

The Orbit

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



August 2019

"You have kept count of my tossing's; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record? Then my enemies will retreat in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me."

Psalm 56:8-11



From the Pastor:

Do you ever have one of those sleepless nights where you toss and turn in bed and just cannot seem to get to sleep? Or, do you ever have yourself a good cry to cleanse your soul? These things usually occur when life has thrown you a curve, then things are not going the way you think they should. Perhaps there has been a tragedy or some bad news. Loss of a job, diagnosis of cancer, trouble with a teenager, getting older and more aches and pains that slow us down, worrying about the future of the church, or one of many other things that can go wrong in life and cause those sleepless nights. At those times in our lives it may seem easy to think or even ask the question, "Where is God?" Let us take comfort in the words of the psalm. God is keeping count of our restless nights and days. God has caught our tears. God is with us, struggling, crying, waiting for us to call. The Psalmist is being persecuted, he has troubles, yet he knows that God is for him. God is for us as well. There is nothing this world can do to us that is too big for God to go through with us. That does not mean the sleepless nights will not come, or the need for a good cry, but we are comforted to know that God is awake with us. God's presence is there. In God we trust.

Peace,



From the President

O boy, here we go into the month of August. WE will be coming to the end of summer and, sadly for some, the beginning of school. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer so far. If you still have vacations planned, please remember to take Christ with you. He will guide you, protect you and bring you home safely IF you remember to keep HIM in you prayers and lives. Find a church to worship or take the time to pray.

I'm hoping, those that have vacationed are relaxed and those who still have a vacation planned will come back refreshed.

Insignificant dates in August

August 1, National Girlfriends day
 August 2, International beer day
 August 3, International hangover day
 August 6, Wiggle your toes day
 August 9, Book lovers day
 August 11, Son and Daughter day
 August 13, Left hander's day
 August 15, RELAXATION DAY
 August 19, National potato day
 August 21, SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY
 August 31, International bacon day

GOD BLESS

Sharon Kutz





Gift Acceptance Policy

“Legacy gifts are special expressions of generosity”

By Tom Bradley

This is the second in a series of articles designed to give members of our congregation important facts about our Gift Acceptance Policy and how it relates to our new Mission Endowment Fund.

Trinity’s Stewardship Committee worked diligently for three years to create a Mission Endowment Fund that has now been in place a little more than a year. ***I consider this one of the most visionary things that has happened during my 40 years as a member of our church.***

For the handful of our members who have been questioning the need for a Mission Endowment and wondering why we just can’t spend the \$22,000+ in gifts we’ve received so far to pay bills at Trinity, the opening paragraph of the Gift Acceptance Policy clearly explains the endowment’s purpose.

It says, “As the baptized people of God, we are called to be faithful stewards of all gifts God has entrusted to us. This responsibility includes the use, management, and distribution of the accumulated, appreciated, and inherited assets that make up our net worth.

“Just as we give for the Lord’s work from our income annually, we are encouraged to give for the Lord’s work from our ***bequeathed assets***, as well. These special legacy gifts are expressions of generosity that are given with the hope of being a ***blessing to the work of God beyond our lifetime*** and to inspire and encourage all God’s people to experience the ‘grace of giving.’”

In my 25 years as executive director of the Altoona Area School District Foundation, I learned that people like the idea of leaving an estate gift that will impact an organization forever – not used on ***once and done projects*** like fixing a furnace, paying a bill and the like. When I retired in 2011, the endowed funds I left behind exceeded \$1 million. Of this I am quite proud.

As was stated in the last Mission Endowment quarterly report (June ’19 ***Orbit***), no one from Trinity actively solicited estate gifts or contributions for our new endowment. Those who made that commitment cherished the fact that their gift would impact our ministries forever.

Look for an article about another aspect of our Gift Acceptance Policy in next month’s newsletter. Copies of the Gift Acceptance Policy can be picked up on the sanctuary table near the Cry Room. You are encouraged to talk to Tom Bradley or email him at tmbradley17@verizon.net if you have questions.



Triniteen Support

Triniteen Support Partner Invitation

It's exciting to learn that Trinity's youth group, the Triniteens, has been reorganized and lots of regular meetings and special events will be taking place in the near future.

