

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA

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December 2022

"As patron of children, Nicholas's feast day became associated in the Low countries with the giving and receiving of presents."

Dictionary of the Saints pg. 180



From the Pastor:

Saint Nicolas's feast day is December 6th, he was Bishop in Turkey in the 4th century. It is said that if one puts shoes out then St. Nicolas will fill them with treats and presents. One particular story involves a poor man who could not afford his 3 daughters dowry for their weddings. On three consecutive days Nicolas went by the house and tossed through the window 3 bags of gold sufficient for their dowry's. It is thought that the image of St. Nicolas is the beginning of the modern day Santa Claus. While Santa Claus may be a fictional character it is nice to believe that he is based on a real person who showed his generosity to the poor. This is truly the Christmas spirit. The gift of giving, especially to those who need it most. It's not supposed to be about the presents for ourselves or even for our families, but giving to a world that is in need of a generous act. That is what God did when he sent his Son down to earth. He gave a gift, not to those who deserved it, but to those who needed it, the sinners, outcasts, and marginalized. Christ, himself, was the gift that we all need in our lives, and he is the gift that keeps on giving. Christ's love for us never runs out. On Dec. 6th, remember Saint Nicolas and his generous acts toward the poor. As we approach Christmas may we be more like Nicolas every day. Peace,

Pastor



Trinity President

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I'm pleased to report that the 2023 budget was adopted unanimously at the congregational meeting of Nov 19-20. Special thanks to Barb Gosnell and the Finance Committee for the work in preparing this budget. I erroneously reported in last month's Orbit that there would be a small increase in the new budget. Thanks to Barb and her committee, the total budget actually was \$50.00 LESS than for 2022. This was despite giving Church staff some long overdue raises.

Council has also voted to accept the gas company insurance carrier's offer to compensate Trinity for the water damage caused by their excavation on the 5 th Ave. side of the building. This settlement will reimburse Trinity for the cleanup from that damage as well as replacing the sump pump and the drywall ruined due to mud and water.

The Memorial Fund offerings received in memory of Pastor John during October totaled \$330.00. This will be donated to THON at Penn State per the request of his family.

The Memorial monies received earlier this year will be used at Trinity. This will be used for something of permanence as the need arises. Any suggestions for this use would be welcomed.

As the end of 2022 approaches and a new church year begins in this season of Advent, please remember to share the joy of Christmas with neighbors, friends, and family. We should always reach out to those in need, but it does seem more appropriate at this time of year. A friendly gesture, kind word, and a smile can help someone share the good news of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas to all,

John Ebersole



The Orbit

Trinity Clothing Giveaway

I would like to Thank the many people that helped to set up the tables to showcase the huge amount of clothes, coats, shoes, purses and men's suits for the Trinity Clothing Giveaway. First, to the many people in the congregation that donated. Second, to Norma Stenger, Ruthie Brubaker, Mary Aungst, Clare Goon, Gloria Bille-Dugan Linda Hoover (holding Kizzy, who was along for the ride) Sue Miller and Jess Hoover. To Betty Wilkinson for providing breakfast, Ruthie and Linda for providing lunches. Many hours were spent setting up and tearing down as we had to "bag" the leftover clothes. We also put a lot of winter coats and sweatshirts aside for the homeless in Altoona. Thanks to everyone.

Sharon Kutz

God Bless



The Orbit

Sunderman Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 3:00 PM

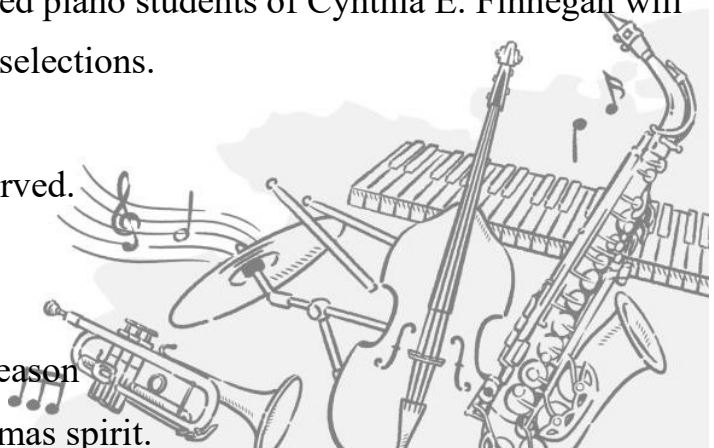
Trinity will host a Sunderman Concert featuring the Wopsononick Winds.

In addition to this ensemble, advanced piano students of Cynthia E. Finnegan will be providing a variety of Christmas selections.

