

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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July/August 2025

"In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you have I leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you."

Psalm 71:1-6



From the Pastor:

This is a great reading for reminding us who our protector is from the very beginning of life. God was the one who put us in our mother's womb and we are called to praise him, knowing that he is always there for us. When we are going through tough times it is God who is our rock and fortress. When we need refuge from the struggles of this world it is God who provides it. God has been there from the beginning and will be there until the end, continually without fail. Sometimes life throws us a curve ball but when God sent His Son to die for us He hit it out of the park (yes it's baseball season). Our hope is in God who loves us and saves us from our sins. I was recently given a bracelet that says, "God's got this" and I believe that to be true. God has us and always has had us, from the beginning of our lives. That does not mean everything is always perfect, but it does mean that we have a strength and a refuge to lean on. It does mean that we will be saved from the grasp of the unjust and cruel devil. God has claimed us as His children and because of that we shall never be put to shame as long as we call on the name of the Lord He shall be there.

Peace,



Trinity Council President

As you all know, this is old news, but on Sunday morning, April 13th, at 11:15 a.m. our church organ went out. Adam and I began looking into the situation to determine if it was just a blown fuse. We soon realized it was more extensive than a blown fuse. I talked to Ralph, and he contacted Phil, who has maintained the organ for many years. Phil and several other electricians I contacted evaluated the problem, at no expense to the church, and determined the motor, along with the start drive unit were bad.

I contacted Electrical Motor Services (EMS) and they were there on Wednesday. They took the motor and drive unit to the shop, and after performing the diagnostics, in deed they were both beyond repair. Long story short, we had to get a new motor along with other electrical components. So on May 21st, after the motor and all components were installed, we were up and running for the Saturday service on May 24th. After I spoke with one of the owners of EMS, he agreed to reduce the price of the equipment and installation significantly and also gave us an extended warranty.

April was really a challenging month for sure. On Tuesday the 29th, we had a very dangerous storm like we haven't seen around here in years that went through up-rooting trees, knocking out power for days, along with bringing down many poles, etc. and flooding throughout the area. We are very thankful that the church didn't experience any issues or damage. It just goes to show you how powerful and in control our God is.

As I write this letter in June, it's hard to believe that the school year is already over. The members of Trinity would like to congratulate our students who have graduated from pre-school, high school and college, and wish them success in all their future endeavors.

June will soon be over and July will be here within the blink of an eye. June has just been a very wet month as we all know. I guess we need the rain, but it will be nice to have a break so the farmers can get into their fields to do their work, so we have good produce this summer. It's been hard to keep up with the grass, along with other things, such as gardens, pools, repairs, painting, etc. that need to be done with all this inclement weather.

Let's hope to get some nice July weather for the month, and in particular for the 4th of July, for fireworks, picnics, parties, vacation trips, and get-togethers. As the saying goes, the corn should be knee high by the 4th of July, not sure that will happen this year, but let's hope so. Next year will be the big year as our nation celebrates its 250th birthday. Let's hope and pray that things that are going on in this world today surely get better before next year for our big birthday.

As August rolls around, Trinity will be having Vacation Bible School from the 3rd to the 7th this year. I would like to thank everyone who is involved in helping with Bible School, because there is much time, planning, and effort that goes into that activity. It is greatly appreciated and the kids enjoy the activities along with their snacks. I also want to thank those who provide the snacks and monetary donations.

Our church picnic will held on August 24th at 11:00 a.m. at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. So get your recipe books out and start thinking about that special dish you want to share. It will be nice to see church members that we don't always see, due to the fact they go to one of the other services. Everyone is welcome so bring a friend or someone along for our service, fellowship and great food. It's always a nice turnout.

Please remember that anyone can put anything in the Orbit or the Pulse by contacting Pastor Eli, any council member, or the church office.

In closing, I hope everyone has a nice summer and safe travels when you are out and about, and please stay off your phones when you are driving, it's now the law.

Take care and God bless until next month.

Yours in Faith.
Kenneth B. Myers



The Orbit

Trinity Happenings

Vacation Bible School: We will be having VBS on August 3-7 (Sunday -Thursday) from 6-8pm. This will be a fun time for kids prek - 5th grade. There will be Bible stories, music, arts and crafts, games, snacks, and much more. Our theme for this year is Road trip where we will look at Bible stories that have to do with journeys. If you would like to help with VBS please get in touch with the pastor. We can always use volunteers.

Christian Ed committee is looking for anyone who would like to help with fall Sunday school. We have some teachers lined up but can always use supply teachers and helpers. We have a curriculum that we use so you do not have to come up with your own material.

The Church Picnic will be held August 24 at 11am. Please bring a dish to share. We will meet at the kitchen pavilion at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8 two of our youth were confirmed. We would like to congratulate Harper Seiler and Liam Zearfoss-Bush on a job well done. We would also like to thank their diligent teachers John Ebersole and Lisa Bush for their time and commitment to your youth.

