



The Orbit

May 2017

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The Orbit



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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May 2017

From the Pastor...

"After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest'...The seventy returned with joy..."

Luke 10:12 &17

We are in this together. That is what this passage reminds me every time I read it. It's not just about the pastor not being responsible for everything in the church but also that when other members have ministry projects happening, we are all responsible for that ministry too. One example of this is Spring Fling. It takes the whole church to participate either with donations or their physical presence on the day. The image of the harvest is so appropriate. When it is harvest time everyone helps with the harvest. No one gets to say, "that's not my job". The flailers need the pickers, the grinders need the flailers, and the bakers need the grinders. All are important to go from wheat in the field to bread on the table. That being said, even if one has a specialized job, if help is lacking in another area all are expected to help. There is much to do in the church and we are all responsible for that work. It's not "someone else's job". If weeds need pulled we pull them, if someone misses the trashcan with a paper towel, anyone can pick it up. We are great at stepping up when a reader, or usher, or acolyte is needed. We are also called to step up and fill in when other work is needed. Always remembering, when the work is done, we too get to return to the Lord with joy.

Peace,
Pastor Eli

**REMINDER: WEEKEND OF
MAY 20-21 ONE WORSHIP
SERVICE 9:00am
SUNDAY MORNING**

Lectionary Readings for the Month of May

May 7, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday in Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday in Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:7-18
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 28, 2017

Seventh Sunday in Easter

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

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Mark your calendar for
May 20th.

Time 11:00AM-3:00PM

SPRING FLING



The next Orbit Deadline is May 24th

Please get your article to the newsletter in one of the following ways:

- Email your article to:
trinity@triluth.org
- Drop your article in the Orbit mailbox inside the Christian Education office
- Call the office and dictate your article to Brenda or drop it off in the office

Please remember:

- **All articles will be included as long as space permits.**
- **Articles will be edited for grammar and/or clarity where needed.**
- **Any article turned in after the deadline will be included in the next month's Orbit.**

Thank You!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT



CONGRATULATIONS

Brenda Hancuff!!!!

Please congratulate Brenda Hancuff when you see her. She has decided to retire from Trinity after 15 years of service!

On behalf of Council, we wish her the best in her future endeavors. It is always with sadness that we say goodbye to someone that has been part of the church for 15 years, but also a joyful occasion that should be celebrated. After all, that is why many of us work, to enjoy the fruits of our labor after retirement. And boy does she already have travel plans in place for her future! So please stop in and say goodbye to working Brenda and hello to retired Brenda! She has set her last day as June 2, 2017.

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst
Tyler Bennett
Tina Chestney
Sondra Deffibaugh
Debbie Gracey
Paul Hamilton
Kathy Hatch
Kristina Henderson
Jason Kutz
Arlene Leonard
Jaden Rhode
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum
Dave Olinyk
Gene/Joyce Otto
Margaretta Perry
Ruth Ann Saleme
Donna Williams

Church Health
Team

Family Members and Friends

Janet Aungst
Baby Allison
Jim Andrews
Kris Bennett
Michael Bennett
Casey Bondarenka
Pat Burk
Michael Butcher
Casey Campbell
Ron Clawson
Peg Corle
Baby Cowan
Abby Fownef
Haley Gehret
Gerstenberger Family
Jack Grassmyer Child
Ron Green
Richard Gunsallus
Bob Hamilton

Joe Pacifico
Sal Randazzo
Joe Roub
Connie Sooy
Elaine Stetser
Michael Stenger III
Gayle Streckland
Jess Stellabote
Nancy Stuart
Sane Zeiders

Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda
Jo Ann Boyd
Bob Nearhoof
Joan Rhiver
Arlene Roessing
Bill Sauserman
Robert Streightiff
Joan Stout

Bev Thompson
Bert Watchey

Ann Hanczaryk
Don Haslam
Pastor Peter Helmers
Joe Hershel
Bob Himes
Robert Hutchison
Glories Kimmel
Jim Kutz
Becky Lardieri
Lynette Latchford

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Nathan Frank
Peter Quinn
Justin Patz

Jason Smith
Eric Sweet

Janelle Lehr
Dylan McGilvary
Harry Miller Sr.
James Miller
Sharon Myers &
Family
Caydan Noel



Please know that you may add someone to our prayer list at any time by calling the church office or Trudy Lynch (944-7908). If it is appropriate to remove someone from the prayer list, again, please inform the church office or Trudy. Names of family and friends will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may keep someone's name on the list by calling the church office and giving us a brief update so that we can continue to effectively pray for your loved one.

