

# The Orbit

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



January 2021

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."

2 Corinthians 5:17



## **From the Pastor:**

As I write this we are just days from the new year, you will have received it after the new year most likely, and I am anticipating what it may bring. I think we can all agree that we are glad to see 2020 go and we are ready for 2021. We have endured the pandemic for months now and we have all grown weary of the way it has changed our lives with closures, masks, and social distancing. I can't say if 2021 will be better or not but I hope and pray it is. With all this talk about the new coming and the old leaving I like this passage from 2 Corinthians. No matter what the year brings, in Christ we are a new creation. In our baptisms we are made new in Christ and the old sins are washed away. In Christ we can start anew every day. If we are having a bad day, or month, or year, no matter what we know we have the love of Christ to see us through. With the coming of the new year the days are starting to get longer and our hopes are renewed again. In reality Jan. 1st is just another day and we can start are year over whenever we would like. We can make plans for the new year but we have yet to know what is to come, except with Christ, with Christ love and forgiveness is in our future everyday. Jeremiah 29 reminds us, ""For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."" We may not know what the new year will hold, but we know that God is with us and Christ has already made us new.

Peace,



The Orbit

## Trinity President

Happy New Year

As the 2021 President of council I along with Pastor and all council members would like to wish you a Happy New Year with prayers of better things to come. It's been a tough one in many ways and in many lives but we must remember the blessings God has bestowed on us. We need to reaffirm our four pillars of ministry and what they mean to us. Worship, Serve, Learn and Connect. Do God's work. Reflect on what strengths exist within faith. As we plan on in-person worshiping in February we will be focusing on how to move forward. We are calling members of the congregation to participate, give ideas and support. Everyone is welcome to join a committee, an activity or anything that is happening, you are important to keeping our church the best it can be. Our church needs to get back into outreach programs that we have not been able to do during this pandemic, new ideas are needed.

Thanks to Sharon Kutz for her last year as president, job well done, lots of frustration, changes and work. Many thanks to Pastor Hess for her never ending caring and support, it's been a tough one for her also.

If you ever have comments, questions or ideas please feel free to call Pastor, me as president, Sharon as VP and any council member, we want to hear from you..

May the Peace of the Lord Be With You All!

*Linda Hoover*



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## Trinity's Outgoing President

Welcome to the New Year. I know everyone's prayer is for a "different" year than 2020. I feel that we all have enough of mask wearing and the fear that we have been experiencing. Praying that everyone is safe and healthy. And for those that had tested positive, praying that you are finally feeling better.

This will be my final letter to you as President of Council. I have served two years and it is time to step down and welcome the new President, who will be elected on December 15 at the Council meeting. I have enjoyed serving you and I feel I have done a good job leading the Congregation forward.

I would like to thank Bill Mallory and Nancy Honecker for their many years on Council. I hope that the two of you stay involved.

Joining the rest of the group are newcomers Ken Myers and Barbara Gosnell. The addition of Ken and Barb will be a great asset.

So, I'll be signing off. My wish is that Trinity remains strong and healthy and we continue to pray for all things new and productive.

God Bless

Sharon Kutz





## Trinity's Some Things to Think About

### ***WISE WORDS FROM PROVERBS***

- Take the time to actually think about how these apply or affect your personal life
- It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel
- A gossip betrays a confidence, so avoid anyone who talks to much
- A person's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?

If you have something of interest you want to share about the next Things To Think About article please let me know.

Linda Hoover



# Trinity Church Council December Minutes

## Council Meeting Minutes December 15, 2020

### Attendance

#### Present

Pastor Eli  
 Sharon Kutz 2021  
 Debbie Garritano 2022  
 Barb Gosnell 2023  
 Ralph Grove  
 Judy Hale 2021  
 Nancy Honecker 2020  
 Linda Hoover 2021  
 Rose Hornberger 2021  
 Bill Mallory 2020  
 Ken Myers 2023

#### Absent

Tom Settle 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 November 24 were read. Correction was made under Committee reports. Healthy You sent out 400 cards to nursing homes. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Bill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. All is up to date. Payroll is complete. The November Thank Offering collected \$952.00 for St. Andrew Preschool, which was deposited into their account. The Endowment Fund is up to \$25,655.78. \$1,275.00 was deposited. After Christmas Ralph and Tom will set up the computer system at church.

Bill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor gave a verbal report. She has been doing community funerals. She was on call for Pastor Jamie and she continues with Advent services.

