

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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March/April 2025

"Jesus called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. These twelve he sent out charging them, 'Preach as you go saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick.' They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them."

Matt. 10: 1,5, 7-8



From the Pastor:

This reading reminds me that we are all responsible for the ailments of others. Jesus divided the work load among the twelve disciples to reach as many people as possible. He invited them to preach about the kingdom and they responded with a word of repentance. Yes, they healed and cast out demons, but I feel that it was the disciples mere presence that had healing properties. Many times we forget about the ministry of presence. We think we have to do something, to fix things, but many times our mere presence is enough. Being present in peoples lives goes a long way and we are all called to be there. Of course people want to see the pastor, but what a greater gift if they know other people care about them. The congregation is a family that nurtures and cares for one another. Jesus is present in peoples lives through us and our compassion for the hurting. While we many not be able to physically heal or cast out demons we can go out an be present with and for people until the kingdom is fully realized.

Peace,



Trinity Council President

Trinity Council President

Hello everyone. As you can see, Punxsutawney Phil saw his own shadow and that rodent gave us six more weeks of miserable weather. I was hoping that he would be wrong, but I guess we have to put up with it. Of course, we know it's the Good Lord that gives us this weather and not Phil. March 20th is supposed to be the first day of spring. Not to rush time, but it can't get here soon enough. Between the cold weather for these past few weeks and this miserable ice that we have had, it hasn't been good for us, the elderly, or the wildlife.

The Souper Sunday Bowl was another hit this year with 18 soups, 5 salads, and several different desserts. The funds raised were for the St. Andrews Pre-School. I would like to thank Angela Counterman for organizing the event, and a thank you to all those who prepared their favorite soup, salad, or dessert and all those who contributed to this worthy cause. We are thankful to have the preschool and the teachers who do a fantastic job with the kids.

Let us not forget that there will be a Shrove Pancake Supper on March 4th in Trinity Hall, starting at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Please participate if you are able. It is a free-will donation, and the funds will go to a worthy cause. The next day will be Ash Wednesday on March 5th and will begin the Lenten season, and the start of our two regular Wednesday Lent services.

We will be participating again this year in Easter for Eli. It sure is a worthy cause to help out those kids who are unable to be home over the Easter holiday with their family members. The smiles and tears that we don't see, but know without a doubt, that they are thankful to receive something on that special day. The Social Ministries and Healthy You participants make up the baskets and shop for items to fill the baskets from contributions of the congregation. If you would like to make your own, baskets will be available for you to take and fill. Remember, no candy or food items are allowed. "The kids thank you."

April will be a busy month. As you know, April 1st is April Fool's Day. I would always joke with my mother "Hey look outside – it snowed," even though the sun was shining. The majority of the time, she would forget what day it was, but then later in the day, she would get me back. I miss those days. So remember, do it in fun and what goes around comes around.

Easter will be here before you know it. We will be ordering flowers to fill the sanctuary again this year. The flowers will be in memory of those who are no longer with us, or in honor of someone that we care for. Watch for upcoming information in the bulletins.

Easter is right around the corner, there will be several services and the times will be announced. Let us fill the church this year on that special day that He gave us. Like we did on Christmas this past year, we will be passing the plate for the Easter services, rather than it just being in the back of the church as we have been doing since COVID.

This Easter, and always, let us remember what God did for us, so we can enjoy the life that we have while we are here. As we know, time goes by very fast and we never know how much time we have. The church council would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and enjoy your time with family and friends.

In closing, I was elected President of the Church Council for the 2025 year along with John Ebersole as our Vice President. As you know, the Orbit is every two months now, instead of every month. If you have anything you would like to put into the Orbit, please let the Pastor, myself, or any council member know. We sure would like to fill it up.

Yours in Faith.
Kenneth B. Myers



Trinity Healthy You and Social Ministry

Healthy You/ Social Ministry

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We are going to embrace the months of March and April.

March 4, 2025, is Shrove Tuesday, which is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is also called Pancake Tuesday. It's a day of preparation for Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and penance leading up to Easter.

Easter is a celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection after his death on Good Friday. It also marks the end of Lent.

