

# The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALTOONA PA  
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March 2022

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement."

Psalm 51: 1-4



## **From the Pastor:**

Our Lenten journey, which began on Ash Wednesday, began with the reading of the 51st psalm. It is a psalm, and a season, that reminds us that we are sinners and we justly deserve to be punished for our sins. Our sins are what keep us away from God. Every time we sin we keep God at arms length. We are rightly judged and yet we are mercifully spared that judgement on the cross. Not a lot of people want to set in the reflection of Lent. We are not keen to call ourselves sinners and we are even less eager to admit that we deserve punishment. We would rather go straight to Easter. Yet, without the acknowledgement of our sins, Easter is a hollow victory. I purpose that this Lenten season we sit with our sins for a while. We meditate on Psalm 51 every day and let its words sink in. Let us not hurry through the season of Lent as a burden we must bear, but bask in the realization that God has every right to judge and yet he chose mercy. We are on our way to the resurrection and freedom of Easter, but let us stop for a moment, and rejoice that is only a moment and not a lifetime, in the season of Lent.

Peace,



# Trinity President

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Members of Trinity:

I hope that all of you have weathered the recent low temperatures our area has experienced and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of warmer weather. I also hope that we will see an increase in worship attendance with those increased temperatures.

By the time you read this, Lent will have begun. Lent traditionally has been a time of denial. Many people "give up" something for Lent, be it a favorite food, or perhaps an activity that they especially enjoy. I'd like to suggest a "twist" on this tradition. Could we "give up" some time during this season to help someone. This could be a friend in need, a neighbor who needs a ride to the store or a medical appointment because they no longer can drive themselves, or anyone who needs a helping hand.

In following up on my goal to inspect our physical building, Mr. Tom Levine of Levine Engineering recently inspected Trinity. I anticipate receiving his report in the next several weeks and will report his findings in the next issue of The Orbit. I might add that Mr. Levine donated his time and DID THIS FREE OF CHARGE. I have no knowledge of his religious beliefs or denomination, but it is certainly obvious he subscribes to our creed of "Love God, Love others."

Yours in Christ

John Ebersole



# Trinity Congregational Meeting January Minutes

## Attendance

### Present

Pastor Eli  
John Ebersole 2022  
Geri Selfridge 2023  
Debbie Garritano 2022  
Lisa Bush 2024

Judy Hale 2024  
Lori Matta-Rhode 2024  
Ken Myers 2023  
Chris Thompson 2022  
Nevin Woodring 2024  
Sharon Kutz - guest

### Absent

Adam Counterman 2022  
Barb Gosnell 2023  
Ralph Grove

## Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, John Ebersole.  
Pastor led us in prayer.

## Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from the December meeting were read. Judy made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Treasurer's Report

With Ralph's absence the Treasurer's report was presented as written. Question was asked if Serv Pro had been paid. Yes it was paid for all the cleanup.

Judy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor gave a written report filling in the new members with some of her job responsibilities outside the church, Blair/Huntingdon Conference, Allegheny Synod, and ELCA. She also serves on the IDA Community Board, the Blair Towers Board and the Faith Board of Operation Our Town. Judy made a motion to accept the Pastor's report as written. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Committee Reports

Property – Brent Cogan was in to fix the light in the kitchen and sanctuary. Bovard was in to check the furnace on Monday because there was no heat in St. Andrew's. There was some air trapped in the radiator. They bled it out and all was fine. Adam has been working on repairing the veneer on the pews. He also donated new toilet paper dispensers for the downstairs bathrooms.

Worship and Music – We are gearing up for Lent. There will be weekly Wednesday services at noon and 6:30 p.m. Easter services will be 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. The palms have been ordered and have been sponsored. Berkstresser's will be providing the flowers. Price will be coming. Cindy and John continue to work on with the choirs and hand chimes.

Stewardship – The committee has chosen the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for the February Thank Offering. Many people during the winter months have heating needs which the Pastor can help with. The June Thank Offering will be designated to the Victory Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. This program is for Veterans who suffer from PTSD and/or closed head injuries. The program relies entirely on donations.



## Trinity Church Council Meeting Minutes

### **Old Business**

Geri asked if there was any update from the Gas Company. No word to date. Pastor turned all information over to Sharon Kutz, who agreed to follow up with this issue. December 23, Pastor sent another email requesting confirmation of the receipt of information. She also has not received any word from the Synod solicitor. We discussed whether we wanted to contact another lawyer to see if we should pursue this issue. Judy made a motion to give Sharon permission to contact Foor and Sullivan to pursue the matter. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **New Business**

Reorganization of Committee Chairs. We discussed the meaning of committees for the new members. It is important for each council member to be on a committee. They do not have to chair but will be the liaison between council and the committee. The new members were asked to look over the committees and come back next month with their decision.

John has put a letter in the Orbit stating his goals as President. 1. He would like to have a thorough evaluation of the building so we can develop a long-range plan for the building over the next 5-10 years, to keep it in good condition. We discussed some outside agencies to conduct the study. Ken said he had some names and would bring them back next month. 2. To develop more community outreach, such as community spring cleanup, grass cutting, snow removal, etc. He wants the church to grow.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

**Next meeting: February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**



# Trinity Church Worship and Music

## Worship and Music January 11, 2022

### Upcoming dates:

March 2 – Ash Wednesday  
 March 2-April 6 – Lent  
 April 10 – Palm Sunday  
 April 10-16 Holy Week  
 April 17 - Easter

### Service

We will have weekly Lenten services every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Pastor is thinking about focusing on the Psalm Lamentations.

