



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

The musical score is presented in a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with piano accompaniment. It consists of six systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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2023

Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church February 4, 2024



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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

WE ASPIRE TO JOURNEY WITH ONE ANOTHER IN GRACE, FAITH, LOVE, AND SERVICE!

“What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future.”

(1 Peter 1:3-5, The Message)

Reading through the yearly reports, which give us only a partial view of everything that happens at Trinity, I can do nothing but add an “Amen” to these undying words of Peter! How else can we explain everything that we do? We have received a brand-new life. And we even have a future in heaven.

The future, of course, is not “a pie in the sky when we die,” but it begins here and now. Peter rightly says that we have everything to live for! Because God is carefully watching over us and the future, we can live here and now as people who have experienced, and people who are experiencing, something of the future that is in heaven.

Looking back on 2023, I want to celebrate every member of your Trinity staff. This is indeed an amazing group of gifted people, and everyone contributes to joy in ministry. Your staff dedicates themselves to what has been assigned to them in job descriptions, and leaves the many things that need to be finished to our volunteers.

I also want to celebrate the many volunteers. There is no way to thank everyone. We see many people leading and serving everywhere, not waiting for someone else to do something, but stepping up and serving. And what can I say about all the many unseen volunteers? “It takes a few suburbs” to make facilities this size hum like a well-oiled machine. I know that time is in short supply, but somehow, professional people, mothers, retirees, young people, children—just about everyone—finds time to volunteer energy, imagination, intelligence, and love. Trinity is blessed by many people who give themselves “willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and a blessing to one another.”

To the many people who believe in our ministries, and put their time, energy, and money where our passion and hope are being expressed—THANK YOU!

Pastor Chris



Welcome Vicar Gail!



Trinity received placement of Vicar Gail Kenny, a fourth-year student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Trinity had not had an internship placement during the past two years of applying for one, so the announcement was a wonderful surprise. However, it required Trinity's council to raise and reallocate five months of intern housing and stipend funds that had not been budgeted. Staff members repurposed and prepared Room 125 as the vicar's office. She began her internship on August 1, 2023, and will complete her year on July 31, 2024.



Vicar Gail and her husband, Mike, were warmly welcomed to Trinity at the "We Say Hello, and We Say Goodbye" celebration on August 19, during which Trinity also celebrated its time with sabbatical pastor Roy Christell and welcomed back Pastor Chris Naig from sabbatical. The event also raised funds for Trinity's five core missions.



A team of six Trinity members—Ron Jones, Elaine Larson, Genie and Harry Mueller, and Christie and Larry Tietjen—were selected to serve as the internship committee, meeting monthly with Vicar Gail to give feedback on her ministry, and to encourage and challenge her growth. Vicar Gail also met an hour each week with Pastor Chris for supervision.



Vicar Gail preached or presided on alternating weeks and taught Biblical Conversations and confirmation classes. She participated in church council and various committees, worked on mission activities, visited members, planned worship, and attended Central States Synod and Eastern Missouri Conference events. She was instrumental in working with Director of Music Brian Parrish to revive the handbell ensemble. She connected with Trinity Preschool students and teachers in the classroom or at "Bible at the Boat" learning time.

After observing the congregation for several months, Vicar Gail, with the approval of Pastor Chris and her committee, chose "Improving Intergenerational Ministry" for her project. Trinity has seven generations of members, a 100-year span from its oldest members in the "Greatest Generation," to "Generation Alpha" born in the past decade. Working with members and leaders, Vicar Gail will be assisting Trinity to celebrate and expand the opportunities for various generations to connect and develop relationships in the life of the congregation.



Trinity's members reached out to make Vicar Gail and Mike feel welcome and comfortable throughout their time in West County. Vicar Gail and Mike were overwhelmed by the reception and speed with which they were assimilated into the Trinity family. Hosting an intern is a way for Trinity to contribute to the future pastoral leadership of the ELCA, strengthen Trinity's ties with the LSTC seminary, and expand Trinity's capacity for ministry with pastoral interns with various additional gifts.

Vicar Gail

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year, Everyone!

I hope your Christmas was filled with joy, great memories and lots of cookies!

As I sit here in my home, surrounded by Christmas debris, I can't help but think of how very thankful I am, both in general and to have had such a wonderful year as Trinity Council President. While I wasn't sure how my goofy suits, personality, or just general volume would be received in a church leadership position, I was pleasantly surprised with how amazingly comfortable you all made me in such a short period of time. I truly thank you all for this!

Rebecca, Claire, Alexis and I started coming to Trinity in 2014 as we were looking for a place to call our own. The church we were attending didn't have a kids' program and we had made it a goal to find somewhere where the girls could grow and mature in their faith. Literally thirty seconds after walking into the lobby of Trinity, we were welcomed, introduced to multiple members and given a rundown on the kids' program. Simply put...we were blown away. This was absolutely a place where the kids could thrive and grow in their faith. But then something very funny happened. Shortly after becoming members, I realized that it was myself who was actually the one needing a change of scenery for my own beliefs. What Trinity gave me over the past ten years was a space for truly defining what I needed in a church and allowed me to be the one who truly grew and matured (minus my Christmas suits of course... those are non-negotiable).

I will be very honest and tell you that I never thought I would be a church president. At one point this year, Rebecca told a family member, 'If someone had told me years ago that her husband would be the president of her church, she would have been startled and said, 'oh no! What happened to Zack?' So with that, I thank you all for allowing me to grow in my faith and being one of the most welcoming congregations I have ever experienced in my life.

That all being said, 2023 was another amazing year for Trinity. Our Youth Room was revamped and renovated, giving our youth an updated area to congregate, our Missions teams thrived with some amazing fundraisers and donations, allowing us to be the hands and feet of Christ, and our Pastor's sabbatical offered some well deserved R&R&R (rest, relaxation and reflection) time, allowing him to come back and guide us on our faith journey even better than before!

I want to personally thank you all for your deeply generous gifts this year. Whether it be financially or volunteer time, all is truly appreciated and cannot be understated.

I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone more than I have this year and I cannot wait to see what 2024 brings!

Thank you.
Zack Henderson



MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

Music Ministry at Trinity

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord” Ephesians 5:19

This biblical verse beautifully encapsulates the spirit of our Music Ministry at Trinity over the past year. Our journey through music has been one of joy, fellowship, and worship, echoing another verse, *“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise”* (Psalm 98:4).



I extend my deepest gratitude to the many volunteer musicians who have generously shared their time and talents. Their dedication and love for music have been the backbone of our ministry, enabling us to lift our congregation in worship and joy. We all appreciate the hard work of the singers in the Trinity Choir. *“I will sing of Your love and justice; to You, Lord, I will sing praise”* (Psalm 101:1). We also appreciate the players in our Trinity Bell Choir. *“Praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals”* Psalm (150:5).



A special acknowledgement is due to Graeme Allen and Stacey Drake for their outstanding work in preparing the Trinity Children for their Christmas program, *“Love Came Down.”* Their dedication to nurturing the musical talents of our young members resulted in a truly heartwarming and spiritually uplifting performance that beautifully captured the essence of the Christmas story.

