



The Orbit

September 2017

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Lectionary Readings for the Month of September

September 3, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2017

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

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Also worth mentioning...

We had a wonderful group of young students from Penn State Altoona volunteered their time at Trinity on Saturday August 19. They spruced up the kitchen. Some students started painting the attic. And all the wood trim in the Sanctuary was polished. Some students offered to come back and finish the painting in the attic. They also asked if Trinity would provide our kitchen for the students to have a spaghetti dinner with proceeds going to THON. Details to follow. We Are- Penn State

The next Orbit Deadline is Oct 24th

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

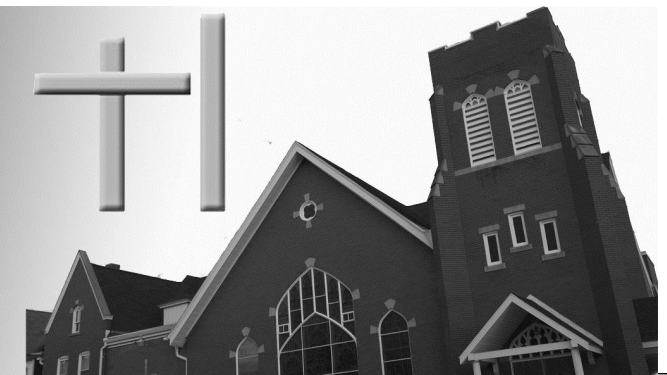
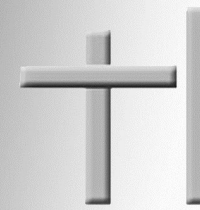
- Email your article to: office@trinityaltoona.com
- Drop your article in the Orbit mailbox inside the Christian Education office.
- Call the office and dictate your article to Susan or drop it off in the office.

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!

The Orbit



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
TrinityAltoona.com | Facebook.com/TrinityAltoona

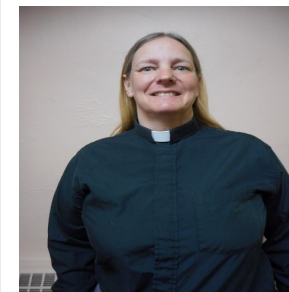
September 2017

²³ "Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. ²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. ²⁵ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. ²⁶ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ²⁷ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place. ²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. ³⁰ Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. ³¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

1 Chronicles 16:23-31

From the Pastor:

Putting church in your routine...



September traditionally marks the end of vacations and the beginning of school. Most families get back into their fall routines. There are those who have taken a "vacation" from worship. It is also time to put church back into your routine. It is easy to get lazy during the summer. It is a time of less structure, when we feel carefree and able to do whatever the day may bring. If you have been one who has put worship and church involvement on the back burner this summer the time is now to begin a new routine that includes not only worship at church, but scripture reading and study, attendance at church functions, getting involved with contributions to the collection and fund raising. Let me say that we have missed you and look forward to your return. For those who managed to adjust to the 9:30 Sunday morning change worship we are glad you endured, and Saturday night folks found worship to be a great start to a summer evening. I am always happy to see each and every one of you and look forward to hearing about your summer adventures as we get back into our fall routines.

Peace,

Pastor Eli



Council President

Fall is in the air!!!

As summer ends, we start to return to normal schedules again. Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the colorful leaves, the crisp air, and of course the distinct smells of Fall. Our services will go back to normal times, Sunday school and Bible study will resume.

Now that our summer break is over, we must return to the business of the church. We are facing financial problems as a church and there is no easy answer in how to address them. We have continually had to draw from our reserves to meet our budget needs. Unfortunately, our reserves are not an endless source of revenue. It will eventually run out.

Our Stewardship has been working hard to track our intake and out-flow of funds and look for ways to increase giving and cost savings measures.



As a council, we recognize the difficulty in maintaining a large church. There is a lot involved in the upkeep of an old building. Our giving is not ideal to maintain all that we are doing in our ministries, despite our ministries working on a shoestring budget. We have a lot of talented people on council, but we need your help.

I am asking that anyone that has ideas to help our financial short-falls to discuss it with a council member. I will place the list of all current council members below. Our council attends all three services. If you aren't comfortable talking to someone, you can put a note in the collection plate. I believe it is important to be proactive in this issue before we get to a point of desperation.

Council members: Sharon Kutz, Debbie Garritano, Nancy Honecker, Tom Gutshall, Tom Settle, Bill Mallory, Mondon Smith, Paula Ford, Donna Williams, Linda Gibbons, John Watchey, Adam Counterman.

