

The Orbit

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



December 2020

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth, for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days."

Micah 5:2



From the Pastor:

What strikes me in this reading from Micah is, "one of the little clans of Judah" and this reminds me on who we are nowadays. With the rise of Covid and people being more cautious about going out our numbers here at church have been lower than normal. With that being said, we have still been doing ministry along with the mighty churches. So much has been going on because the Spirit is alive and well. The church is the people not the four walls of the building and our church is doing well. There are ways that we are the church even though we may be little. Bethlehem is one of the most well known cities in the world because it is the birth place of Christ, even though they were little. We too are small but can always be mighty when we continue to do God's work. If for some reason you are not able to come to church you can still always support the continued ministries through your monetary contribution either online or by mail. We also continue to be mighty in how we treat one another and how we serve one another when there is a need. Our little clan is continuing to do ministry in big ways and we all have a part to play. As the congregation continues to worship and do ministry during this advent season, leading up to Christmas may we continue to look to Bethlehem as our example of one of the little ones who, through the work of God and Christ did mighty things.

Peace,



The Orbit

Trinity President

Well here We are at the end of 2020. It has certainly been unprecedented. Last year at this time, we were going strong and thanking God for all that we have. Fast forward 3 months, our lives and the life of our church was shattered. WE worshipped at home, sometimes from our kitchen table and some still in bed. But what we all remained was STRONG. Strong in our physical being and Strong in our spiritual being.

Now, we have survived the worst part, hopefully, and looking forward to 2021. We need to remember Why and Who led us to this point. This month, we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus. HE has guided us to be strong. Just remember to THANK HIM.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Stay Safe Stay Strong Wear a mask Social distance

Merry Christmas GOD BLESS Sharon Kutz





Silly Days in December

Silly Days in December

- Dec. 1-- Eat a Red Apple Day
- Dec. 3- National Roof over Your Head Day
- Dec. 4- Santa's List Day- we hope you are all on the nice list
- Dec. 6- Mitten Tree Day
- Dec. 8- National Brownie Day Dec. 9- Christmas Card Day
National Pastry Day
- Dec. 11- National Noodle Ring Day Dec. 13- Ice Cream Day
- Dec. 14- International Monkey Day
- Dec. 16- National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- Dec. 18- Bake Cookies Day
- Dec. 19- Oatmeal Muffin Day Dec. 20- Go Caroling Day
- Dec. 21--Crossword PuzzleDay
- Dec. 22-- National Date Nut Bread Day Dec. 24- National Eggnog Day
- Dec. 27-National Fruitcake Day- Yuk
- Dec. 30 Bacon Day
- Dec. 31-Make up Your Mind Day HAPPY NEW YEAR

The most important day of the month, December 25- Have a Blessed Christmas



Trinity Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting November 21-22, 2020

6:30 p.m. Service 26

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Kutz, Council President.

Budget was mailed in the Orbit for everyone to go over.

Questions: Sue Miller asked if our giving was on track to meet this year's budget. Ralph said yes that we are close to meeting this year. He has not had to dip into the reserve funds for any expenses.

21 members approved the budget with no opposition.

The individuals nominated for Council are Geri Selfridge, Ken Meyers and Barb Gosnell. There were no questions.

22 members approved the nominations with no opposition.

Meeting will continue at 8:15 a.m.

8:15 a.m. Service 32

The meeting continued with Pastor Eli chairing.

Budget – there were no questions.

25 members approved the budget with no oppositions

Council – there were no questions.

28 members approved the nominations with no opposition.

10:45 a.m. Service 20

The meeting continued with Sharon Kutz chairing.

Budget – there was a question about the lower custodian wages. Gary has retired and he had worked 35 hours per week. We have hired another custodian and he only works 20 hours per week.

16 members approved the budget with no oppositions.

Council – there were no questions.

16 members approved the nominations with no oppositions.

John Ebersole made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Aungst seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,
Debbie Garritano, Secretary



Trinity Church Council October Minutes

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
 Sharon Kutz 2021
 Debbie Garritano 2022
 Ralph Grove
 Judy Hale 2021
 Nancy Honecker 2020
 Linda Hoover 2021

Absent

Rose Hornberger 2021

Bill Mallory 2020
 Tom Settle 2021
 Adam Counterman, 2022
 Geri Selfridge 2020
 John Ebersole 2022
 Chris Thompson 2022
 Guest – Barb Gosnell

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Kutz.

Pastor led us with prayer.

Barb Gosnell presented the 2021 budget for approval. We discussed Social Ministry and decided to keep it at \$300.00. We discussed Pastor's benefit package. Pastor will get a guide to Ralph for any changes. Now it will stay the same. We increased the supply organist to \$400.00. We lowered the hand chimes to \$50.00 and the funeral fund to \$150.00. Geri made a motion to accept the budget as corrected. Bill seconded the motion.

Budget passed.

Sharon thanked Barb for all the work she did getting the budget together.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from September 22 were read. Adam made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The minutes will be put in the Orbit for the congregation to read.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. All is up to date but the payroll. Our investments are currently at \$210,986.71 at S&T. Ralph is still researching the possibility there may be an Endowment Fund with S&T. Bill made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented her written report.

Committee Reports

Presented as written.

Old Business

Boyer vs Bovard

Boyer came down and gave a written estimate to repair the air conditioner of \$23,287.59 and to repair the furnace, \$31,594.43. They also gave a quote for yearly maintenance of \$894.00. They said the furnace was in good shape for now. Following discussion it was decided to go with the maintenance agreement for now and table the air conditioning. Judy made a motion to approve Boyer maintenance agreement. Adam seconded the motion. Motion passed. If any repairs are needed Boyer will be called.