This year, the Trinity Lutheran Concert Series, in its second season, was a remarkable success, featuring four exceptional concerts. *“Two Times True - St. Louis Jazz”* brought a vibrant and soulful jazz experience to our community. *“W. Mark Akin in Concert”* was a testament to the intricate beauty of the classical guitar, leaving our audience in awe of Mark's skill and devotion. *“Kórmenn - A Men's Choir Concert”* directed by our very own Jonathan Owen showcased powerful and harmonious vocals, enriching our appreciation for choral music in performance and worship. Lastly, the *“Two Times True - A Jazzy Christmas”* concert was a delightful blend of jazz and festive tunes, creating a joyful prelude to our Christmas celebrations. These concerts raised a collective \$12,549 for our core missions here at Trinity.

Please join us for these upcoming Trinity Concert Series events:

- Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 3:00 pm for The Easter Story by Tom Fettke - sung by Trinity Choir, benefitting Trinity Preschool
- Sunday May 19, 2024 at 3:00 pm for Daniel Henderson and James Nacy in Concert, Cello Duo, benefitting Circle of Concern

As we reflect on the past year, we see a tapestry of music and fellowship that has enriched our worship and brought our community closer. The tireless efforts of our volunteers and the exceptional talents displayed in our concert series are reminders of the profound impact music has in connecting us to each other and the Word of God.

In the upcoming year, we look forward to exploring new ways to incorporate music into our worship and community life, always remembering that through music, we express our deepest joys, our hopes, and our faith.

“In Him, our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.” Psalm 33:21

Brian Parrish
Director of Music Ministry

Facilities Report

It has been another busy year taking care of the Trinity facility in 2023. The year started with severe damage to the preschool storage room (old Parish Hall kitchen). The damage could have been much worse had Pastor Chris not just happened to walk into the preschool gym after worship services and heard the water running. The silver lining is we have a newly painted room, lighting, new outside door and new equipment for the preschool. We also took measures to add heat to the room and block areas where the cold air was coming in.

The preschool had several improvements made in 2023, most as a result of the Capital Campaign. The replacement of windows and doors was completed. All the windows were cleaned inside and out. The overhang outside of Room 1 and 2 was covered. Trees were trimmed and a big tree removed from the playground in preparation for the new playground improvements. Also, multiple stumps were removed from the preschool garden and playground area. At the same time, over 20 stumps on the Trinity grounds were removed. The new playground upgrades provide a much safer playground area. As an additional safety measure, all locks for the preschool rooms were rekeyed to a key different than the church doors.

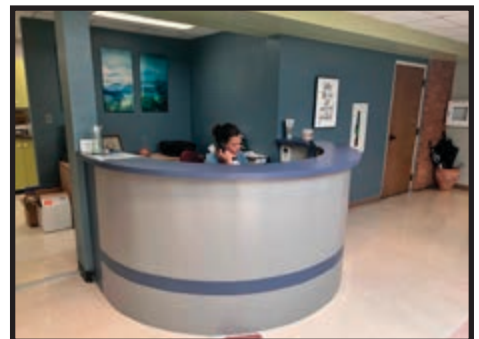
A large project was undertaken to begin the update of the Atrium and entrance areas. The hope was to provide better safety by having the welcome desk close to the entrance door to better manage traffic and deliveries. The new welcome desk also provides a much nicer first impression when people enter and are greeted personally. We painted the church entrance and added some welcoming lettering on the walls. The old lettering on the outside doors was updated and replaced. Also, some lettering was done in the gym to help make people aware that when they use the gym, they are in a church.

At the same time, the old store room across from the elevator was converted to an office for Vicar Gail. The addition of the welcome area allowed us to rearrange offices. Mike Sharitz and Sandi Thorp are now in Amy Jones' old office. This allowed us to convert the old facilities office into a conference room. This has been a great addition, offering additional space for small groups, council meetings, staff meetings and confirmation classes. After the relocation of offices, it became necessary to replace our old phone system that has been obsolete for 10 years. We now have a new Voice over IP system.

This year was not without surprises that always seem to be waiting for us due to the age of our building. Five roof drains had to be replaced. The HVAC for the office area was replaced due to a rusted heat exchanger. The Atrium A/C lost one compressor and we were able to limp along until the A/C was no longer needed. A new unit is on order to be replaced in the Spring.

Random Facility Facts—Did you know? In 2023, we used 596,736 sheets of toilet paper, 48,000 feet of rolled paper hand towels, 28,000 folded paper hand towels, and 211 rolls of kitchen paper towels!

Mike Sharitz
Trinity Facilities Manager



RENTAL REPORT

Rental Report

Rentals for both the Trinity gym and ballfield continue to be busy! Currently, the gym is booked for every Saturday night of the first 4 months of 2024 (and almost every Friday) by a fundraising group. Fall 2024 is filling up quickly with community events in the gym, and the is gym booked for two fundraisers in 2025 already!

All weekday evenings (except Wednesday which is reserved for Trinity's youth) are filled with 2 or more sports teams practicing in the gym! The ballfield bookings for Spring/Summer 2024 were completed before Thanksgiving 2023.

From school fundraisers, to Bulgarian dance lessons, to a small square-dancing group, to Al-Anon, AA, volleyball, basketball, softball, and baseball...community gathers here at Trinity.

Amy Jones
Rental Coordinator

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

Report from the 2023 Central States Synod Assembly

Sabbatical Pastor Roy Christell, Bob Hick, Jerry Partlow, Glenda Partlow, and Susan Seckel represented Trinity at the Central States Virtual Synod Assembly on June 3, 2023.

Each of the various sections and considerations of the agenda were opened with prayers for God's guidance. The report of The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop of the ELCA Central States Synod, detailed various activities, challenges and accomplishments in her past two years of service. She emphasized three key themes for her, and our, ongoing work. One, that we keep the Gospel of Grace central to all of our activities and deliberations. Two, that we stress being and working together in all of our endeavors, particularly as we engage our "siblings of color." Three, that we embrace Joy as we participate in God's work. Bishop Candea highlighted Isaiah 55:12 *"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace."*

All of the Constitution Amendments, and nominations for Synod Council and Committees, as well as the budget, compensation guidelines and various resolutions proposed by the synod staff were approved using the electronic voting platform provided. The only amendment provoking extended discussion involved reducing the requirement for a quorum of voting members at Synod Assemblies from one-half to one-third. This change did pass. In addition, there was a question as to whether the addition of retired clergy to Assembly voting would reduce representation by lay voters at Assemblies. It was clarified that lay participation could not drop below 60%.

The Assembly recognized by name many distinguished clergy members who have served our Synod. Those included several who have served our Trinity congregation: Rev. Paul Bauermeister who died on September 11, 2022, Rev. Barry Hong, a former member who retired last year, Rev. John Kotovsky, Rev. Roy Christell, and Rev. David Paap, who all reached milestone anniversaries.

