

The Orbit

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

"The Epiphany season serves as a bridge between the birth of Jesus and his passion. The season begins with an ancient celebration that originally drew together several themes: the birth of Jesus, the coming of the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan his first miracle at Cana in Galilee. In the west, the Epiphany came to be associated with the Magi alone, who were seen to be the representatives of the nations who come to worship Jesus. So the Epiphany season in Lutheran practice has often been a time for an emphasis on world missions."

Manuel on the Liturgy pg. 23



From the Pastor:

Throughout the month of January we celebrate the season of Epiphany. It is sometimes called the season of light, because the light of God was born and now shines in the darkness of our lives. As I think about the light shining in our darkness, I hear the words written in the manual on the liturgy, "a time for an emphasis on world missions." We are called as Christ's disciples to be a light to the world, We are now the Epiphany light that shines on others darkness. In the bleakness of the winter of January perhaps we should focus our attention on others throughout the world and think about world mission, There are many ways to be the light to the world, synod benevolence, contributions to charitable organizations, prayer, putting others needs ahead of our own. The Christ child was born to bring light into the world, and now through the Epiphany season we are reminded that we too are the light of the world, shining brightly so that others may find Christ.

Peace,



From the President

Twelfth night is approaching. January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, and many Christians remember this day as the one where Gentiles, the Magi- the Wise Men- visited Jesus, following the “star in the East”. Their journey was likely over a very difficult terrain.

The Epiphany of our Lord is the wonderful liturgical festival observed on January 6. It is also a season that lasts until the beginning of Lent and encompasses four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the year because it shows the church how God comes to his people. We are so full of sin and deserving of divine punishment that we cannot hope to approach God. Knowing we cannot come to Him, God took the initiative and came to us by becoming one of us. The most holy and almighty God condescended to take on human flesh in order to reveal His salvation to the world. This is the mystery of the Epiphany of our Lord.

Welcome to 2020 and may God bless everyone.

Silly Days In January

- January 2- Run up the flagpole and see if anyone salutes you
- January 4- National Spaghetti Day
- January 8- Bubble Bath Day
- January 10- Bittersweet Chocolate Day
- January 13- National Rubber Duckie Day
- January 15- National Bagel Day
- January 17- Ditch New Years Resolutions
- January 20- National Cheese Lover Day
- January 23- National Pie Day
- January 24- Compliment Day
- January 27- Chocolate Cake Day
- January 28- Fun at Work Day
- January 31- Backward Day





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Trinity Social Ministry

The Committee started the month of December by baking, organizing and delivering many trays of those cookies to the Police stations and the four Firehouses. WE have partnered with the Healthy You group to again bake and package cookies to be sold to the congregation with profits going to the church's general fund, which by the way, was over \$240.00. We also made luminaries that were seen on the steps of church for Christmas. WE delivered poinsettias to the shut-ins.

A special "THANK YOU" to Linda and Jess Hoover, Ruthie Brubaker, Marla Hammond, Joanna Lewis, Linda Gibbons, Judy Hale, Norma Stenger, Claire Goon, Mavis Madera, Patty and Lester Bennett, Betty Wilkinson and Sandy Hofmann.

GOD BLESS

Sharon Kutz



Trinity Council Meetings

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
 Sharon Kutz 2021
 Debbie Garritano 2019
 Ralph Grove
 Judy Hale 2021
 Nancy Honecker 2020
 Linda Hoover 2021
 Rose Hornberger 2021
 Bill Mallory 2020
 Tom Settle 2021
 Adam Counterman, 2019
 Linda Gibbons 2019
 Geri Selfridge 2020
 John Ebersole 2019

Absent

Greetings/Devotions

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

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from November 26 were read. Adam made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. He stated that all is up to date except for the payroll. There will be \$1,422.55 left after payroll. The federal and state taxes are yet to be paid. He did check on the taxes for the other building. Since it is not attached to the church, it is taxable. Question was asked if Bovard was finished with the furnace and the bill was paid. Linda H. said the furnace is still not working. Pastor will call to check on this. Adam made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were presented as written.
 Adam said that the lights were in at the Theatre building. Next was the dry wall and ceiling, then paint. He also reported that the float in the Hollidaysburg Christmas Parade won 2nd place. December 5 they will participate in the Altoona Christmas Parade.

Geri gave a report on the Youth Gathering in State College. She said it was a mini version of the trip to Houston and the kids had an awesome time. They learned a lot and connected with old friends and made new ones. Their next project will be Holiday Helpers on December 13. They will babysit children for \$5.00 while parents can go out and shop. They will also show the movie: Polar Express. December 22 at the 10:45 service will be the children's Christmas Pageant.



