

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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Nov/Dec 2025

"He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on'"

Luke 21: 1-4



From the Pastor:

The month of November is traditionally stewardship month. A time when we are to look at our giving to the church in our time, talents, and treasure. It is also church budget time. Every year the church budget increases but sometimes we do not increase our giving. This year is no exception with the church budget. We will be increasing our budget for the raising prices of employee pay and many of our utilities. As we look at the church budget I urge us to look at the story of the widows mite. We do not always see the need to increase our giving or we look at our home budgets and come to the conclusion that we simply can not increase our giving. The question we ask ourselves is our we giving out of our abundance or are we giving all we truly can. It does not take a big increase to make a big impact on the ministries of the church. When we give to the general fund we are giving to all the ministries of the church. All it might take is an increase of \$5.00 a week to make a significant impact. Yes, it may seem that all we do is ask, ask, ask, but if you do not ask then you will not receive. So I encourage everyone to look at giving, and whether or not an increase is doable. There is also a need to increase our time and talents. We will be looking for council members and can always use people on our committees to do the ministry of the church. There is much to do in the life of the church and we need every ones help. If anyone has any questions regarding giving of time, talent, or treasure please be in touch and we can have a conversation.

Peace



Trinity Council President

As you know, the Orbit is printed every two months, and here it is for the November/December 2025 final copy. As I am writing this letter for my last time as president of council, for the past two years, I sure hope that I have filled my duty to the church and this congregation. There have been many things that have been accomplished, but still some that need to be done in the years to come to keep the church going. There will be several people who have completed their terms as council members, and we will need new members of the church to replace them, if they are not willing to serve another term. I ask you personally to please consider becoming a member of council for the new term of 2026-2027.

Council meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The meetings last approximately 1 hour, depending what needs to be discussed, meetings lasting longer than an hour is a rarity. We are off for the month of July.

With that being said, here we are with the fall season beginning. October has flown by, and we sure have had exceptional weather. As the leaves should be turning nice colors due to the chlorophyll that makes the pretty colors, this year due to the hot and dry weather and no rain, the leaves are just falling off the trees early. So if you enjoy taking pictures and you see some pretty pastures and hillsides, I would recommend taking a few pictures sooner rather than later.

It is hard to believe where this year has really gone. The fall season is my favorite, but I know the winter months are coming along sooner than I like. As the next two months come along, please be aware there will be things announced by Pastor Eli, and announcements in both the church bulletin and in the Pulse.

In November there are several things that will be taking place: daylight savings time will end on the 2nd, the 4th will be Election Day, the 11th is a very important day, Veterans' Day. Let's not forget them for what they have done for us. If you see a veteran, please remember to thank them for what they have done. On November 27th will be everyone's family day, Thanksgiving Day. Let us all remember all of the things we have to be thankful for. Also, the first Sunday in Advent will be on the 30th.

As November comes to an end, the Farmers' Almanac says we are to have a colder and exceptional winter, and a few snowfalls with some accumulating snow. I hope we have some snow, but not what they are calling for along with long periods of cold weather. I know that we can't predict what's going to take place, only the Man above us will determine that, and that is our Heavenly Father, to whom we pray to and talk to Him daily. Remember, "We don't get ahead by leaving God behind." Life is what you make it, so take it and make it beautiful.

December will be here before we know it. We will need volunteers to get things ready for our upcoming Christmas season. There will be 3 trees that will need to be sponsored, along with the church being decorated. The more help we have the merrier it will be. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for a loved one or in honor of someone, there will be envelopes at the back of the church to fill out. There will be many programs that will be taking place, and practices to participate in, the children's program, choir, hand chimes, and special music. Please feel free and welcome to participate and help to make everything special. If you have family members or friends bring them along to see the things that are done here at Trinity. I'm sure they will be surprised and enjoy the services.

December 7th is a day WE WILL NEVER FORGET - that is Pearl Harbor Day (Remembrance Day). December 21st winter will officially begin and the 24th there will be Christmas Eve candlelight church services, and then Christmas Day, the day of our Savior's birth. The church always looks spectacular for this special holiday season.

If anyone has anything to bring to my attention, please feel free to do so. My cell number is (814) 502-3529, or email KBMyers56@verizon.net, or you may speak to any council member. It would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions are always welcome.

