

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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April 2018

"These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

1 Timothy 4:11-12



From the Pastor:

This summer nine of our youth are going to live this scripture passage in Houston Texas at the National Youth Gathering. Along with 30,000 youth from across the nation and around the world they will gather for learning, service, worship, and fellowship. The National Youth Gathering happens every three years and is a massive undertaking. The ELCA feels it is well worth the effort to expose our young people to the church and each other at a critical juncture in their lives. Here at Trinity we also feel that this opportunity to learn about the broader church, their own faith journey, and service to others is invaluable. We are committed to sending these youth and their adult leaders and we are asking for your help. In your orbit you will find an envelope in which you can make your donations to help with the cost of getting our youth to Houston. You can also be in prayer for our young people and their leaders. The event is June 27th-July 1st so prayers at that time for safe travels will be very much appreciated. This is a huge, life changing opportunity for these young people. I have been to several "gatherings" in my ministry and not once have I had a youth that wasn't profoundly affected by going, either by the worship, the guest speakers, or the service project. It is not just the youth who benefit, our four leaders will also be changed by this experience. They youth have been working hard at fund raising, pizza dinner, pancake supper, candle sale, candy sale, with more coming in the next few months. This trip is a big expense, about \$1000.00 a person with airfare, hotel, registration, and food, and we could use your help. The church is backing our youth, how about you?

Peace....



Come on down...

Ten-week study of Abraham begins March 5

New Bible study participants are welcomed with open arms

For more than five years, you've been hearing about highly-successful and very popular adult Bible study sessions at Trinity.

A core group of more than 30 men and women have made these 60-minute meetings a very important part of their weekly routine. *Perhaps you've considered attending but weren't sure if you'd "fit in" or if your busy schedule would allow participation.*

Four members of our congregation took a bold step last autumn and began attending Bible study for the first time. The topic was "A Christ-Centered Life" and was based on chapters 5-8 of Paul's letter to the Romans. These "newbies" not only enjoyed the experience, they are now eager to delve into the ten-week study of Abraham which begins during the week of March 5.

Barb Counterman noted that the study times were convenient and she was impressed with how well the other participants knew their Bible. "I just wish I had attended sooner," she said. "It's just what I need in my life! To be around other believers strengthens my own beliefs. And everyone has been welcoming and interested to learn and share."

Despite being the mother of two young daughters, **Marissa Thompson** "liked the option of being able to "float" between study groups based upon my weekly schedule. I was able to commit to being there every week. There were great discussions and interpretations of the scriptures. As a person that usually sits back and listens, I felt completely comfortable participating in the discussions."

Another new attendee said, "I realized how the weekly sessions helped me to interpret the Bible and how it relates to being a Lutheran. Bible study has given me the opportunity to evaluate my own faith and what it means to me. Who could ask for anything more?"

All of the groups meet at the church. Sessions are held Monday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.; on Tuesdays from 9-10 a.m. and 7-8 p.m.; and Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. As facilitators Lisa and Tom Bradley use the same "script" for each session, you can choose to attend at different times without missing a beat when your personal schedule gets crazy.

What do you know about Abraham?

What is Abraham's connection to all 3 major world religions?

Why is Abraham such a prime example of how to live by faith?

How can Abraham's life help us as Christians learn the secrets of living by faith?

What does living by faith actually mean?

How can we live by faith in today's world filled with insecurity and uncertainty?

What is the result of walking by faith?

These questions, their answers, and many more topics will be the focus of Trinity's spring sessions. No prior experience in Bible study is necessary. Bring your Bible and come on down!

For more info call Lisa Bradley at 943-7488 or email her at lkbradley310@verizon.net



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Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee had been collecting items for “Easter for Eli” Easter Baskets. This young man, Eli Garrett died from cancer at the young age of 3 years old in 2009. His father started the mission after Eli’s passing to help other children in the hospital who are battling cancer. Eli loved getting gifts while he was receiving his chemotherapy treatments. The first year Eli’s father collected 390 baskets and they were delivered to Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Over the years the number has grown to well over 3,000 baskets being delivered to nine hospitals within Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

The Social Ministry would like to say, “Thank You,” to the congregation for all of the basket donations which helped to fill 65 baskets for the “Easter for Eli” project.

Pastor Hess blessed the baskets and they were taken to Sams Club in Altoona for drop off. Thanks to Linda Hoover, Jess Hoover, Judy Hale, Marla Hammond, Joanna Lewis, Ruth Brubaker, and Sharon Kutz who helped to put the baskets together this year.....

Ken Kutz

“Easter for Eli” Trinity’s Social Ministry Committee was able to fill 65 baskets from generous



donations from Trinity Congregation!!!!



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ELCA Youth Gathering

Congregation financial support is vital

Special offerings for Youth Gathering expenses are needed

An enthusiastic group of Trinity young people and chaperones are looking forward to attending the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Youth Gathering in Houston, TX, in June and they need the help of the congregation.

Because the Trinity contingent includes 13 people, more than \$10,000 is needed to cover registration as well as air fare, meals and lodging. The youth have been raising money since last summer, and now asks the congregation to assist through special offerings.