Cookies and refreshments will be served.

Admission is free.

Please join us for the sounds of the season that are sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.





Trinity Church Council Minutes

October 2022

Attendance
 Present Absent
 Pastor Eli
 John Ebersole 2022
 Geri Selfridge 2023
 Debbie Garritano 2022
 Adam Counterman 2022
 Barb Gosnell 2023
 Judy Hale 2024
 Lori Matta-Rhode 2024
 Ken Myers 2023
 Chris Thompson 2022
 Nevin Woodring 2024
 Absent
 Lisa Bush 2024
 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 September meeting were read. Ken made a motion to accept the minutes. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was presented as written.

John asked what has been collected to date for the air conditioning. He will check with Ralph. \$450.00 was collected at the Souper Cool Sunday.

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

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written. The Jr/Sr High youth meet on the first and third Sunday of the month and the Elementary youth meet on the first Friday of the month. Chapel for preschool is Thursday following Prayer Breakfast. She has had pre-wedding meetings and has made visits and calls to those who are ill. She had a baptism for Colton Frederick, grandson of Jonnie and Jim Frederick.

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

Committee Reports

Property – Adam reported that he has a few more sheets of plywood to put up then the room in the theatre building will be ready for the teens. He has set traps for the mice. There has been no water in the preschool to date. The van is in for inspection.

Judy made a motion to accept the Property report. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Worship and Music – report was presented as written. Lori made a motion to accept the report. Ken seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Stewardship – John reported that the committee agreed to use the November Thank Offering to help purchase items for the Caring Cupboard.

Adam made a motion to accept the report. Lori seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Resolution with Gas Company – John reported that we received a settlement of \$15,616.72 from the Gas Company. John will check with Attorney Foor to see if we owe him for his services.

Barb made a motion to accept the settlement. Adam seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Gift in memory of Pastor John

There is no final amount that was collected for Pastor John. However, the monies that were given in memorial to Trinity will stay with Trinity. John will check to see what other monies were donated that can be sent to PSU Thon.

Building Inspection – John revisited his goal for a building evaluation. Ken had done a lot of leg work to compile a list of companies to come and do the evaluation. John will contact the individuals again to get a commitment for their service.

John made a motion to move forward on this project. Adam seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Business

Approval of Budget – Barb presented the proposed budget for approval. Geri asked about the monies for the Youth trip, half was gone. Pastor said that was used to take the kids on an excursion since there was no trip to the Youth Conference. Ralph has a running account total for the youth.

Judy made a motion to accept the proposed budget to be presented to the congregation. Nevin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Council Nominations – Council members whose terms expired were asked if they would consider serving another term. John Ebersole, Debbie Garritano, Adam Counterman, and Chris Thompson all agreed to continue. Jim Buchanan was nominated to serve on Council. These names will be presented to the congregation.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

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



Trinity Church Council Minutes November 2022

Attendance

Present Absent

Pastor Eli

John Ebersole 2022

Geri Selfridge 2023

Debbie Garritano 2022

Judy Hale 2024

Ken Myers 2023

Chris Thompson 2022

Nevin Woodring 2024

Absent

Lisa Bush 2024

Adam Counterman 2022

Barb Gosnell 2023

Ralph Grove

Lori Matta-Rhode 2024

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, John Ebersole

Pastor led us in prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from the October meeting were read. Geri made a motion to accept the minutes. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

None available for this meeting.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written. The Youth Haunted House was a huge success. Both youth groups are going well as is Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, and St. Andrew chapel. Adult Sunday School collected food for two families for Thanksgiving. She will be making visits to all shut-ins next month. She started a new program on You Tube entitled: "Out to Pastor".

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

Committee Reports

Property – Sandy will begin working on the basement wall after the holidays. Adam told John there hasn't been any more water in the Primary Room.

Worship and Music – there will be a Sunderman Concert on December 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by light refreshments. The Wopsononock Winds and Cindy's students will be performing.

Old Business

Resolution with Gas Company – John reported that we received a settlement of \$15,616.72 from the Gas Company. John will check with Attorney Foor to see if we owe him for his services. Pastor received papers that need to be notarized to receive the monies. John, Debbie and Nevin will go as witnesses when Pastor gets them notarized.

Gift in memory of Pastor John

John reported that \$330.00 was collected in memory of Pastor John that will be sent to PSU Thon. Other monies collected that were designated for Trinity will be used later for Trinity.

Building Inspection – John revisited his goal for a building evaluation. Ken had done a lot of leg work to compile a list of companies to come and do the evaluation. John will contact the individuals again to get a commitment for their service.