STEWARDSHIP

Summary of questionnaire responses, April 2017 The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who submitted responses to our questionnaire (21 people!). The responses were very thoughtful and well stated. Church Council has examined all of them, and each relevant committee will be using the responses to help set goals for the coming year. Of course, some of these will require some long-term goal setting. It's a fact, for example, that our building is aging, and we'll need to undertake some major repairs in the coming years: repair of stained glass windows, a new heating system, etc. The big question is, "How?" Your input is always welcome! You can contact any member of the Church Council, or join the Stewardship Committee, which meets next on May 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Most important challenge?	Number	Changes?	Number
Finances	5	Building	9
Building issues	5	Worship, music	6
Youth/engagement	3	Parking	4
Parking	2	Outreach to shut-ins	2
Needs of older members	1	Programs for older teens	1
Social fabric	1	Healthy You expansion	1
Racial & religious bias	1	Social hour before services	1
Sunday School attendance	1	Theology?	1
Appreciating what we have	1	Cry room issues and use	1
		Outreach to minorities	1
Congregation does best?		WiFi	1
Youth attitudes/programs	3	Be welcoming to visitors	1
Caring, warm, welcoming	3	Confirmation/Sun. School	1
Social ministries	2	Congregation retreat	1
Bible study	1		
Awesome pastor	1	Comments	
Fellowship	1	Sewing suggestion	1
Small groups	1	Icing in alley	1
Meaningful worship	1		
Tackle issues	1		

BIBLE STUDY

"THEN AND NOW"

Trinity's Ongoing Adult Bible Study

From

The Church Health Team

For the past seven years, Trinity has had an Ongoing Adult Weekly Bible Study. As the Natural Church Development (NCD) process revealed a weakness in our passionate spirituality, the Church Health Team organized these studies. An initial Bible study survey indicated that **20 people were interested** in mostly mixed (men and women) groups. With preferred times listed via the survey,

4 weekly sessions facilitated by volunteers have endured with an average of 34 participants per week. This is a 59% increase from 2010-2017.

Over the course of time, reviewing participants' names, **there have been a minimum of 50 different individuals who have engaged in the weekly conversations!** This translates to a significant number of weekly worshippers.

At Pastor Eli's direction, the studies have covered the BOOKS OF JAMES, HEBREWS, JONAH, RUTH, ESTHER, GALATIANS, 1 JOHN, 2 JOHN, 3 JOHN, OBADIAH, 1 CORINTHIANS, 2 CORINTHIANS, The 46 PARABLES OF JESUS, The 34 MIRACLES OF JESUS, and selected chapters and themes from THE BOOK OF PROVERBS.

In addition to these weekly gatherings, the Church Health Team launched the 21 day "Gospel of John Challenge" and the Gospel of Matthew "Pair-Share-Bible Dare." Both of these partnered activities provided varied opportunities for Bible study. **There were 51 folks in the "Gospel of John Challenge" and 18 people who signed up for "Pair-Share-Bible Dare."**

As St. Paul states in 2 Tim.3:16-17, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." Embracing Bible study is one of the firm foundations for building our faith and deepening our relationship with God. This is where "Passionate Spirituality" is rooted. As we read and ponder God's living word, the Bible, the Holy Spirit reveals the path of righteousness that Jesus Christ desires us to walk!

There is NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE required for joining in on these Bible study sessions. Each year has seen new faces! The weekly worship bulletin and monthly Orbit calendar list the times. Announcements of topics and start-up times also are published and sent via broadcast emails. Fall and spring sessions have been the time frames with winter and summer breaks in between. For more information contact Lisa Bradley @ 943-7488 or just come on down! All groups meet at the church. Folks are encouraged to bring a family member, co-worker, neighbor, or friend!

SPRING FLING



Ice cream scoopers are needed for Spring Fling

The Stewardship Committee is looking to recruit people to dip ice cream during Spring Fling 2017 on Saturday, May 20.

The committee would like to attract members of the Trinity family who can devote **ONE HOUR** of time between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to scoop vanilla ice cream and place toppings on the sundaes that have become a popular Spring Fling tradition.

If you've not gotten involved in Spring Fling in the past, this is the perfect way to do it! It's fun, it's easy and it's the perfect way to lend a hand during this important community outreach program.

If you'd like to volunteer for an hour, see Tom Bradley or email him at tmbradley17@verizon.net. You can also call Tom at 943-7488 to sign up or talk to him at church.



News From All Around the Church

We are trying to compile an accurate list of Trinity's young people who will graduate from high school or college this spring. Please notify the church office or put a note in the offering plate as soon as possible so our list is complete. Thanks!

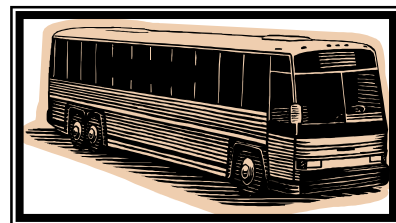
WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Update on Trinity Bus Trips

Several people have asked about going to see the Sight and Sound production of Jonah. There is a trip planned by Temple-Simpson Parish for Wednesday, August 16, 2017. They would welcome Trinity members to travel with them. For more information, call Duane Bordell at 940-6007.

Trinity Travelers will travel to Sight and Sound on April 12, 2018, to see the brand new production of The Life of Jesus. We will leave the church at 9:30 AM, stop at Hoss's in Carlisle for lunch, and attend the 3PM showing. Cost of the trip will be \$110, which includes transportation, show and gratuity for the driver. Money is due by March 1, paid to Lois Gutshall.

If you are interested in going, please call Lois at 942-7334.