One of them is the Allegheny Synod's "Making it Mine" youth event to be held in State College on the weekend of November 22-24. This local gathering will help youth in grades 7-12 explore how Jesus impacts their life, individually and in communities of faith. Leaders from around the Allegheny Synod will provide worship, Bible study, fun, food and so much more.

We expect at least ten of our Triniteens to be part of this event and they will be raising money to cover the registration fee throughout the summer.

Members of our Trinity family are invited to "sponsor" one of our youth by giving a one-time extra offering of \$120 which will cover the "Making it Mine" registration fee for one person.

Interested individuals should complete the form below and attach it to their check when they remit it by October 15. Unless they choose to remain anonymous, the names of all Triniteen Support Partners will be published in the November *Orbit* newsletter and in *The Pulse* weekly broadcast emails.

If one person or couple cannot afford the \$120 gift, perhaps three people (\$40 each); four people (\$30 each) or six people (\$20 each) can partner together to help!

If you have any questions, talk to Tom Bradley in church, call him (943-7488), or email him at tmbradley17@verizon.net.



Yes, I/we would like to step forward as a Triniteen Support Partner to cover registration costs for the 2019 Allegheny Synod "Making it Mine" Youth Gathering in State College in November. Attached is a check for \$120 made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. (Attach multiple checks if you are teaming up to become partners.)

Names

_____	Envelope Number ____
_____	Envelope Number ____
_____	Envelope Number ____
_____	Envelope Number ____

Please indicate if you wish to remain anonymous when the Triniteen Support Partners are published in November.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Excess dollars collected through youth-driven fund raisers and Triniteen Support Partners will be saved for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2021.



Simply Giving

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

While worship attendance fluctuates from time-to-time, 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 towards 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, endowment or a combination of all four. 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 Cindy Lytle, our office secretary, or Tom Bradley.



Trinity Bible Study

Trinity's Ongoing Adult Bible Study
THE BOOK OF ACTS
Fall 2019 Part 1/Spring 2020 Part 2

Put your FAITH where the ACTION is...Be DYNAMIC, be DARING!

An engaging study that includes:

Jesus's post-resurrection story

The work of the Holy Spirit

The birth of the church

The sequel to the Gospels

Rediscovering the Word of God, prayer, love, fellowship, and personal witness for Christ

The Fall Session will begin the week of Sept. 16, 17, 18 for 12 weeks.

No prior experience necessary, newcomers always welcome! Come on down! All groups meet at the church. 4 weekly times that best fit participants' schedules, giving people the opportunity to "float" to different groups without missing a beat!

Mon. 7:30-8:30 P.M.

Tues. 9-10 A.M. and 7-8 P.M.

Wed. 7-8 P.M.

Hourly sessions begin and end on time. Contact 943-7488 or lkbradley310@verizon.net for more info.





Trinity Memorial Gift Program

Do you know how Trinity's memorial gift program works?

It's been a few months since we reminded our members about Trinity's memorial gift program that has been flourishing for more than ten years.

In case you've forgotten how the program works or you are one of our newer members, we are happy to present a few reminders about this very successful program.

Upon the passing of a friend or relative, whether they attended Trinity or not, a person can make a gift *in any amount* in that person's name instead of sending flowers.

The donor *always* receives a thank you letter for the gift which also serves as a receipt.

The family of the deceased *always* receives a complete list of donors so they can send thank you cards if they so desire. *The amount given by each donor is never shared.*

Donor names are also recorded in the Book of Remembrance located in the back corner of the sanctuary. They are also listed in our newsletter.

Memorial donations do not have to be earmarked for a special purpose. All money received into the Memorial Fund is used for special projects in and around the church.

Our memorial gift envelopes are always available in the back of the sanctuary.



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Memorial Gifts

Recent memorial gifts are listed:

In recent weeks, several additional memorial gifts have been received by our church. As is our long-standing practice, all of the donors received a letter of thanks and the family of the deceased will receive a complete list of those who have given.