Speaking of Easter, we are sponsoring EASTER FOR ELI. As many of you know Eli Garrett was a 3-year-old little boy who lost his courageous battle with Non-Cell Lymphoma on May 7, 2009. So, in his memory, Easter for Eli started collecting Easter baskets to be delivered to children who were hospitalized for Easter. Last year over 5,000 baskets and \$4,800 worth of gift cards were delivered to sick children at 16 hospitals in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, Delaware, and DC.

That being said there will be baskets set up in church. We are asking that you please take one and make a basket to be brought to church. In those baskets is the cellophane and tie for each basket. We have more baskets to be brought out when necessary. Also, please mark The basket boy or girl and the approximate age. We need to have them back by April 1, 2025. Thank you in advance.

We also exercise every Tuesday starting at 10:30 am and Fridays at 10:00 am. We do exercise with St. Andrews Preschool on Tuesdays. Come join the fun



Trinity Bible Study

Please join the Pastor for Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9AM. There are usually 20-28 participants and plenty of room for a lot more. We will be studying the Book of Ezekiel.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes Dec. 2024

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
Ken Myers, President 2026
Judy Hale, Vice President 2024
Debbie Garritano, Secretary 2025

John Ebersole 2025
Lisa Bush 2027

Nevin Woodring 2027
Jim Buchanan 2025

Dave Mueller 2026
Brenda Adelman 2027
Sharon Kutz 2027

Absent

Ralph Grove, Treasurer
Tom Settle, Assistant Treasurer

Adam Counterman 2025
Chris Thompson 2025

Pam Mueller 2026

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Ken Myers.
Pastor led us in prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from the December meeting were read. Jim made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

None.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor gave a verbal report. She's been busy visiting shut-ins for Christmas and giving communion. Fred Teigler has passed. Service will be held later. Advent has been going very well.

Committee Reports

Property – Adam reported the light on the 5th Avenue side has been replaced. Discharge line for the sump pump came apart and has been fixed. We have enough salt for now but may need more later. Adam asked if the parking lot would be salted when it was plowed. Ken will check with John Schneiderbauer to see if he also salts.

Worship and Music – presented as written.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes Dec. 2024

Stewardship – John reported that the next Thank Offering in February will go to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. John made a motion to approve the offering go to the discretionary fund. Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Orbit: the deadline is December 20th.

Debbie reminded everyone about the NetSmartz program on January 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. and January 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

Council Membership: Ken thanked Sharon, Nevin, Brenda, and Lisa for their commitment to be members of Council for three years. Ken also thanked Judy for her time of service with Council.

Vote on new Council Officers: President, Ken Myers, Vice President, John Ebersole, Secretary, Debbie Garritano

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Judy seconded.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes Jan. 2025

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
Ken Myers, President 2026
Judy Hale, Vice President 2024
Debbie Garritano, Secretary 2025

John Ebersole 2025
Lisa Bush 2027

Chris Thompson 2025
Nevin Woodring 2027
Jim Buchanan 2025
Pam Mueller 2026
Dave Mueller 2026
Brenda Adelman 2027
Sharon Kutz 2027

Absent

Ralph Grove, Treasurer
Tom Settle, Assistant Treasurer

Adam Counterman 2025

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Ken Myers.
Pastor led us in prayer.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from the January meeting were read. Sharon made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. John seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

None.

Dave asked how the transition to Tom Settle was going. Ken reported that Ralph showed some things to Tom but not all. Tom has some health issues. Ken will follow up.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor gave a written report. She gave an overview of her ministry responsibilities. She is called to serve Trinity and to serve the Allegheny Synod, the greater church and her community. Along with serving Trinity, she also serves on different boards and committees for the community, IDA (Improved Dwellings of Altoona), Blair Towers, and faith-based round table of Operation Our Town. She leads three worship services each week, Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, Chapel for Preschool, Prayer Breakfast, counseling, and visiting shut-ins and hospital visits.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes Jan. 2025

Committee Reports

Property – Adam reported he purchased more salt. He replaced the toilet upstairs that was leaking. He oiled the pumps in the furnace.

He has been trying to stay ahead of the snow and ice on the sidewalks. The red alley door has been sticking because of the cement rising. He will work to remedy the issue. We may need a new door there in the future.

Ken reported that the boiler was inspected and in good shape. A woman fell entering the building because the alley door was sticking. Ken called to check on her. This is when the problem with the door was noticed.

Worship and Music – presented as written.

Stewardship – none

Christian Ed –

Lisa reported that she has two volunteers for Sunday School next year. Erika Selfridge and Amy Bush.