The Assembly approved the Central States Synod budget of \$1.555 million for 2024. This required a \$40,000 dip into reserve funds, as did the current budget year. At this rate, reserves are only sufficient for two or three more years. By established procedures, 50% is transferred to the ELCA. This budget depends mainly on shrinking contributions from the 160 congregations who support it. It is reduced considerably from the \$2.2 million budget a decade ago. We were struck by the tiny fraction of the ELCA represented by the Central States; on the order of 2%. Although not proposed or discussed at this Assembly, perhaps some restructuring may be required in the future.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MomCo)

We had a busy and amazing year in MOPS (now MomCo). Aside from our regular meetings, we began the year by hosting a Marriage Seminar, that was well attended. We then celebrated a festive “Galentine’s” in mid-February with a dinner and a “Breakout Room” experience. We may not have successfully broken out of the room, but we certainly left that evening having shared an evening filled with lots of laughter and connection. In late March, we hosted a service project for period poverty in impoverished nations. We had another evening social, followed by our Annual Tea & Treasures Event in Late April. It was a magnificent outdoor celebration, with antique china, carefully catered food and drink, delicate decor, beautiful gowns, and amazing women. In early May, you could find us in the Trinity kitchen, prepping and baking cookies for the Preschool Celebration. All the cookies were baked with love and plenty of laughter. We concluded the school year with our Annual Family BBQ. This year we celebrated at Trinity, with many of our children returning to the very playground they enjoyed so many years ago, during their preschool years. It felt very full circle. There were tables of amazing food, lots of children running and giggling, and the very best of company to be found.

After a busy summer was had by all, we reconvened our meetings with much gratitude. In early September, a few members were fortunate to travel to Chicago for the MomCon convention. This is where and when we learned that MOPS was changing its name to MomCo. Here, in the presence of thousands of other moms, they were able to hear from amazing speakers and enrich their souls in incredible ways. What a blessing it was to have this opportunity so close to home. We ended September with a social night out and were excited to welcome a new member. October was filled with so much activity. Our meetings focused heavily on soul care, good self-talk, and building meaningful connections. We had one meeting that involved “speed dating” of sorts, where we asked questions to delve deeper into who we are and share with each other. The connections we built have made our village strong.

In early November, we focused on service. As in years’ past, we purchased items, and then packed and shipped boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year, as the boxes were delivered to the dropoff location site, a former Trinity MOPS member was there volunteering, and prayed over our boxes. It was another full-circle moment that filled the soul. Mid-November did not let down, as we invited a professional to speak to our group about restoring passion in marriage. We also put on our first fundraising event, “80’s Game Night.” It was a small affair, but had great impact on those who attended. The decor and costumes were reminiscent of that time, but the memories made will remain. We ended the month with a few moms meeting up with another mom group for a musical downtown. Another night to remember and new connections made. To finish off our year, we had two final meetings in December. We completed a Christmas craft together and brought in cookies and gifts for our annual cookie and White Elephant gift exchange.

We already have a lot planned for next year, including more group activities that include our spouses, as we’ve found an even greater blessing when we open the net wider and include our families in celebration. We are also very excited with the newer format of the program, which enables us to incorporate the membership of pregnancy through 12th-grade mama. We’ve already welcomed back an alum and are eager to see what the future holds for our group.

We are so grateful for your support and encouragement. So many of our members have vocalized that this group was an answer to prayer, a way out of their darkness or challenges. We know this is a safe place for mamas to land and be nourished, as well as offering the privilege of providing nourishment to others. Thank you!

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mission Committee Report



On behalf of the Trinity family, the Mission Committee works to fulfill Trinity's vision "You Matter to God: You Matter to Us" and to show the love of Christ through service to the church, the world and those in need by being the hands and feet of Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to support this vision through both hands-on and financial support and look forward to continuing this work. We are also grateful for all the individual missional work members of the Trinity family continue to do to share God's love. If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the Mission Committee (Genie Mueller, Deb Palmer, Aruna Nadar, Lynn Sapp, Genie Mueller, Leslie Steinmeyer, Christie Tietjen, Rob Harper and Pastor Chris).



In 2023, the Committee worked to uplift Trinity's five Core Missions with the Mission of the Month. This allowed each of the core missions, Circle of Concern, Gateway180, Lantern Hill, Meals Do Matter and Trinity Preschool to be the focus of our efforts twice a year. Additionally, God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sunday was held 2 times in 2023.



2023 also saw the Mission Committee, with support from Trinity's Church Council, host the "We Say Goodbye and We Say Hello!" fundraiser. Fellowship was enjoyed by all. After all expenses were paid, we were able to raise approximately \$20,000 for Trinity's Core Missions. The first recipient of some of this money was Trinity Preschool.

While 2023 continued to present challenges to how we provided missional support, including reduced options for in-person support, the Mission Committee, with support of the Endowment Committee, was able to continue to partner with many organizations and groups and to share God's love and support. This support is detailed later in the Annual Report.



Circle of Concern

Circle of Concern is a food pantry located in Valley Park that serves approximately 2,000 individuals in west St. Louis County each month. Circle's mission is to feed the hungry and provide assistance to low-income families living in our community.

In February 2023, the Trinity Mission Committee hosted a canned food drive. Trinity Preschool joined us in collecting cans of food. Working together, we were able to collect over 300 cans of food for Circle of Concern.



In May 2023, a dedicated group of Trinity gardeners led by Rebecca Henderson and Jenny Larsen worked with our preschoolers to plant herbs, flowers and vegetables. All summer long, we made weekly deliveries of vegetables and herbs to Circle.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Lantern Hill

It has been an incredible 12 months at Lantern Hill. We continue to support 100 students in grades from kindergarten through university through the tutoring and nutrition program. Students come three days a week for a meal, tutoring, use of computers, one on one teaching, extra curricular activities, a colorful library full of books and educational games. Our center is a beacon of hope where children can learn and play and be supported in their social, emotional and educational journey. There are 9 students in different universities as well as 13 students in high school. The hope that students from this community will continue their education beyond middle school is now a reality!

This year we have also added Healthcare! Thanks to our partnership with NDSU, the Doctoral program of Nurse practioners, we have added yearly checkups and medical assistance for our students and their immediate families. Through generous gifts from our Trinity family, Bob & Gail Garthe's Garale Sale and the free will offering from the W. Mark Akin, Classical Guitar concert, Trinity's Mission Committee was able to purchase 40 pairs of eyeclasses for the students at Lantern Hill and provide summer enrichment opportunities.

A new piece of property was identified and acquired for an expansion of the programs at Lantern Hill. Plans are for a new gym area as well as 4 new, larger classrooms. Lantern Hill is just starting the fundraising for this new building. It will be a long road and all donations as well as prayers are appreciated. We are looking forward to the progress that can be made in 2024.

With the addition of the new building, the old program building has received a facelift and is being used as a recreational space and large gathering space. It will still be used for meals, small classrooms and study areas. It is also a perfect space to be used as a medical clinic when our partners from NDSU hold our quarterly health clinics.

