

# The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ALTOONA PA  
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May 2023

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the  
God of my salvation; my God will hear me."

Micah 7:7



## **From the Pastor:**

The month of May always seems to me to be a waiting month. We wait anxiously for memorial day weekend which is the unofficial start to summer. We wait for school to be out. We wait for summer vacations. May is that month when it feels like summer is here and life starts to maybe slow down after Easter, but it's not quite there yet. We get used to waiting in our lives, some of us wait patiently and others do not like to wait. Yet, waiting is a part of life. Waiting is also a part of our faith life. Micah talks about waiting for the salvation that is promised us. As we wait we look to God. Sometimes God's time is not in tuned with our time and so we wait. One of the times it is especially hard to wait is when we are waiting for an answer to prayer. Yet, Micah again reminds that God hears us and God is there for us no matter what. When we look to God somehow the waiting seems easier and we know that the waiting is worth it for the promises of God in our life. So, as we wait for summer to come, and as we wait for God's promises to be realized, we wait in the Lord and God will hear us.

Peace,



## Trinity Council President

### FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I'll open this column with a quote from one of my favorite musicals "West Side Story"  
 "Boy, boy, crazy boy, Stay cool boy.

Yes, a bid from Johnston Heating, Plumbing, and Air Conditioning was approved at the congregational meeting the weekend of April 15-16. The unit has been ordered and should be here in the next few weeks. After that, we'll be on Johnston's schedule and hopefully will have our new air conditioning system in place before we experience many warm days.

It was a joy to celebrate the Resurrection on April 8-9. The weather was beautiful, and Pastor Eli's infamous allergies didn't appear to flare up as much as past years.

Andrew Arnold, of Gwin, Dobson, and Foreman attended the March 28 Council meeting to report on his findings when he inspected Trinity's building. Since our roof was replaced and is relatively new, and our air conditioning is about to be replaced, he reported favorably on those areas. These are two big concerns, especially in older buildings such as Trinity. His first concern is to upgrade the electrical system. We still have ceramic knob and tube wiring in older sections of the church. While this does not pose any immediate danger, this type of wiring has not been used since the 1950's. It does not allow for a ground wire, which explains any two-prong receptacles in areas of the building. Eventually, this type of wiring deteriorates and can be a fire hazard. Church Council will begin the process of consulting with electricians to update this outdated wiring. Secondly, our bathrooms in the basement are not ADA compliant. He admits upgrading them will be difficult due to space limitations. Finally, he suggests tying our storm water drains into the storm system when the city replaces that system. He thinks any action on the part of the city is at least 5 years away. When we contacted Mr. Arnold, his fee for this inspection was \$150.00. However, he performed this inspection FREE OF CHARGE. We thank him for his time and expertise.

Summer is fast approaching and financial aid from the Cook fund is available for Trinity youth to attend Camp Sequanota. Applications are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary or from the Church office. Just a reminder that May 31 is the final date that applications can be accepted. Please see a detailed description of the application process elsewhere in this issue.

Yours in Christ,

John Ebersole



## Trinity Social Ministry and Stewardship Committee

### Social Ministry and Healthy You

Social Ministry and Healthy You Program will be holding a FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAY on Saturday, May 13 from 10am to 2pm in Trinity Hall. Many adult clothing and lots of kids clothes also. Please come and check it out.

### FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As you probably saw earlier in this issue of The Orbit. The Congregation approved a bid to replace our air conditioning at a cost of \$20,000.00. While we do have the majority of that cost in reserve, we hope it will not be necessary to deplete that sum entirely to fund this improvement. The committee has designated the June Thank Offering to help with this project. Please consider donating to this effort. Several individuals have in the past year made contributions specified for this endeavor. We respectfully ask you to join them.



# Trinity Council Minutes

## March 2023

### Attendance

#### Present

Pastor Eli  
 John Ebersole 2025  
 Geri Selfridge 2023  
 Debbie Garritano 2025  
 Lisa Bush 2024  
 Adam Counterman 2025  
 Barb Gosnell 2023  
 Ralph Grove  
 Judy Hale 2024  
 Lori Matta-Rhode 2024  
 Ken Myers 2023  
 Chris Thompson 2025

#### Absent

Nevin Woodring 2024

### Jim Buchanan 2025

Guest: Andrew Arnold from Gwin, Dobson, Foreman Engineers

#### Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, John Ebersole

Pastor led us in prayer.