HOW CAN YOU ASSIST? You can use the remittance envelope enclosed in this newsletter at a time convenient to you over the next six weeks. Additional envelopes can be found in each pew and at the back of the sanctuary. You can also add an extra amount to each of your weekly offerings. **Please be sure to clearly mark your intentions on the front of each envelope.**

It should be noted that all memorial gifts for Margaretta Perry will be earmarked for the Youth Gathering trip. Margaretta's great grandchildren, Lilly and Joshua Gutshall, will be members of the Trinity contingent heading to Houston.

During the first three weekends in March, \$716 was received for the Youth Gathering trip – so we still have a long way to go.

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for this week of faith formation. Through interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, the hope is that every young person grows in faith and is challenged and inspired to live their faith in daily life. For most, this goal comes to life back home, in their congregations and in the world.

Each night of the Gathering, participants will come together in NRG Stadium, the home of the Houston Texans, for a time of inspiring speakers, uplifting music and more. Speakers will share how God's call, God's love, God's grace and God's hope changed everything in their lives.

During a closing worship service on July 1, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preach and attendees will celebrate and remember that Jesus Changes Everything!

Our church was also represented at the last two Gatherings in New Orleans (2012) and Detroit (2015). It speaks to the quality of the event that three Trinity youth – Elizabeth Fogle, Victoria Morgan and Emily Humbertson – have chosen to attend the Gathering again.





Camp Sequanota

Cook Fund can assist with Camp Sequanota fees for youth

Sequanota Lutheran Camp has announced its 2018 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, ten 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 a written reply in early June.

Please contact Pastor Hess if you have any questions.



Trinity Chamber Music

The next Sunderman Concert will be on Sunday, April 22

Nicolas de Groot and Marana Tso, students from the renowned Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College, will present a free concert at Trinity on Sunday, April 22, at 3 p.m.

Mr. de Groot is a piano major at Sunderman Conservatory. He started his musical studies in a hodge-podge fashion, taking up piano, violin, flute, bassoon, composition, and music theory through his childhood. As a freshman, Nico won the Sunderman Conservatory's Concerto Competition. Educated in the liberal arts, he firmly believes in a holistic approach to music and the piano.

Ms. Tso, a sophomore, has a double major of biochemistry and molecular biology and violin at the Sunderman Conservatory. A member of the Gettysburg Symphonic Orchestra, Marana currently serves as their Concertmaster. She is a winner of the 2017 Sunderman Conservatory Concerto Competition. A passionate performer, her ultimate goal in music is to share her love for music and remind audiences of what music means to them.

Their program will include: Sonata No. 1 in G minor, Fugue by J.S. Bach; Suite in A minor by Jean-Philippe Rameau; Piano and Violin Sonata in A major by César Franck; and Zigeunerweisen by Pablo de Sarasate

Funding for the concert is being provided by the Dr. William Sunderman Endowment, so there is no charge for admission. Sunderman is a deceased member of our church.

Dr. Sunderman was a physician, pathologist, clinical scientist, chemist, toxicologist, author, editor, photographer, lifelong violinist and 1919 graduate of Gettysburg College. In addition to establishing a fund for chamber music at Trinity Lutheran, he bequeathed his alma mater with a \$14-million gift to establish the Sunderman Conservatory of Music.

Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the concert.

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst
Tyler Bennett
Kris Bennett
Tina Chestney
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jim Gosnell
Debbie Gracey
Paul Hamilton
Kathy Hatch
Kristina Henderson
Jake Kovisely
Ken Kumpf
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum
Jaden Rhode
Ruth Ann Saleme

Church Health
Team

Family Members and Friends

Janet/Charlie Aungst
Rose Balasco
Ashley Batisti
Mishell Borousky
Ashley Bottisi
Pat Burk
Simon Casalvieni
Sue Casalvienri
Deb Civiello
Gaine Dodson
Daniel Fanelli
Andrew Fundack
Haley Gehret
Bob Hamilton
Don Haslem
Ed Kaps
Colson Keagy
Ken Kumpf
Jenelle Lehr
Dylan McGilvry
Tucker McGilvry
Jane Messner
Dennis Miller
Harry Miller Sr.
Greg Moses
Leslie Mussleman
Skip Mussleman
Sharon Myers
Neva Nariani
Carl Ruckinger
Joan Spencer
Elaine Stetser
Rachel Stoudt
Tom Stoudt
Amy Woodard
Don Woodlring
Allison

Arianne, baby

Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda
Arlene Leonard
Bob Nearhoof
Joan Rhiver
Arlene Roessing
Bill Sauserman
Robert Streightiff
Joan Stoudt

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
Luke Dragavich
Jason Buck
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank

Justin Patz
Peter Quinn
Eric Sweet
Jason Smith



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.



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Lectionary Readings for the Month of April

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Also worth mentioning...

I would like to thank all of my church family who sent cards, stopped by the hospital Maybrook Hills and my home, brought flowers and gifts or called. I especially want to thank all for the prayers, they were greatly appreciated. Thank you so much . Harry Yeager

The next Orbit Deadline is April 20th

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

- Email your article to:
office@trinityaltoona.com
drgeesey@verizon.net
- Drop your article in the Orbit mailbox inside the Christian Education 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!