Easter day services will be 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. The three services will allow for social distancing. We will also be adding the liturgical music back for the services. It had been eliminated for an abundance of caution during Covid.

Recap of Christmas services: All services went well. There weren't as many attending at the 5:00 and 10:00 services. 7:00 had the most attendance. For next year we will have to rethink the times so we can refill the pew candles between services.

### Flowers

Patty will contact Berkstresser's to get a price for the flowers. Debbie will order the palms. We will be ordering 300 palms. The cost is \$20.00 per 100. We will ask for donations for the palms.

### Music

Cindy continues to have adult and youth choir. She also plans to have specialty choirs throughout the year. There will be special vocalists, a women's trio, duets and special music. She also went over Trinity's Top Twenty. She will have this published in the bulletin.

John said that he has a good core for hand chimes at Easter. They will play at 8:15 and 10:45 services on Easter. He also would like to do something around Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Reformation.

### Altar

**Next meeting: February 8, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.**



## Thank You

**The Bennett Family wants to Thank everyone for the prayers and money that was given to our Granddaughter, Kristina Bennett Henderson. It was a blessing to her and her son Tyler. Kristina is a teacher and had just attained full time status in September. Not knowing how long she will be off work, your donations have helped to pay her bills and provide for Tyler. Please continue to pray for her and Tyler as she progresses. Obviously, the goal is to get her home and back to work. God Bless to all,**

**Lester and Patty Bennett**

# Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

## Trinity Members

Ted Baird  
Tyler Bennett  
Ruth & Bob Brubaker  
John Bush  
Tina Chestney  
Church Health Team  
Church Council  
Don Corl  
Gary Crownover  
Sondra Deffibaugh  
Jane Eamigh  
Garner Family  
Marla & Tom Hammond  
Kathy Hatch  
Kristina Henderson  
Bob Hofmann

## Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda  
Audrey Deiluliis  
Clara Hite  
Shannon Kratzer  
Ken Kumpf  
Marie Laich

Dawn Mangus  
Bill McLaughlin  
Bob Nearhoof  
Sue Nycum  
Arlene Roessing  
Leta Veit

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Eddie Bennett  
Sarah Brown  
Jim Buchanan  
Jason Buck  
Kyle Eberhart

Nathan Frank  
Ryan Maguire  
Justin Patz  
Eric Sweet

Donnie Alwine  
Janet/Charlie Aungst  
Scott Aungst  
Dan Baughman  
Behe Family  
Frank Bennett  
Kris Bennett  
Casey Bondarenka  
Dorothy Bush  
Sue Carter  
Sue Casalviere  
Mary Francis Clites  
John Clites  
Tracee Corle  
Debbie Coley  
Scott Corl  
Andy Conte  
Raynoo Cox Family  
Patty Davis  
Jim Deffibaugh  
Jorden DeFrancisco  
Zane Dodson  
Cheryl Ecker  
Phil Esper  
Tessa Farone  
Nancy & Bill Filler  
Elsie Fogel  
Joyce Gates  
Gary Gearhart  
Haley Gehart  
Dawn George  
Amanda Gregg & Daughters  
Pat Griffith  
David K. Harpster  
Tim Harrison  
Don Haslem

## Family Members and Friends

Tom Hatch  
Don Haslem  
Danielle Hatfield  
Heikkila Family  
Robin Housley  
Jack Hoyne  
Renee Imbrenda  
Judy Johnson  
Katie Kanczaryk  
Pastor John Klingeman  
Cindy Lamant  
Jan Lastaglia  
Janelle Lehr  
Raija Lind  
Linda Mardula  
Bernie Market  
Ron Matta  
Sharon Mayers  
McConnell Family  
Chad McDowell  
Eddie McGee  
McGilvery Family  
Chris McCreary  
Kathy McIntyre  
Sharon McKeehan  
Barbara Meader  
Janelle Messner  
Rudy Muccitelli  
Bill & Penny Murphy  
Wyatt Nite  
Judi Nocito  
Zach Noel  
Richard Perry  
Francis Pringle  
Albert Pugliese  
Abby Remendowski  
Katie Riggelman

Toran Robertson  
Carl Ruckinger  
Michael Ruckinger  
Bill Seniko  
Ronald Settle  
Debbie Smith  
Patricia Smith  
Dave Stenger  
Sultage Jr Family  
Blair Umholtz  
Lillian Umholtz  
Paul & Nina Wallis  
Henrietta Weidley  
Steve Wood  
Elsa



Please know that you can 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 can 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 2022

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### Lectionary Readings for the Month of March

**March 6**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

**March 13**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17--4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

**March 20**

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

**March 27**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### In the Orbit This Month:

From the Pastor .....	1
Trinity President .....	2
Congregation Minutes .....	3
Worship and Music.....	5
Thank You .....	6
Prayer List .....	7

Also worth mentioning...

### The next Orbit Deadline is March 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!**