

Trinity Tidings for March 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



March 17

St. Patrick's Festival Day

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death wound and the burning,
The choking wave and the poisoned shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till thy returning.

—from Patrick's hymn, or *lorica*
(“lorica” is like the word “lyric”)

So how is your Lent going? I don't know about you, but I have felt really, really busy over the last two weeks. For pastors, Lent is both a blessing and a curse. There is the blessing of contemplation, conversations with God, and times of worship and study all of which lead to the beautiful, intimate mystery of Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection. Except, all of it needs preparation—that's the curse.

But amid all of our Lenten preparations, studies, and devotions, there is this funny little celebration that shoots an arrow through the purple of Lent and surprises us with a shock of glowing green in all its shiny gloss and glitter. Green is the church color for life. And wrapped up in this lively green is Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland. The festival day for Patrick sails right through the Lenten season gleefully shattering the ascetic austerity of this time. Bishop Patrick playfully invites us into something completely outside the Lenten norm. Wikipedia tells us that traditionally, the Lenten restrictions of eating and drinking were lifted for the day. We still follow this tradition!

Bishop Patrick was born in England about 389 C.E. At the age of 16 in the year 405, he was kidnapped and enslaved by Irish raiders and brought to Ireland where he remained until his escape back to England six years later.

Raised a Christian, Patrick's father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest (things were different in the fifth century). But Patrick did not return to England the same as he had left. It was during his time of enslavement that Patrick had a spiritual awakening. The power of his faith-filled experience was so great that Patrick was ordained a priest in 417. In 432 he traveled back to Ireland to evangelize the pagans and druids of the land.

We've all heard stories of how Bishop Patrick chased the snakes out of Ireland. And yet, how would people from a land that has never, ever had snakes know what a snake even was? In truth, we believe that the snake story is symbolic of Patrick's efforts to chase the druids out of Ireland—the snake representing

evil (you know, as in traditional interpretations of Eden's snake).

The stories of Bishop Patrick's life are peppered with legends. One such story says that in the year 433 he started a bonfire on the Hill of Slane at the beginning of the Easter service. It is very reminiscent of today's Easter Vigil fire as we journey from Lenten dark into Easter light.

He is also known for using a three leaf shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. As we move ever closer to the cross we remember this prayer based on Patrick's writings—so fitting for our Lenten journeys.

"O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen." (ELW, pg. 40).

In Lenten peace,
Pr. Julie

Upcoming Special Events



On Sunday, March 15th, the Fellowship Committee is having an Everybody's Birthday Party in Fellowship Hall following worship. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you wish to attend and bring a covered dish. **Everyone who is coming please bring along a birthday card.**

If you like to bowl, sign up for the WBMD Bowl-a-Thon Sunday 3/15 in the afternoon. See info in the narthex.



Wednesday, March 18th @ noon we are hosting the Conrad Weiser Ministerium Lenten service and meal. Please plan to attend.



Join us on Sunday, March 29th @ 11:30 AM-as we celebrate Lent and prepare for Easter.

It will be much like our Advent Fun Shop but preparing for Easter rather than Christmas.

We will begin with a light lunch and then proceed to the craft tables to make Lenten and Easter items. This is an event for all ages. If you would be willing to donate food, sign up in the narthex by 3/22. We are also asking you to sign up if you plan to attend so that we have a general idea of how much food to provide. If you would like to do a craft table, talk to Carol Koch. We already have 6 volunteers but 1 or 2 more would be welcome. Remember they have to be easy enough for our kids to do with a little adult help.

Please remember in your prayers:

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

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: 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: Rena Butcavage, Kiley Gring Kohl, Natalie Ketner, and Justin Klinger.

Family and Friends: Michael Barber, Wanda Barnett, Philip Bieber, Larry Brossman, Carolyn Bryant, Fred DeLong, Marge Dietrich, Ellen Emanuel, Peggy Guido, Glenn Helbert, Jennifer Hemstreet, Jessey Homan, Shirley Kerchner, Hannah Kramer, Cindy Marsh, Destiny Olivarares, Jake Powers, Claire Putt, 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.