### Committee Reports

Stewardship – the February Thank Offering will be designated to the Teen Shelter of Family Services Inc.  
 Worship and Music – Debbie reported that at the meeting last Tuesday it was the committee's recommendation to stay open for worship. However, since then the Governor has shut down the state because of the rise in cases. Blair County is ninth in the nation for cases! Debbie stated that she now believes we should discontinue in person service. St. Andrew Preschool is closed because a family member has Covid.  
 Pastor discussed the numbers she had signed up for Christmas Eve services but stressed the unknown person coming in. We discussed live streaming with special music. Following discussion, we had a paper vote to close Christmas Eve and Christmas Day or stay open. The vote was 11 to close and 1 stay open. We will not have services Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Pastor will live stream on Facebook Christmas Eve.  
 We then discussed staying closed for the rest of the Sundays. Following discussion, Nancy made a motion to close until the first week in February. Linda seconded the motion. Motion passed. Council will meet the fourth Tuesday in January and will reevaluate the situation.



## Trinity Church Council December Minutes

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Sharon welcomed the new Council members, Ken Myers and Barb Gosnell. She also thanked Nancy Honecker and Bill Mallory for their service as Council members. She also asked them to please stay involved.

Election of Officers – we then had a paper vote to elect Council officers.

President – Linda Hoover

Vice President – Sharon Kutz

Secretary – Debbie Garritano

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.**



## Stewardship Committee

With Trinity not holding in-person worship for the month of January as a precautionary measure due to Covid, now is a good time to remember that ministry at Trinity is ongoing.

Yes, offerings are still needed and greatly appreciated. But stewardship goes far beyond monetary gifts. Is there a neighbor that may feel isolated, especially with cold weather this time of year. A phone call, delivery of a meal, even if it's just a bowl of hot soup, or other gesture is a great way to show God's love during these times of pandemic.

The November Thank Offering resulted in \$481.00 being collected for St. Andrew's preschool. Our thanks to all who helped support this effort.

The February Thank Offering will be directed to the Agarwal Teen Center run by Family Services. The center is located in the former Bigelow Funeral Home at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The center provides a haven for teens who are runaways, or those fleeing from abusive situations. It also serves teens who may only be looking for someone to talk to in a safe environment. Please consider helping this worthwhile organization. Remember that ministry at Trinity extends beyond the physical walls of the Church.



## Command Sergeant Major Harry Buchanan III

### Senior Enlisted Advisor - Joint Pennsylvania National Guard

Command Sergeant Major Buchanan currently serves as the State Senior Enlisted Advisor located at Joint Forces Headquarters in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. He advises the Adjutant General and subordinates on all enlisted matters within the Pennsylvania National Guard and ensuring that all levels of command are responsive to Soldier needs, concerns, and welfare.

Command Sergeant Major Buchanan resides in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He entered service in January of 1980 and after completing Advanced Infantry Training, he was assigned to the 2-112 Infantry Regiment as a Rifleman. Command Sergeant Major Buchanan served in various infantry positions and over the next seven years was subsequently assigned as a Platoon Sergeant.

After selection for First Sergeant, Command Sergeant Major Buchanan mobilized for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and KFOR 5A with the 2-112 Infantry Regiment. In 2010 he was selected to serve as the 2-112 Infantry Regiment Battalion Command Sergeant Major and served a subsequent tour as the 1-112 Infantry Regimental Command Sergeant Major.



CSM Buchanan Bio Photo (Photo by PNG)

Command Sergeant Major Buchanan's is a graduate of numerous education, leadership and qualification courses, to include: the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Command Sergeant Major Buchanan's awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, PA Major General R. White Medal, PA General Thomas J. Stewart Medal, LA Emergency Service Medal, PA Keystone Freedom Medal, Pennsylvania Twenty Year Service Medal and the Pennsylvania Service Ribbon.





## Trinity Worth Mentioning

New Church Council Officers:

Linda Hoover President

Sharon Kutz Vice President

Debbie Garritano Secretary

Ralph Grove Treasurer

Out going council members Nancy Honecker and Bill Mallory.

Incoming council members Ken Myers and Barb Gosnell.

The Social Ministry Committee has once again placed a box on the table in front of the cry room. This allows anyone that wishes to send any Trinity Member a Christmas card to place them in the box and the Committee will see that they are given to that person.

