

The Orbit

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



March 2021

"His surviving authentic writings, his Confession and a letter to Coroticus, reveal him as an ill-educated but passionately sincere man, convinced of his divine mission and angered by the opposition of those he believed should have helped him. He was fearless in pursuit of his aim, to destroy paganism, and always retained a sense of dependency on God born of his early days as a slave and exile.

Wordsworth Dictionary of the Saints pg. 189



From the Pastor:

These words were written about St. Patrick, whose feast day we celebrate on March 17th. Yes, we all know about St. Patrick's day and we don our green and become Irish for the day. However, it is not just about wearing green or drinking green beer or having an excuse to party, St. Patrick was a real person. There are many myths and legends associated with the man such as removing all the snakes in Ireland, and using the shamrock to explain the trinity, but in Wordsworth's words we learn about his devotion to Christianity. Many of us may not know, or remember, that he was taken into slavery when he was 16, and that he was probably not well educated. Yet, he made it his life's mission to convert as many people as possible to Christianity. Perhaps the greatest thing we can learn from Patrick is his dependence of God. He depended on God for his direction and strength in all things. We too are to be dependent of God for all things. Sometimes we want to do things our way, but we are called to turn to God to see what is the best way. God is always with us and yes we can depend on God for everything. So, on March 17th break out you best Irish brogue, put on your green, and raise a glass to St. Patrick, but remember the true celebration is a God we can depend on.

Peace,



The Orbit

Trinity President

We Are Back!!!! Your support is amazing!

Following CDC guidelines we are back to in person worship, what we all prayed for, although virtual was inspirational it just isn't the same as being in our "building." This isn't JUST a building to the majority of us, it is our refuge, someplace where we are aware of the Spirit of God. A safety zone. Where we can actually see and talk to our church family. We thank Tom Settle and Cindy Finnegan for doing an amazing job at keeping us virtual for such a long time. You can still watch the services on You Tube if you don't feel comfortable returning yet, we understand that. Oh Yeah - Pastor Hess had something to do with all of this too.

Worship and Music Committee is working hard to put into place SAFE in person services for Easter Worship. I know they will figure this out, we don't want to miss another such important service. You will be notified as this becomes clear.

Read: Deuteronomy 31:6

Linda Hoover, Council President



Trinity's Some Things to Think About

Trinity's THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

A good friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.

**When you do a good deed do you keep it to yourself, or make sure people know you did it?
1st Corinthians 13:4 Love does not boast.**

Smoker's information: methane, a chemical in dog poop can be found in cigarette smoke. Urea, a chemical found in cat pee, is also used in cigarettes to enhance flavor. Might you want to rethink your enjoyment?

Do you feel like you trust God enough?

Forgiveness doesn't make the other person right, it makes you free

Linda Hoover



Trinity Church Council January Minutes

Council Meeting Minutes January 26, 2021

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
Sharon Kutz 2021
Debbie Garritano 2022
Barb Gosnell 2023
Ralph Grove

Linda Hoover 2021

Ken Myers 2023
Tom Settle 2021 virtual
Adam Counterman, 2022
Geri Selfridge 2020
John Ebersole 2022
Chris Thompson 2022

Absent

Judy Hale 2021

Rose Hornberger 2021

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Linda Hoover
Pastor led us with prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from December 15 were read. Adam made a motion to accept the minutes. Geri seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. All is up to date except the payroll. The quarterly taxes are paid. The local taxes are yet to be paid. He is working on W2's and will have them out this week. Offerings continue to come in. John questioned the special offering listed in the report of \$1,990.00. These were special Christmas envelopes. Adam made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented a written report. She thanked Tom Settle for continuing to record the services and Cindy for playing the organ. She explained why we were not eligible for the PPP this time. We needed to show a 25% deficit and we are at 17%. She continues to call members to stay in touch and she sent cards to shut-ins at Christmas. Ash Wednesday is approaching, and she will be preaching about the journey of the exodus for the Wednesday services during Lent.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

In person worship services: we discussed beginning in person worship the first weekend in February with Sunday School beginning the following week. John presented a graph showing the COVID-19 percentages in Blair County. In January we were at 20%. Now we are at 7.9%. It is in a downward trend. Following discussion, it was decided to begin worship the first weekend in February with Sunday School beginning the following week. Tom Settle will continue to record the announcements and sermon to be posted on Facebook. We will continue social distancing, wearing face masks and cleaning after each service. Church activities will also be resuming. Barb made a motion to accept the proposal. Adam seconded the motion. Motion passed.

St. Andrew Preschool will begin February 1.

Counting schedule: Barb reviewed the schedule and asked that all Council members sign up if they are willing and able. It is good for members to know the finances of the church.

Committees: Sharon reviewed the committee appointments.



Trinity Church Council January Minutes

New Business

Building update: Adam said that the renovations are on hold until the price of lumber comes down.

