

# The Orbit

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

"Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine."

Amos 5: 11



## **From the Pastor:**

This passage reminds me of Thanksgiving, because we are to be giving thanks for all we have and one way we do this is by helping the poor at this time of year. This passage warns what will happen when we neglect the poor or trample the poor. We too will lose what we have in the way of luxury. There are many programs this time of year that we can contribute to that help those in need. We can donate turkeys to St. Vincent DePaul, we can give new, unwrapped toys to the Marine corps Toys for Tots, we can bring in extra food for the caring cupboard, and we can even talk to the pastor to see if there are neighbors in need. Most of us are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with our friends and family with a big feast. May we also remember the poor and those less fortunate than ourselves. God is a champion of the poor and the widow and the orphan and asks us to remember them with a portion of our blessings. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, may God bless you and those around you as we are a blessing to others.

Peace



## Trinity Council President

### FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that, as I write this, October is almost through and November is upon us.

Halloween will have passed by the time this reaches you. Halloween has become a more popular holiday than it used to be. In addition to trick or treaters ringing your doorbell, many people decorate. The displays in some cases almost rival the Christmas decorations that we'll see before very long.

Speaking of Christmas, I'm sure you've noticed the amount of holiday merchandise that is on display as you shop. During November, we celebrate Thanksgiving. It seems that

Thanksgiving falls victim to what I call "middle holiday" syndrome. There's very little decoration. The big celebration tends to only be a large family gathering with a large meal, along with a long weekend for those fortunate enough to have Friday of that week off.

While Thanksgiving is not a festival day on the Lutheran Church calendar, the origins and traditions of the holiday certainly have religious overtones. The original celebration was a gathering of Pilgrims, along with Native Americans who had helped them to cultivate crops, extract syrup from maple trees, and catch fish. Without the help of those indigenous people, those settlers would have probably not survived. They were thankful for their blessings.

During November, before the hustle of Christmas overwhelms us, let's take a lesson from the first Thanksgiving. Of course, we should ALWAYS be thankful for what we have. But also, in this time of extreme political division, as well as conflicts between nations, let's take a lesson from the early Thanksgiving celebrants. Great things can happen if people will only work together.

On the subject of thanks, the November Thank Offering will be directed to St. Andrew's pre-school at Trinity. Please give what you can to support this outreach of Trinity to the community.

Yours in Christ,

John Ebersole



## Trinity Council Sept 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Attendance

#### Present

Pastor Eli

John Ebersole 2025

Debbie Garritano 2025

Lisa Bush 2024

Barb Gosnell 2023

Ralph Grove

Judy Hale 2024

Ken Myers 2023

Nevin Woodring 2024

Jim Buchanan 2025

#### Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, John Ebersole

Pastor led us in prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from the August meeting were read. Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented a written report and reported that all is up to date. The balance in the Sunderman account as of 8/31/2023 is \$15,201.36.

Ralph has been in touch with Tom Settle to start working to get Tom up to date with the program. Tom should get paid while he is training, not to be taken out of Ralph's salary. Ralph has had the organ serviced.

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

#### Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written. September has been busy with Youth Group, Bible Study, and Sunday School starting back up. She is visiting shut ins, had two funerals, and a wedding. The Bishop's Convocation was good and they talked about the post Covid Church. What we are facing as a church with attendance down. Barb made a motion to accept Pastor's report. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Committee Reports

Stewardship – John reported that the past Thank offering will be used to help pay for the new floor stripper. The upcoming Thank Offering will be designated to St. Andrew Preschool.

#### Absent

Geri Selfridge 2023

Adam Counterman 2025

Lori Matta-Rhode 2024

Chris Thompson 2025



## Trinity Council Sept 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Old Business

Repair of Knob and Tube wiring – This will be a great expense. Ken called Lutz and left a message. Jim contacted Brent Cogan, but he never got back to him. He will follow up. Following our discussion, we feel this should be addressed. Ken will contact Jim Aiken and another person in Tyrone to come and look at the wiring.

Out of the Cold – At the August meeting, Pastor reported on this program. Pastor Kevin has asked all the Altoona churches to have a Prayer Sanctuary during the winter months. Churches would open one day a week for the homeless to come in overnight to get warm and have a hot drink. Volunteers would man the doors. This would be for one night a week during the months of December through March. Council asked Pastor to invite Pastor Kevin to our next meeting to tell us more about the program.

This month Pastor reported that the program has folded. There were not enough churches willing to participate. Pastor Kevin will look at other ways to help the homeless.

2024 Church Budget – Barb presented the proposed budget for 2024. There is an increase of 5% for Pastor's salary. She has not had a raise in the past years. There is a 3% raise for other employees. Some other expenses have dropped. The proposed budget is less than 2023.

Barb also stated that this is the last year she will be the Finance Chair. We need someone to step up to chair the committee.

Jim made a motion to approve the 2024 proposed budget. Nevin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Business – Conerstone Chorale and Brass Concert.

The concert is October 17, at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$1,500.00 plus dinner. John has taken fliers to schools, placed announcements in the paper, etc.