The Healthy You group made over 400 “thinking of you cards and Christmas cards”. Linda Hoover delivered them to the Allegheny Lutheran Home, Altoona Center for Nursing Care, Maybrook Hills and Colonial Courtyard



# Trinity Worship and Music

## Worship and Music December 8, 2020

Pastor Eli, Debbie Garritano, Les and Patty Bennett, Adam Counterman, John Ebersole

### Upcoming dates:

December

12-13

19-20 Youth Sunday, Christmas program at 10:45

24 Christmas Eve 5:00, 7:00, 10:00

25 Christmas Day 9:00 a.m.

26-27

30-31

February 17 Ash Wednesday

### Service

We discussed the Christmas Eve services. We decided to go ahead with the three services. Pastor is announcing that attendance is limited, and we have been doing well keeping the sanctuary clean after each service. We decided to close off every other pew to help with the social distancing beginning with this Saturday and Sunday. We will also have masks available to pass out as people enter the church. We will have congregational candles for each service so there is no sharing. The ushers will be asked to stress social distance and pass out masks to those who do not have one.

### Flowers

Patty said that 60 poinsettias were ordered and two larger ones for the altar flowers. They will be delivered the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. The flowers can be picked up after the 10:00 service or any time the following week.

### Music

Cindy reported that there will be lots of music for the remainder of Advent, for Youth Sunday and Christmas Eve. John will be setting the chimes up early for Christmas Eve due to his work schedule.

### Altar

Undercoating January 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

# Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

## Trinity Members

Jim Aungst	Doris Hollingshead
Ted Baird	Dave Hoover
Tyler Bennett	Martha Jones
Bob & Ruth Brubaker	Jessica McGraw
Tina Chestney	Bill McLaughlin
Church HealthTeam	Cindy Murphy
Church Council	Ken B. Myers
Don Corl	Ray Nycum
Gary Crownover	Angie Peacetree Family
Sondra Deffibaugh	Jaden Rhode
Jane Eamigh	Shannon Family
Gosnell Family	Tom Simpson
Paul Hamilton	Susie Stacey
Kathy Hatch	Stenger Family
Ron Heiss	Jasmine Wilkins
Kristina Henderson	Louise Yeager
Bob Hofmann	Nancy Yeager

## Trinity's Homebound Members

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

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces

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

## Family Members and Friends

Dustin Adams	Beth Ickes	Bill Senitko
Donnie Alwine	Judy Johnson	Ronald Settle
Janet & Charlie Aungst	Kauffman Family	C. Richard Shaffer
Scott Aungst	Tom Klevan	Patty Smith
Sandy Badorrec	Pastor John Klingeman	Tina Spahn
Rick Beauchamp	Kaylee Kruse	Michael Stacey
Frank Bennett	Lucya Kunkel	Duane Stenger
Kris Bennett	Jean Lane	Charlene Stonebraker
Casey Bondarenka	Janelle Lehr	Denny Sullivan
Pat Burk	Raija Lind	George Sultage Sr
Dorothy Bush	Janet Luciano	Robert Thomas Family
John Bush	Bernie Market	Blair Umholtz
Tracee Cole	Ryan Maquire	Paul Wallis
Scott Corl	Sharon Mayers	Mary Walter
Jim Cox Family	Barb McConnell	LuAnn Wilkinson-Doyle
Sandy Daddorek	Bob McConnell	James Wilt
Jim Deffibaugh	Eddie McGee	Steve Wood
Jorden DeFrancisco	McGilvery Family	
Zane Dodson	Kathy McIntyre	
Miles Dunkelbarger	Sharon McKeenan	
Scott Esch Family	Connie McKnight	
Nancy & Bill Filler	Janelle Messner	
Elisie Fogel	Denny Miller	
Daniel "Butch" Garth	Harry Miller, Sr	
Haley Gehret	Moore Family	
Dawn George	Rudy Muccitelli	
Grassmyer Family	Bill & Penny Murphy	
Amanda Gregg & Daughters	Wyatt Nite	
Ann Hanczaryk	David Orr	
Charles W. Harpster	Zach Porta	
Tim Harrison	Jim Pritchert	
Don Haslem	Abby Remendowski	
Danielle Hatfield	Katie Riggelman	
Dave Hogan	Toran Robertson	
Jack Hoyne	Carl Ruckinger	
	Michael Ruckinger	



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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January 2021

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### Lectionary Readings for the Month of January

#### January 3

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

#### January 10

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

#### January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

#### January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

#### January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

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### Also worth mentioning...

Due to the rise in covid 19 cases we are suspending in person worship through the month of January.

We are hoping to resume the first weekend in February. Thank you for your understanding. We will have online worship at 9:30 on Sunday's.

### The next Orbit Deadline is January 24th

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

- Email your article to:  
**[office@trinityaltoona.com](mailto:office@trinityaltoona.com)**  
**[drgeesey@verizon.net](mailto: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!**