Peace and Blessings!

Ted Williams

Council President

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim & Mary Aungst
Tyler Bennett
Tina Chestney
Sondra Deffibaugh
Carol Forney
Jim Gosnell
Debbie Gracey
Paul Hamilton
Kathy Hatch
Kristina Henderson
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum
Dave Olinyk
Gene/Joyce Otto
Margaretta Perry
Jaden Rhode

Ruth Ann Saleme
Donna Williams
Church Health Team
Janet Aungst
Baby Allison
Jim Andrews
Kris Bennett
Michael Bennett
Casey Bondarenka
Pat Burk
Michael Butcher
Simon Casalvieri
Ron Clawson
Deb Civiello
Denise Condo
Peg Corle
Baby Cowan
The Dilling Family
Nancy Filler
Andrew Fundack

Family Members and Friends

Jane Messner
Dennis Miller
Harry Miller Sr.
Greg Moses
Leslie Musselman
Sharon Myers & Family
Caydan Noel
Joe Pacifico
Jacob Pauley
Sal Randazzo
Joe Roub
Carl Ruckinger
The Sooy Family
Elaine Stetser
Gayle Streckland
Jess Stellabote
Bill Stonebraker
Nancy Stuart
Jack Templon
Carol Trexler
Jackie
Bobbie Wilkinson-Summers
Sane Zeiders

Trinity's Homebound Members

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

Bert Watchey's Family

Haley Gehret
Gerstenberger Family
Jack Grassmyer Child
Ron Green
Richard Gunsallus
Sonjia Hanczaryk
Zack Hart
Don Haslam
Pastor Peter Helmers
Hersel Family
Bob Himes
Robert Hutchison

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Nathan Frank
Peter Quinn
Justin Patz

Jason Smith
Eric Sweet

Charles Kelly
Danny Kenney
Jim Kutz
Becky Lardieri
Janelle Lehr
Baby Lucy
Dylan McGilvary



Please know that you may add someone to our prayer list at any time by calling the church office (943-3972). If it is appropriate to remove someone from the prayer list, again, please inform the church office. 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.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT CAMP SEQUANOTA NEARS

It's almost time for our annual retreat so we need to begin planning.

If you are planning on going or are interested in receiving more information, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or **call Linda Hoover at 944-0906**.

This is NOT written in stone. If something comes up and you can't attend, we understand. However, rooms need to be reserved and supplies need to be purchased.

This year we are going October 27th-29th. We were able to keep the cost the same, \$115.00 which includes two nights, meals, bedding, etc. As usual, an organizational meeting will be planned closer to our trip.

Yes, I have an interest in attending the Women's Retreat at Camp Sequanota, October 27-29.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

The Social Ministry Committee did not have a meeting in August. Instead, we had a picnic at Linda Hoovers house. It was an afternoon filled with lots of food and laughter. Pastor Eli also joined us. Even the members that were unable to attend even sent either food or drinks. Trinity has an awesome Social Ministry Committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 14th at 10:30AM. All are welcome to join. God Bless, Sharon Kutz

Thanks to **Dana Thompson** for donating the prizes for our picnic. Thanks to **Fellowship** for another great picnic and to **everyone** that came and enjoyed a great day!!!!

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Every three years the ELCA holds a national youth gathering. From June 27th-July 2nd our youth will gather in Houston TX to learn, serve, worship, and fellowship with 40,000 youth from across America and around the world. This trip is open to those who, this school year, are in grades 8-12. If any youth are interested please contact Pastor Hess 943-3972 NO LATER than Sept. 10th. After Sept. 10th registration will be closed. Please note that once you are registered you are committed to going.

**We also need the congregations help. The youth will be fundraising for this trip and your support is much appreciated. It costs an average of \$1000 per person and we normally take 8-10 youth plus at least 2 adults. Yes, that means we will be looking to raise at least \$10,000 for this unbelievable, life changing opportunity for our youth.

DRESS A GIRL

Trinity Stitches will hold their annual sew-in to make dresses for distribution to needy girls, **Sept 25, 2017 at 9AM**. Over the past few years 175 dresses have been delivered to Kenya by Pastor Rich Maher and 100 more were distributed to Haiti and other areas of the world.

All are invited to participate and there are many things for everyone to do even if you don't know how to sew. If you do sew we ask that you would bring your machine. Come join in the fun. Lunch will be provided.