We know that education brings more opportunities and can break the cycle of poverty with the right mindset. We invite you to journey with us and watch how lives are changed and miracles happen.

Trinity's next multi-generational trip to Lantern Hill will be in the summer of 2023. The trip is filling up fast. Please talk to Pastor Chris for more information about this trip.



MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT



Gateway180

2023 marked the 16th year of Trinity's relationship with Gateway180. Through the continued support of the Trinity family and friends, we are able to be the hands and feet of Christ by serving this organization and its clients and positively impacting the lives of some of the struggling families in the St. Louis area.

Gateway180 remains Missouri's largest 24-hour emergency housing organization for women, children and families, providing services to empower clients to move their families beyond homelessness into stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Thanks to the generous support of the Trinity congregation, we were able to contribute to the many Gateway180 milestones reached in 2023:

1. 87 families or households signed a lease of their own and received the key to their HOME.
2. 268 individuals moved from homelessness and shelter to the dignity and comfort of their own home.
3. 29,298 diapers distributed and 36 children celebrated birthday parties at the shelter.
4. 29 pairs of new school shoes and 46 new backpacks issued to kick off the new year.
5. 180 Easter eggs dyed and 240 gifts distributed on Christmas.
6. 364 hours of on-site mental health counseling provided.
7. 29 first days at new jobs.
8. 9 newborn infants born and arrived home to the shelter.
9. 2 nursing and 1 EMT licenses achieved, and 1 retirement celebrated.

Trinity's family and friends have continued to provide support in many ways. In addition to the funds budgeted for this mission, funding available through the Thrivent Action Teams program assisted in supporting Gateway180's needs. On your behalf, the Gateway Action Team gave thoughtful consideration to the use of this funding, targeting both ongoing and special needs. Gateway180 and the Gateway Action Team express sincere gratitude to all who have supported this mission spiritually, financially, in-kind and hands-on.

Throughout 2023, Trinity was the hands and feet of Christ for Gateway180 in many ways:

- Providing food and preparing 960 sandwiches for Brown Bag lunches.
- Preparing and donating intake bags to provide Gateway180's new clients with needed personal care items.
- Providing cleaning supplies for Gateway180's clients.
- Donating sheets and towels.
- Planning and providing funds for the Gateway Gala.
- Providing small Christmas gifts as a "thank you" to Gateway180's staff.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

- Sorting donations at Gateway180.
- On December 10, Trinity's Concert Series hosted the Two Times True Christmas Jazz concert. Attendees at this event were extremely generous. Over \$7,000 was donated during a free will offering to support Gateway180. These funds will help Gateway180 fulfill their mission. Thank you to all who donated!

We look forward to continued support from Trinity to be the hands and feet of Christ by partnering with Gateway180. We value and appreciate the support of the Trinity family in this endeavor. Please contact any member of the Gateway Action Team for more information about how you can be engaged. The current Gateway Action Team members are Ken Hardebeck, Peggy Miller, Jon and Barb Trettel and Kathy Gaal. More members and volunteers are always welcome.

Trinity Preschool

The Preschool garden continues to benefit Circle of Concern! Working with the preschool children and staff, our Garden Girls (Jenny Larsen and Rebecca Henderson) continue to bring new life to the garden. With multiple Thrivent Action cards from generous congregation members, we were able to plant tomatoes, peppers, parsley, basil, oregano, zucchini, squash, cucumbers, and multiple types of flowers to create a butterfly garden. The Trinity preschoolers and teachers had a blast helping to plant seeds and vegetable plants during the month of May. When many of the little ones returned in the fall, they were so excited to see how large the garden had gotten throughout the summer. Our preschoolers loved helping to harvest the produce during the months of September and October.

Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, Our preschool families enjoyed playing games and eating pizza at the Trinity Preschool Fall Festival.

Thanks to the support of Trinity's Mission Committee, over 500 eggs were purchased and hidden for the preschoolers to take part in the second Annual Trinity Preschool Egg Hunt. The eggs were hidden outside and each child was challenged to find 5 eggs with their name on it. The Mission Committee also purchased 130 pie pumpkins for the 3rd Annual Trinity Preschool Pumpkin Patch. Each child chose their own pumpkin, decorated it during their Halloween party, and took it home for their families to enjoy.

The Mission Committee purchased children's bibles for the preschool and presented them to our newest preschool students.

Generous gifts were given to our preschool staff for the end of the school year and for Christmas to show our great appreciation for their time, talent and all the wonderful work they do sharing God's message of Jesus's love.



MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Meals Do Matter



Meals Do Matter is a ministry of preparing and providing meals to those in need—blessing friends, family, and total strangers with meals during their times of need. MDM makes home-cooked meals, packages them and freezes them for our church members to deliver to people in their communities who need extra comfort, compassion, consolation, and care.

Meals Do Matter is a natural extension of our church's mission, "You Matter to God. You Matter to Us." MDM lives out the mission from God for us to be the hands & feet of Christ. The words that make up our name demonstrate "action" along with empowering people to serve. The gift of a delicious meal really does matter to people who are hurting or struggling. The act of being cared for reaches to the heart and soul of those in need.



In 2023, Meals Do Matter partnered with Rockwood National Honor Society high school students and students from Washington University. These students helped with shopping, cooking and meal assembly. We hosted 12 cooking assembly sessions and made over 1,000 meals for our MDM freezers.



Trinity hosted 2 Service Sundays in 2023 for our members to help assemble soup kits. Thanks to your efforts, we made over 300 soup kits and kept our freezers full in 2023. Two area groups, God's Helping Hands and Lutheran Senior Services, came by often in 2023 to take meals and soup kits for their clients. We distributed an average of 80 meals a month to these organizations.

At the end of 2023, the Mission Committee purchased a new commercial freezer for the Meals Do Matter mission. The freezer should arrive in February 2024. We are continuing to look for ways to grow this ministry and to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in need. We welcome all ideas.



Our website, launched in 2015, (www.mealsdomatter.org) allows for a national presence for this ministry, as well as encouraging and supporting other organizations by sharing in detail how we provide this ministry and how others can be the hands and feet of Christ in their world. Thank you to all who helped fund this ministry: Trinity's Mission Budget, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (and those who applied for Action Team cards), individual donors of dollars, food, and supplies, and all the hands that have helped.



MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sunday God's Work.

The Trinity Mission Committee hosted two God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sundays in 2023—April 16 and September 10. At each event, our Trinity family celebrated who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Over 60 members of our Trinity Family gathered to participate in different service projects to benefit Trinity and its five core missions:

April 16

- Assembled 150 Soup in a Jar kits for Lutheran Senior Services
- Made Intake Bags for Gateway180
- Cleaned up Trinity's Adopted Highway
- Prepared the Trinity Preschool garden for planting

September 10

- Assembled 50 Thanksgiving boxes for Circle of Concern
- Put together 16 chairs for the new Trinity Conference Room
- Assembled 170 Soup in a Jar kits for Lutheran Senior Services
- Cut out over 340 shapes for the upcoming Trinity Preschool Fall Festival



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT



I have enjoyed every minute of my first year here at Trinity as your Children's Ministry Coordinator! Each and every one of you has been so welcoming. I can't thank you enough for your support!