Barb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: October 24, 2024 Church Budget – Barb met with Pastor to discuss the budget. The Finance Committee will meet. All committees need to get their budget changes to Barb by the second week of September 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



## Trinity Worship and Music

**Pastor Eli, Debbie Garritano, Cindy Finnegan, Judy Hale, John Ebersole**

### **Upcoming dates:**

#### **October**

Harvest Home – envelopes will be coming.

Blanket Sunday

17 – Brass Choir 7:00 p.m. – group will arrive at 3:00 p.m., dinner will be served at 5:15, concert at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor has told all the other Pastors, John has sent fliers to schools, announcements to newspaper,

Facebook, etc.

28-29 – Reformation Sunday communion all services.

#### **November**

4-12 – Pastor's vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer will cover services.

5 – All Saints Sunday

26 – Christ the King

26 - December 17 – Advent

28 - Christmas trees – pick up trees.

#### **December**

1 – Saturday 10:00 a.m. Decorate the church!

3 – Sunderman Concert 3:00 p.m. Cookies and coffee following concert.

3-17 Advent

Youth Sunday – to be announced.

24 – 9:00 a.m. service – only one morning service

24 – Christmas Eve, services at 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

25 – Christmas Day service 9:00 a.m.

30-31 Lessons and Carols

#### **Service**

Following communion, we will add the song: Thank the Lord...

#### **Flowers**

Judy still needs more cans for flowers and also more volunteers for flower delivery.

Patty will take care of the Christmas Pointsettia orders.

#### **Music**

Cindy and John were disappointed at the attendance for Music Sunday. Attendance may have been

Affected by not having one service. They will rethink the next Music Sunday and possibly have musicians at both services 8:15 and 10:45.

Cindy and John are working on music for Christmas Eve and handchimes.

#### **Decorate trees?**

26 – Christ the King

26 - December 17 – Advent

#### **Altar**

New altar candles – Debbie cleaned them and we have been monitoring the length of the flame. Debbie will investigate purchasing new altar candles.

Coffee/cookie hour during Advent. We will again hold this during Advent. We discussed holding it before the services.

**Next meeting: December 5, at 11:00 a.m.**



# Trinity Children's Page



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# Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

## Trinity Members

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

## 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	Eric Sweet
Kyle Eberhart	Justin Patz
Nathan Frank	

## Family Members and Friends

Ken Adams	Pat Griffith	Carl Ruckinger
Donnie Alwine	Thomas Hamilton	Michael Ruckinger
Janet & Charlie Aungst	Bob Hamilton	Jeanne Rutherford
Scott Aungst	John Hancuff	Evan Sanders & Family
ALB	Ann Hanczaryk	Trudy Savine
KCB	Katie Hanczaryk	Ronald Settle
Dan Baughman	Bob Harding	Daryl Seymore
Gloria Beatty	David K. Harpster	Judy Shaffer
Behe Family	Donald Haslam	Lynn Shaffer
Robin Behe	Tom Hatch	Marilyn Shannon
Kris Bennett	Virginia Heidler	Gloria Shoup
Dana Beschler	Karli Hey	Debbie Smith
Zayne Bowmaster	Samantha Januska	Dottie Stayer
Dee & Barry Bradfield	Nicki Kaltenbrunner	Sultage Jr. Family
Damain Branas	Carol King	Lisa Ta & son Elliott Ta
Joseph Brewer	Rebecca Kinney	Harry Taylor
Terry Brown	Cindy Lamont	Paul & Nina Wallis
Christopher Buchanan	Jan Lastaglia	Leeanne Walters
John Bush	Heather Leader	Jameson Joseph (JJ) Williamson
Dave Carothers	Anaya Leity	Steve Wood
Sue Carter	Steward Logan	Tiquan Wright
Jeff Cipriani	Lou Lohsl	Elsa
Karen Claar	BPM	Jessie
Tracee Cole	Christine Maines	Junie
Elaine Conrad	Linda Mardula	Natalie
Theresa Cooney	Steve Mardula, Sr	Baby Gwen
Scott Corl	Ron Matta	In spoken request "M"
Randy Corneilius Family	Market Family	
Janie Coyne	McConnell Family	
William Culp	McGilvery Family	
Lisa Dalansky	Brandon McGraw	
Jorden DeFrancisco	Linda Mowrer	
Courtney Diehl	Bill & Penny Murphy	
Ethel Donley	Debbie Musante	
Ken Eichenlaub	Sharon Myers	
Ian Esper	Wyatt Nite	
Phil Esper	Zach Noel	
Ken Farabaugh	Tammy Otto	
Fink Family	Dennis Paulsen	
Paula Ford	Frances Pringle	
Skyler Franell	Tommy S. Pringle	
Misty Franell	Lorenzo Recchia	
Haley Gehret	Reimer Family	



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.



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## Lectionary Readings for the Month of November

### Nov 5

Micah 3:5-12  
Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### Nov 12

Amos 5:18-24  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### Nov 19

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Nov 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

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## Also worth mentioning...

## The next Orbit Deadline is November 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!**