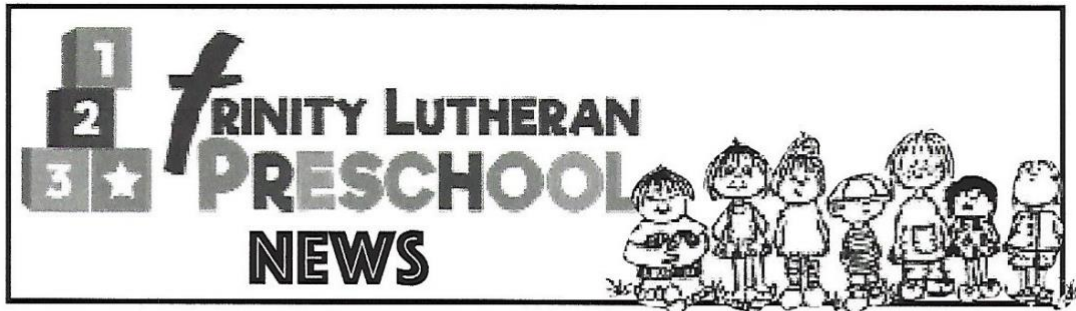


Just a reminder, if you have any Thrivent insurance or annuity products, then you may have Choice Dollars to distribute. Formerly they advised you when this occurred but they no longer do this. You have to go online and check. If you direct your choice dollars to Trinity, it goes to support our preschool. If you do not direct your dollars, it is like throwing money away. Please check your account monthly, or at least quarterly.

You are also eligible for **activity grants**. We have been funding our VBS through activity grants the last 2 years. Each account holder is eligible for 2-\$250.00 grants a year. They can be used to fund things like Strawberry Festival, Community Dinner, Generosity Sunday Dinner, etc. Please see Carol Koch or Pastor Julie for more information. **Again, not using available money is like throwing it away.**



Easter Flower signup began weekend of March 1 Cost of flowers is \$9.00. Flowers will be used to adorn the chancel at Easter vigil and on Easter morning. You may take your plant after service on Easter morning or leave it and it will be delivered to shut-ins.



DO YOU KNOW any children ages 2, 3 or 4?

Registration forms and brochures for Fall 2020 are now available.

New for Fall 2020, we are offering tuition scholarships through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Scholarship Program administered by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. St. Daniel's Preschool in Robesonia asked us to partner with them in the EITC program. At least two Pre-K Programs are needed to support a PreKindergarten Scholarship Organization (PKSO). Once listed, a (PKSO) may receive contributions from qualified businesses that receive tax credit toward their PA income tax obligations. Scholarships are based on a families' income and number of independents and proportionately lower their monthly tuition.

It is our goal as a mission ministry of Trinity, to make our Preschool accessible to as many families of the community as possible.

If your business or employer participates in the EITC Program for PA income tax credit, and would like to send a contribution to Trinity Lutheran Preschool, we are listed under St. Daniel's Lutheran Church PKSO.

If you have family, neighbors and other friends who might be interested in our Preschool Program, please pick up Registration Forms and Pamphlets in the Narthex for them. 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., and Thurs. Tours are available, call 610-678-1782, ext. 4.

Registration forms, Scholarship applications, brochures, and more information about tuition, fees, and class schedules are available on our website www.trinitywernersville.org. Also, check out our new FaceBook page @TrinityLutheranPreschoolWernersvillePA.

Mark your calendars now!

**Trinity Strawberry Festival 2020 - June 13, rain date June 14
3:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

An organizational meeting of the Strawberry Festival Task Force will be held on Monday March 16 at 7:30 at the church. All are welcome to help plan and orchestrate the event.

Questions: Betty Lou 610-678-7330 or
blou-clue@comcast.net



How are We Doing?