Trinity Council Meeting (pg. 2)

Old Business

Fall Banquet: we discussed that 120 tickets were sold and not that many came. The ticket sale is not a fund raiser. The tickets cost \$13.00 and we sold them for \$8.00. We lost money on the event. Next year we may raise the price of the tickets. We will also check to get another bid to see if someone else is cheaper.

Committee members: we discussed the different committees and how to get people involved. Geri will write a letter to put in the Orbit to increase committee members.

Gift Acceptance Policy: John discussed the importance of having an Endowment Fund. It is to have money available to use for projects with out touching the principal. Right now, we have \$22,863.11. We need to have \$25,000.00 to invest. And it needs to be \$27,000.00 because 10% needs to go to ELCA for mission funds. Tom drew up a concise explanation of the Gift Acceptance Policy. This is good for the general congregation. However, the formal Policy needs to be kept in the bylaws. Adam made a motion to change the amount of money divided between Endowment and General funds to 50/50. Judy seconded the motion. Following discussion motion passed with 2 opposed and 1 abstain. We will finalize the paper next month.

Thanks to Tom for coordinating the pew marker memorials. We have reached a profit of \$300.00.

New Business

Adam asked if the church was willing to sponsor a Girl Scout Troop. They are being asked to leave the church they are currently using. There are 40 girls and 7 adults. Questions were raised why they are leaving the other church. Adam will get more details for next meeting. Ralph will check on our insurance coverage for outside groups.

Bill brought up that the fascia on the 5th Avenue side is off. Bryan George quoted \$385.00 to take it off and restore it. Adam made a motion to accept the bid. Geri seconded the motion.

Linda H. reported that the congregational meeting went well. There were many suggestions from the congregation.

Minutes be put into the Orbit to keep congregation informed

Capital campaign for furnace repairs

Find a congregational member to make 5 phone calls a week to try and get members back to church

She will get a list from Cindy for next meeting.

Social ministry made cookie trays to deliver to first responders. They are also going to make them to sell to members in the church to help with the general fund.

Pastor reported that the Synod has a new DM, Rebecca Ehrlich. She will hold the office from January to August with the election on the new Bishop.

John reported that Chris Thompson is interested in serving on Council Sharon will call him and appoint him to Council.

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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Welcome and Thank You

The Church Council would like to Thank Linda Gibbons for her service to the church. And to welcome John Ebersole, who has agreed to finish a term that had been vacated and to newly appointed Chris Thompson. We certainly have a great working Council thanks to Linda Hoover, Debbie Garritano, Ralph Grove, Bill Mallory, Tom Settle, Nancy Honecker, Adam Counterman, Rose Hornberger, Judy Hale and Geri Selfridge. I also need to give a huge shout-out to our secretary, Cindy Lytle, who has done a superb job. And to Gary Lonsinger, who has done whatever is asked of him.

And, lastly, Pastor Eli Hess for her words of wisdom. She is the glue that bonds us all together.

We wish everyone a wonderful and safe New Year.

Sharon Kutz

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst
Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Bob Brubaker
Tina Chestney
Church Health
Team
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jane Eamigh
Jim Gosnell
Debbie Gracey
Paul Hamilton
Ron Heiss
Kristina Henderson
Martha Jones
Janice Knee

Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda
Ron Green
Ken Kumpff
Marie Laich
Dawn Mangus
Bob Nearhoof

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
Sandy Badorrec
Deb Bender
Frank Bennett
Kris Bennett
Pat Burk
Dorothy Bush
John Bush
Deb Civiello
Scott Corl
Sandy Daddorek
Jim Deffibaugh
Jordan DeFrancisco
Audrey Deiluliis
Fred Delgrosso, Sr.
Miles Dunklebarger
Nancy & Bill Filler
Don Fiscella
Michael Fishell
Elsie 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 Kruse
Jean Lane
Janelle Lehr
Janet Luciano
Linda Mardula
Sharon Mayers
Barbara McConnell
Bob McConnell
Donna Mceldowney
Eddie McGee
McGilvary Family
Sharon Mckeehan
Sandy Means
Janelle Messner
Denny Miller
Harry Miller, Sr
Moore Family
Rudy Muccitelli
Neva Narrariani
Zach Porta
Katie Riggelman
Roub Family
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
C. Richard Shaffer
Bob Shannon
Beth Shultz
Harper Sigrist
Sharon Sitts
George Sultage Sr
Robert Thomas Family
Paul Wallis
Mary Walter
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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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 January

January 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 12

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 26

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

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Also worth mentioning...

October 20, 2020 is open for sponsorship for flowers and bulletins. Contact Patty Bennett 944-4823 if interested.

Can Good Challenge is still on going. Please bring your can goods and place in the adult Sunday School room or Trinity Hall.

The next Orbit Deadline is January 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!