Old Business

Sharon asked if we checked with Schneiderbauer about salting the parking lot. Ken left a message, but he never called back. Adam has been salting. She also asked if we were responsible for the sidewalk in front of the theatre building. If so, this should be cleared when it snows. Ken will mention this to Adam.

We updated the Council Directory.

Dave is working on a new church directory for the spring. He has a background, needs lights, and a whiteboard. He has a plan to get things rolling after Easter.

New Business

John asked when Cindy was in the office. Pastor said her hours vary. But she can be reached by church phone or email.

Sharon asked if the inner alley door could be locked for the protection of the Preschool when no one else is in the building. Following discussion, it was decided to discuss this first with the teachers to get their opinions.

Chris made a motion to adjourn. Sharon seconded.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: February 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.



Trinity Worship and Music

Jan. 14, 2025

January 14, 2025

Pastor Eli, Judy Hale, Adam Counterman, Cindy Finnegan, Debbie Garritano

Upcoming dates:

January

Epiphany

February

3 Presentation of Our Lord

9-23 Epiphany

15 Ralph Hamer will sub for Pastor who will be attending the Geesey Town Volunteer Firemen dinner

March

2 Transfiguration of Our Lord

5 Ash Wednesday

9-April 6 Lent

April

13 Palm Sunday

17 Holy Thursday

18 Good Friday

19 Easter Saturday

20 Easter Sunday

28- June 2 Easter season

May

3-4 Pastor on vacation

June

8 Pentecost

15 Holy Trinity

Service

Review Christmas: Pastor felt that the Christmas services were well attended, and everything went well. Cindy was very pleased with the music for both services and Adam felt the youth did a great job performing. Passing the offering plate did help with finances for the season. That helped the visitors who are unfamiliar with where we have the offering plate. We will do this for the Easter services also.

For the service of Lessons and Carols, Debbie will make sure to schedule lectors for that Sunday.

Plan for Lenten services: We will have weekly Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday. The service times will be 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m. Pastor is working on a theme for the Wednesday services.

Flowers

Judy

Judy discussed some billing questions from Peterman's. Flowers were delivered when she specifically asked them not to be. She will take care of the issue. She also will let them know that no flowers are to be delivered during Lent.

Debbie order palms from Peterman's

Music

Cindy –Cindy was very pleased with the choir for Christmas Eve. She recruited three new choir members. We also thanked her for introducing a new hymn for the congregation to learn. She will do this periodically.

She will be off on January 25 and Ava Steinbugle will be subbing for her. Cindy will be at the Sunday services.

She is beginning to think of Easter music but nothing definite yet.

Adam said he would like to have the youth play at Easter. He wants to give the younger inexperienced ones something easy and the more experienced ones something a bit challenging.

John-

Spring concert: Cindy said that John was looking to book Raystown Woods and three of her students to play in the spring. The tentative date for the concert will be April 27, 2025.

Altar

Nothing at this time.

Other:



Trinity Worship and Music

Feb 11, 2025

February 11, 2025

Pastor Eli, Judy Hale, Adam Counterman, Cindy Finnegan, Debbie Garritano

February

3 Presentation of Our Lord

9-23 Epiphany

15 Ralph Hamer will sub for Pastor who will be attending the Geesey Town Volunteer Firemen dinner

March

2 Transfiguration of Our Lord – white

4 Shrove Tuesday: Pancake supper 5-7 p.m.

5 Ash Wednesday: services at noon and 6:30 p.m.

9-April 6 Lent

April

13 Palm Sunday

17 Holy Thursday: noon and 6:30 p.m.

18 Good Friday: noon and 6:30 p.m.

19 Easter Saturday: 6:30 p.m.

20 Easter Sunday: 6:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.

28- June 2 Easter season

May

3-4 Pastor on vacation, Pastor Ralph Hamer will cover.

June

8 Pentecost

15 Holy Trinity

Service

Plan for Lenten services: We will have weekly Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday. The service times will be 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m. Pastor's theme for the weekly services will be Women of the Bible.

Flowers

Judy

Judy will let Peterman's know no altar flowers during Lent.

Debbie will order the palms. If anyone would like to sponsor Palms, please let the church office or Debbie Garritano know. Thank you.