Church Music Sunday: Each year at Trinity (usually in early fall) we designate a Sunday to celebrate the music of the church. This year, I am planning to make it a weekend of celebration! There will be special music at all three services (Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 8:15 and 10:15 am). This will be held the weekend of September 20th and 21st. If you have a musical talent that you would like to share, please contact me! This is for youth and adults! There will be a special service choir as well. Please join us, choir rehearsal times will be posted in August. I look forward to hearing from you! Thank you! Cindy 814 330 2202.



The Orbit

Trinity Social Ministry

We gathered 11 bags for the shut-ins in our congregation. We put in personal items, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, some body creams and whatever we thought they would enjoy. Now Pastor Eli delivers them and at the same time gives them Communion.

Our next project will be to collect items for the womens shelter. We will have further information soon.

Thank You



Trinity Worship and Music Committee

May 13, 2025

Pastor Eli, Debbie Garritano, John Ebersole, Adam Counterman, Cindy Finnegan

May

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

June

8 Pentecost-Confirmation
15 Holy Trinity

July

August

3-7 Vacation Bible School
24 – Church Picnic 11:00 Legion Park, Hollidaysburg

September

7 Sunday School resumes

Service

Easter recap – services seemed extra-long. Pastor and Cindy will coordinate for next year to make things move more smoothly and efficiently with communion distribution. The music was wonderful and inspiring.

Confirmation: John will order bibles for the confirmands. Judy will order single red roses for the confirmands; Lisa will take care of the refreshments.

Summer – service schedule will be the same.

Fall – Sunday school will resume on September 7.

Flowers

Judy – order two single red roses for the confirmands.

Music

Cindy – Cindy was thrilled with the choir. She really appreciates their participation. Cindy will be using the church to rehearse for her students' recitals. She will be at the church on June 9 and June 16 from 11:00 to 12:30.

John – John was pleased with the hand chime choir and appreciated their commitment.

Adam - we thanked Adam for the participation of the youth at the services.

Spring concert: recap The concert was wonderful. The attendance from Trinity was disappointing.

Altar – we received the paraments from Pastor's grandparents church that closed. We will be using them in the near future.

Next meeting: August 12, at 11:00 a.m.



Trinity May Council Minutes

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
Ken Myers, President 2026
John Ebersole, Vice President 2025
Debbie Garritano, Secretary 2025
Ralph Grove, Treasurer

Lisa Bush 2027

Chris Thompson 2025
Nevin Woodring 2027

Pam Mueller 2026
Dave Mueller 2026

Sharon Kutz 2027

Absent

Tom Settle, Assistant Treasurer

Adam Counterman 2025

Jim Buchanan 2025

Brenda Adelman 2027

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Ken Myers.

The council thanked Ken for all the time he put into getting the organ repaired. It was done very quickly and at a reduced cost because of Ken. Ralph said he will take care of getting the piano tuned.

Minutes from last meeting.

Minutes from the April meeting were read. Pam made a motion to accept the minutes. Sharon seconded the motion. Motion passed. The minutes from the Council meetings will now be on the Pulse and at the back of the sanctuary.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph presented a written Treasurer's report. He said that everything is up to date. He said he got Pastor's Portico bill on a monthly payment plan now. Question was raised about the written report. For the Sunderman Concert, it showed only two of Cindy's students were paid. Was the third student paid? It also didn't show the payment for Raystown Woods. Ralph said that all was paid and would look into why it wasn't on the report. Also, a question was raised about the difference in Jack Kuhns and JJ Steinbugl's pay. One played only on Saturday and the other two services on Sunday.

Lisa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented a written report. Things have been a bit more relaxed since Lent and Easter celebrations are over. She had a wedding, a wedding planning meeting and a funeral. She has made several hospital visits and home visits. Pastor's week vacation was spent in Gettysburg with her family, and it was wonderful! She and Lisa had a planning meeting for VBS which will be August 3-8. We are taking a break from Sunday School, Bible Study, and Prayer Breakfast for the summer.

Committee Reports

Property - Adam presented a written report. He took care of the bird's nest at the 5th Avenue entrance. The leak under the sink by the dishwasher has been repaired. The railing at the alley entrance is going to need replaced in the near future. He is looking into options and pricing. Adam will also fix the plastic that came off the stained glass window.

Question was raised about the red door by the alley. It is rusting and needs replaced. Ken is checking with Joe Luciano about getting glass put into a metal door.

Worship and Music – see attached.

Christian Ed – met with Pastor to discuss VBS August 3-8.

Stewardship – June offering to be used for organ maintenance.

Old Business – Ken explained the process he went through to get the organ repaired. He was very disappointed when he called Brent Cogan three times, to come and look at the electrical parts and he never got back to Ken.