#### Endowment Fund

Debbie recommended that we table this till next month because of the report from Andrew Arnold.

Minutes from last meeting.

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

#### Engineer Report

Andrew Arnold from Gwin, Dobson, Foreman Engineer conducted an inspection of the church building in February. He said that the church was in pretty good condition. We updated the roof and installed HVAC and are having it repaired. He passed out two handouts which listed his recommendations. First would be to upgrade the electrical. There are still knob and tube wiring in the older section of the church. He also recommended updating the lighting with more efficient lighting. The next recommendation would be to comply with the ADA recommendations. This would involve restroom facilities, door widths and clearances and handrail/guard rail replacement. Last would be to address the stormwater by tying it into the storm system. This could be done when the city replaces the storm system, and they are not doing anything for the next five years.

Council thanked Mr. Arnold for his inspection and recommendations. The cost of the inspection was \$150.00. Mr. Arnold said there would be no charge.

#### Treasurer's Report

Ralph reported that all is up to date. We received \$31,000.00 from Peggy Peterman's Estate. Half will go into the general fund and half into the Endowment.

The question from last month concerning the Brent Cogan bill was a balance that was paid from a past bill.

Ralph discussed returning to playing the organ. He plans on talking with Cindy to discuss filling in for her when she needs a Saturday off.

Judy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written. She has been busy with Lenten worship and Easter preparation. She has been visiting the shut-ins and has evening meetings for counseling, baptism and wedding preparations. Lenten services are going well and so is Bible study and Adult Sunday School.

Geri made a motion to approve Pastor's report. Barb seconded. Motion passed.

#### Committee Reports



## Trinity Council Minutes March 2023

**Worship and Music** – Debbie’s report was presented as written. Debbie also made a motion that Worship and Music purchase Bibles for the confirmands and the students that attend the Adult Sunday School class. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed. Debbie will order them to be presented at Confirmation.

**Property** – Adam reported that he replaced the doorbell switch and repaired the urinals. Jim made a motion to accept the report.

Barb seconded. Motion passed.

John reminded everyone to please put something in the Orbit for their committees.

### **Old Business**

**Air conditioning** – Pastor met with Brian Johnston to look at the air conditioning unit. She said he explained the options very well.

He will use the Unico system. He did not recommend mini splits because of the effect it may have on the integrity of the stained-glass windows. Jim discussed the process of installation and that we get a maintenance contract. Following discussion of the three bids we had: Rabenstein \$14,250.00, Johnston \$20,000.00, Signature Services \$23,495.00. Barb made a motion to accept Brian Johnston to repair the air conditioning. Geri seconded the motion. Motion passed.

This will be brought to the congregation for approval. The congregational meeting will be the weekend of April 15, 16.

### **Offering Envelopes**

We will order these soon. Payment for this years envelopes must accompany the order.

### **Ladies Restroom**

There continues to be a sewer odor from the drain. Following discussion it was recommended that the drain needs to be flushed

weekly. We will ask Adam to do this weekly.

### **New Business**

#### **Church Picnic**

Debbie will call to be sure we’re scheduled. We need to have a Picnic Committee to plan the event.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judy seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



## Trinity Congratulations

If you missed "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" at Altoona Area High School, you missed a great musical that showcased students from the school. The singing, dancing and acting was spot-on. The talent in that school is phenomenal. I left with that "WOW" factor. Congratulations to all the students and crew that made that show awesome. And let's not forget the orchestra. Trinity was represented by Jillian Pieranunzio who sang and danced her way through the entire production. Also tapping her way was Olivia Behe. And on keyboard in the "pit orchestra" was Jack Kuhns.

