

The Orbit

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



December 2023

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"

Isaiah 40: 3-5



From the Pastor:

As we prepare for the coming holiday season the emphasis in the church is on Advent. We will hear these words from Isaiah during Advent. Advent is a time of waiting and watching. The season is celebrated to prevent us from jumping ahead of ourselves and burning out before Christmas actually comes. This reading from Isaiah reminds us that even in the high holy days there are times we feel as though we are in the valleys, quiet moments of loneliness when we may remember the loss of loved ones or dreams gone by. And there will be crooked places as well, times we let commercialism take hold in our lives and we twist the meaning of Christmas from joy and peace to stress and discord. Yet we are reminded that it is Christ who can make the valleys exalted and the crooked paths straight. This can happen in the time of Advent, of waiting expectantly for the Christ child to return to our hearts once again. As we enter the holiday season may we fully embrace the season of Advent and watch as the Lord exalts us and straightens us out from our sins and misgivings. Yes, we look forward to Christmas, but we do not want it to overwhelm us so the church affords us Advent so we can slow down, if even for a moment, and wait for the Christ child, born in a manger, as innocent the day he was born as the day he was crucified. So I say Happy Advent one and all.

Peace



Trinity Council President

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

December means the end of the calendar year, but it's the beginning of the church year, with the season of Advent. A time of preparation for an event. This is the most significant event in history, the birth of Christ.

E.B. White, the author of "Charlotte's Web" and "Stuart Little", wrote "To perceive Christmas through its' wrappings becomes more difficult with every year." We get so caught up in, and often overwhelmed by, "the holiday season". With all the preparation and planning, the decorations, the presents, and the parties, we forget the true reason for our celebration. The purpose of this time of year is to celebrate the birth of Christ. We should remember who He is, why He came, and what He means to us. I urge all of us to take time to catch our breath, pray, and remember why we're doing these things. These are not only holidays, but 'holy-days'.

This month will bring us another concert in the Sunderman Memorial Series. A quintet of brass from the Altoona Brass Collective along with 4 of Cindy Finnegan's advanced piano students will present a program of Christmas music on December 3 at 3 PM. This a free concert thanks to a bequest from the estate of Dr. William Sunderman. Please feel free to invite, family, friends, and neighbors to this concert.

Christmas also brings extra events to Trinity. The children's Christmas program will be presented on Dec. 17 at the 10:45 service. I always look forward to this, and can even remember participating in the program MANY years ago. It's refreshing to see the youngsters in the church celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve, 7 and 10 PM, with special music and Holy Communion at each. Just a reminder that there will be one Sunday morning service on the 24th at 9AM, and a Christmas Day service at 9 AM as well.

The yearly service of Lessons & Carols will occur the weekend of December 30 and 31 at the regularly scheduled worship times.

Please make an effort to attend these events to help Trinity celebrate the "reason for the season".

My sincere wishes to everyone at Trinity, for that matter, everyone everywhere for a blessed Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

John Ebersole



Trinity Council Oct 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli

John Ebersole 2025

Geri Selfridge 2023

Debbie Garritano 2025

Lisa Bush 2024

Absent

Adam Counterman 2025

Barb Gosnell 2023

Ralph Grove

Judy Hale 2024

Lori Matta-Rhode 2024

Ken Myers 2023

Chris Thompson 2025

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 September meeting were read. Jim made a motion to accept the minutes.

Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph didn't have a written report due to computer problems. He has been in touch with Tom Settle to work on the Treasury. Tom is looking for a laptop. They meet Monday and Thursdays. John asked what was in the Sunderman account. The account is invested at S&T with other investments. It currently has \$14,955.25. The Brass Chorale has yet to be paid.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written. October has been busy. There have been weddings, funerals, committee meetings as well as counseling sessions and pre wedding meetings. Worship preparation and Bible study, Sunday school preparations take a good bit of time, too. We have active participants in Bible study and Sunday school. She also is visiting nursing homes and hospitals. Vacation is November 2-15. Pastor Ralph Hamer will be conducting services the two weekends and Pastor Drew McCaffery will be on call.

Geri made a motion to accept Pastor's report. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.



Trinity Council Oct 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports

Property – Adam repaired the railing on the steps on the alley side. Brackets holding the new pipe along the rectory broke, replaced them and is draining right again. One of the handicap signs was moved to N 6 th Street for the access door at the top of the ramp. Ben Blessed has been cleaning and organizing their items from the ground level to the upstairs of the theatre building.

Lori made a motion to accept the Property report. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed.
Worship and Music – please see written report attached. Ken made a motion to accept the Worship and Music report. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Repair of Knob and Tube wiring – We have not had any replies or bids. We will continue to work on this.

