

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA
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May/June 2026

"Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in in and be honored says the Lord."

Haggai 1:7-8



From the Pastor:

In the book of Haggai the house of the Lord lies in ruin and God wants it rebuilt so that the people can worship and honor the Lord. We here at Trinity have a house of the Lord that we are responsible for so that we can worship and honor the Lord. Our house has some repairs that are greatly needed in order to have a functioning place of worship. There are two major projects that need addressed immediately so that the ministries of the church can continue. Luckily they do not affect the actual weekend worship of the church. Those two projects are the downstairs bathrooms, which are out of commission for the time being and the outside painting of the wood work around the windows and the other edges of the church. We are looking into both projects and they are both going to be expensive. The plumbing in the bathroom downstairs looks to be a complete redoing of the pipes underground and it is both the men's and the woman's bathroom leaving them un-usable. We are working with some plumbers to get bids for the job and have had the water authority out to look at things from their end. We are anticipating this project, the way it looks, to be in the 10's of thousands. The exterior painting and fixing of the window sills is also a project that we have been putting off for a while but have been advised it is now time to do something about. We have received two bids for this project that will go before the council and then be brought to the congregation for approval. This project will also be above \$10,000. The council is working hard to accomplish these projects for the best price with the best work as possible. Please keep the congregation in your prayers as we look to fund and finish these important projects for the house of the Lord.

Peace,



Trinity Council President

I don't know about you, but seeing leaves on the trees is like a balm for my soul.

Easter comes at the perfect time in Central Pennsylvania because we experience Christ's resurrection as we see nature blooming and coming to life all around us. We are nourished in both mind and spirit.

In my house, April going into May is a very busy time. We have a birthday, Easter, more birthdays, and-of course-the rapidly approaching Mother's Day.

So I wanted to wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms in the congregation. I hope you have a wonderful day and feel appreciated for all you do.

And if your kids are anything like me and my siblings, then you deserve an extra special blessing. Because we were a LOT.

Happy Mother's Day! With a special shout-out to my Mom for doing an amazing job raising us.

Moms, we love you!

David Mueller
Council President



Trinity Worship and Music Committee

March 10, 2026

Pastor Eli, Debbie Garritano, Cindy Finnegan, Adam Counterman

March

1

8 Daylight Savings Time

15

22

29 Palm Sunday

April

2 Maundy Thursday 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.

3 Good Friday 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.

4 Easter Saturday 6:30 p.m.

5 Easter 6:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

12

19

26 Baptism

May

2-9 Pastor vacation, Pastor Ralph Hamer will do the services

3

10

17

24

31

Service

Acolytes: Pastor is working on getting acolytes for the services. Debbie is working on getting ushers and lectors for Easter services.

Easter Celebration: services at 6:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

We need 4 ushers at each service to pass the offering plate around.

Flowers

Judy –Altar flowers begin on April 12.

Music

Cindy – March 21 Cindy will be out of town and will ask Ralph to play. If he is unable, she will have one of her students play. She will cover the cost out of her pocket.

Choir practice has been challenging because of illness and other commitments. We will have music for the Easter celebrations.

John –

Adam – the youth will not be playing at Easter. They will play this summer, possibly in July.

Altar – none

Next meeting: April 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes February 2026

Attendance

Present

Pastor Eli
 Dave Mueller 2026
 Brenda Adelman, Vice President 2027
 Debbie Garritano, Secretary 2028

Absent

Ralph Grove, Treasurer

Pam Williamson, Treasurer
 Ken Myers 2026
 Lisa Bush 2027
 Nevin Woodring 2027
 Jim Buchanan 2028
 Pam Mueller 2026
 Sharon Kutz 2027
 Nancy Honecker 2028
 Erica Laich 2028
 Mike Wachter 2028

Greetings/Devotions

The meeting was called to order by President, Dave Mueller.
 Pastor led the group in prayer.

Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the February meeting were read. Brenda made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Jim 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

No report.

Pastor Hess' Report

Pastor presented a written report. Lent is in full swing and she has been busy with services, shut-in visits, other home visits, and meetings. Trinity hosted the Synod Pastors and Bishop for a service of the renewal of ordination vows and blessing of the oil. It was attended by 30 clergy. She is looking forward to Holy Week and the Easter Celebration. She also conducted a funeral service for a woman who wasn't a member but loved Trinity, Mrs. Albarano. Remember even though you don't remember someone, you can still make a difference in their life.

Property – no report.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes Cont'd

Worship and Music – see attached.

Christian Ed – Lisa reported that Sunday School attendance is down. Could be because of the weather or sickness. They are having some issues with the Confirmation Class. Many of the students miss lessons. Lisa does make copies of the lessons for those who miss. She will sit down with Pastor to look at some different options. She and Pastor are looking at Vacation Bible School info.

Stewardship – none

Social Ministry – no rep

Old Business –

Painting Outside – the wooden parts of the outside of the church need repaired and painted. Waddell gave an estimate of \$34,000.00 to do the whole church. We need more estimates. Mike said he will check with Brian Lutz and R&J Quality Services to give us an estimate. Mike did check with R&J Quality Services and their bid was \$14,000.00. That would be scraping paint, caulking, prime paint and they could begin by early summer. He hasn't heard from Lutz.

Bathrooms – the downstairs bathrooms need new sewer lines. Mike talked to Precision Mechanical and will make an appointment for him to come and give us an estimate. Ken talked to the city, and they said there are two lines going out to the street. This is a problem that needs to be taken care of. Once we have estimates, then we will take it to the congregation for approval.

New Business

Personnel Committee – Sharon gave a written report. The committee met on February 26, 2026, to discuss a problem with the Church Treasurer. Currently Ralph Grove is the Treasurer, and the committee is looking for his replacement. Pastor Eli has received Synod approval to obtain all records Ralph has at his home. Discussion was held about hiring another person for Treasurer. They cannot be a member of the church due to privacy issues. They held interviews and recommend Pam Williamson to be the next Treasurer. Questions were asked about Pam's background. She has experience in Retail Management as a manager at TJ Max, she has also done seasonal taxes and is currently a teller at Reliance Bank. She loves numbers and solving problems. Council seconded the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Pam as the new Treasurer. Motion carried. She will work with Ralph and take over at the end of April. Finance records will be kept at the church. She will have the office off the sanctuary. Welcome, Pam.

Jim 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: April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



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Trinity Happenings

Sharing information from the **Trinity Pulse**.

Did you know Trinity Altoona has a **YouTube Channel**? Now you can watch our short- form series **Out to Pastor** (plus archived worship services and sermons) anytime on your computers, smartphones, tablets and smart TVs.

[Subscribe to Trinity's YouTube channel today :\)](#)

- Our **regular weekly activities** include the:
- Sewing Group (Mondays 10AM-2PM),
- Adult Bible Study (Tuesdays 9-10AM),
- The Healthy You Program (Tuesdays 10:30-11AM, Fridays 10-11AM),
- The Prayer Breakfast group (Thursdays 9-10AM)
- Sunday School (9:30AM).

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

TRINITY MEMBERS

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

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

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

ARMED FORCES

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

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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



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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Lectionary Readings for the Months of May & June

May 3

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 24

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

May 31

Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 7

Hosea 5:15—6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14

Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

June 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

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The next Orbit Deadline is June 15

Please get your article for the newsletter by:

- 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!