

Trinity Tidings for October, 2020

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Pastor Julie Osterhout, Deacon Carol Koch, Musician: Nancy Moyer, Sexton: Jamie Black

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

(Based on Psalm 46)

Psalm 46:1 <To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamo. A Song.>

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow,
and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah
(Ps. 46:1-47:1 NRS)

In the fall of 1976 I began my senior year in high school. What an exciting year I had to look forward to. Well things didn't turn out as well as I thought they would. It happens that we had the energy crisis that year and our high school went on split sessions with the other high school in our district. Both attended in our building as it was the newer building. My high school, Northwest, attended in the mornings and Colerain (the other H.S.) attended in the afternoons. It really messed with how we did after school programs, school plays, musicals—everything. And then we had the worst winter of anyone's memory. We missed two full weeks of school and as a result the "Solo and Ensemble Music Competition" was cancelled (I still have a button that says, "I survived the winter of '77").

Spring came and so did tornado season. We hung onto our hats and waited as we had done for the last two years since only three years before an F5 tornado with winds of 300mph destroyed the town of Xenia, Ohio (about 40 miles from my house). In fact, over 148 tornadoes—30 of which were F4/5 spawned and touched down in a 24 hour period from April 3-4, 1974 from Canada to Alabama. But in the spring of '77 only 22 tornadoes touched down in our area. Ever since that fateful night 3 years earlier, Northwest High School routinely practiced tornado drills. And so it was that we hunkered down in the hallways of the school—some were drills, some were not. It was an unusual senior year as our schedules were interrupted, senior expectations were dismissed, and the continuing worry of destruction loomed over us.

I get how our students and teachers are feeling right now as they face coronavirus, on-line learning, and the concerns of face to face education—especially after having faced the lost dreams of senior proms, graduations, and public celebration. I think this virus is much worse than snow and tornadoes. And yet we continue to move forward in the best way possible as we continually pray for our schools and families.

And so blessings to all as we venture into this fall with indoor worship. We have done a good job of marking off pew space for safe physical distancing. (Though there is a better more efficient way to do this that is now in the works—one that involves pool noodles. Stay tuned for more on that.) We have been careful to limit the time of our worship and to postpone any singing, sharing of the peace, or passing of the offering plate. We have removed all books and papers from the pew backs as well.

We enter by one door and exit by another and socialize outdoors as we remember to wear our masks over mouth and nose. I'll admit it though, worship feels weird. I imagine it does for a lot of us. And yet, I believe our method for receiving Holy Communion has touched the hearts of many of us having refrained from the Lord's Supper throughout our time of parking lot worship.

Our current church attendance is about 45 on a Sunday—sometimes less. This means we are worshipping about half of our regular attendance. We have many members who are still sheltering in place as we continue to navigate a virus that is alive and well in Berks County—and particularly our own Wernersville. Three teachers at CW East have tested positive. May God's healing hands be upon them.

We don't know the length of the road ahead. But regardless, the work of the Holy Spirit is alive and well. Slowly, our committees and teams are beginning to meet again—Worship and Music, the Finance Committee (as it prepares the 2021 budget,) council, and the preschool board. Endowment will meet soon as will Mutual Ministries. Whether by Zoom or in person with physical distancing, masks, and sanitizing protocols we continue to move forward.

Thank you to all who have supported these ministries with generous and grateful hearts. We are around \$17,000 in the black. It is a reflection of our faith and our love for the one who created us.

One way we have chosen to stay connected to all of Trinity's church family is to give care packages to those we are missing. Over the last two Sundays we have made available the names and addresses of people in our church family who are sheltering in place, are in college, are young adults, or are homebound. Our hope is that these care packages—whether mailed or delivered in person—provide a message of hope and connection for our church family. There are still names and addresses available. It is important that we send them all out. We do not want to leave anyone out.

And a new ministry has developed over the course of the last few months. We now have a Trinity Prayer Chain made up of about 8 to 10 people. If you are in need of prayer or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call Mary Young at 610-678-4470 to place a prayer request or simply let Pr. Julie know. All prayers remain confidential. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain let Mary Young or Pr. Julie know about that, too.

But what about Christian Education you may ask. Stay tuned to learn more about our four intergenerational after worship sessions for this year and more . . . October 4th there will be a children's message and chime practice. Stay tuned for information regarding Adult Forum.

Through it all, God remains our stronghold and our fortress of strength and peace. May the ever vigilant presence of God, the peace of God, and the love of God continue to bind us, unite us, and strengthen us in the weeks and months ahead.

Peace and grace,
Pr. Julie

Home Communion Available

As Trinity's ministry moves forward in this time of coronavirus, we are learning more about how to safely navigate these foreign waters. But many of our church family we have not seen for a while as they remain safely quarantined. Though the Sunday bulletin and sermon are sent out by mail and e-mail, Holy Communion is something we cannot send. If you are missing Holy Communion and feel safe enough to have Pr. Julie visit you (outside on a patio, porch, or in your yard) She will gladly bring home communion to you along with prayer, scripture, and a message of hope. Masks will be worn and social distance kept. You need only email her at k25music@aol.com or phone her cell at 717-687-8682 to make arrangements.

