

Trinity Tidings for Dec. 2019

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

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Growing up, some of my most vivid Christmas memories were those of Christmas Eve. Each year my mom, dad, sister, and I always shared Christmas Eve with my mother’s parents, her best friend, and her best friend’s family.

One year we’d have a gathering at our house, then the next year we’d have a gathering at my mother’s friend’s house and so on and so on. Everyone would have on their best green and red finery, there would be delicious appetizers of cheese and crackers, yummy dips, chips, nuts, cookies, and hot chocolate and tea.

A few small trinkets were opened (though the real gift opening happened on Christmas morning). And most importantly, we sang. In the early years, my mom’s friend would play on her piano or organ when we were at her house. But then as I got older, I became the piano player at both houses.

We sang not only every Christmas carol ever written, but quite a few old standards as well. As I played, everyone would crowd around behind me where they could see the music and words and they would sing. In fact, this became such a family past time that we did this every time any family came together. My Columbus, Ohio cousin and I still pull out reams of old sheet music and play and sing for hours.

On this Christmas Eve our family of faith will come together to worship. We will lift our voices on high singing praises to the newborn king. We will pray, eat bread and wine, and hear the old, old story of Mary and Joseph, the stable, the animals, the shepherds and the angels saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Lk. 2:13-14 NRS)

Though Luke’s gospel reads, “praising God and *saying*,” I have no doubt that the angels were actually singing, “Glory to God,” their voices soaring through the cosmos delivering their message of peace throughout all the universe.

At least that’s how I envision them. We, too, will sing “Glory to God in the highest” just as the angels did and in our singing we will know that the king of glory has come. We will know that the kingdom has arrived in the form of a screaming, red-faced, hungry, suckling human baby who will—through the blessing and authority of God—make the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and bring good news to the poor.

We will know that the end of the song is not the cross and that it isn’t even the empty tomb! For Christ will come again and in his coming the kingdom will come to completion bringing justice and peace to all the world. In the meantime, we continue to write the song that started at the cradle and continues on this day and in the days to come.

So lift up your voices, sing the songs and carols of hope and love each and every day. Praise God with a joyful heart for Jesus is coming!

Peace and grace,
Pastor Julie

December Events



On December 15th @ 3 PM we will have our annual Christmas Concert. The Bell choirs, Chime Choir, and Senior Choir will participate. There will be a time to sing some of our favorite carols, accompanied by the organ, as well. This will be followed by a light supper organized by the Fellowship Committee.



Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, Dec. 22nd for election of council members and approval of 2020 budget.



Christmas Eve candlelight worship services with Holy Communion on Tuesday, 12/24 @ 3:30 & 7:30 PM.



Service of Lessons and Carols with the Sunday School Orchestra on Sunday, December 29th. No worship Saturday night 12/28th.

Other Information

- Poinsettia sign up ends on 12/1.
- The 2020 Flower and Bulletin charts are now available in the Narthex. They are under the current charts.
- The shoe box is again available in the narthex. Please bring your gently used or new shoes to the box and we will get them to *In Ian's Boots*, a ministry we support.
- This year we are giving Christmas gifts to Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf. Please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the narthex. Please do not wrap your gift. Return it with the tag by Sunday, December 8th and we will get them to them the week of December 9th.

How are We Doing?

Trinity's Financial Summary for October

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

Average Attendance in October, 2019: **70**

Average in October, 2018: **82**

Average Weekly Giving in October, 2019: **\$3354.00**

Average in October, 2018: **\$5223.06**

Total income year to date: **\$147,565.16**

Total income year to date in 2018: **\$137,322.89**

Total expenses year to date: **\$154,195.15**

Total expenses year to date in 2018: **\$145,972.22**

Shortfall, year to date (income minus expenses): **-\$3654.99**

Total income in October: **\$13,416.00**

Total expenses in October: **\$13,762.85**

Percentage of Mission Support made year to date:

to Synod: **93%**, to Mission District: **83%**

Debt Retirement Completed! Please consider adding your debt retirement giving to your regular weekly/monthly giving.

Church Council Highlights for November

- Approved the new mission statement for the church.
- Approved a new directional sign for the church to be placed at the corner of Penn and Walnut street.
- Approved the 2020 budget.
- Approved website update.
- Approved a nominating committee for church council members.

Trinity Sunday School Orchestra received \$200 from Trinity Lutheran Church, Robesonia for participating in the Jack Frost parade. The orchestra for the parade consisted of Trinity members as well as several friends from other musical groups that help. As a Mission project it was decided to use this money to purchase 2 pair of goats through the ELCA GOOD GIFTS catalog. Somewhere in the world some family will receive this gift. Goats were chosen because goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain and unreliable climates. Fresh milk from a goat provides nutrition for families and goats reproduce quickly and they can provide an opportunity for families to pass the gift to others.



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October 22, 2019

Pamela Moyer
c/o Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
130 S Walnut St
Wernersville PA 19565

Dear Friends:

Well it is hard to believe that we are into the 4th week of October. Since we have had a very dry 8 weeks, we are not sure how the trees will respond when it comes to producing the color. But we will take what the Lord gives us. Thank you for your donation of \$600. \$200 for the upcoming Christmas Program and \$400 for the general funds. We greatly appreciate your support and for uniting with us and those we serve whose lives are broken, who long for warmth and understanding.