Ken worked hard to get people to come and look at the organ with Ralph's help. He did get the organ repaired at a reduced cost for the church. He stressed that if anyone has anything to say about how the council is doing things, to please come to him or any council member. Sharon suggested that if we cannot depend on Cogan to be our electrician, then maybe we should get someone else. Dave recommended Doug Lockard.

New Business

John asked if we could have set office hours at the church. If a repairman needs to come in, we need to be able to tell them when the church will be open. Pastor said she will talk to Cindy and get a set schedule for office hours.

Other – Sharon announced that the next Orbit deadline is June 24. Every committee should have some kind of report. Let's get them in! Dave made a motion to adjourn. John seconded. The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Garritano

Next meeting: May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.



The Orbit

Trinity Thank You

Dear Pastor Eli and Trinity Friends,

Thank you all for your prayers, the visits, calls, cards, flowers, and gifts of thoughtfulness I received after my recent back surgery.

Everyone's act of kindness has truly been appreciated.

Warmest Regards,

Don Corl



The Orbit

Trinity Prayer List

TRINITY MEMBERS

Ted Baird
Shelby Benzel
Giana Berardinelli
Carol Callis
Church Council
Don Corl
Matthew Edevane
Maizie Emswiler
Allen Everhart
Tom Hammond
Jennifer Hippo
Bob Hofmann
Martha Jones
Nora Kuntsbeck

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Patty Auker
Chris Burda
Gary Crownover
Janet Gordon
Shannon Kratzer
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich

ARMED FORCES

Jason Buck
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Ryan Maguire

Ken B. Myers
Lisa Smearman
Stephanie Yeager
Hamilton

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

David Aikens
Donnie Alwine
Janet & Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Carolyn Bauers
Dan Baughman
Robin Behe
Kris Bennett
Dana Beschler
Zayne Bowmaster
Chet Boyer
Terry Brown
Christopher Buchanan
John Bush
Heather Calderwood
Jeff Cipriani
Julian Colan
Tracee Cole
Scott Corl
Carl Corle
Janie Coyne
Zoe, Amice, Jason
Cramer
Lisa Dalansky
Jordan DeFrancisco
Gina Edevane
Larry Edwards
Autumn Emswiler
Phil Esper
Ian Esper
Fink Family
Skyler Franell
Misty Franell
Nicole Gearhart
Haley Gehret
Stacy Giordano
Pat Griffith
Tish Grove
Teresa Grum
Thomas Hamilton
John Hancuff
Ann Hanczaryk
Tom Haney
Madeline Hanley

Ann Hanzeryk
John Hanzeryk
Brandon Harper &
daughters
David Harpster
Donald Haslam
Carol Haslam
Tom Hatch
Karli Hey
Emily Hileman
Ed Hoover
Eli Hughes
Samantha Januska
Wendy Miller
Nicki Kaltenbrunner
Barbara Keaster
Danny Kenney
Rebecca Kinney
Cindy Lamont
Jan Lastaglia
Heather Leader
Stewart Logan
Lou Lohsl
Joyce Longstreth
Anthony Luciano
Jameson Lytle
Linda Mardula
Steve Mardula, Sr
Chelsea Martin
Bill McClellan
Carmen McGonical
Family
Brandon McGraw
Samanth McQuade
Nancy Mock
Linda Mowrer
Bill & Penny Murphy
Sharon Myers
Georgie Nauser
Wyatt Nite
Zach Noel
Dennis Paulsen
Frances Pringle
Tommy S. Pringle

Lorenzo Recchia
Donald Ruckinger
Iverson Runk
Jeanne Rutherford
Conner Sanders
Evan Sanders
Sanders family
Trudy Savine
Ronald Settle
Daryl Seymore
Lynn Shaffer
Marilyn Shannon
Gloria Shoup
Debbie Smith
Stephani Smithbower
Dottie Stayer
Nancy Stewart
Harry Taylor
Wendy Toribio
Lisa Turek
Lisa Vaughn
Jameson Joseph "JJ"
Williamson
Steve Wood
Barb & Fred Woods
Paul Wright
Tiquan Wright
Elsa
Jessie
Junie
Natalie
In spoken request "M"
ALBH
BPMC
KCB
JJM
RDG
BMG



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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July/August 2025

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us online at TrinityAltoona.com and facebook.com/TrinityAltoona

Lectionary Readings for the Month of July & August

July 6

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

August 3

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

In the Orbit This Month

From the Pastor	1
Trinity President	2
Trinity Happenings	3
Trinity Social Ministry	3
Trinity Worship & Music	4
Trinity May Council Minutes	5
Trinity Thank You	6
Trinity Prayer List	7

August 17

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31

Proverbs 25:6-7a
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

The next Orbit Deadline is August 15

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!