

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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February 2020

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."

1 John 4: 7-12



From the Pastor:

With Valentine's day falling in the month of February, I always think of this as the month of love. There are many passages in scripture that deal with love. This passage from 1 John reminds us that love is paramount to us as believers. We are called to love one another. Because we have been freed from our sins we are free to love one another. That love is non judgmental, a love that transcends our human frailties and failings. One of my favorite plays is Les Miserables. One of the final songs before the grand finale has this line, "To love another person is to see the face of God". This is also in essence what John is saying, "if we love one another, God lives in us...", love is the key to our relationship with God. We are loved beyond measure by the one who created us and who sustains us in that love, the one who loved us enough to send Christ to suffer and die for us. For additional reading on what love is or what it might mean turn to 1 Corinthians chapter 13. There Paul gives us a comprehensive explanation of what love is and is not. It is not all chocolate candies and roses, it is a way of live that puts others ahead of ourselves, and others needs ahead of our own. Love is a powerful thing that can change to world for the better. Love is a precious gift from God, may we use it well.

Peace,



From the President

Jealousy can destroy relationships. People don't trust one another. They can get consumed by a lack of contentment. They want what they don't have. They want what others have. Some people are not happy with the gifts God has given them. Some are filled with envy for the gifts God has given to others.

Jealousy and envy can derail us from carrying out the work God has given us. He has given us the gift of faith so we might have eternal life in heaven. But He has also made us believers in Jesus so we might work in His kingdom. He has made us His children so we might live and serve as His children. Just as the Spirit gave us the gift of faith in Jesus, so he also gives us the gifts we need to serve Him. But He doesn't give everyone the same gifts in the same amounts or the same combinations. One person might have gifts in the area of teaching or music. Another person might be gifted in organizing and another in encouraging. One might be able to fix things, others to build things. But no one has every gift. No one is an expert in everything.

CORINTHIANS 12:4-6 There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all men.

GOD BLESS

Sharon Kutz

Funny Days in February

- February 3- Carrot Cake Day
- February 4- Create a Vacuum Day
Stuffed Mushroom Day
- February 7- Work Naked Day (I really don't
Recommend this)
- February 10- Umbrella Day
- February 16- Do a Grouch a favor Day
- February 17- RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY
- February 19- Chocolate Mint Day
- February 24- Tortilla Chip day
- February 28- Public Sleeping Day
- February 29- Extra Day of the Year





Trinity Social Ministry

The Committee did not meet in January . The next meeting is Tuesday February 4, 2020 at 11 am in Trinity Hall. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend.



Trinity Council Meetings Dec 19

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
 Sharon Kutz 2021
 Debbie Garritano 2022
 Ralph Grove
 Judy Hale 2021
 Nancy Honecker 2020
 Linda Hoover 2021
 Rose Hornberger 2021
 Bill Mallory 2020
 Tom Settle 2021
 Adam Counterman, 2022

Absent

Linda Gibbons 2019
 Geri Selfridge 2020

John Ebersole 2022
 Chris Thompson 2022

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Kutz.
 Pastor led us with prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from December 17 were read. Bill made a motion to approve the minutes. Adam seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The minutes will be printed following the meeting so they are put into the Orbit for mailing to the members. There will also be copies available in the back of the church.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. He stated that everything is up to date. The S&T investment account is \$219,644.24. We may have to draw from the account to pay the \$8,000.00 for Benevolence.

There is \$15,171.04 in the Sunderman account.

The organ will be serviced on Friday. It is 65 years old. Ralph takes care of the service bill personally.

The Endowment Fund is currently at \$22,863.11. We need \$27,000.00 to invest it and give \$2,000.00 to the Synod.

Rose made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Tom seconded the motion. John asked to have a final tally of profit/loss for the year at the next meeting. Motion passed.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented verbally. She has had two baptisms, a funeral, has been doing hospital visits, she covered for Jamie Olson and Scott Custard when they were away, she is visiting shut-ins and plans to visit all before Christmas, and we hosted one of the Wednesday Advent luncheons and service at Trinity. Thanks to those who helped with the luncheon.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were presented as written.

Sharon asked that all committees have a written report in every Orbit. This will keep our members aware of what is going on and perhaps get them to join a committee. She also passed around the Counting sheet to sign up to count offerings. Each council member is asked to volunteer to count.

Old Business

Gift Acceptance Policy: John questioned the policy that was amended and sent out to council. At the last meeting it was agreed that all monies would be divided 50/50 unless otherwise specified. Debbie had neglected to remove the \$5,000.00 or greater verbiage.