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. The congregational meeting will be November 18-19 and needs to be mailed to the members. 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

Snow removal plans – Adam is working early Sunday mornings. He said Angela would be able to take care of the sidewalks on Sunday.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lori seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: November 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Worship and Music

Worship and Music October 10, 2023

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

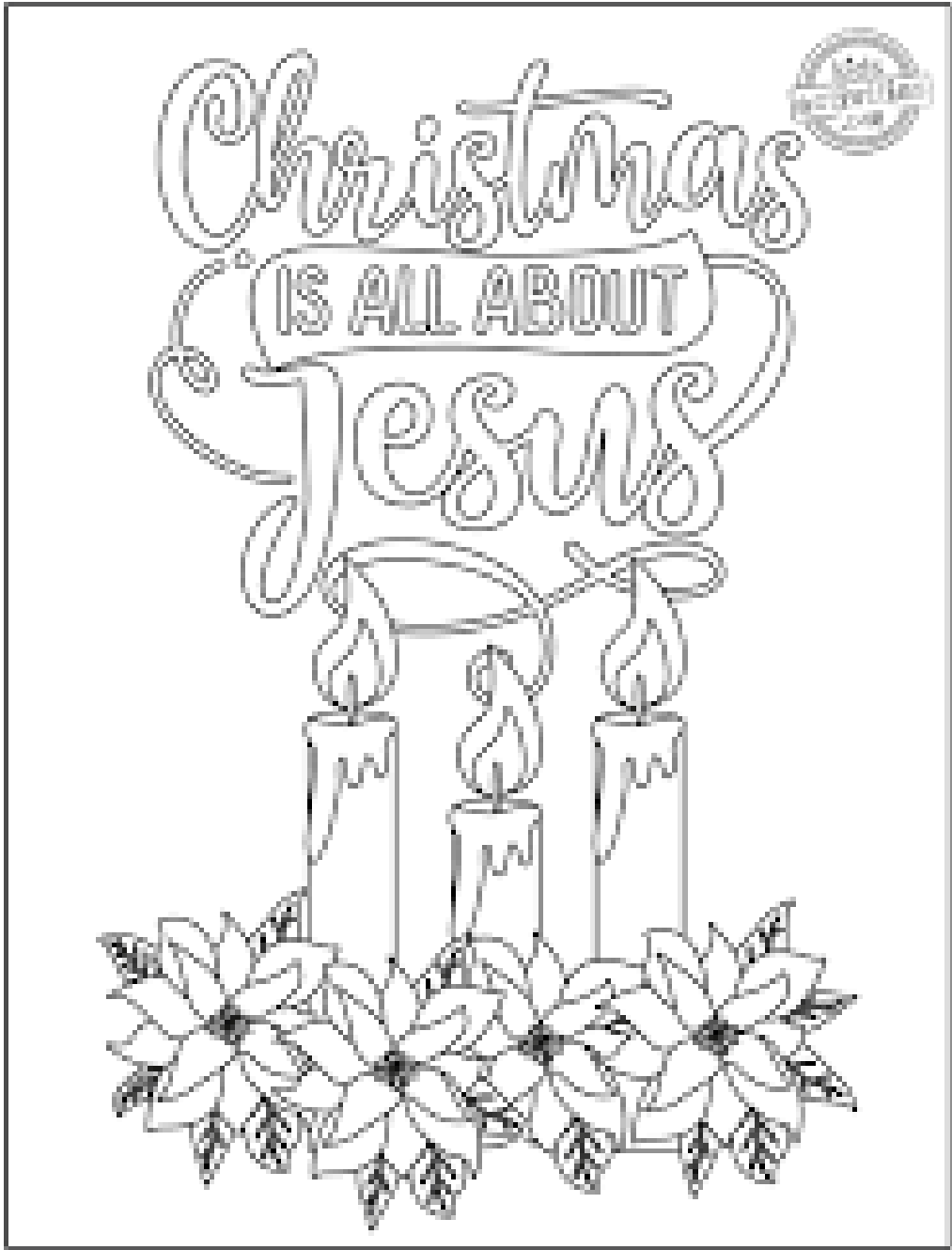
New altar candles – Debbie cleaned them and we have been monitoring the length of the flame. Debbie will investigate purchasing new altar candles.

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



Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

Trinity Members

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

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
Justin Patz	Jason Buck
Kyle Eberhart	Eric Sweet
Nathan Frank	

Family Members and Friends

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



Please know that you can add someone to our prayer list at any time by calling the church office (814) 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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Visit us online at TrinityAltoona.com and facebook.com/TrinityAltoona

Lectionary Readings for the Month of December

Dec 3

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Dec 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Dec 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Dec 31

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

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Also worth mentioning...

Due to the Christmas holiday the council will meet on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm

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!