CHRISTMAS BAZZAR

Mark your calendar for **Sat Nov 4th!!** Trinity Stitches presents a variety of handmade gifts just in time for the Christmas giving. Table runners, soup bowl cozies, change purses and more. Lunch will be available and there will be baked goods. Bazaar will be held from **9AM to 3PM**.



Worship and Music Notes

Now that September is almost upon us, we will be seeing numerous activities starting again at Trinity. Among those activities will be Adult Choir and Youth Choir. Please remember that new members are always welcome to both groups. Adult choir continues to meet following the 10:45 am service each Sunday. Youth Choir meets at 10:20 am each Sunday.

I spend a lot of time searching for music and reading about other church choirs. I have been working on a mission statement for Trinity's Adult Choir and have been researching ideas for that too. The First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, CA website offered some wonderful thoughts on this subject. The members of the Trinity Choir have much in common with these other choirs that I have read about. Choir members use their musical gifts to tell about God's abundant love. These gifts are uniquely gifted by God to do the work of music ministry. When the Trinity Choir resumes rehearsals this fall, we will determine our specific mission statement. Please join us! The first rehearsal is Sunday, September 17th (for youth choir too)

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known though all generations" Psalm 89:1

Please contact me regarding all things music.

Cindy
330-2202



Sunday School



Sunday School for all ages will begin on Sept. 10th at 9:30. Yes, I said for all ages.

Trinity has an excellent elementary Sunday school program with dedicated teachers. While we were sad to see Mr. Bradley step down from the superintendent position (he has earned a well deserved break after 30 plus years of dedication to the kids) this has provided an opportunity for some change. The teachers will be rotating the duties of the opening and are also looking at some curriculum updates. However, Sunday school is not just for kids. Jesus blessed the little children, but he taught the adults. While the Junior High class, including confirmation, has always had strong attendance, the High School

class has been silent. YES, we have a High School class. John and Sandy Ebersole have been ready and waiting every year to no avail. So, this year we are putting a call out to our high schoolers to attend on Sunday mornings. The class meets in the downstairs lounge. Do not let this opportunity for continued faith growth go to waste. Finally, there is an Adult Sunday school class that meets in Trinity hall. While there is a lot of conversation and coffee there are also lessons on various topics or books of the Bible.

Learning is a lifelong process so take advantage of these learning opportunities to grow in faith, make and foster friends in the faith, and experience God's love through learning.

From John Ebersole:

A Sunday School class for post-confirmation Jr./Sr. High youth will begin on Sept 10. The class will focus on how scripture can relate to our 21st century world. Our elementary youth learn bible stories. Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) ties this together with a study of Lutheran theology and the meaning of the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and Apostles' Creed. This class strives to tie what our youth have learned to show how the Bible can speak to us and help us deal with the problems we face in an ever-changing world. The class will be taught by John and Sandy Ebersole. We hope our youth take advantage of this opportunity as confirmation is not an endpoint but only the beginning of a personal faith journey.



We did it again!!!

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who made this possible. Again, Trinity has filled the Pastors truck and everything was delivered to the Humane Society. They were surprised and very appreciative.





Are you receiving your broadcast emails?

Up-to-the-minute information is just a click away

There are few churches in the Allegheny Synod that keep their members better aware of ministry opportunities, upcoming events, dates and times than Trinity.

In days gone by, people came to rely on our *Orbit* newsletter, which arrived in their U.S. mailbox around the first of the month, for vital information. Of course, the weekly worship bulletin has always been used to keep members in the loop.

Thanks to modern technology, there are additional ways to stay connected at any hour of the day or night. Trinity's new and improved website, www.TrinityAltoona.com, is a fabulous source of accurate information. We hope you have the site bookmarked and check it often.

For those of you who enjoy Facebook, Trinity's page is another way you can stay connected, share photos and the like.

For more than ten years, members for whom we have an email address have been receiving regular broadcast emails. Thanks to the expertise of Tom Settle, a member of Trinity's Church Council, you probably noticed a change in the appearance of these regular broadcasts since last December.

Tom Bradley now uses a Mailchimp server to prepare and send these emails from home. "The Pulse" emails are attractive, can be read quickly and best of all – there is no charge to the church for using this program. A few notes about our email service:

- If you are reading this article and you never see "The Pulse," we may not have an accurate email address for you in our system. ***Please shoot Tom Bradley an email today!***
- "The Pulse" might not be arriving in your inbox. Check your SPAM FOLDER or your JUNK EMAIL FOLDER. You may find it there if your computer security settings send "The Pulse" there.
- To keep "The Pulse" from ending up in your spam folder, add the email trinity@altoona.org to your list of contacts. This may help.
- If you don't have access to the computer, copies of the most current broadcast emails can be found on bulletin boards inside the church entrances.