Debbie will rewrite the policy and send out to all members. This will be kept in with the bylaws. Tom sent out an abbreviated version that will be placed into the Orbit and bulletin for members. This will explain that they can designate where they want their money to go.

Bill made a motion to accept the policy once it is rewritten correctly. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.



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Trinity Council Meeting (pg. 2)

Girl Scout Troop – Adam contacted Stephanie Krug to get more information why they needed a new church. They are not being kicked out, because of issues (church not unlocked, cleaning fumes) they want a different place to meet. Ralph checked on the insurance and they should be covered but the Girl Scout Council has their own insurance to cover any accidents. Their next meeting is January 12th and they meet every other Sunday 5:00 to 6:30. Chris asked if we had a building policy – we do. They will have to come into the church to sign the policy and receive a key.

Linda H. made a motion to let the troop meet on a trial basis till the end of the school year. John seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

New Business

Sharon thanked Linda Gibbons for serving on Council.

Adam said that he and Angela were thinking of holding a Souper Bowl Sunday. They would serve soup and charge \$1.00 to put toward the general fund. More info to come.

Linda H. reported that \$205.00 was raised with the cookie sale.

Pastor reported that Matt Hale and the Boy Scout troop want to hold a spaghetti dinner fund raiser. No dates have been set yet. This has been done with other groups. Following discussion council agreed.

Pastor passed out a survey from the Allegheny Synod for each member of council to fill out. Do the best you can and bring it to the next meeting or mail it in.

Election of Officers: by ballot vote

President – Sharon Kutz

Vice President – Linda Hoover

Secretary – Debbie Garritano

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: January 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.



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Trinity Stewardship Committee

Good day friends of Trinity. My name is John Ebersole and I currently serve on Council and as Chairperson of the Stewardship committee. Now, before you dismiss this as another plea for money, hear me out.

Stewardship is often referred to by the “3 T’s”. These are Time, Talent, and Treasure. Yes, money is an issue for our congregation (and for every other church as well). However, there are countless ways to help Trinity that do not involve a cent. Do you have free time on some Sundays? Patty Bennett is looking for folks to deliver altar flowers to Trinity’s shut-ins. A few minutes visiting with one of our homebound members would certainly brighten their day (and probably yours as well). Are you handy around the house? Adam Counterman is currently renovating the theater building next to the parking lot for use as a youth center for the Triniteens and possibly the community as well. I’m sure he’d appreciate any help. Do you enjoy affairs like the Fall Family dinner or the Easter breakfast? Some extra hands cleaning up after these events could certainly help.

Think of something you enjoy doing. Chances are you can fill a need of Trinity. Incidentally, the Stewardship committee could use a few more members and any ideas would be welcome even if you don’t want to take an active role. If you have any thoughts on how we can use “Time” and “Talent” to better Trinity and do God’s work, please contact me at 946-8612.



Trinity Triniteens

The Triniteens are hard at work planning two (2) upcoming fundraisers that will help defray the cost of next year's trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. The fundraisers are:

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DINNER on Shrove Tuesday, which is Tuesday, February 25th, 2020. This dinner will run from 5pm – 7pm in Trinity Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please plan on attending to celebrate “Pancake Day” as well as support Trinity’s youth!

SPAGHETTI DINNER on Palm Sunday, which is Sunday, April 5th, 2020. This dinner will run from immediately following the 10:45 worship service until 2pm in Trinity Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per person. This is an “Eat In” or “Take Out” dinner so if you already have plans you can grab some food to go. This dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad and roll. Again, please plan on attending to celebrate Palm Sunday as well as support Trinity’s youth!



The Orbit

Trinity Worth Mentioning

The first day of Holy Week is Palm Sunday. We are looking for people willing to sponsor palms for this day. The cost of the palms are \$15.50 per hundred. We order 400 to give to the congregation. If you would like to sponsor palms, please call the church office at 943-3972 or Debbie Garritano at 944-5706. Thank you!

Do you enjoy special music at the service? We would like to make it easier for guests to play when they come. Adam Counterman has purchased a sturdier music stand for our church, but we would like to have another. Would you like to donate a music stand? The cost is \$42.00. Please call the church office at 943-3972 or Debbie Garritano at 944-5706.



Trinity Music and Worship

Pastor Eli, Debbie Garritano, Adam Counterman, Cindy Finnegan

Upcoming dates:

January

February 23 Transfiguration of our Lord – communion

February 26 Ash Wednesday – services at 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m. with communion

Lenten services every Wednesday at 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.