KUDOS TO EVERYONE



**The Orbit**

## Trinity Thank You

I'm sorry it took so long for me to thank everyone for your donations, prayers, cards, flowers and condolences at the loss of our husband / father, Dave Hoover, who passed away August 27th. I have just recently been able to determine that \$1,000.00 had been received in memorial monies, which is designated to go to the air conditioner fund. I tried to thank everyone personally that I knew about at the time and now I want to sincerely thank you all.

In God's Peace

Linda and Jess Hoover



## Trinity Birthday Wishes

A belated 50ish birthday to Pastor Eli.

Thank You for all you do.....

God Bless You





## Trinity Easter Breakfast

Thanks to Vicki Knisley and Chris Christe for organizing and overseeing the Easter Breakfast. A lot of work was put into such an undertaking. Even Mark was working very hard in the kitchen. And Thanks to everyone who was there on Saturday “prepping” and setting the tables. Then to the crew that was there Sunday morning to assist with the final touches and the serving. And let’s not forget the clean-up crew.

So, THANKS to EVERYONE for making Easter Breakfast a success.

And don’t forget the excellent food.



## Trinity Easter Week Thank You

THANK YOU

A HUGE Thank You to John Ebersole for his patience and understanding at hand chime practice. We practiced for Easter Sunday and I thought we did a good job. Chimers were from the ages of (almost) 80 down to 7???. And that alone is a job. John was an excellent leader. I speak for all as we say THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

Sharon Kutz

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped during our Easter week celebration! Thanks to those who helped with the beautiful flowers, those who lectured, ushered, and the Altar Guild for the care of the altar. Thanks to Cindy, John, the choir, and hand chimes, and all others for the beautiful music. Also, thanks to Cindy, the secretary, for the preparation of all the bulletins and flower lists. Many thanks to those who prepared, served, and cleaned up for the Easter breakfast. And I can't forget to thank Pastor Eli for all the inspirational sermons through out Lent and Easter week.

Hopefully I didn't forget anyone, but if I did, please know that I truly do appreciate all that everyone does at Trinity.

Many thanks,  
Debbie Garritano



## Trinity Church Special Congregational Meeting

Special Congregational Meeting

4-15-16-2023

6:30 Service

President, John Ebersole opened the meeting. He discussed the process Council went through to get 3 bids for the repair of the air conditioning in the sanctuary.

The bids were: Rabenstein \$14,250.00, Johnston \$20,000.00, and Signature Services \$23,495.

Council rejected the bid by Signature because it was to install 4 mini splits (what is in Trinity Hall) in the sanctuary. This would alter the look of the sanctuary and may effect the integrity of the stained-glass windows. Council decided to propose accepting the bid by Johnston because it included replacing the lines from inside to outside using copper to accommodate the new refrigerant. Rabenstein did not include replacing the lines in his bid. Council made a motion to accept the bid from Brian Johnston. Jim Frederick seconded the motion. John then asked for questions and discussion.

Questions:

Do we have to monies to pay for this?

We received a bequest from the estate of Peggy Peterman for \$31,000.00. Half will go to the general fund and half to the Endowment. We have also received several gifts to the church to go to the air conditioning. John also plans to use the next Thank Offerings to collect for the project.

Is it a local company?

Yes.

Do we have references on Johnston?

We can ask for those before the work is done.

Will we get a maintenance agreement?

Yes.

How long will it take?

As soon as we get approval Johnston could order the parts which could take two weeks.

Then he could put us on the schedule.

Is Johnston bonded?

He is commercial and residential in the city of Altoona, so yes, he is bonded.

What is the life expectancy of the air conditioner?

We have had the original one for 20 years without maintenance. Hopefully, with maintenance we should get another 20 years.

Would we get a heat pump?

We can ask and see how much extra that would cost. It would save on the gas bill in the winter.

Following discussion a vote by hand was taken.

6:30 42 in attendance 33 voted to approve 0 opposed

8:15 31 in attendance 25 voted to approve 0 opposed

10:45 52 in attendance 35 voted to approve 0 opposed



## Trinity Condolences

Condolences to the family of Carol Main, who passed away on April 9, 2023. Carol was the wife of Pastor A. Donald Main who was at Trinity during the 1970's.

They came to Trinity from seminary and were with us for 10 years.

