

The Orbit

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALTOONA PA

TrinityAltoona.com | Facebook.com/TrinityAltoona



September/October 2026

"We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong, give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song."

Here In This Place, With One Voice #718 vs. 2



From the Pastor:

With music weekend coming up in the beginning of September, I thought I would quote one of my favorite songs (I have a lot of favorite songs). In this verse of the song it is asking God to gather the people in to church so that we can be strengthened to go out to the world and spread the gospel message to all. We are all responsible for the gospel message, the young, the old, the rich, the poor, everyone who is a disciple of Christ. We are called to come to church to be surrounded by others who are called and to be fed and nourished in word, sacrament, and yes song. Hopefully, we are back into our fall routines and part of that routine includes worship. Worship is a good place to start our week off on the right foot. Many of us relax our commitment to worship over the summer, but now is the time to start our worship discipline back with the rest of our fall schedule. Young, old, rich, poor, all are called and welcome as God gathers us in.

Peace,



Trinity Council President

Trinity Council President

Hello, everyone! As I write this, it is just past the middle of August. The church picnic is still a couple of Sundays away. But when you read this, August is going to be in the rear-view mirror. We'll be watching preseason football (and maybe even the first week of the regular season), and you'll be seeing people on social media talking about pumpkin spice latte season.

Yeah, I block those people.

No, I'm kidding, I'm kidding! I actually love fall! I love orange and reds on the trees. Kicking through the leaves that make that sound as you swish, swish, swish. I remember in college taking the CATA bus in shorts and a sweatshirt and it being the perfect temperature-especially in the mornings. Just a little chilly!

So it's not that I hate the fall; it's just that I LOVE summer. And this one went wayyy too fast!

But I'm very excited for the church picnic. That is always so much fun! And we have a lot of exciting things happening at the church in the next couple of months. Getting the bathroom fixed and painting the church: while not necessarily fun, they help ensure Trinity's future.

I hope everyone has a great fall season. By the time it's time to write another one of these letters, it'll be just a couple of weeks until Thanksgiving.

Okay, now I'm depressed ha-ha!

But in the meantime, enjoy the beautiful September weather, cheer for the Steelers (or Washington, Pastor), and take a moment to appreciate how beautiful it is when the leaves change. I will see you on Sunday!



Trinity Worship and Music

Choir

Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 11:45 am. Please join us! You may sing for specific church season if you are unable to make a full time commitment. Please watch the weekly bulletin for choir rehearsal schedule. If you have any questions, please text or call Cindy at (814) 330-2202.

Thank you

Church Music Weekend

Here at Trinity Lutheran Church, we set aside a weekend to acknowledge and celebrate the music of the church. This year we will do this on September 12th and 13th. There will be additional special music at all three services that weekend. We offer thanks to God for the music of the church. Scripture encourages believers to sing and listen to music with thankfulness in their hearts. We view music as a divine gift that aids our worship experience and unites the congregation.

This is also an opportunity to thank the many volunteer musicians in the congregation. This includes the choir, vocal and instrumental soloists, youth vocal and instrumentalists, and directors of these groups. These people donate their time, talent, and energy to help with creating a meaningful spiritual atmosphere.



Trinity

Thank You for Your Prayers

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

My name is Eric Sweet, and I am the grandson of Joyce Otto. Some of you may remember me from visits over the years. I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the congregation for your faithful prayers throughout my 20 years of service in the United States Navy.

I recently retired from active duty after serving for two decades. During that time, I know my name was regularly included on the church's prayer list, especially during multiple deployments and throughout my military career. It is difficult to fully express how much those prayers meant to me.

Knowing that my church family was faithfully lifting me up in prayer gave me great comfort and peace. It allowed me to focus on leading and caring for my Sailors, accomplishing the mission, and carrying out my responsibilities with confidence. Through those prayers, I was continually reminded that the Lord was watching over me, especially during the most challenging seasons of my service.

My final duty station was Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois, where I had the privilege of serving at the Navy's only boot camp. Since settling in the area, I have become an active member of a local church. Over the past four years, the Lord has greatly strengthened my faith and deepened my walk with Jesus Christ. I am truly thankful for His faithfulness throughout my career and for the many people—including all of you—who faithfully prayed for me along the way.

Thank you again for your encouragement, support, and prayers over these past 20 years. Please continue to care for grandmother, Joyce Otto, in your prayers. Know that I am also praying for Trinity Lutheran Church, asking the Lord to bless your congregation and to continue growing His kingdom throughout the Altoona community and the surrounding areas.

May God continue to bless each of you as you faithfully serve Him.

In Christ,

Eric Sweet

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Trinity Happenings

As we move into our fall scheduling please make note of some of our starting dates:

Sunday School: Sept. 13 at 9:30am

Bible Study: Tuesday Sept. 22 at 9:00am

Also be on the look out/or listen in announcements for the start of Elementary youth group and Jr/Sr high youth group

The first week of August we helped Vacation Bible School. Although we would have liked more kids we had a great week. The kids learned about strength through God and had fun doing crafts, science, recreation, music, and eating snacks. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this enjoyable week possible.

Once again we will be having a blessing of the animals. This will be held Sunday, October 4th, at 1pm in the alley yard of the church. All well behaved pets are welcome.



Trinity Christmas Music

Mark Your Calendar Now

On Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 3 pm, the students of Cynthia E. Finnegan will once again present "Howlin' and Meowin'" Good Christmas Music at Trinity Lutheran Church/

This event benefits the Central Pa Humane Society and promises to provide an afternoon that will feel as though you've stepped into a Hallmark Christmas movie.

There will be an hour long concert by the students, stocking stuffer shopping for dog and cat lovers, cookies, and hot chocolate, a visit from Santa, meet and greet with adorable adoptable dogs (and maybe cats too) from the Central Pa Humane Society, and much, much more!

Admission is free, donations appreciated.

More information will be provided soon.

Thank you !



Trinity Fundraising

The total from the fundraising that the students of Cynthia E Finnegan raised in the 2025-26 lesson season has been announced ! The season was called Howlin' and Meowin' Good Music and the main event was the Howlin' and Meowin' Good Christmas Music benefit program that was held at Trinity on December 7, 2025. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported that event !!! That event (which included donations of food and much needed items) along with some other fundraisers brought the total contributions for the shelter to \$6,986.87 !!! The check from the student's canister drive and donations was presented on July 13, 2026 and marked the conclusion of this season's efforts. Pictured are Ericka Selfridge, Cindy Finnegan (holding Paddington) , and Kristina Daversa.



Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

TRINITY MEMBERS

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

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

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

ARMED FORCES

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



FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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

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 Sep & Oct

Sep 6

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sep 13

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sep 20

Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sep 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Oct 4

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Oct 11

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Oct 18

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Oct 25

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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The next Orbit Deadline is October 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!