check for Storm Center Update and click on the link in the white box under the heading. A list of closings will be provided.

We are working on several other methods to provide you with timely notification if we are unable to have a service and will provide you with Newsletter notification as soon as they are established.

**2nd Sun presentation by Kay Stout on mental health. 4-6 pm
Sunday, February 14th.**

February 21, 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting

For reception of reports and adoption of endowment and rental
management budgets
Immediately following worship



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TASK FORCE -- What's this?
Time to get the Strawberry juices flowing to design, organize, and orchestrate the **June 11, 2016 Trinity Strawberry Festival**. Do you have some suggestions?? new ideas?? old ideas to revive??. We will listen, adapt, and move forward. Please contribute a little time to get

us rolling. **Monday February 29, 2016 at 7:30 pm** in the library here at the church. Contact—BL Franzen 610-678-7330 or blou-clue@comcast.net.

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.



WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT Annual Lenten Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, March 9 at 8:00 AM
at The Inn at Reading

1040 Park Road Wyomissing PA 19610

The Inn at Reading offers easy parking and is handicap accessible.

Cost is \$15 for a breakfast buffet including:
Breakfast pastries and biscuits, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs,
cinnamon French toast, red potatoes, bacon, coffee, tea and juice.

We are excited to have back with us this year, the **Rev. Dr. David J. Lose**. The title of his presentation will be, "An 'Eighth Day' People: Cross and Resurrection in the Gospel of John...and the Church"

Dr. Lose is the president of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia which has just announced a joint venture with Gettysburg Seminary in declaring their intent to form "New School of Theology"

Dr. Lose will be able to share more about this as well.

A sign up sheet is posted in the narthex. Funding is being provided by our Endowment Committee Leadership and Education line. Our goal would be to have at least 6 to 8 people attend from Trinity.

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.

Our sincere sympathy to the Eshbach and Weinhold families on the passing of Fern Bagenstose to the Church Triumphant. Fern was the mother of Audrey Eshbach and the mother-in-law of Jim Weinhold. We also extend our sincere sympathy to Jerry Jarsocrak on the loss of his uncle, Bernard (Bo) Brophy. Bo entered the Church Triumphant on Thursday, January 21st. Please remember Jerry and Bo's immediate family in your thoughts and prayers

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Dawn Giangiacomo, Ardelle Heffner, Sue Holder and Marie Rosati.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Ruth Bachman, 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, Ralph East, 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, Larry Rentschler, 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.

MISSION POSSIBLE

What: A mission trip to New Windsor, Maryland Members from Trinity to travel to New Windsor Maryland to assist in assembling health, hygiene, school, baby, or cleaning kits to be distributed to areas in need.

Where: We will be going The Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., has been helping people in need for over sixty-five years. Owned and operated by the Church of the Brethren, it houses organizations that work in areas of relief and development, disaster response, social justice, peace education and hospitality.

When: A single selected day Monday thru Friday, in April or May.

Time: Tentative departure between 6 to 7 AM, workday at the center from arrival time to 4 PM, returning home after the workday.

Who: Volunteers typically stand, or sit depending on the job. Most work is done in a temperature controlled area. Modest, comfortable clothing and low-heel closed-toe shoes should be worn. The area allows for a maximum of 25 volunteers. Volunteers can be as young as 14. Youth, ages 14-17, need a [signed permission slip](#) (parental consent form).

Next: If you think you may be interested in going sign-up in the narthex, by February 28th include your name and contact information. You will be contacted and a meeting will be set up to select a day and date for the trip. Tentative first meeting in the beginning of March on the day that works best for the majority of people signing up.

Thank You

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE CARDS,
PHONE CALLS AND ESPECIALLY
THE PRAYERS DURING MY BATTLE
WITH PROSTATE CANCER AND
THE LOSS OF MY BROTHER SCOTT.
YOUR OUTPOURING OF LOVE AND
CARING HAS HELPED CARRY ME
THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT
TIME IN MY LIFE. GOD HAS
BLESSED ME WITH GOOD HEALTH,
SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS THE
CANCER IS GONE, AND A VERY
SPECIAL CONGREGATION. MAY
THE PEACE OF THE RISEN
LORD BE WITH YOU ALL.

YOUR BROTHER IN
CHRIST,

TEDD HICKERNELL

Dear Mary Jane and Congregants,

Thank you, for your donation of personal care items to Opportunity House. We are so grateful for this donation of everyday items which we use so many of!

Thanks again for your kindness!

Sincerely,

Moderate D. Fiume



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 and bulletin sponsors for 2/7, 2/14, and 2/21. We also need a bulletin sponsor for Ash Wednesday, 2/10.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for January: 2/7-available, 2/14-available, 2/21-available, 2/28-Pamela Moyer in memory of her mother.

Bulletin Sponsors for January: 2/7-available, 2/10- available, 2/14- available, 2/21- available, 2/28-Sue & Joe Sickler in honor of Beth's birthday.

Helpers for February

Communion Assistant-Mary Nace

Altar Guild- Diane Klinger

Greeters: 2/7-Linda & Kirsten Weiss, 2/14-Boy Scouts, 2/21-Darlene & Kevin Gemmell, 2/28-Diane Brown.

Acolytes: 2/7-Carly Kurtz, 2/14-Forrest Lamm, Jr., 2/21-Bethany Miller, 2/28-Patrick Berkenstock.

Lay Readers: 2/7-Mary Nace, 2/14-Boy Scouts, 2/21-Betty Lou and Scott Franzen, 2/28-Bonnie Giamotti.

Ushers: 2/7-Lawrys, 2/14-Boy Scouts, 2/21-Kurtzes, 2/28-Berkenstocks,

Counters: 2/7-Franzens, 2/10 n (Ash Wednesday)-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 2/14-Jarsocrak, 2/21-Debiec/Rinehimer,2/28-Hummels.

Sound Technician: 2/7 & 2/14-Donald Oxenreider, 2/21-Wendell Byler, 2/28-Scott Franzen.

Bulletin Assemblers: 2/3-Sandra Miller & Pat Sickles, 2/10-Mary Young, 2/17-Mary Jane Evans, 2/24-Carolyn Kurtz, 3/2-June Rapley.

Newsletter Assemblers: Linda Weiss and Ann Sentz

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 2/7-Kelly Thompson and Alec Doherty, 2/14-Kathy Lawry, 2/21-Carol Koch, 2/28-Karen Houck.

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 January

- **Met our Benevolence and Mission District Commitment for 2015.**
- **Made correction to budget due to late Portico information**
- **Election of Officers**
- **Appointed new liaisons to Endowment Committee (Wendell Byler), Fellowship (Kelly Thompson), Rental Management (Mary Nace), Stewardship (Bob Bashore) and Youth Group (Pastor Julie).**
- **Discussed sound system with possible addition of new speakers.**

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in February

James Putt will be 97. Happy Birthday Jim.