In closing, I would personally like to thank the council members for their service at Trinity and look forward to seeing new faces on council in the new year. Also, on behalf of all of our council members, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and blessed and successful New Year to come.

Yours in Faith,

Kenneth B. Myers



Trinity Happenings



CHRISTMAS

It is time to think about Christmas!

We will be getting three trees to decorate the sanctuary. Anyone wishing to help sponsor a tree, please call the church office at 943-3972. We will get the trees on Tuesday, November 25 and decorate the church on Saturday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m. We always need help decorating. Please call the church office or Debbie at 814-932-1499. This is a great opportunity for youth to get some service hours.



It's also time to order poinsettias. The cost for the poinsettias is \$10.00 and the deadline to order is December 1. These make a great decoration for the church. Don't forget to order yours! Envelopes will be in the back of the church.



Trinity Christmas Eve Services



Ushers



CHRISTMAS EVE

We need ushers and lectors for our Christmas Eve services. Please let me know which service you can help out with. You can call, 814-932-1499, or email me,

dlgsitnstitch@atlanticbb.net.

Your help is greatly appreciated.



Trinity Healthy You/Social Ministry Committees

Social Ministry and Healthy You thank all whom participated in the church cleanup. A lot of hours and muscle were put into this, without the 14 people volunteering this would never have been accomplished. This was a much bigger task than we imagined but we did it! Some people may not be able to find something right away in its old spot but we assure you it is in the vicinity. If you have questions just ask. We gave a lot of notice ahead of time about this cleanup so we put away and scrubbed way more than we discarded. Advanced thanks to everyone in the church for keeping it clean and clutter free!

Thank you to everyone who supported these two groups as they sold Gardner's candy.

Actually, the candy bars sold themselves and rightfully so. That sale was for the pastor's discretionary fund, which helps those in need. Some may need help with rent, groceries, or medications. The pastor does not "hand out cash". She will get them a gift card for groceries, ask for their light or gas bill, and pay it from the discretionary fund. All that being said, the Pastor was presented \$403.00.

So again, Thanks to all who helped to support us.



The Orbit

Trinity Thank You

Thank you very much for making my 90th birthday party a day to remember. We appreciate all who attended and shared a story or a memory.

A special thank-you to those who helped set up before and clean up after the party; especially the Healthy You ladies who went above and beyond to make the church sparkle, and the church secretary, Cindy, for her assistance.

Blessings,

Betty Wilkinson and family



Trinity Worship and Music Committee

September 9, 2025

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

September

20-21 Hymn Sing with special music at all services.

27 Wedding

October

5 Blessing of the Animals 1:00 p.m.

12 Blanket Sunday

19 Harvest Home

26 Reformation Sunday communion at all services

31-1 Synod Assembly

November

2 Day light savings

8-9 Pastor vacation Peggy Thatcher will lead services

15-16 Pastor vacation Pastor Hamer will lead services

28 get trees for sanctuary

29 decorate sanctuary and trees 10:00 a.m.

30 Advent

December

7 Concert by Cindy Finnegan's students "Howling and Yowling Good Music"

20-21 Youth Lock In

21 Christmas Pageant

24 Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

25 Christmas Day 9:00 a.m.

Service

Question was asked why there aren't acolytes at the services. Pastor said that 8:15 seems to be the service without acolytes because there aren't many children attending then. She will get with the person to begin scheduling acolytes.

Flowers

Judy – Peterman's is paid up. Judy needs more help with flower delivery. October 26 will be all red flowers for the altar.

Music

Cindy –

Cindy reported that the first choir rehearsal went well with a decent attendance. For "Music Sunday" weekend there will be special music at all services. At 8:15 there will be a duet with John on the clarinet and Cindy on the piano. The responsorial Psalm will be after the second lesson and before the Gospel.

Cindy also called for repair of the electric piano and we are on the waiting list.

John – reported that there was a good turnout for the chimes and they will play for the 10:45 service.

Altar –nothing

Other – Question was raised why we cut verses out of the hymns. We do not cut verses from the hymns unless there are 8 or more. Then it is cut to an appropriate number.

Next meeting: November 11, at 11:00 a.m.