Trinity's Financial Summary for January

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

Average Attendance in January 2020: **65**

Average in January 2019: **79**

Average Weekly Giving in January 2020: **\$3285.86**

Average in January 2019: **\$3199.00**

Total income year to date: **\$13,141,43**

Total income year to date in 2019: **\$12,796.00**

Total expenses year to date: **\$16,285.74**

Total expenses year to date in 2019: **\$14,602.58**

Total income in January: **\$13,141,43**

Total expenses in January: **\$16,285.74**

Percentage of Mission Support made year to date:

to Synod: **9%**, to Mission District: **9%**

God Bless!! ☺
Mammoth 1814 Troop

Thank you from Troop 132
Tina Erin

Ruth Green

Thank you!
Debbie Smith
Troop 133

Thank you
Joyce Smith
Troop 115

Thank you for
your continued
support of the
Conrad Weiser
Girl Scouts!

Ann Reynolds Barbara Kroll

Thank you!!
Marilyn Bianco
Troop 1929

Thank you!!
Marilyn
Troop 185

Caroline Maddaloni

Laurie Horack
Troop 1065
Troop 1634

Kelly Bender
Troop 1065

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 Altar Flower Sponsors for 3/22 and we need bulletin sponsors for all the Sundays in March except 2/9. Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for March: 3/1-Pamela Moyer in memory of her mother, 3/8-Ron & Ruth Rush in honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary, 3/15-Scott & Betty Lou Franzen in memory of Lydia Beth, 3/22-available, 3/29- Pamela Moyer in memory of her mother & Annie McKinney

Bulletin Sponsors for February: 3/15-Kathy & Rick Lawry in honor of Katelyn's birthday. All other Sundays available

Helpers for March

Council Devotions and Snack: Laura Miller

Communion Assistant: Cindy Hassler-Schappell

Greeters: 3/1-Cindy Hassler-Schappell & Bob Schappell, 3/8-Dick & Helen Hummel. **Please sign up in the narthex for 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29.**

Lay Readers: 3/1-Carol Koch, 3/8-Wendell Byler, 3/15-Mary Nace, 3/22-Dan Nace, 3/29-Cindy Hassler-Schappell

Ushers: 3/1-Lawry's, 3/8-Bashore's, 3/15-Kurtzes, 3/22-Berkenstocks, 3/29-Barbara Debiec & Laura Miller.

Sound System: 3/1- Scott Franzen, 3/8-Wendell Byler, 3/15-Patrick Berkenstock, 3/22-Stephanie Kurtz, 3/29-Scott Franzen

Counters: 3/1-Hummels, 3/8-Franzens, 3/15-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 3/22-Jarsocrak, 3/29-Debiec/Rinehimer

Bulletin Assemblers: 3/4-Ann Sentz, 3/11-Kathy Lawry, 3/18-Bonnie Glamotti, 3/25-Laura Krick, 4/1-Barb Debiec.

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 3/1-Karen Houck, 3/8-Kerri Searfoss & Barb Debiec, 3/15-Mary Nace, 3/22-Sandy Shadel. 3/29-no Sunday School, Lenten Fair following worship

Church Council Members

Wendell Byler, President 610-670-8512

Harmony Wentzel, Vice President 610-390-9986

Scott Franzen 610-781-7674

Jerry Jarsocrak 610-670-0954

Laura Miller 717-507-0934

Elwood (Woody) Noll 484-638-2057

Joe Perrone 484-949-4829

Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-451-6131

Glenn Given 484-955-1780

Church Council Highlights for February

- Rental Management approved.
- Approved transfer of Russ & Starr Berkenstock, and Marge Schwalm to other Lutheran churches in Lancaster county and approved receiving Bruce Osterhout into membership at Trinity.
- New boiler(furnace) approved for rental property @ 110 S. Walnut St.
- Welcomed Glenn Given to council. He is filling the last year of April Schwartz's term.
- Boy Scout troop 459 is disbanding