New Business

Congregational meeting – see notes attached.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: December 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting
November 19-20, 2022

6:30 p.m. Service

The meeting was called to order by Pastor.

Questions: Linda Hoover asked if \$150.00 would be added to the Social Ministry budget. It was not included in the past two years because of Covid.

Sue Miller asked why St. Andrew's salaries wasn't included in the budget. In the past council minutes, council approved paying the staff salaries because of the financial difficulties.

Pastor explained that council approved paying salaries if needed. At this point they have been able to cover the cost with their fund raisers. There are only a few months left in the year for the school and next year they will have to make some decisions going forward.

Sue Miller also asked why the Caring Cupboard was not included in the budget. Pastor explained that through the Thank offering and donations, we have kept it full. She has also applied for a Grant to help with the Caring Cupboard. We will be able to add it to the budget under Evangelism for next year.

Linda Hoover asked why the increase in the supply organist. Pastor explained that it has been under budgeted for the past years and it was just brought up to where it should be.

The budget was presented with the addendum of adding \$150.00 to the Social Ministry budget.

Ken Myers seconded the motion. Motion passed with 23 approve, 0 objections, 0 abstains.

Council Members: 4 members agreed to serve another 3-year term, John Ebersole, Debbie Garritano, Adam Counterman, and Chris Thompson. Jim Buchanan was also nominated for a 3-year term.

Asking for a voice vote. All were in favor of the nominations. No objections.

Meeting will continue at 8:15 a.m.

8:15 a.m. Service

The meeting continued with John Ebersole chairing.

Budget – there were no questions.

18 approved, 0 objections, 0 abstains.

Council Members: there were no questions.

All were in favor of the nominations.

10:45 a.m. Service

The meeting continued with John Ebersole chairing.

Budget – there were no questions.

28 approved, 0 objections, 0 abstains.

Council – there were no questions.

All were in favor of the nominations.

Meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully,
Debbie Garritano, Secretary

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Ruth & Bob Brubaker
Church Health Team
Church Council
Charon Clabaugh
Don Corl
Gary Crownover
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jane Eamigh
Garner Family
Tom Hammond
Kathy Hatch
Kristina Henderson
Bob Hofmann
Doris Hollingshead

Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda
Clara Hite
Shannon Kratzer
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich
Bill McLaughlin

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Ryan Maguire
Justin Patz

Eric Sweet

Hoover Family
Martha Jones
Garry Knee
Jake Knisely
Jessica McGraw
Ken B. Myers
Jaden Rhode
Fred Teigler
Wilkins Family
Nancy Yeager
Joe Adams
Donnie Alwine
Janet & Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Dan Baughman
Behe Family
Kris Bennett
Dana Beschler
Zayne Bowmaster
Damain Branas
Sue Carter
Sue Casalviere
Karen Claar
Tracee Cole
Theresa Cooney
Marissa Cooper
Scott Corl
Randy Corneilius Family
Janie Coyne
Lisa Dalansky
Jim Deffibaugh
Jordan DeFrancisco
Ken Eichenlaub
Ian Esper
Phil Esper
Allen Everhart
Skyler Franell
Misty Franell
Roberta Frederick
John Fresh
Haley Gehret
Pat Griffith
Thomas Hamilton
John Hancuff

Family Members and Friends

Katie Hanczaryk
David K. Harpster
Donald Haslam
Tom Hatch
Virginia Heidler
Carmen Hopkins
Samantha Januska
Nicki Kaltenbrunner
Carol King
Harper Ann Krause
Cindy Lamont
Jan Lastaglia
Anaya Leity
Frank Luciano
Christine Maines
Linda Mardula
Bernie Market
Ron Matta
McConnell Family
McGilvery Family
Brandon McGraw
Trudy Morning
Bill & Penny Murphy
Sharon Myers
Wyatt Nite
Zach Noel
Tammy Otto
Craig Parks
Frances Pringle
Lorenzo Recchia
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
Trudy Savine
Ronald Settle
Judy Shaffer
Lynn Shaffer
Sandy Sharieves
Gloria Shoup
Lisa Smearman
Debbie Smith
Dottie Stayer
Sultage Jr. Family
Lisa Ta and son Elliott Ta
Harry Taylor
Blair Umholtz
Lillian Umholtz
Paul & Nina Wallis
Steve Wood
Tiquan Wright
Linda Yohn & Family
Cookie
Elsa
Natalie
Baby Jeremiah
Baby Gwen
In spoken request "M"
In spoken request "S"



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

December 2022

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Lectionary Readings for the Month of December

Dec 4

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 25

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2: [1-7] 8-20

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Also worth mentioning...

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
Dknee6@gmail.com
- 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!