Our Vacation Bible School held in July welcomed over 100 campers, as well as countless wonderful volunteers that made our week a huge success. We enjoyed our theme **"Ready, Set, Move"** as we learned to follow Jesus here, there and everywhere!



We kicked off our Sunday School year with our Rally Day in September. We enjoyed our Garden of Eden theme as we rotated stations between fun-filled games, crafts and a snack. Age appropriate Bibles were distributed.

Our Sunday School class is held every Sunday from 9:00 am-10:00 am in the Sunday School room upstairs (Room 263). Sunday School averages around 10-12 students each Sunday. We follow the Faith Five curriculum and enjoy learning our weekly Bible story through conversation, art, games and music.

Our Children's Christmas Program this year was **"Love Came Down."** Sixteen children participated, along with six middle schoolers and high schoolers. They all worked so hard and gave a wonderful, heartfelt performance!



We have eight seventh and eighth graders in our Trinity Confirmation class which is led by Pastor Chris in our new conference room on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

Thank you all for a wonderful first full year as your Children's Ministry Coordinator!

Stacey Drake
Children's Ministry Coordinator



TRINITY PRESCHOOL REPORT

The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Preschool is to make Christ known to preschoolers and their parents and to provide a developmentally appropriate educational experience that recognizes the spiritual, mental, motional, social and physical needs of the child.

“To make Christ known...To help them grow.”

2023 was a wonderful year at Trinity Preschool! Our program continues to maintain an excellent reputation in the community as a quality Christian preschool. While the school provides a Christian education to the preschoolers of our member families, it is also a valuable outreach into the community. Many families, both from Trinity Church and from our current preschool families, share with their neighbors and friends the positive impact that Trinity Preschool has had on their lives. Through the preschool, Trinity students learn of Jesus’s love for them and experience this love daily. Our mission for Trinity Preschool is that our ministry to these children may help lead them and the families towards a relationship with Christ.

Our Christ-centered philosophy, developmental programming, and most of all, our dedicated, highly educated staff are some of the reasons why our preschool is recommended by parents and professionals. We continue to utilize the “Living the Word” Bible Curriculum, which coordinates with what the church is teaching each Sunday. The children are introduced to a new Bible story each week and do an activity to share at home with their family.

Our experienced and talented teachers implement a developmentally appropriate Christian curriculum through our STREAM-Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math, along with our Handwriting Without Tears Programs. This year we added an additional 1-year-old class on Mondays & Wednesdays and an additional MWF 2-year-old class. Trinity Preschool is also blessed to add a new, very talented music teacher, Tahlor Easterling. Miss E joins us twice each week to share her talent and love of music with the students.

Thanks to the Capital Campaign, many improvements have been made and continue to be made to the preschool. We are very excited about the upgrades to our playground, including safe ground covering, a new slide and an umbrella shade.

Thank you to Trinity Church for your continued prayers and support for our Staff and Preschool Families. The Trinity Mission Committee has blessed both the teachers and students alike—supplying pumpkins for our own “in-house” pumpkin patch, purchasing a new 4-passenger buggy for our new 1’s class, donating Bibles for our 3’s Classes and supplying crafts and games for our Fall Festival. We are so grateful for your generosity and support!

It has been a great joy to work with such a dedicated and educated staff of teachers, as well as a supportive and inspirational church. It is my daily privilege and joy to share in ministry with you.

In Him,
Christy Cole
Director, Trinity Preschool



YOUTH LEADING YOUTH REPORT

Trinity Youth LEADing Youth (YLY)

When I was first asked to lead Youth LEADing Youth in March, I was nervous. Now, I'm so incredibly blessed to guide those involved with the group!

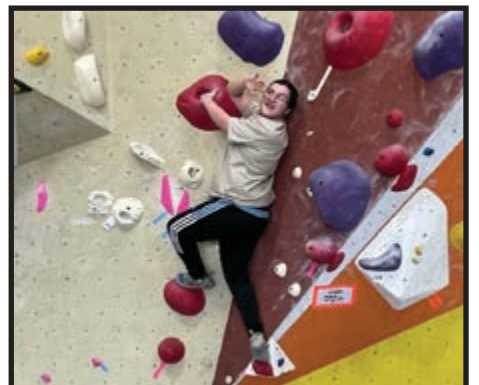
We started off the year with a group meeting. Trinity youth were invited to share some expectations and hangout ideas, and ice cream was provided.

On May 20, we traveled to Go Ape, where nine YLY members climbed, raced, and ziplined up in the air! Originally, YLY planned to travel on June 24 to The Boathouse located in Forest Park to go kayaking. However, only two members signed up and the temperature reached 95 degrees that day. I decided to cancel that event due to the extreme heat and low attendance. This was the same situation for the Cardinals vs Marlins game planned for July 17. Only two members planned to attend, so instead, I held a fun get-together at Trinity on July 29, where ice cream and snacks were provided, and we played video games, volleyball, and more! We had a great turnout for that event. Also, since youth were allowed to bring friends, we were able to introduce a few new faces to YLY as well.

On October 14, YLY hosted the first ever "Parents vs Youth" Bowling Night. Multiple families showed up to bowl and eat pizza together! On November 18, only two members signed up to go climbing at Upper Limits Climbing Gym, so they were encouraged to bring a friend.

Being a Youth Coordinator this year has taught me a lot. I hope to continue to improve as the YLY leader, and am looking forward to growing Trinity's YLY program. I can't thank the Trinity congregation enough for their unconditional support. I'm excited to see where the Lord takes Youth LEADing Youth next!

Paige Halter
Youth LEADing Youth Coordinator



Trinity Book Group

We are a group of avid book readers that meet at church on the fourth Monday of the month at 11:30am. We enjoy a wide variety of books that are selected by the group. We bring our own lunches and share some fellowship before we jump into our discussions that are led by different members. In December, we end our year with a potluck lunch and a movie. Everyone is welcome and we would love to have you join us.



Adult Forum

The Adult Forum had another successful year in 2023. We had a wonderful list of speakers/discussions for our January through May and September through December sessions this past year. In January, Pastor Chris kicked the new season off with an update on Trinity's status and aspirations for the future. That was followed by various "outside" speakers (such as Dr. David Oughton, Dr. Warren Crews & Dr. Fred Niedner) and "inside" speakers (such as Dr. Richard Johnson, Paul Ojier and our new intern, Gail Kenny), presenting various religious and current event topics.

A quick preview of some of our upcoming sessions from February thru May 2024 is as follows:

A session on Training of the Deaf by an expert from the Lutheran Special Education Ministry, a 3 part series on different religions of the world (first an overview, and then specific focus on aspects of the Greek Orthodox and Hindu religions), another session with a high-level expert on dealing with Alzheimer situations, a 2-part series on status of TLC's endowment and long term financial planning in general, a wonderful follow up session on the Isaiah prophecies, a 2-part series on using the Power of Virtue for better living, a 2-part series on the changing views of Jesus & Paul from the 1st to the 4th centuries, and finally, our traditional wrap up for the year with Pastor Chris.