Please feel free to contact Tom Bradley by telephone (943-7488) or by email (tmb Bradley17@verizon.net) if you are missing out on this way to stay connected to your church via the emails.



Sunday-School Rally Day



September 10, 2017

It is hard to believe summer vacation has come to an end and the new school year has begun. With the fond memories of summer fun behind us we look forward to making new memories. Sunday-School will be starting on Sunday September 10th and we look forward to seeing our students and sharing Gods word. We will meet in the large Sunday-School room at 0930 and opening will begin at 0935.

We have several classes available and welcome all to attend.

Beginners ages 3-5 – Mrs. Amanda Pierannunzio and Mrs. Marissa Thompson

Elementary 1st and 2nd grade – Mrs. Geri Selfridge

Middle 3rd and 4th grade - Mr. Tom Gutshall

Upper 5th and 6th grade – Mrs. Lisa Gutshall

Confirmation (7th and 8th grade) – Mr. Rob Lloyd

High School 9th through 12th grade – Mr. John and Mrs. Sandy Ebersole

We are very excited to announce that the High School class is a new addition to our Sunday-School classes. There were several requests for a High School class to be offered and new teachers were recruited. We look forward to this new addition filling up and getting off to a great start.

So come one come all to Rally Day September 10, 2017 at 0930 as we kick off the 2017-2018 Sunday-School year. Looking forward to seeing you there.

From- Your friendly neighborhood Sunday-School Teachers.



Come on down...

TRINITY'S ONGOING ADULT BIBLE STUDY
WILL RESUME THIS FALL

“A Christ-Centered Life” Lessons on Discipleship from Romans 5-8

Trinity's vibrant weekly Bible study will focus on topics that address the following:

How can I live a Christ-centered life?

How do I live a Spirit-filled life?

What are these 2 things about and what do they mean?

How can I mature, grow, and develop more fully as a Christian?

How can I win out and be victorious in my struggle with sin?

Is this hopeless?

Key information to remember:

- 4 weekly mixed, intergenerational, adult groups with flexible times to better fit personal schedules
- All groups do the same weekly study
- People can float from one group to another based on weekly schedule, personal preference, etc.
- Groups meet at the church Monday 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Tuesday 9-10 a.m. and 7-8 p.m.; Wednesday 7-8 p.m. (Groups begin and end on time)
- No prior experience needed, newcomers are always welcome
- Contact Lisa Bradley @ 943-7488

**FALL SESSION WILL BE STARTING THE WEEK OF
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH FOR 9 WEEKS.**



Reasons for giving...

Top ten reasons to consider the *Simply Giving* program:

While worship attendance always declines during the summer months, Trinity's ministries and fixed costs continue.

Please remember, our *Simply Giving* program is a safe way to remit your offerings directly to the church from your checking or savings account – whether you attend worship or not.

Here are the top ten reasons to consider signing up for *Simply Giving*:

10. Even if you forget to pick up an envelope at home as you head to worship, your offering will arrive at Trinity as you desire.

9. You'll never again be rooting through your purse, wallet or pocket as the ushers head toward the altar.

8. You determine the schedule for your offerings to be sent to the church. Some members give once a month, some weekly, etc.

7. The teams of offering counters will not have to tear open your envelope and verify the check or amount of cash that's inside.

6. If you miss worship due to illness, vacation or work, you know your offerings continue on an uninterrupted basis.

5. You will no longer need to write 52 checks per year or prepare 52 envelopes. This will save you TIME and MONEY.

4. You can choose how your offering is used – for current expenses, benevolence, building fund or a combination of all three. You can revise the amount of your gift as you desire.

3. As more Trinity members become more consistent with their offerings, our vast array of ministries can continue to flourish without interruption.

2. You can always bring additional offerings to worship as you so desire. This is especially convenient at Easter, Christmas and the like.

*And the number one reason to consider *Simply Giving* is...*

1. You can carefully consider the many blessings you have received from God and determine the size of your weekly or monthly gift in advance. ***Simply Giving fosters spiritual discipline.***

If you have any questions or would like to enroll, talk to Susan Miller, our office secretary, or Tom Bradley.