Music

Cindy – Angela Counterman will sing on Ash Wednesday. Winter has been challenging for the choir with weather and sickness. But they keep plugging along. There will be special anthems during Lent, and she is still working on Easter. May 10-11 Cindy will be off for her son's graduation.

John- is very unsure about chimes for Easter. With health issues, he is looking for someone to hep out with directing the chimes.

Adam – he is hoping to have the Youth ensemble at the Easter Service. He is looking at music.

Spring concert: **Cindy** said that John was looking to book Raystown Woods and three of her students to play in the spring. The date for the concert will be April 27, 2025, 3:00 p.m. There will be a reception following the concert. John will take care of the PR for the concert.

Altar

We will be receiving altar paraments from Pastor's grandparent's church which is closing.

Next meeting: April 8, at 11:00 a.m.

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

TRINITY MEMBERS

Ashley Aungst Nancy Yeager
 Ted Baird Yeager Family
 Giana Berardinelli Stephanie Yeager
 Shelby Benzel Hamilton
 Church Council
 Church Health Team
 Don Corl
 Helen David
 Matthew Edevane
 Maizie Emswiler
 Allen Everhart
 Tom Hammond
 Bob Hofmann
 Martha Jones
 Nora Kuntsbeck
 Ken B. Myers
 Jaden Rhode
 Lisa Smearman

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Patty Auker Arlene Roessing
 Chris Burda Ron Settle
 Gary Crownover Leta Veit
 Shannon Kratzer
 Ken Kumpf
 Janet Gordon
 Marie Laich
 Sue Nycum

ARMED FORCES

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

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

David Aikens Donald Haslam Iverson Runk
 Donnie Alwine Carol Haslam Jeanne Rutherford
 Janet & Charlie Tom Hatch Conner Sanders
 Aungst Karli Hey Evan Sanders
 Scott Aungst Emily Hileman Sanders family
 Carolyn Bauers Ed Hoover Ronald Settle
 Dan Baughman Eli Hughes Daryl Seymore
 Robin Behe Samantha Januska Lynn Shaffer
 Kris Bennett Nicki Kaltenbrunner Marilyn Shannon
 Dana Beschler Barbara Keaster Gloria Shoup
 Zayne Bowmaster Rebecca Kinney Debbie Smith
 Chet Boyer Cindy Lamont Stephani Smithbower
 Terry Brown Jan Lastaglia Dottie Stayer
 Christopher Heather Leader Nancy Stewart
 Buchanan Stewart Logan Harry Taylor
 John Bush Lou Lohsl Wendy Toribio
 Jeff Cipriani Joyce Longstreth Lisa Turek
 Julian Colan Anthony Luciano Lisa Vaughn
 Tracee Cole Jameson Lytle Jameson Joseph "JJ"
 Scott Corl Linda Mardula Williamson
 Carl Corle Steve Mardula, Sr Steve Wood
 Janie Coyne Bill McClellan Barb & Fred Woods
 Amice, Jason, Zoe Carmen McGonical Paul Wright
 Cramer and family Family Tiquan Wright
 Lisa Dalansky Brandon McGraw Baby Gwen
 Jorden DeFrancisco Samantha McQuade Elsa
 Gina Edevane Jessica Medeiros Jessie
 Phil Esper Nancy Mock Junie
 Ian Esper Tom Morning Natalie
 Fink Family Jess Mourabit In spoken request
 Skyler Franell Linda Mowrer "M"
 Misty Franell Bill & Penny ALBH
 Nicole Gearhart Murphy BMG
 Haley Gehret Sharon Myers BPMC
 Pat Griffith Georgie Nauser KCB
 Teresa Grum Wyatt Nite JJM
 Thomas Hamilton Zach Noel RDG
 Bob Hamilton Dennis Paulsen
 John Hancuff Frances Pringle
 Tom Haney Tommy S. Pringle
 Madeline Hanley Lorenzo Recchia
 Brandon Harper & Donald Ruckinger daughters



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

March/April 2025

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Lectionary Readings for the Month of March & April

Mar 2

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Mar 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Mar 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Mar 23

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Mar 30

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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Trinity Council Min Dec 5
Trinity Council Min Jan 7
Trinity Worship/Music Jan 9
Trinity Worship/Music Feb 10

April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 13

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14—23:56

April 20

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

April 27

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

The next Orbit Deadline is May 24

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!