

PERSONS OF THE WEEK



TODD BERKEY/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

The Knotty Knotters and the Jolly Quilters pose for a photo in the basement of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Berlin.

Moving the needle

Sewing ministries making difference in community

BY FRANK SOJAK
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The women in two sewing ministries at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Berlin are the needle and thread that is making life better for others.

The Knotty Knotters and the Jolly Quilters turn the basement of the church into a colorful assembly line that turns out countless numbers of items each year.

The Knotters make quilts and donate them to organizations that help people.

The Quilters raise money to support the Knotters and community organizations such as the fire company and local food bank by accepting donations on quilts that they make for people.

Many of the Quilters also belong to the Knotters.

"We're a Christian outreach," said Nancy Schrock, coordinator of the Knotters and a member of Holy Trinity.

"The Knotters last year made over 900 items," she said, adding that their goods included lap robes, neck pillows, wheelchair and walker caddies, prayer shawls and cancer caps.

The Knotters send the items to numerous places including Somerset Oncology, nursing and veterans homes, Lutheran World Relief, Red Cross and Ronald McDonald House in Morgantown, West Virginia, she said.

"We do it for the good Lord," she said about why the Knotters and Quilters volunteer their time. "He's telling us to take care of his people - the poor, the sick and the afflicted."

She said there are a couple of women who cannot come to their sessions so they quilt or knot at home.

The volunteers range in age from 30 to 93 and come from various churches and as far away as Meyersdale.

She said they operate the two organizations

hand-quilting.

"We love what we do," said Leydig, a member of Holy Trinity. "It's a social gathering for us also."

"I like to think that the little bit I do will make this world a better place and make life easier for someone" she said. "All the ladies feel the same way."

Leydig said Schrock goes above and beyond the call of duty and always prepares a fabulous lunch for the volunteers.

For their efforts, the 30 members of the Knotters and Quilters are the Persons of the Week.

The remaining members of the Knotters and Quilters are Carol Burcaw, Carol Petenbrink, Nora Virtue, Karol Saylor, Judy Emert, Judy Maust, Dod Dilling, Joan Saylor, Amy Bittner, LaRue Engleka, Betty Hay, Dorothy Bittner, Alice Trent, Lana McClemons, Darlene Hillegas, Jean Furgeson, Helen Barton, Eleanor Cober, Jane Scurfield, Shelby Ryan, Nancy Miller, Ashley White, Betty Brant, Elsie Leydig, Tammy Rhors, Anna Mae Wheighley, Maxine Kerns and Edith Hoffman.

The Rev. Dr. John W. Harmon said during the more than 10 years he has been pastor of Holy Trinity, he has witnessed many times how valuable the two groups have been to the ministry of the congregation.

"Meeting now several days a week, they spend countless hours creating items of love and care for those in need," he said.

"The two affiliated groups are sponsored and housed by our church with a core of many of our devoted members."

"However, there are a number of ladies from other churches who participate, forming a vital ecumenical Christian witness to this community and others."



LOCAL

**Sewing ministries
make life better
for others. A3**