March

April 5 Palm Sunday

April 9 Maundy Thursday – communion and strip the altar services at 12:00 noon and 6:30

April 10 Good Friday – services at 12:00 noon and 6:30

April 11 Easter Saturday – service at 6:30 p.m. communion and dress the altar

April 12 Easter Sunday – service at 6:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Service

Update on Christmas services: all went well with the exception there were no ushers or lectors scheduled. For Easter services ushers and lectors will be assigned.

We discussed introducing the second setting (Kyrie and Hymn of Praise) back into the worship service.

Following discussion of pros and cons and what members have been saying, it was decided to wait until the Music Sunday in June to introduce this. Music Sunday will be June 14, at 9:00 a.m. This will begin our summer schedule.

Flowers

No altar flowers during Lent.

Advertising for Easter flowers will begin. They will be \$10.00.

Palms will be ordered, and we are looking for sponsors. Cost is \$15.50 per 100. We will order 400.

Music

Cindy reported that the choirs are going well. Youth choir will sing on the last Sunday of January. They are very excited about this.

Cindy will be out on February 23. She contacted James Fogle to substitute but he was unavailable. She is going to have Jack (student) substitute. He has played at many weddings and is familiar with liturgy. She will work with him to prepare him for Transfiguration Sunday. Adam also volunteered to help with that service.

We are looking for donations for a new music stand. With the extra people playing at our services it would be nice to have sturdy stands for them to use. Adam donated one and we would like to get one more. The cost of the stand is \$42.00.

Altar

We will assign people to help with Lent and Easter.

Next meeting: March 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.



Trinity Sunday School

Sunday School November and December 2019 Perfect Attendance

Beginners (Age 3- Kindergarten) Holden Seiler-December (3); Vincent Pierannunzio- November and December (4); Annalisa Counterman- November and December (4);

Lower Grades (1st – 3rd) Harper Seiler- December (3); Lydia Thompson- November and December (4); Avalynn Counterman- November and December (4); Hannah Pierannunzio- December (3); Emma Zearfoss- November (3); Liam Zearfoss- November (3); Rowan Resig –December

Upper Grades (4th -6th) Emma Morgan- November and December (4); Maura Thompson- November and December (4)

Confirmation Class (7th – 9th) Jillian Pierannunzio- November and December (4); Anna Resig – December

Not pictured: Reagan Resig – December

Sunday School is 9:30 am. We hope to see you there !!!!

Children's Christmas Program was held on December 22nd during 10:45 am Church service.



Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst
Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Tina Chestney
Church Health
Team
Church Council
Don Corl
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jane Eamigh
Jim Gosnell
Debbie Gracey
Paul Hamilton
Ron Heiss
Kristina Henderson
Martha Jones

Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda
Ron Green
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich
Dawn Mangus
Bob Nearhoof
Arlene Roessing
Robert Streightiff

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Justin Patz

Jason Smith
Eric Sweet

Janet/Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Sandy Badorrec
Deb Bender
Frank Bennett
Kris Bennett
Pat Burk
Dorothy Bush
John Bush
Scott Corl
Sandy Daddorek
Jim Dieffibaugh
Jordan DeFrancisco
Audrey Deiluliis
Fred Delgrosso, Sr
Miles Dunkelbarger
Bill & Nancy Filler
Don Fiscella
Elisie Fogel
Haley Gehret
Dawn George
Ann Hanczaryk
Barbara Hann
Charles W Harpster
Don Haslem
Dave Hogan
Jack Hoyne
Kaylen Kauffman
Tom Klevan
Pastor John Klingeman
Kaylee Kruise
Jean Lane
Jenelle Lehr
Janet Luciano
Linda Mardula
Sharon Mayers
Barb McConnell

Family Members and Friends

Bob McConnell
Donna McEldowney
Eddie McGee
McGilvery Family
Sharon McKeehan
Sandy Means
Janelle Messner
Denny Miller
Harry Miller Sr
Moore Family
Morning Family
Rudy Muccitelli
Wyatt Nite
Bob Noel
Zach Porta
Katie Riggelman
Roub Family
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
C. Richard Shaffer
Beth Shultz
Harper Sigrist
Sharon Stitts
George Sultage Sr
Robert Thomas Family
Paul Wallis
Mary Walter
James Wilt
Steve Wood



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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lectionary Readings for the Month of February

February 2

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

February 9

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 23

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

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Also worth mentioning...

The next Orbit Deadline is February 24th

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!