Carol and Don had their 3 sons while in Altoona and Frau Carol taught German at Hollidaysburg High School. They moved to Sunbury and Don became Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

When they retired they built a home in Lancaster. Carol was always active within the church and globally but her biggest joy were her grandchildren and her boys, Christopher, Scott and Donald and their wives.

Cards can be sent to: A. Donald Main  
615 Stehman Road  
Lancaster, PA 17603



## Trinity Camp Sequanota

### APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR CAMP SEQUANOTA

Parents/guardians of children/youth wishing to attend a one-week session at Camp Sequanota may apply for financial aid.

Since 1986, the Dorothy Baird Cook Memorial Fund has been used to provide full or partial assistance to children from Trinity Lutheran Church with financial need who wish to attend Camp Sequanota.

After reviewing the summer camp schedule. Parents/guardians who wish to request aid from the Cook Fund must complete an application form (available at the church office or on the table by the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary) along with a copy of the Sequanota registration form.

These forms should be returned to the church office on or before April 30 so the Cook Fund Committee can evaluate the request and determine if funding is possible.

Applicants will receive notification of the Committee's decision no later than May 31 so the registration process can be completed in a timely fashion.

Persons who miss the April deadline can still apply through May 31. No applications will be accepted after May 31.

Children who are not members of Trinity Lutheran Church may be granted assistance if and only if financial need is present.

All request for financial aid will be confidential. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Hess at 943-3972 or John Ebersole at 946-8612.

# Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

## Trinity Members

Ted Baird	Bob Hofmann
Tyler Bennett	Doris Hollingshead
Ruth & Bob Brubaker	Martha Jones
William Burda	Garry Knee
Church Health Team	Jake Knisely
Church Council	Sharon Kutz
Charon Clabaugh	Cheryl Luciano
Elaine Conrad	Jessica McGraw
Don Corl	Ken B. Myers
Gary Crownover	Myers Family
Sondra Deffibaugh	Jaden Rhode
Jane Eamigh	Lisa Smearman
Allen Everhart	Sis Stenger
Garner Family	Fred Teigler
Tom Hammond	Wilkins Family
Kathy Hatch	Harry Yeager
Kristina Henderson	Nancy Yeager

## Trinity's Homebound Members

Chris Burda	Bob Nearhoof
Clara Hite	Sue Nycum
Shannon Kratzer	Arlene Roessing
Ken Kumpf	Leta Veit
Marie Laich	
Bill McLaughlin	

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces

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

## Family Members and Friends

Joe Adams	Misty Franell	Michael Ruckinger
Donnie Alwine	Haley Gehret	Trudy Savine
Janet & Charlie Aungst	Pat Griffith	Ronald Settle
Scott Aungst	Thomas Hamilton	Daryl Seymore
ALB	John Hancuff	Judy Shaffer
KCB	Ann Hanczaryk	Lynn Shaffer
Dan Baughman	Katie Hanczaryk	Marilyn Shannon
Gloria Beatty	David K. Harpster	Sandy Sharieves
Behe Family	Donald Haslam	Gloria Shoup
Robin Behe	Tom Hatch	Debbie Smith
Kris Bennett	Virginia Heidler	Dottie Stayer
Dana Beschler	Karli Hey	Sultage Jr. Family
Yvonne Bickle	Carmen Hopkins	Lisa Ta and son Elliott Ta
Zayne Bowmaster	Samantha Januska	Harry Taylor
Dee & Barry Bradfield	Nicki Kaltenbrunner	Paul & Nina Wallis
Damain Branas	Carol King	Judy Waksmonski
Joseph Brewer	Harper Ann Krause	Jameson Joseph (JJ) Williamson
Terry Brown	Cindy Lamont	Steve Wood
Christopher Buchanan	Jan Lastaglia	Tiquan Wright
Randy Carothers	Anaya Leity	Cookie
Sue Carter	Steward Logan	Elsa
Sue Casalviere	Frank Luciano	Natalie
Karen Claar	BPM	Baby Jeremiah
Tracee Cole	Christine Maines	Baby Gwen
Theresa Cooney	Linda Mardula	In spoken request "M"
Marissa Cooper	Steve Mardula, Sr	
Scott Corl	Ron Matta	
Randy Corneilius Family	McConnell Family	
Janie Coyne	McGilvery Family	
Lisa Dalansky	Brandon McGraw	
Tom DeAngelo	Bill & Penny Murphy	
Jim Deffibaugh	Debbie Musante	
Jorden DeFrancisco	Sharon Myers	
Ethel Donley	Wyatt Nite	
Ken Eichenlaub	Zach Noel	
Ian Esper	Tammy Otto	
Phil Esper	Dennis Paulsen	
Paula Ford	Frances Pringle	
Skyler Franell	Lorenzo Recchia	
	Carl Ruckinger	