Trinity Special Music



The Student
Of
Cynthia E. Finnegan
present



Howlin' & Meowin' Good Christmas

Music

A Benefit Christmas

Concert for the Central

PA Humane Society

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 408 N 6th Street, Altoona, PA

Doors open at 2:30



- Christmas selections performed by piano and vocal students
- A sing-a-long
- Stocking Stuffer Boutique and craft tables for dog and cat lovers (filled with practical, affordable & unique gift items). Perfect for adults and kids who want to do some shopping for friends and siblings, etc. Cash only please. ...bring a lot of one dollar bills!
- Raffle Baskets
- Christmas Flea Market (Cash only please)
- A visit from Santa
- A chance to meet some adoptable dogs from CPHS
- Free cookies and hot chocolate



Admission is free, donation is appreciated. We are grateful for your support and kindness.

"Together We Can Build Brighter Futures For Our Furry Friends."



Trinity Music Committee

WISH LIST



- **Hard Nyla bone chews, the toys that can be washed and reused, or the edible ones (No rawhides)**
- **Clumping cat litter (unscented preferred)**
- **Small litter boxes—ones that small kittens can access with lower sides (plastic is fine, stainless steel is ideal)**
- **Blankets (no buttons, giant holes, zippers, crocheted, or tassels), towels, sheets (flannel and flat preferred as elastic has to be removed from fitted)....new or used are acceptable.**
- **Kitten food.....Dry—Purina Naturals....Wet—Fancy Feast**
- **Dog Food: Purina One (Adult) and any 4-Health food from Tractor Supply, Science Hills Diet (Sensitive Skin & Stomach), and Blue Buffalo Small Bites for the tiny dogs.**
- **Soft Treats—anything that is moist & easier to eat. Most dogs will not eat the milk bones or crunchy treats.**



- **Wondercide Flea & Tick Spray**
- **Odoban, Rescue, KOE, Fabuloso, laundry detergent (no fabric softener), bleach, baking soda**
- **Paper towels**



Trinity September Council Minutes

Attendance

Present

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

Absent

Tom Settle, Assistant Treasurer
Lisa Bush 2027
Adam Counterman 2025
Chris Thompson 2025

Nevin Woodring 2027

Jim Buchanan 2025
Pam Mueller 2026

Dave Mueller 2026
Brenda Adelman 2027
Sharon Kutz 2027

Greetings/Devotions

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

Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the August meeting were read. Under New Business, Constitution/By Laws correction was made that the Council meeting time and place does not need to be corrected at this time. Brenda made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Dave 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 had no report but said everything is up to date. The computer is down.

John asked if the check for the envelopes was sent. Ralph said it was sent some time in June. If we don't receive the envelopes in the next couple of weeks, we will ask Cindy to call.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented a written report. She reported that Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, and Sunday School have returned. Attendance has gotten better since summer. She has a counseling session once a week, made hospital visits and home visits, had Arlene Roessings funeral and a non-member funeral. She attended Christian Ed, Worship and Music, and Finance committees' meetings. Youth groups will be starting in October with some new leadership for the Jr./Sr. High and added leadership for the Elementary group.

Committee Reports

Property – no report. Ken talked with Adam, and he said the back railing needs to be replaced. Adam also, took care of the weeds along 4th Avenue.

Worship and Music – see attached.

Christian Ed – no report

Stewardship –no report

Old Business –

Basement door – Ken talked with Joe Luciano about the red alley door. Joe said that to have a new one installed would cost \$4,500.00. Joe will install it at no charge. Thank you, Joe.

Budget – Pastor presented the budget for Council approval. Questions were raised on the salary of the Organist and the hours of the Secretary. Following discussion of the Secretary, Pastor said that she is in the office two days/week from 10:30 – 1:00. She also works from home. All the work is getting done. We discussed technical solutions that maybe a help if someone needs to get into the church for repairs, maintenance, etc.

Following discussion of the Organist, she does more than just play the organ. She prepares the hymns, works with the choir, plans the Christmas pageant, and works with Vacation Bible School. The extra time that she takes she has scheduled and pays out of her pocket. The Personnel Committee will be working with all employees to address any issues.

Brenda made a motion to accept the Budget. Dave seconded the motion. We had 5 Council members accept and 2 oppose. Motion passed. The Budget will be sent out to the congregation and will be voted on at the Congregational meeting in November.

Debbie asked if we could see the budget from last year to see if we met or exceeded the proposed budget. Ralph said he would work on that.

Legion Park – Sharon called and talked to the gentleman about the accusation that we left the pavilion in terrible shape. Following their discussion, he will keep this years deposit, but we will have the pavilion for next year on the same weekend.