How are We Doing?
Trinity's Financial Summary for August

Average Weekly Giving in August, 2020: **\$2917.80**

Average in August, 2019: **\$2875.20**

Total income year to date: **\$121,574.73**

Total income year to date in 2019: **\$102,951.16**

Total expenses year to date: **\$115,356.24**

Total expenses year to date in 2019: **\$109,736.54**

Total income in August: **\$14,589.00**

Total expenses August: **\$13,750.01**

Percentage of Mission Support made year to date:

to Synod: **69%**, to Mission District: **72%**

Thank you for your generosity.

As part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, Kerri Searfoss and Ruth Rush delivered some love and a care package to Audrey Eshbach to let her know she is missed by Trinity.



Upcoming Event

On October 11th we will welcome Pastor Bruce Potteiger to share the good news about *Food for the Poor*. Pastor Bruce has served our Lord in 40 years of parish ministry in the ELCA. His ministry was spent in Northeast Pennsylvania. He has been on over 30 mission trips with his parish churches, rebuilding homes throughout the United States, and has most recently visited Haiti and Nicaragua with *Food for the Poor*. Over the past 37 years *Food for the Poor*, a Christian based nonprofit organization, has worked in 17 countries in the Caribbean Islands and Latin America, working with local pastors to serve the poor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over 94% of all gifts including donated goods, go directly to help the poor, providing not only food but also emergency relief, clean water, medicines, educational material, building homes, micro-enterprise projects, prison ministry, support of orphans and the aged. We welcome Pastor Bruce and encourage your support in the ministry of *Food for the Poor*

Help Wanted

Hello Friends! Would you help a neighbor in need? Consider volunteering for SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice. Make friendly visits or supportive phone calls to our hospice clients. Still serving our clients for over 20 years in Berks, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties. For more information please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

We are resuming bulletin and flower sponsorship. If you are interested, please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex. The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$38.00. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins is \$15.00. Please put your check or cash in an envelope with your name on it and place in the offering plate.

We will not be delivering flowers to home bound or shut ins during this time so you must take your flowers with you following the service.

We need bulletin sponsors for Please sign up on the appropriate chart in the narthex.

Altar Flower Sponsors for October: 10/4-Pamela Moyer in memory of her father, 10/11-Ron & Cherie Giangiacomo in memory of their wife and mother-Dawn, 10/18-Scott & Betty Lou Franzen in honor of their daughter Laura's and granddaughter Kara's birthdays, 10/25-Anne Marie Rinehimer in memory of her husband and brother.

Bulletin Sponsors for October: 10/4-available, 10/11-Marie and Joe Rosati in honor of Patrick's 21st birthday, 10/18-Cindy Hassler Schappell and Bob Schappell in honor of Tina's birthday, 10/25-available.

Helpers for October

Lay Readers: 10/4-Charlotte Moyer, 10/11-Helen Hummel, 10/18-Diane Brown, 10/25-Bob Bashore.

Sound Technician: 10/4-Patrick Berkenstock, 10/11-Scott Franzen, 10/18-Wendell Byler, 10/25-Stephanie Kurtz.

Bulletin Assemblers: 10/8-Linda Weiss, 10/15-Kathy Lawry, 10/22-Bonnie Giamotti, 10/29-Laura Krick

Counters: 10/4-Rapley/Pirl-Roth, 10/11-Jarsocrak, 10/18-Debiec/Rinehimer, 10/25-Hummels

Council Devotional: Pastor Julie

Church Council Members

Wendell Byler, President 610-451-1506
Harmony Wentzel, Vice President 610-390-9986
Scott Franzen 610-781-7674
Glen Given 484-955-1780
Jerry Jarsocrak 610-413-9472
Laura Miller 717-507-0934
Elwood (Woody) Noll 484-638-2057
Cindy Hassler-Schappell 610-670-1971

Church Council Highlights for October

- Jerry Jarsocrak will fill the open position on Endowment Committee.
- Oct. 4 is budget deadline for all committees, etc.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, 10/21 @ 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Milestones in October

Albert Pfennig will be 83, John Stine will be 81, Dick Hummel will be 85, Eleanor Brossman will be 83 and Daniel Hoppman will be 90. Happy Birthday to all of you.

Please remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick or recently hospitalized: Sandra Miller.

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Sharon Gring, Ryan Harman, Joan Kava, Diane Klinger, Dan Nace, Ed & Pat Paine, Barbara Pennypacker, Rosie Putt, Betty Reber, Clarence Schein, Pat Sickles, Kay Weatherholtz, and Jane Wilkinson.

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

Family and Friends: John Alderman, Wanda Barnett, Kristine Bashore, Donna Bowers, Carolyn Bryant, Fred DeLong, Marge Dietrich, Ellen Emanuel, Peggy Guido, Glenn Helbert, Betty Kauffman, Shirley Kerchner, Hannah Kramer, Cindy Marsh, Destiny Olivarares, Bob Perrone, Sr., Jake Powers, Claire Putt, Tom Reppert, Dorothy Stone, Dwight Tinsley, Jerry Zachousk, and Ann Zimmerman.

Special Ministries: Our missionary in Tanzania-Dr. Stephen Friberg and his Family