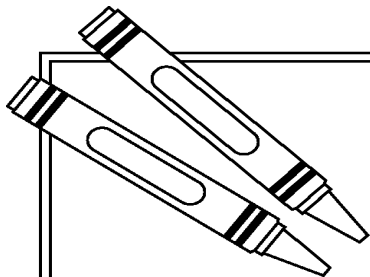


Please know that you can add someone to our prayer list at any time by calling the church office (943-3972). If it is appropriate to remove someone from the prayer list, again, please inform the church office. Names of family and friends will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You can keep someone's 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

# Just for Kids

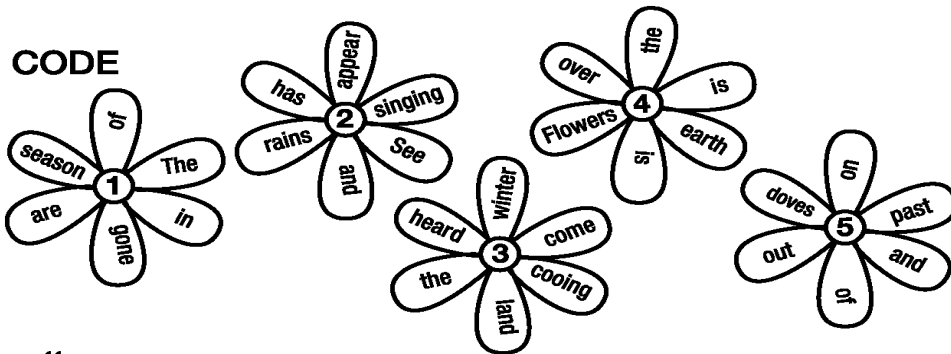


## Just for KIDS

### Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Find the beautiful springtime words from Song of Solomon. Use the flower code to fill in the blanks.

**CODE**



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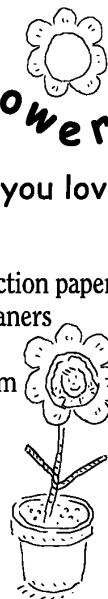
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Answer: “See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

### Make a photo flower for someone you love

You will need:

- ✿ colored construction paper
- ✿ 2 green pipe cleaners
- ✿ small flower pot
- ✿ green florist foam (to fit in pot)
- ✿ scissors
- ✿ tape
- ✿ glue
- ✿ a photo of you!



How to make it:

- ✿ Cut out your face from the photo. Make it a circle about 1-1/2" round.
- ✿ Fold a piece of colored paper in half and cut out 2 flower shapes.
- ✿ Glue your round photo in the center of one flower.
- ✿ Make a stem by folding a pipe cleaner in half and twisting it to make it stronger.
- ✿ Glue or tape the “stem” to the back of the flower that has your picture.
- ✿ Glue the other flower to the back of the first one. Make sure the “stem” is in between and sticks out from the bottom.
- ✿ Cut the other pipe cleaner in half to make leaves and then attach them to the “stem.”
- ✿ Put the green foam in the pot.
- ✿ Plant your flower in the foam.
- ✿ Give the flower pot to someone you love.



# The Orbit

May 2023

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## Lectionary Readings for the Month of May

### May 7, 2023

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### May 14, 2023

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### May 21, 2023

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

### May 28, 2023

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
John 20:19-23

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## Also worth mentioning...

## The next Orbit Deadline is May 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)**  
**[dknee6@gmail.com](mailto: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!**