Trinity Church Council October Minutes

New Business

New Council members – Geri agreed to another term and Ken Meyers and Barb Gosnell agreed to come on.

Bill made a motion to adjourn and Tom seconded it.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: November 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Church Council November Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes of November 24, 2020

Debbie Garritano, Secretary

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
Sharon Kutz 2021
Debbie Garritano 2022
Ralph Grove
Judy Hale 2021
Nancy Honecker 2020
Linda Hoover 2021

Absent

Bill Mallory 2020
Tom Settle 2021

Rose Hornberger 2021

Adam Counterman, 2022
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 October 27 were read. Under Old Business, John made a correction that the estimates were for the replacement of the systems not the repair. Judy made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Bill seconded the motion. Motion passed.
The minutes will be put in the Orbit for the congregation to read.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. All is up to date. Pastor's Portico benefits are paid. Linda noted that the deposit for the Social Ministries goes to the Youth Group.
Ralph plans to get the organ tuned before Christmas.
Judy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. John seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented her written report.

Committee Reports

No reports submitted.
Healthy You sent out 250 cards to nursing homes letting people know we are thinking about them.

Old Business

None



Trinity Church Council November Minutes

New Business

New Council members will be invited to join our meeting in December.

Letter from the Bishop.

The Bishop sent a letter to all congregations with a recommendation to cancel in person worship for the next three weeks. We discussed that closing this week would not be possible to get the information to the members. We discussed suspending extra activities, how to pay staff during the shut down, spraying the pews between services, etc. Following the discussion, Sharon asked for a show of hands to keep the church and activities open for the next three weeks. The vote was unanimously in favor of staying open.

Worship and Music will meet on the 9th and decide how to go forward from here.

The meeting was then adjourned.
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: December 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Church Message from Pastor

After receiving a letter from the Bishop's office it was recommended to stop in person worship until Dec. 13th due to the rise of Covid cases. After very much discussion your church council took this into advisement but voted to continue to worship as usual. If you do not feel comfortable being in attendance that is completely understandable.

Please everyone stay safe.



Trinity Sewing Team and Thrivent

MASKS

\$4.00/EACH

Child, Youth, Small, Medium Adult, Large Adult Sizes

Made in Altoona **by Trinity** Sewing Team and Thrivent

All proceeds will go to the Trinity Lutheran Church Current Fund

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst
Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Bob & Ruth
Brubaker
Tina Chestney
Church HealthTeam
Church Council
Don Corl
Gary Crownover
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jane Eamigh
Gosnell Family
Paul Hamilton
Kathy Hatch
Ron Heiss
Kristina Henderson
Bob Hofmann
Doris Hollingshead

Dave Hoover
Martha Jones
Jessica McGraw
Bill McLaughlin
Cindy Murphy
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum
Angie Peacetree
Family
Jaden Rhode
Shannon Family
Tom Simpson
Susie Stacey
Jasmine Wilkins
Louise Yeager
Nancy Yeager

Dustin Adams
Donnie Alwine
Janet & Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Sandy Badorrec
Rick Beauchamp
Frank Bennett
Kris Bennett
Casey Bondarenka
Pat Burk
Dorothy Bush
John Bush
Tracee Cole
Scott Corl
Jim Cox Family
Sandy Daddorek
Jim Deffibaugh
Jorden DeFrancisco
Zane Dodson

Family Members and Friends

Stephen Kauffman
Tom Klevan
Pastor John Klingeman
Kaylee Kruse
Lucya Kunkel
Jean Lane
Janelle Lehr
Raija Lind
Janet Luciano
Bernie Market
Ryan Maquire
Sharon Mayers
Barb McConnell
Bob McConnell
Eddie McGee
McGilvery Family
Kathy McIntyre
Sharon McKeehan
Connie McKnight
Janelle Messner
Denny Miller
Harry Miller, Sr
Moore Family
Rudy Muccitelli
Bill & Penny Murphy
Wyatt Nite
David Orr
Zach Porta
Abby Remendowski
Katie Riggleman
Toran Robertson
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
Bill Senitko
Ronald Settle
C. Richard Shaffer
Patty Smith



Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda
Audrey Deiluliis
Ron Green
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich
Dawn Mangus

Bob Nearhoof
Arlene Roessing
Robert Streightiff

Miles Dunkelbarger
Scott Esch Family
Nancy & Bill Filler
Elisie Fogel
Haley Gehret
Dawn George
Grassmyer Family
Amanda Gregg &
Daughters

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Jim Buchanan
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Justin Patz

Jason Smith
Eric Sweet

Ann Hanczaryk
Charles W. Harpster
Tim Harrison
Don Haslem
Danielle Hatfield
Dave Hogan
Jack Hoyne
Beth Ickes
Judy Johnson

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.



The Orbit

December 2020

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Lectionary Readings for the Month of December

December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 27

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

In the Orbit This Month:

From the Pastor	1
From the President	2
Silly Days	3
Congregational Meeting	4
Church Council Min. Oct	5
Church Council Min. Nov	7
Message from Pastor	9
Trinity Sewing Team	10
Pray List.....	11

Also worth mentioning...

Worship and Music Meeting
December 9th at 6:30 pm

Church Council Meeting
December 15th at 7:00 pm

The next Orbit Deadline is December 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!