

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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January 2024

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem asking, 'where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage...' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

Matthew 2:1-2;9-12



From the Pastor:

On January 6th we celebrate Epiphany. Not many people are familiar with the festival of Epiphany. For most it simply marks the day to take down the Christmas tree, the twelve days of Christmas are over. Yet, Epiphany is more than the end of Christmas. It is the traditional day to celebrate the coming of the Magi (the three wise men). If we observe Epiphany as the wise men did so long ago our celebrations of Christmas will not end. What can we learn from those Magi. First, they traveled to see the baby king. It was an effort. For some of us the days after Christmas are an effort. It seems as though the joy and celebration is over, but according to the wise men, it is just beginning. Second, they come to worship, pay homage. Church attendance swells to all time highs on Christmas eve, but the real worship is still ahead, throughout the rest of the year. Lastly, the wise men bring gifts. We spend Christmas buying and receiving gifts, but now is the time bring gifts to the King, to the church. Epiphany is a great time to get involved, in prayer, worship, and church activities. January is not the time to slow down and hibernate, it is a time to see the light of Epiphany and truly celebrate the King of Kings.

Peace,



The Orbit

Trinity Council President

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Even though we haven't seen significant snowfall yet, I'm sure that "old man winter" will make his presence felt before we see signs of spring.

This letter marks my last one serving as Council President. I will be serving for two more years as a Council member to complete my three-year term. As Council President for the last two years, I thank all of you for your comments and suggestions. Even if all of these could not be acted on, it was encouraging to know that people were thinking of ways to help and improve Trinity. You have probably noted in the bulletin that the Pastor is Eli Hess, but the Minister is listed as EVERY MEMBER. Everyone working together is going to help Trinity to grow and prosper.

I encourage you to continue to bring ideas, suggestions, etc. to ANY member of Council. Again, Council can not always wave a magic wand to solve an issue, but can take any Ideas under consideration.

My hope and prayer is that Trinity can not only SURVIVE but THRIVE. With the help of everyone this can be more than a slogan, but a fact.

Yours in Christ,

John Ebersole



Trinity Council Nov 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
John Ebersole 2025
Geri Selfridge 2023
Debbie Garritano 2025
Lisa Bush 2024

Barb Gosnell 2023
Ralph Grove
Judy Hale 2024
Lori Matta-Rhode 2024
Ken Myers 2023

Nevin Woodring 2024
Jim Buchanan 2025

Absent

Adam Counterman 2025

Chris Thompson 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 October meeting were read. Jim made a motion to accept the minutes. Geri seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes from the Congregational meeting were read. Jim made a motion to accept the minutes. Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph didn't have a written report due to computer problems. He and Tom Settle have been meeting. Tom got a new laptop and is transferring the information. Cost of the laptop was \$413.39.

John asked for checks before the Sunderman Concert to pay the Altoona Brass \$1,000.00 and Cindy's students \$75.00 each.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor's report was presented as written. We are gearing up for Advent. Fall was busy and productive. She continues to visit the shut ins with communion and makes phone calls. She had two funerals. She enjoyed a vacation in Scotland with her sister. She thanks each member for their ministry.

Jim made a motion to approve the report. Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried.



Trinity Council Nov 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports

Property – Adam submitted a written report. The handicapped toilet in the women’s restroom has been repaired. Salt has been purchased for winter. Ben Blessed has been cleaning and organizing their things and work will resume around the first of the year, to be done by spring.

Van inspection will be done in the next two weeks. All the batteries have been changed in the thermostats.

Judy made a motion to approve the report. Lori seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

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

New Business

Appointment of two Council members to fill existing 3 year positions are Pam Mueller and Dave Metzgar. Judy made a motion to approve the two members. Lori seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other

Pastor reported that Pastor Kevin is working with the Altoona Fire Dept. set up warming stations for the homeless for the winter months. Volunteers will be needed to supervise the overnight stay. More information to come.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: December 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Worship and Music

Worship and Music December 5, 2023

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

Upcoming dates:

December

3-17 Advent

17 - Youth Sunday program

24 – 9:30 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

January

6 – Undecorated the church, 10:00 a.m.

Service

The hymn Light One Candle was omitted on the first Sunday in Advent by mistake. It will be put back in.

Flowers

Judy reported that she has plenty of cans at the time. She is always looking for people to deliver flowers.

Music

We discussed the Sunderman Concert. It was well attended and very nice. Cindy's students did an excellent job, and the Brass Ensemble was wonderful.

Cindy and John are working with the choir and hand chimes. They should have enough members for each service on Christmas Eve. Cindy is very excited with the interest.

Altar

Debbie is still investigating purchasing new altar candles.

Other

Debbie is asking younger individuals to help with getting the trees next year. We also will look for another place to buy the trees.

Coffee and cookie hour is going well.

Next meeting: January 9, at 11:00 a.m.



Trinity Thank You

Merry Christmas

Thank you to everyone who donated to the cost of the Christmas trees. The trees are beautiful. Also, thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church. Our church is beautiful because of all the help. I truly am thankful for each and every one of you as you help not only at Christmas but all throughout the year.

We will take down the decorations and trees on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Again, we need your help.

I am very blessed to have another family, my church family. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Debbie Garritano

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 | Bob Nearhoof |
| Charon Clabaugh | Family |
| Don Corl | Jaden Rhode |
| Gary Crownover | Susan Stacey |
| Sondra Deffibaugh | Lisa Smearman |
| Maizie Emswiler | Sis Stenger |
| Allen Everhart | Fred Teigler |
| Jim Frederick | Michael Thompson |
| Garner Family | Wilkins Family |
| Lois Gutshall | Harry Yeager |
| Tom Hammond | Nancy Yeager |
| Kathy Hatch | |

Trinity's Homebound Members

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

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Sarah Brown | Jason Buck |
| Ryan Maguire | Eric Sweet |
| Jim Buchanan | Kyle Eberhart |
| Justin Patz | Nathan Frank |

Family Members and Friends

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



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. 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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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
408 North Sixth Street, Juniata
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: (814) 943-3972
Fax: (814) 946-7001
Email office@trinityaltoona.com



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Lectionary Readings for the Month of January

Jan 7

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jan 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Jan 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

In the Orbit This Month:

From the Pastor.....1
Trinity President.....2
Trinity Nov Council Min.....3
Trinity Worship and Music.....5
Trinity Thank You.....6
Prayer List.....7

Also worth mentioning...

The next Orbit Deadline is January 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!