We are currently working with a local program that helps employee people with mental disabilities called TAC. We have a couple of participants from the program who are working with Mike our Home Repair Supervisor in making items that can be used in the home.

Our Faith and Finance classes and Career Readiness Programs are about to start another series of classes for some of our participants. We currently have two people working as interns and getting paid \$7.75 an hour, two days a week. The other three days they are activity looking for employment.

And lastly, but not least, the donations of new items and monies are coming in on a steady basis for the upcoming Christmas Store which will be held December 10th through the 13th this year. It takes a lot of organization and coordination to make it happen. Know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Kathleen Weigand OSB
Mission Speaker/Public Relations

Our Endowment Dollars at Work

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Elaine Binkley, Dan Eshbach, Sharon Gring, Dick Hummel, Sandra Miller, April and Matthew Schwartz, Sue Sickler, and Rodney Weiss, Jr.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Ryan Harman, Ardelle Heffner, Joan Kava, Diane Klinger, Buzz Lockwood, 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.

Our Sunday School Orchestra in the Jack Frost Parade in Robesonia on November 3







Thank you to everyone who helped: Our food planners and preparers- Kathy and Rick Lawry, Our craft arranger-Kathy Bashore and all the people who presided at a craft table-Kathy Bashore, Izannah Bashore, Diane Brown, Kevin & Carly Kurtz, Morgan Enck & Beth Byler, Megan Shannon & Mary Jane Evans, Karen Houck, and Sandy Shadel.

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: 12/8, 12/15, and 12/29. We need a bulletin sponsor for 12/29. Please sign up in the narthex.**

Altar Flower Sponsors for December: 12/1-Marie & Joe Rosati in honor of their wedding anniversary, 12/8-available, 12/15-available, 12/22-Anne Marie Rinehimer in memory of her parents, 12/24-Shoumlisky Family in memory of Lori's father, 12/29-available.

Bulletin Sponsors for December: 12/1-Marie & Joe Rosati in honor of their wedding anniversary, 12/8-Mary Yong in memory of her husband's birthday, 12/15- Anne Marie Rinehimer in memory of her parents, 12/22-Connie & Terry Fritz in memory of their parents, 12/24-Janice Lamm in honor of the birth of Jesus, 12/29-available.

Helpers for December

Altar Guild: Anne Marie Rinehimer

Communion Assistant: Carly Kurtz

Greeters: 12/1-Charlotte Moyer, 12/8-Harriet Helbert, 12/15-available, 12/22-Cindy Hassler-Schappell & Bob Schappell, 12/24 (3:30)-TBD. 12/24 (7:30)-Janice Lamm, 12/29-Mary Young.

Acolytes: 12/1-Barb Debiec, 12/8-Jocelyn Enck, 12/15-Leah Shannon, 12/22-Owen Wentzel, 12/24 (3:30)-TBD, 12/24 (7:30)-Aislin Given & Emily Kaiser, 12/29-TBD.

Lay Readers: 12/1-Dick Hummel, 12/8-Cindy Hassler-Schappell, 12/15-Ron Rush, 12/22-Elaine Briner, 12/24-(3:30)-Anne Marie Rinehimer, (7:30)-Bob Bashore, 12/29-Charlotte Moyer

Ushers: 12/1-Lawrys, 12/8-Bashores, 12/15-Kurtzes, 12/22- Berkenstocks, 12/24 (3:30)-Berkenstocks 12/24 (7:30)-Frank Krick & Rick Lawry, 12/29-Berkenstocks, 1/5-Lawrys.

Counters: 12/1-Hummels, 12/8-Franzens, 12/15-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 12/22-Debiec/Rinehimer, 12/24-Jarsocrak, 12/29-Hummels, 1/5-Franzens.

Sound Technician: 12/1-Wendell Byler, 12/8-Scott Franzen, 12/15-Patrick Berkenstock, 12/22-Stephanie Kurtz, 12/24-(3:30)-TBD, 7:30 PM-Wendell Byler, 12/29-Stephanie Kurtz, 1/5-Scott Franzen

Bulletin Assemblers: 12/3-Bonnie Giamotti, 12/11-Laura Krick, 12/18-Kathy Bashore, 12/23-Barb Debiec, 12/30-Beverly James, 1/8-Helen Hummel

Newsletter Assemblers: Linda Weiss and Ann Sentz

Council Devotional & Snacks: Scott Franzen

Children's Sunday School Teachers: 12/8-Megan Shannon, 12/15-Paige Shannon, 12/22 & 12/29 no Sunday School or chime practice due to school closure for the holidays. Sunday School for children will resume on 1/5/2020.

Church Council Members

Wendell Byler, President 610-451-1506
Harmony Wentzel, Vice President 610-390-9986
Scott Franzen 610-781-7674
Jerry Jarsocrak 610-413-9472
Laura Miller 717-507-0934
Elwood (Woody) Noll 484-638-2057
Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-670-1971
April Schwartz 484-577-9150
Kay Stout 610-763-8776

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in December

Charlotte Moyer will be 81. Happy Birthday Charlotte.