New Business

Bid on painting – Ken received a bid from Waddell Painting. The bid for the complete exterior was \$34,000.00 and the St. Andrew part was \$10,400.00. Following discussion, it was decided to table this and get more bids from others.

John made a motion to adjourn. Brenda seconded.

The meeting was then adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garritano

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

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

TRINITY MEMBERS

Ted Baird	Martha Jones
Shelby Benzel	Nora Kuntsbeck
Giana Berardinelli	Ken B. Myers
Church Council	Lisa Smearman
Don Corl	Stephanie Yeager
Matthew Edevane	Hamilton
Maizie Emswiler	
Allen Everhart	
Tom Hammond	
Jennifer Hippo	
Bob Hofmann	

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Patty Auker	Ron Settle
Chris Burda	Leta Veit
Gary Crownover	Effie Whitfield
Janet Gordon	
Shannon Kratzer	
Ken Kumpf	
Marie Laich	

ARMED FORCES

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

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

David Aikens	Ann Hanezaryk	Iverson Runk
Janet & Charlie Aungst	John Hanezaryk family	Jeanne Rutherford
Scott Aungst	Brandon Harper & daughters	Conner Sanders
Ralph Barry Family	David Harpster	Evan Sanders
Carolyn Bauers	Donald Haslam	Sanders family
Dan Baughman	Carol Haslam	Trudy Savine
Robin Behe	Tom Hatch	Ronald Settle
Kris Bennett	Danielle Hatfield	Daryl Seymore
Dana Beschler	Karly Hey	Lynn Shaffer
Zayne Bowmaster	Jase Hoster	Marilyn Shannon
Chet Boyer	Eli Hughes	Gloria Shoup
Terry Brown	Samantha Januska	Stephani Smithbower
Christopher Buchanan	Wendy Miller	Nancy Stewart
John Bush	Nicki Kaltenbrunner	Nancy Swander Family
Heather Calderwood	Barbara Keaster	Harry Taylor
Jerry Chaplin	Danny Kenney	Wendy Toribio
Jeff Cipriani	Rebecca Kinney	Lisa Turek
Julian Colan	Cindy Lamont	Lisa Vaughn
Tracee Cole	Jan Lastaglia	Maureen Verzella
Scott Corl	Heather Leader	Jameson Joseph "JJ" Williamson
Carl Corle	Stewart Logan	Steve Wood
Janie Coyne	Lou Lohsl	Paul Wright
Zoe Amice Jason Cramer	Joyce Longstreth	Tiquan Wright
Lisa Dalansky	Anthony Luciano	Elsa
Jorden DeFrancisco	Linda Mardula	Jessie
Nancy Dionisio	Steve Mardula Sr	Junie
Gina Edevane	Chelsea Martin	Natalie
Larry Edwards	Bill McClellan	In spoken request "M"
Autumn Emswiler	Carmen McGonical Family	ALBH
Phil Esper	Brandon McGraw	BPMC
Jeannette Esper	Samanth McQuade	KCB
Fink Family	Nancy Mock	JJM
Skyler Franell	Linda Mowrer	RDG
Misty Franell	Bill & Penny	BMG
Nicole Gearhart	Murphy	
Haley Gehret	Kyle Murray	
Stacy Giordano	Sharon Myers	
Billie Green	Georgie Nauser	
Pat Griffith	Wyatt Nite	
Tish Grove	Zach Noel	
Teresa Grum	Dennis Paulsen	
Thomas Hamilton	Frances Pringle	
John Hancuff	Tommy S. Pringle	
Ann Hanezaryk	Lorenzo Recchia	
Tom Haney	Anita Rhodes	
Madeline Hanley	Donald Ruckinger	



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

Nov/Dec 2025

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Lectionary Readings for the Month of Nov & Dec

Nov 2

Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Nov 9

Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Nov 16

Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Nov 23

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Nov 30

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Dec 7

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

In the Orbit This Month

From the Pastor	1
Trinity President.....	2
Trinity Happenings.....	3
Trinity Christmas Eve.....	4
Trinity Healthy You/ Social	5
Trinity Thank You.....	6
Trinity Worship & Music.....	7
Trinity Special Music.....	8
Trinity Sep Council Minutes.....	10
Trinity Prayer List.....	11

Dec 14

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 21

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 28

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

The next Orbit Deadline is December 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!