You can always find the week-by-week Adult Forum schedule of our current semester posted on the white board in Room 123.

The Adult Forum Committee is made up of Mary Hepperly, Jerry Partlow, and Jeff Haferkamp. We would like to say "thank you" to all the attendees thru out the year. We're always looking for more help on the committee and welcome your suggestions of relevant speakers/topics to be presented.



Financial Summary for Trinity for 2023 and 2024 Budget

The following pages summarize the key financial information for the results for 2023 and the budget for 2024.

The first page presents the 2023 budget compared to the actual results for 2023. We ended the year ahead of revenue by \$79,000 and expenses over budget by \$17,000. Envelope giving was \$56,000 over budget! Trinity Preschool revenue was \$34,000 due to increasing enrollment. Church staff did an excellent job of managing expenses.



The only two areas that were significantly over budget were Adult Spiritual Growth and Trinity Preschool. The first was attributed to Intern expenses which were not planned to be in the budget. Because we had a surplus, we expensed the portion of the intern that was not funded by donations instead of using reserve funds as originally planned. And the Preschool expenses were up due to increased enrollment.



The second page presents the balance sheet as of December 31, 2023, compared to 2022. We spent \$103,000 from the Council Discretionary Account. The vast majority of this was for capital improvements with the largest expenditures being HVAC replacement and the remodeling of the entryway. We also funded the expenses related to the Interim Pastor during Pastor Chris's sabbatical. The surplus from 2023 of approximately \$63,000 will be deposited into this account.

The third page presents the 2024 Budget as proposed and compares it to the 2023 Budget. There are a few changes worth pointing out in the proposed budget.



- We are proposing a small increase in Envelope Giving. This is actually less than the actual received in 2023.
- We are proposing a significant increase in revenue from the Preschool. The actual budget was higher than the budget in 2023, and we are comfortable that they will meet or exceed this revenue budget.
- We are including the costs of the Intern for the first 9 months of 2024 and have included some ongoing costs after that to provide additional Pastoral Care support in some manner.
- Preschool expenses are projected to increase due to increased enrollment.



Trinity had a very strong year financially and is well positioned for 2024 and beyond. We are excited to see where this continued momentum will take Trinity's mission!

2023 Budget vs. 2024 Actuals

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Variance
Receipts			
Envelope Giving	621,000	676,936	55,936
Fund Raisers and Loose Basket	10,500	6,268	(4,232)
Preschool	313,700	347,680	33,980
Rental and Other	41,500	35,008	(6,492)
PPP Funding	-	-	-
Total Receipts	986,700	1,065,892	79,192
Expenses			
Community Outreach	3,200	2,872	(328)
Administration	224,272	219,971	(4,301)
Adult Spiritual Growth	152,925	163,078	10,153
Children's Spiritual Growth	16,793	17,847	1,054
Facility	147,855	149,613	1,758
Mission	64,000	63,970	(30)
Preschool	266,200	278,721	12,521
Music	65,100	62,214	(2,886)
Worship	4,500	7,197	2,697
Youth Spiritual Growth	41,500	37,527	(3,973)
Interest	-	-	-
Fund Raising	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total Expenses	986,345	1,003,010	16,665
Net Operating Income	355	62,882	62,527
Transfer (to) from Council Discretionary	(355)	(62,882)	-
Net Income After Transfer	-	-	-

2023 BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

2023 Balance Sheet Summary

ASSETS	31-Dec 2023	31-Dec 2022	Change 2023 vs 2022
Cash/Investments			
ELCA Endowment	\$ 390,174	\$ 363,786	\$ 26,388
First Mid Bank	\$ 225,016	\$ 183,350	\$ 41,666
Prepaid Insurance	\$ 19,334	\$ 20,000	\$ (666)
ELCA Mission Investment Fund	\$ 77,977	\$ 126,841	\$ (48,864)
Total Cash and Investments	<u>\$ 712,501</u>	<u>\$ 693,977</u>	<u>\$ 18,524</u>
Fixed Assets			
Buildings	\$ 3,892,130	\$ 3,892,130	\$ -
Cemetery	\$ 5,661	\$ 5,661	\$ -
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 119,575	\$ 119,575	\$ -
Land	\$ 640,637	\$ 640,637	\$ -
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 4,658,002</u>	<u>\$ 4,658,002</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,370,503</u>	<u>\$ 5,351,979</u>	<u>\$ 18,524</u>
AP and Credit Cards	\$ 2,442	\$ 2,344	\$ 98
Dedicated Funds			\$ -
Capital Campaign	\$ 38,953	\$ 73,994	\$ (35,041)
PPP		\$ -	\$ -
Capital Reserves	\$ 55,325	\$ 10,968	\$ 44,357
Cemetery	\$ 47,890	\$ 27,272	\$ 20,618
Fellowship Care Ministries	\$ 11,089	\$ 10,799	\$ 290
Endowment Fund	\$ 390,174	\$ 363,785	\$ 26,389
Memorials	\$ 755	\$ 1,525	\$ (770)
Mission	\$ 27,844	\$ 17,594	\$ 10,250
Discretionary	\$ 39,117	\$ 142,205	\$ (103,088)
Preschool	\$ 45,327	\$ 45,958	\$ (631)
Office Discretionary		\$ (158)	\$ 158
Payroll Tax	\$ 54	\$ 54	\$ -
Liabilities including designated funds	<u>\$ 658,970</u>	<u>\$ 696,340</u>	<u>\$ (37,370)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 658,970</u>	<u>\$ 696,340</u>	<u>\$ (37,370)</u>
Equity	\$ 4,711,533	\$ 4,655,639	<u>\$ 55,894</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 5,370,503	\$ 5,351,979	<u>\$ 18,524</u>

2024 Budget vs. 2023 Budget

	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	Variance
Receipts			
Envelope Giving	638,000	621,000	17,000
Fund Raisers and Loose Basket	10,000	10,500	(500)
Preschool	372,300	313,700	58,600
Rental and Other	49,500	41,500	8,000
PPP Funding		-	-
Total Receipts	<u>1,069,800</u>	<u>986,700</u>	<u>83,100</u>
Expenses			
Community Outreach	2,700	3,200	(500)
Administration	223,983	224,272	(289)
Adult Spiritual Growth	203,447	152,925	50,522
Children's Spiritual Growth	15,743	16,793	(1,050)
Facility	147,400	147,855	(455)
Mission	64,000	64,000	-
Preschool	300,400	266,200	34,200
Music	65,100	65,100	-
Worship	4,500	4,500	-
Youth Spiritual Growth	41,952	41,500	452
Interest	-	-	-
Fund Raising	-	-	-
Miscellaneous			-
Total Expenses	<u>1,069,225</u>	<u>986,345</u>	<u>82,880</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>575</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>220</u>

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



Purpose: The Trinity Endowment Fund will be used to enhance the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, Missouri (the “Congregation”) and/or to assist in capital improvements over and above the general operation of the congregation as customarily provided for in its annual operating budget. We want to encourage all Trinity members to consider:

PAYING GOD’S BLESSINGS FORWARD

Fund Status: In accordance with the Founding Document, we hereby provide the status of the Trinity Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2023. The summary status of the fund is as follows:

<u>Fund Balance as of 12/31/2022</u>	<u>\$ 353,381</u>
2023 Mission Support	(\$ 17,500)
2023 Donations	\$ 20,937
<u>Market Changes</u>	<u>\$ 34,094</u>
Fund Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$ 390,912

2023 Goals and Accomplishments:

1. Manage the Fund’s Portfolio

- The Fund’s portfolio return rallied for the year, although 2023 was a volatile year.