Gifts in memory of **Gene Otto**, who passed away in June, were remitted by:

**Donna Ruckinger
Georgiana Sigrist
Friends of Gene Otto
Lois and Tom Gutshall
Dorothy Shriver
Russ and Patty Edevane
Ken and Sharon Kutz**

Additional gifts were received in memory of **Arlene Leonard** from:

**Jim and Barb Gosnell
Bob and Janet Nearhood**



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Social Ministry

The Committee served the residents of Parkview Terrace a delicious meal of sloppy joes, macaroni salad, baked beans, pickled eggs with homemade beets and cupcakes on Monday, July 22. They played trivia games and I realized that a lot of older people retain a significant amount of information. There was a guessing game of toothpicks- how many were in a jar.

Thanks to Norma Stenger, who sat and counted over 800 toothpicks, for putting that together. And keeping with the theme of the ZOO, Linda Hoover made a wreath to be given to the resident that had a different bag of animal crackers, that Linda also put together.

A huge THANKS to Marla Hammond, Ruthie Brubaker, Linda Gibbons, Jess Hoover, Joanna Lewis, Norma Stenger and Linda Hoover for making the evening a success.

GOD BLESS

Sharon Kutz



Also Worth Mentioning...

Trinity Summer Picnic

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

When: Sunday, August 25th Legion Park.

Time: 11:00 am

Where: Legion Park Hollidaysburg PA

We need donations of soda and water and any monetary donations will also be accepted for the purchase of those items. Please bring a covered dish and/or a dessert to share.



Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee has partnered with Trinity's Teens to do a "Basket Drawing" as a fund raiser for the Youth Gatherings. The first one is entitled "Making It Mine" and will be held November 22-24, 2019. The baskets will be on display at the church during the month of August.

The drawings for the lucky recipients of the baskets will be done at the church picnic on August 25, 2019. Donations will be accepted throughout August at \$1.00 per ticket or \$3.00 for five tickets.

Please support our youth and consider donating. Baskets have been compile on themes; just to give you a hint there is sports basket all about Pittsburg. Be sure to check them out.

Thank you.....

*To my Trinity family,
Thank you for all the cards
of comfort and monetary
donations
The prayers and comforting
words helped me get through
these last few weeks.
"Love You all"
Joyce Otto and family*

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst
 Ted Baird
 Tyler Bennett
 Tina Chestney
 Church Health
 Team
 Sondra Deffibaugh
 Jane Eamigh
 Jim Gosnell
 Debbie Gracey
 Paul Hamilton
 Ron Heiss
 Kristine Henderson
 Jennifer Hippo
 Bob Hofmann
 Janice Knee
 Bill McLaughlin
 Cindy Murphy
 Ken B Myers
 Ray Nycum
 Jaden Rhode
 Bill Thompson

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
 Jason Buck
 Kyle Eberhart
 Nathan Frank
 Justin Patz
 Jason Smith
 Eric Sweet

Family Members and Friends

Janet & Charlie Aungst
 Scott Aungst
 Kris Bennett
 Pat Burk
 Sue Carter
 Jim Deffibaugh
 Jordan DeFrancisco
 Miles Dunklebarger
 Nancy & Bill Filler
 Debbie Fishell
 Haley Gehret
 Dawn George
 Allan Glassman
 Jean Habinyak
 Ann Hanczaryk
 Charles W. Harpster
 Don Haslem
 Jack Hoyne
 Ed Kapps
 Kaylen Kauffman
 Janelle Lehr
 Janet Luciano
 Karen Manocchio
 Family
 Sharon Mayers
 Bob McConnell
 Donna Mceldowney
 Eddie McGee
 Sharon Mckeehan
 Sandy Means
 Janelle Messner
 Denny Miller
 Harry Miller, Sr
 Rudy Muccitelli
 Neva Narrariani
 Carl Ruckinger
 Michael Ruckinger
 C. Richard Shaffer
 Bob Shannon
 Rachel Stout
 George Sultage Sr
 Paul Wallis
 Mary Walter



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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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
408 North Sixth Street, Juniata
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: (814) 943-3972
Fax: (814) 946-7001
Email office@trinityaltoona.com



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Lectionary Readings for the Month of August

August 4

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 11

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 18

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29--12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 25

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

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Also worth mentioning...

The next Orbit Deadline is August 26th

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!