Girl Scouts: the girls are selling cookies and asked if they could hold a cookie booth in the parking lot for people to drive by for cookies. All agreed, just let us know when they want to hold the sale.

Easter services: John expressed concern over the attendance for the Easter services. We need to come up with a plan to assure that we are following CDC guidelines. We need to have something in place to put in the March Orbit.

Debbie suggested we discuss this at Worship and Music meeting, bring it back to Council February meeting and put in the March Orbit.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Church Council February Minutes

Council Meeting Minutes February 23, 2021

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
Sharon Kutz 2021 via phone
Debbie Garritano 2022
Barb Gosnell 2023
Ralph Grove

Absent

Judy Hale 2021
Linda Hoover 2021
Rose Hornberger 2021
Ken Myers 2023
Tom Settle 2021 virtual
Adam Counterman, 2022
Geri Selfridge 2020
John Ebersole 2022
Chris Thompson 2022

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Linda Hoover
Pastor led us with prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from January 26 were read. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes. Geri seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented the report as written. All is up to date except the payroll. We received \$12,698.42 from the Peggy Peterman estate. Half was put into the Endowment Fund and half to the General fund. The Endowment Fund monies are at \$32,014.99. Ralph noted that S&T said that an Endowment Fund was set up in 2003. However, there is no record in the minutes of that account. Ralph will need to find out who opened the account and the initial deposit. Then Stewardship Committee will decide whether to keep the old Endowment Fund or open the new one with the Synod. We need to move forward with this investment. Stewardship will meet on the third Tuesday in March at 7:00.

John asked if the special offering in the Treasurer's report the Thank Offering for February was. Ralph said yes and it was \$421.00

John made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented a written report. She stated that things were slow at the beginning of the month but have since picked up. Visits to shut-ins remains difficult with the Covid restrictions. Adult Sunday School class is studying Habakkuk and Lent focuses on the Exodus. The Youth Group will resume the second Sunday in March at 6:00 p.m. They are selling Gardner's PB meltaways for their trip.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

In person worship services: Worship and Music Committee made a motion to hold Easter services, 6:30, 8:15, 10:45, with reservations made. The information letter and reservation form will be placed in the Orbit and Bulletin, and announcement in the Altoona Mirror for phone reservations. Rose seconded the motion. Motion passed. John presented the form for the reservations and the write up to be placed in the Mirror. Debbie thanked John for all the work he put in to creating the forms.



Trinity Church Council February Minutes

New Business
None

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Church Worship and Music

Worship and Music February 9, 2021

Pastor Eli, Debbie Garritano, Les and Patty Bennett, John Ebersole, Cindy Finnegan (written report)

Upcoming dates:

February 17 Ash Wednesday
 March 21 afternoon Court of Eagle Award for Daniel Hamer
 March 28 Palm Sunday
 March 29-April 3 Holy Week
 April 4 Easter

Service

Wednesday weekly Lenten services at 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m. Theme: Out of the Exodus

Easter services: three persons responded to the request for ideas of how to conduct Easter services safely. We discussed many options. Pastor has decided to add an additional service at 8:15 so there would be three options on Sunday morning. John estimated that we could comfortably seat 90 people in the sanctuary and Sunday school room. Pastor said the last Easter service had a total of 250 people attend. That would be a doable number spread over three services. We discussed having reservations and possibly tickets. Following discussion, we decided reservations would be in order but not the tickets. John drew up an information letter with a tear off to sign up for a particular service and how many would attend. We agreed this should go into the Orbit and bulletin. We also agreed to place an announcement in the Altoona Mirror stating that we will be holding services with limited attendance and to call for reservations.

So it is this committee's motion to hold Easter services, 6:30, 8:15, 10:45, with reservations made. The information letter and reservation form will be placed in the Orbit and bulletin, and announcement in the Altoona Mirror for phone reservations.

Flowers

Patty – lilies, tulips, hyacinths and mums. Cost \$9.00.
 Debbie ordered palms, 3 bundles of 100 at \$15.50 per bundle.
 These will be placed in the bulletin for sponsors.

Music

Cindy reported that she is scheduling soloists for the services and will be talking to the loyal choir members what services they will be attending.

John stated that he is optimistic that the youth hand chimes will play at 10:45.

Altar

Nothing at this time.

Next meeting: March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.



Trinity Church March Worship Schedule

March

6:30

Jim/Jonnie Frederick

8:15

Ushers

Debbie Garritano
Tom Settle

10:45

Rose/Jefferey
Hornberger

6-7

Jim Frederick

Lectors

Debbie Garritano

Sandy Ebersole

13-14

Ken Kutz

Tom Gutshall

Rose Hornberger

20-21

Sue Miller

Amanda Woodring

Lori Matta Rhode

27-28

Carol Paul

Debbie Garritano

John Ebersole

Altar

Carol Paul

Debbie Garritano

Sandy Ebersole



Trinity Church Easter Worship Service Form

In the interest of being able to maximize the number of people who can attend Easter Sunday services, we are asking people to assist by indicating which service they plan to attend.