2. Continual Communication to Congregation

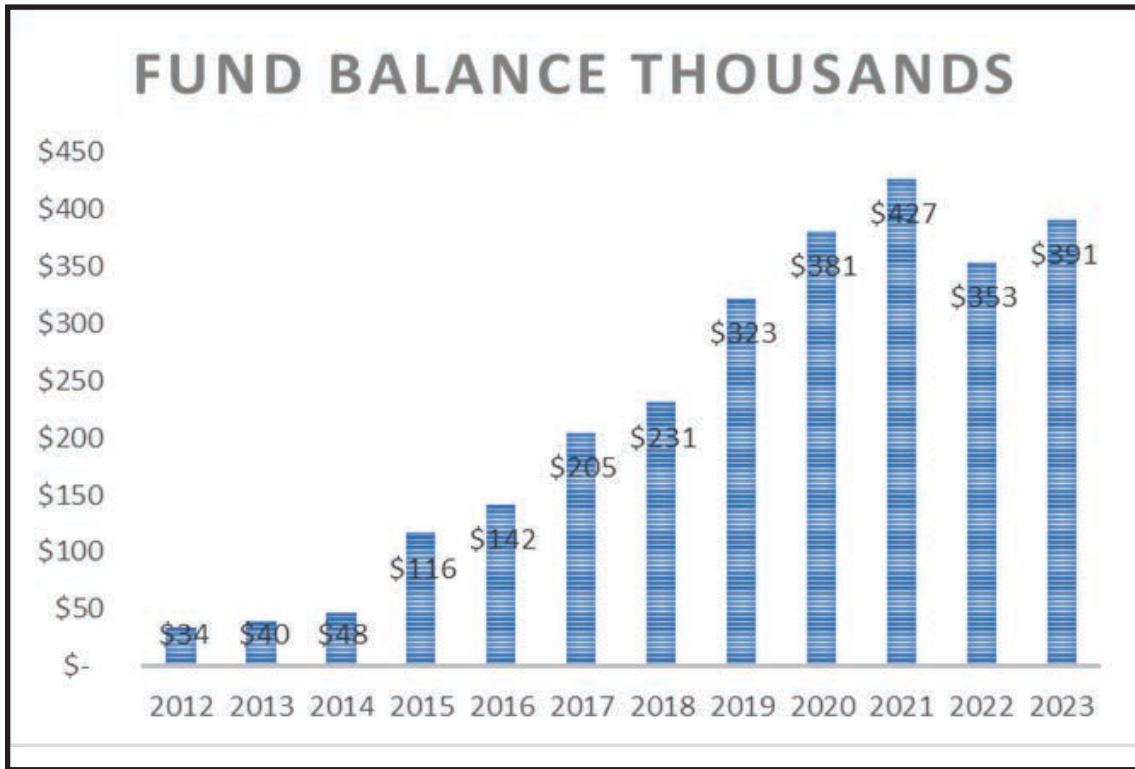
- Provided updates in the Trinitell, Website, and Emails

3. Distribute Funds to Missions and/or Capital Improvements

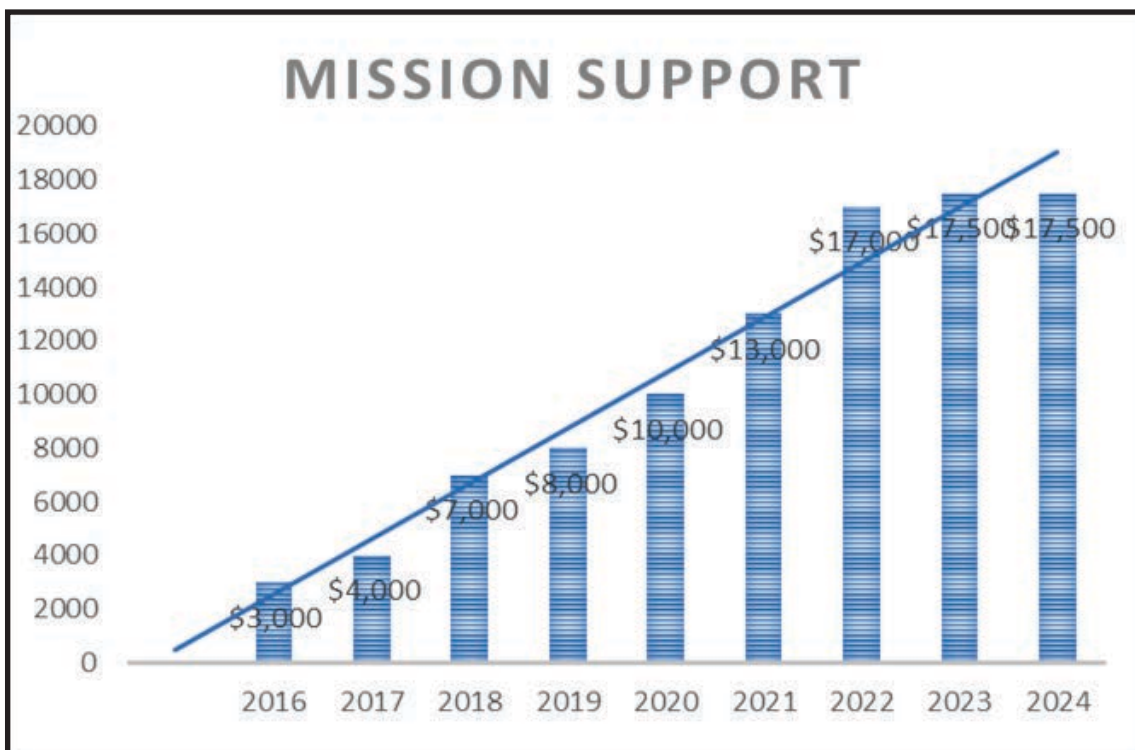
- Donated \$17,500 from Fund in 2023 to the following:
 - Lutheran School of Theology \$2,500
 - Lutheran Senior Services \$2,000
 - ELCA Companion Synod \$500
 - Lutheran Campus Ministries \$2,000
 - Lutheran Disaster Response \$2,000
 - ELCA World Hunger \$2,500
 - Trinity Preschool \$2,500
 - Trinity Lutheran Church Facilities \$3,500
- The Endowment Committee recommended, and Council approved, a distribution of a total of \$17,500 to be sent out in early 2024. These monies will be divided between various missional causes and a capital improvement at Trinity Lutheran Church.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Trinity Endowment Fund is new and had a balance of about \$30,000 at the end of 2011. As of December 31, 2023, the balance is approximately \$391,000.