YOUTH GROUP

Elementary Youth Troop

The Elementary Youth group met on Friday, April 7, 2017. This month's topic was Easter and what that means to our youth. Although few attended this month's gathering, they shared a lot of good information about Easter. It was as I expected, they had all the answers and it wasn't just chocolate. They shared that Jesus died and was raised; the children knew that he is alive and with us each and every day. They also knew that we could get candy and find hidden eggs. Just as I said, the youth are so smart. Besides creating bunnies for the bulletin board, the children shared conversation while eating supper; April's meal was celery, grapes, tator tots, corn dogs or pizza. We also played several games. As a matter of fact, one of the games was Huckle, buckle bunny hop and Jaxon really stumped us when it was his turn to find the bunny. An Easter egg wreath was created as a decoration. Well, that about wraps it up. If you weren't there, you missed a good time. Think about coming in May. In the meantime, just Remember, JESUS loves all the some BUNNIES; so that means you.

Elementary Youth Troop will meet again on the first Friday in May, 5/5/2017.

Children ages 5 through 12, should come to check out Trinity's Youth Troop. You're welcome to bring a friend.

Also, plan to attend Spring Fling on May 20, 2017.



TRINITY'S TEMPO

By Cynthia E. Finnegan
Director of Music

On Sunday, May 20th, we will have a special music Sunday at Trinity. There will be one service at 9:00 am. Included in this service will be favorite hymns and many special music selections. It is my hope to continue to a set aside one Sunday in the church year that celebrates the music of the church.

Members of the church sing praise to the Lord
Uniting us to all who love and serve the Lord
Singing with joy and thanksgiving
In grateful appreciation, we worship with music
Celebrating the beautiful musical traditions of the church.

of the

Choirs joyfully lead us in song
Hand Chimes that sound their sweet tones
Understanding the words of our hymns as prayer and praise.
Reaching all with the message our music brings.
Children's voices that sweetly sing
Hope-Music gives hope, courage, and strength.

Please contact me regarding all things music.

Thank You,
Cindy

SPRING FLING

The 2017 Spring Fling
Saturday May 20th from 11 AM - 3PM, rain or shine!

We need a lot of volunteers! Please use the sign-up sheet next to the sanctuary and fill in your name where you would like to volunteer.

We could also use food and monetary donations to help offset the costs of items that may have been donated in the past, but that may not be donated this year.

A suggested amount for potato salad or macaroni salad is a 5 lb bag of potatoes or 2 lb box of macaroni when making the salads. We also need baked goods such as brownies, fudge, pies, no bakes, rice krispie treats, cookies, etc. If you can volunteer for any of the above mentioned food items or wish to make a monetary donation, please complete this form and place it the offering plate: If you could have your donated food items at the church by 3PM on Friday, May 19th so we can repackage them into smaller units for sale, that would be great. Please make a note on any food items that contain nuts or peanut butter. If you need to make alternate arrangements after 3PM, please call Nancy Honecker at 515-2369.

**This event is a fantastic way to reach out to our neighbors.
Let's welcome them into our community of faith!
Thank you so much for your help.**

Name _____
Telephone #: _____

Brownies _____ Fudge _____ No bakes _____
Cookies 2-3doz _____ Pie _____ Rice Krispie Treats _____
Potato salad _____ Pasta salad _____
Macaroni salad _____ Other: Please specify
item _____

Enclosed is my monetary donation in the amount of \$ _____
Envelope # _____



SEQUANOTA

Camp Sequanota applications are due by May 31

Sequanota Lutheran Camp has announced its 2017 summer schedule, so it's time for Trinity members, including our young people, to start thinking about which sessions they'd like to attend.

Parents and youth can go online at www.sequanota.com to learn what's being offered this year.

Since 1986, Trinity has been blessed with a fund established by former Juniata resident Robert E. Cook in memory of his mother, Dorothy Baird Cook. **The purpose of the fund is to pay the costs of sending children and youth with financial need to Camp Sequanota.**

Last summer, 15 of our children and youth took advantage of this wonderful experience and enjoyed every minute of it!

Here are a few important reminders:

Applications for Cook Fund assistance can be obtained in the back of the sanctuary or the Trinity Office.

Absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 31. **There will be no exceptions to this rule.**

All requests for aid from the Cook Fund will be kept confidential.

All applicants will receive notification of funding in early June.

Please contact Pastor Hess if you have any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Fifteen children earned perfect attendance awards for the month of March. They were: First row- **Avalynn Counterman** (5), **Lydia Thompson** (7), **Harper Seiler** (4) and **Ava Conway** (1). Back row – **Emma Morgan** (6), **Maura Thompson** (7), **Adin Yarnell** (7) and **Lukas Bartlebaugh** (7).

The number after each child's name indicates how many perfect months they've achieved since Rally Day in September.

Unfortunately, seven children missed the first Sunday in April when this photo was taken. They included: **Hannah** (6) and **Jillian** (5) **Pierannunzio**; **Brandt** (2) and **Reese Hite** (3); **Caleb Terza** (4); **Maddison Conway** (5); and **Bailee Conway** (5).