

# The Orbit

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



Jan / Feb 2026

"I lie down and sleep; I awake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Rise up, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For you shall strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; may your blessing be on your people."

Psalm 3:5-8



## **From the Pastor:**

I am not sure why this psalm struck me for the months of January and February but it did. Perhaps its the part about lying down and waking up again knowing that even in the cold, bleak months of the winter the Lord does sustain us. Many people do not cope well in these winter months and it may feel as though there are ten thousands of enemies around us. The cold, the dark, being inside, the bleakness of the bare trees, the grayness of the skies at times and the list goes on. Yet, even in the very heart of winter we know that God will deliver us into spring and summer. Even in the winter God is with us. For some the winter months are their favorite months. Sitting by the fire, snuggling up on the couch with a blanket and a good book, outdoor adventures like skiing and skating, perhaps even building a snowman in the snow. No matter what our feeling is toward winter we are assured in this psalm that God is with us. For better or for worse the Lord sustains us. If you are waiting for the end of winter, deliverance belongs to the Lord. If you are in your glory in the winter God is a blessing on the people. Either way we lie down and we awake to the Lord.

Peace,



## Trinity Council President

### Trinity Council Past President

I, along with the past and current council members, hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As 2026 has arrived, I sure hope that this cold weather will soon subside and we have a half decent temperatures for the remaining months of the winter. So far the snowfall hasn't been too bad, but the cold has been down right frigid, and has been very hard on everybody's pocketbook.

With that being said, there are a few things I would like to say as the past president of council for the last two years. I would personally like to thank the out-going members, John Ebersole, Adam Counterman, and Chris Thompson. I greatly appreciate all the help and knowledge that all council members and Pastor Eli provided to keep the church running as smoothly as possible.

I would like to welcome the new council members coming aboard for the new term in 2026: Nancy Honecker, Mike Wochter, and Erica Laich. I also want to thank Debbie Garritano and Jim Buchanan who are returning for another term. The new church council officers for 2026 are Dave Mueller, President; Brenda Adelman, Vice President; and Debbie Garritano, Secretary.

In closing this letter, I greatly appreciate all the feedback that I received from the letters I wrote for the Orbit, to the things that have been accomplished over the past two years. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve on council and did my best for the congregation here at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Yours in Faith,  
Kenneth B. Myers



**The Orbit**

## Trinity Happenings

January 25th we are having our "souper bowl" to benefit the church and the drum corp. It will be at 1:00pm and we encourage you to make your favorite soup to share. For a \$5 donation you will be able to sample all of the soups that people made. Last year we had over 15 soups and there was such a great variety. Please join us for some soup and fellowship.



## Trinity Healthy You/Social Ministry Committees

### SOCIAL MINISTRY/ HEALTHY YOU

Things we have done for the year 2025:

- We take charge of EASTER FOR ELI.
- We honor the preschool kids at Christmas, Easter, and the last day of school.
- We help to supply clothing to Bethany Lutheran Church for their monthly clothing giveaway.
- Organized the fall cleaning of the church. Many volunteers showed up for this undertaking.
- We change the tree in Trinity Hall according to the seasons.
- We have sent “Thinking of You” cards to our shut-ins and those we haven’t seen for a while.
- We organize the items brought in for the Caring Cupboard, along with some help from others.
- We spend about 1 ½ hours putting the Orbit together and taking it to the Duncansville Postal Terminal.
- Sometimes we exercise with the preschool kids.
- And last but not least, we spend a lot of time eating and solving the world's problems- ha-haha.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



## Trinity Special Music

### Howlin' and Meowin' Benefit

The students of Cynthia E. Finnagan, held a Howlin' and Meowin' Good Christmas Music event for the Central Pa. Humane Society, On Sunday, December 7th at Trinity Lutheran Church. Picture an afternoon of holiday charm straight out of a Hallmark Christmas movie! The students played and sang beautiful Christmas selections and lead the audience in a sing-a-long.

Afterwards, the guests did some Christmas shopping and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate with the students, Santa, and puppies and friends from the Central Pa. Humane Society. The joy of the Christmas season was in full force and the generosity of everyone for the successful outcome of this event is beyond words!

Thank you everyone who contributed to this event!!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



Pictured left to right: Ericka Selfridge, Cindy Finnegan and Kristina Daversa



## Trinity Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee was active during the year 2025. While the committee always encourages members of Trinity to prayerfully consider ways that they can help our Church. This is not only about money. Stewardship often is referred to by the three “T’s”

These are Time, Talent, and Treasure. (Notice what “T” is last). I know that everyone is busy, but can you spare a few minutes to reach out to someone who you may not have seen at worship. Everyone of us has something we’re good at. Could you possibly consider serving as a lector? If public speaking is not your thing, could you serve as an usher.

Pastor is often looking for someone to serve as a communion assistant. There are so many things that happen at Trinity, everyone should be able to identify some way they could help.

The quarterly Thank Offerings have increased dramatically in the past several years. This coincided with identifying a recipient of these offerings. During 2025, Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, Funds to repair our organ, the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society, and funds to restock the Caring Cupboard were generously supported via these special offerings. We try to identify needs at Trinity, as well as the communities that we serve.

If you know of any worthy endeavor that we could help, please let Pastor or a member of the Stewardship committee know.

The next Thank Offering will be in February of 2026. Please help us identify a recipient.

# Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

## TRINITY MEMBERS

Ted Baird	Bob Hofmann
Shelby Benzel	Martha Jones
Giana Berardinelli	Sharon Kutz
Ruth Brubaker	Ken B. Myers
Church Council	Lisa Smearman
Matthew Edevane	Stephanie Yeager
Maizie Emswiler	Hamilton
Allen Everhart	
Tom Hammond	
Jennifer Hippo	
Grant Hippo	

## SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Patty Auker	Shannon Kratzer
Chris Burda	Ken Kumpf
William Burda	Nora Kuntsbeck
Don Corl	Marie Laich
Gary Crownover	Clair McGregor
Val Gabriel	Leta Veit
Janet Gordon	Effie Whitfield

## ARMED FORCES

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



## FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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

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

Jan/Feb 2026

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## Lectionary Readings for the Month of Jan & Feb

### Jan 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### Jan 11

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### Jan 18

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### Jan 25

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

### Feb 1

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

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### Feb 8

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]  
Matthew 5:13-20

### Feb 15

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

### Feb 22

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

## The next Orbit Deadline is February 15

Please get your article for the newsletter by:

- Email your article to:  
**[office@trinityaltoona.com](mailto:office@trinityaltoona.com)**  
**[Dknee6@gmail.com](mailto: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!**