This has allowed the Mission Support from the Endowment Fund to continue to grow. The first distribution was made in 2016 and has increased steadily since then.



Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023



Call to Order: 11:34 am
Attendance: Well over the 38 needed for a quorum.
Opening Devotion: Pastor Chris Naig
Opening Hymn: ELW #800 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

President’s Report—Jenny Larsen

- General Comments / 2022 Summary
- **Review and approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. APPROVED.**
- Bylaws change: Vote for a Continuing Resolution to the Trinity Lutheran church Constitution to change the Endowment Committee from 6 voting members with Council Representative to 4-6 voting members with Council Representative. This to be added as a bylaw to the Constitution at the time of the next revision. **APPROVED.**



Pastor’s Report—Pastor Chris Naig

- General Statements
- This year’s focus: God, Each Other, The World
- The New Directory is out, we have 128 fewer members listed.
- Pastor Chris be on a 12 week sabbatical this summer.
- This year’s goal is working on our “Purpose” with a focus on evangelism.
- Work on our gym to better reflect that we are a church to help “market” ourselves.
- Positive feelings about the post-COVID trend of people migration back to neighborhood churches.



Mission Committee Report—Rob Harper

- Review of our Five Core Missions: Circle of Concern, Gateway180, Meals Do Matter, Lantern Hill, and Trinity Preschool.
- Call for new mission ideas where we might help with financing.



Capital Campaign Report—Harry Mueller

- Capital Campaign Results
- Commitments—\$1.59 Million from 129 family units.
- More details can be found on pages 25 and 26 of the 2022 Annual Report.



Mission Endowment Committee Report—Peter Larsen

- The 2022 Market was not favorable, but we did do better than the overall Market Changes.
- For more details see pages 27 and 28 of the 2022 Annual Report.

FEBRUARY 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Treasurer's Report—Paul Ogier

- Budgets: Pages 22 to 24 of the 2022 Annual Report.
- The 2023 budget is essentially break even. Highlighted and explained the line item changes from 2022 to 2023 in Children's Spiritual Growth and Youth Spiritual Growth.
- Items not in Budget: Intern and Pastor's sabbatical.
- Future considerations: To grow the church membership will require finding ways to expand our ministry with either an intern or assistant pastor.
- ***Presented 2023 Budget. APPROVED***

Nominating Committee—Ron Jones

- Opening remarks: The Nominating Committee is grateful for the Trinity Members who have such a great commitment to serve this congregation. It has made their job easy.
- See page 33 of the 2022 Annual Report for the complete slate of Officers, Committee Members, and Delegates.
- ***Presentation of Slate 1—Council Officers and At-Large Council Members: APPROVED.***
- ***Presentation of Slate 2—Nominating Committee: APPROVED.***
- ***Presentation of Slate 3—Mission Endowment Fund Committee: APPROVED.***
- ***Presentation of Slate 4—Mission Committee: APPROVED.***
- ***Presentation of Slate 5—Synod Assembly Delegates: APPROVED.***

New President's Comments—Zack Henderson

- Thank you to all of Trinity's outgoing leaders.
- Goal: Continue keeping Trinity a place where we gather as family and friends.

Closing comments / Prayer: Pastor Chris

- Thank you to all Trinity Staff!

Adjourn: 12:32 pm.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The five slates of 2024 Trinity Nominees are as follows:

Council Officers and At-Large Members
Nominating Committee
Endowment Committee
Mission Team
Synod Assembly Delegates

For the following slates, the proposed nominees on whom you will vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 4, 2024, are in **bold type** and underlined.

Slate 1—Council Officers and At-Large Council Members

President Mike Herrmann will serve a one-year term.
VP/President Elect **Larry Tietjen** has agreed to stand for election to a two-year term.
Secretary **Stanley Nadar** has agreed to stand for election to a 1st two-year term.
Treasurer Paul Ogier will serve the second year of a 2nd two-year term.

At-large Council Members

Amy Bossi will serve the second year of a 1st two-year term.
John Engle has agreed to stand for election to a 1st two-year term.
Dan Fry will serve the second year of a 1st two-year term.
Jeff Haferkamp will serve the second year of a 1st two-year term.
Eric Halter will serve the second year of a 1st two-year term.
Maureen Hoppin has agreed to stand for election to a 1st two-year term.
Gene Kerr will serve the second year of a 1st two-year term.
Susan Seckel will serve the second year of a 2nd two-year term.

Slate 2—Nominating Committee

Cindy Gesme has agreed to stand for election to a three-year term
Karen Henselmeier has agreed to stand for election to a three-year term
Karen Johnson will serve the 2nd year of a three-year term
Nicole Maloy will serve the 3rd year of a three-year term
Eric Petersen will serve the 2nd year of a three-year term
Miguel Pico will serve the 3rd year of a three-year term

Slate 3—Endowment Fund Committee

Eric Flattem has agreed to stand for election to a 2nd three-year term
Eric Halter has agreed to stand for election to a 2nd three-year term
Lisa Hardebeck will serve the 3rd year of a three-year term
Peter Larsen will serve the 3rd year of a three-year term
Morris Larson has agreed to stand for election to a three-year term
Ruth Rangel will serve the 2nd year of a three-year term

Slate 4—Mission Committee

Rob Harper will serve the second year of a 2nd three-year term
Genie Mueller has agreed to stand for election to a three-year term
Aruna Nadar will serve the 2nd year of a three-year term
Deb Palmer will serve the 3rd year of a three-year term
Lynn Sapp will serve the 3rd year of a three-year term
Christie Tietjen has agreed to stand for election to a 2nd three-year term

Slate 5—Synod Assembly Delegates

Ken & Lisa Hardebeck, and **Rick & Mikki Lee** have agreed to serve as Trinity's delegates to the Central States Synod Assembly in June 2024.

Members Received

Gary Berger
 Kelly Goebel
 Matt Goebel
 Babs Holtzman
 George Holtzman
 Cheryl Kumaraduri

Baptisms

Imogen Ruth Allen
 Catherine Rose Hall
 Mason Anthony Merenda
 Davis Gerard Range

Confirmations

Kendall Baumgart
 Henry Frank
 William Haddox
 Claire Henderson
 Nate Herrmann
 Jackson Seeber

Weddings

Matt Goebel and Kelly Reed

Deaths

Chuck Borchelt
 Susan Hugery
 Michael Leaseburg
 Mary Luke
 Mike Rice
 Marian Wegner



2023 Membership Report			
	Baptized	Voting	Households
1/01/2023	452	378	267
Members Received	6	6	3
Confirmation	0	6	6
Baptized Members	3	0	0
Removed/Transferred	-7	-6	-6
Deceased	-6	-6	-2
12/31/2023	448	378	268
Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 187			



Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at ELCA.org/SOFIA.