Pastor has agreed to conduct three worship services that day. The traditional Sunrise service at 6:30 AM, one at 8:15 AM, and the Easter Festival service at 10:45 AM. All 3 services will include Holy Communion. We are asking that our members indicate which service listed below they plan to attend as well as the number of family members attending.

It is regrettable that we are taking this step as Trinity wishes to welcome all who want to bear witness to the Joy of the Resurrection. However, current CDC guidelines necessitate that we limit the number of people in attendance to ensure compliance with indoor gathering restrictions. As with current worship practices, masks will be required and every other pew will remain blocked off.

Please indicate your choice of Worship time below as well as the number of people attending and place it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or call the church.

Celebrating the Resurrection is an important part of Christian life. In-person worship requires some advance planning. We hope that this will enable us to share the Joy of Easter with as many as possible while maintaining a safe environment.

Name _____

Service you will attend and number of persons

6:30 AM _____ 8:15 AM _____ 10:45 AM _____

Please return by March 21, 2021

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Jim Aungst Sharon Kutz
 Ted Baird Jessica McGraw
 Tyler Bennett Bill McLaughlin
 Tina Chestney Cindy Murphy
 Church HealthTeam Ken B. Myers
 Church Council Ray Nycum
 Don Corl Angie Peacetree
 Gary Crownover Family
 Sondra Deffibaugh Jaden Rhode
 Jane Eamigh Tom Simpson
 Paul Hamilton Stenger Family
 Kathy Hatch Fred Teigler
 Ron Heiss Jasmine Wilkins
 Kristina Henderson Nevin Woodring
 Bob & Sandy Louise Yeager
 Hofmann Nancy Yeager
 Doris Hollingshead
 Martha Jones

Trinity's Homebound Members

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

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Eddie Bennett Ryan Maguire
 Sarah Brown Justin Patz
 Jim Buchanan Jason Smith
 Jason Buck Eric Sweet
 Kyle Eberhart
 Nathan Frank

Family Members and Friends

Dustin Adams Jack Hoyne
 Donnie Alwine Beth Ickes
 Janet & Charlie Aungst Judy Johnson
 Scott Aungst Katie Kanczaryk
 Sandy Badorrec King/Crown Family
 Rick Beauchamp Tom Klevan
 Frank Bennett Pastor John Klingeman
 Kris Bennett Kaylee Kruse Family
 Casey Bondarenka Lucia Kunkel
 Dorothy Bush Janelle Lehr
 John Bush Raija Lind
 Tracee Cole Janet Luciano
 Scott Corl Bernie Market
 Jim Cox Family Sharon Mayers
 Raynoo Cox Family Barb McConnell
 Sandy Daddorek Bob McConnell
 Jim Deffibaugh Eddie McGee
 Jordan DeFrancisco McGilvery Family
 Zane Dodson Kathy McIntyre
 Miles Dunkelbarger Sharon McKeegan
 Cheryl Ecker Vicki Mederious
 Scott Esch Family Janelle Messner
 Nancy & Bill Filler Moore Family
 Elisie Fogel Rudy Muccitelli
 Garth Family Bill & Penny Murphy
 Haley Gehret Nedimyer Family
 Dawn George Wyatt Nite
 Amy Gleason Jim Otto
 Amanda Gregg & Daughters Zach Porta
 Ann Hanczaryk Abby Remendowski
 Charles W. Harpster Katie Riggleman
 Tim Harrison Toran Robertson
 Don Haslem Carl Ruckinger
 Tom Hatch Michael Ruckinger
 Danielle Hatfield Bill Senitko
 Dave Hogan Ronald Settle
 C. Richard Shaffer



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

March 2021

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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<p>Lectionary Readings for the Month of March</p> <p>March 7 Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22</p> <p>March 14 Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21</p> <p>March 21 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33</p> <p>March 28 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1--15:47</p>	<p>In the Orbit This Month:</p> <p>From the Pastor 1 From the President 2 Think About It..... 3 Church Council January..... 4 Church Council February 6 Worship and Music 8 March Worship Schedule..... 9 Easter Worship Form 10 Pray List 11</p> <p>Also worth mentioning...</p> <p><i>The Stenger family would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls and prayers they received during the passing of our son, grandson and nephew Gavin. Special thanks to Pastor Eli for the wonderful service. Silent night Holy night all is calm all is bright. Love God, love others. Stenger family</i></p>	<p>The next Orbit Deadline is March 24th</p> <p>Please get your article to the newsletter in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email your article to: office@trinityaltoona.com drgeesey@verizon.net • Drop your article in the Orbit mailbox inside the Christian Education office. <p><u>Please remember:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p style="text-align: center;">Thank You!</p>
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