

# Trinity Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Church

2700 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

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“For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
all who by faith before the world confessed.  
Your name, O Jesus be forever blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!”

The ministry of this congregation reflected in these reports is dedicated to those  
Trinity members listed below who entered the church triumphant in 2013:

**Betty Stark, 01/18/2013**

**Betty Jane (BJ) Demmon, 02/17/2013**

**Rudolph Jussi (Rudy) Seadal, 03/01/2013**

**Katherine Douds, 03/08/2013**

**Nellie Mae Goldammer, 03/09/2013**

**Don Scott Rogers, 03/21/2013**

**Gertrude V. (Trudy) Linberg, 03/25/2013**

**John Christensen, 06/26/2013**

**Nancy (Nan) Christensen, 07/05/2013**

**Sallie Ferguson, 09/06/2013**

**Georgina R. Doyle, 09/16/2013**

**Merrild High, 09/20/2013**

**Helen Margaret Stroh, 11/03/2013**

**Lorraine Burchfield, 11/11/2013**

## ***2013 Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church***

**Our Mission:** Trinity Lutheran Church is a dynamic family called by God to nurture each other in our daily journeys of faith and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
**2013 Annual Meeting Agenda - January 26, 2014**

1. **Call to Order**, Dan Butler, Congregation President
2. **Opening Dialogue, Prayer, and Scripture Reading**, Pastor Robert Linstrom
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of the January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes**
5. **Appointment of Tellers**
6. **Nominating Committee Report**
7. **Ballot for Council**
  - Kathy Bush (page 6)
  - Jane Renwick (page 7)
  - Jim Coates (page 6)
  - Neil Sendler (page 8)
  - John Fox (page 7)
  - Mikaela Bradley, Youth Nominee (page 8)
8. **Ballot for Synod Assembly Delegates**, Dan Butler
  - Jim Coates
  - Sue Coates
  - Michael Mulligan
  - Candidate
9. **Ballot for Nominating Committee for the 2015 Council Candidates**
  - Lynn Hagenbush
  - Dan Butler
  - Cynthia Zientarski
  - Candidate
  - John Johnson
  - Candidate
10. **Review of Reports**
  - Pastors (page 9, 10)
  - President's (page 11)
  - Staff and Committee Reports (listed alphabetically by committee name, pages 12-23)
11. **Treasurer's Report**

John Basher, Treasurer (page 23, 24)
12. **Presentation of the 2014 Budget**

John Basher, Treasurer (page 25-27)
13. **New Business**
  - Proposal to Change Complement of Congregation Council
14. **Announcements**, Pastor Sarah Stobie
  - Souper Bowl of Caring Special Offering, Feb. 2, 2014
15. **The Lord's Prayer and Benediction**, Pastor Sarah Stobie
16. **Adjournment**

**The Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church - January 27, 2013**

The 2013 Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church was called to order by council President, Fred Ulreich at 1:30 P.M. Pastor Sarah Stobie opened with a reading from 2 Corinthians, 5:17-21 and led Trinity members in prayer.

Fred Ulreich asked those present to give Pastor Sarah a round of applause for the outstanding job she has done serving as Trinity's Senior and Associate Pastor. It was a very emotional moment for all as she received a standing ovation.

Fred "Pastor David, our deep appreciation and thanks for once again coming out of retirement to help us." Thank you to the committee for all of their work on today's luncheon.

A motion was made by Neil Sendler to approve the agenda, and seconded by Nadene Delana. There was no discussion. The agenda was approved.

Nadene Delana and Carrie Stine-Wygmans were appointed Tellers for today's meeting.

- 178 adults and 11 children in attendance

**Nomination of new council members**

- Current council members were asked to stand and recognized by the attendees
- Nadene Delana, Fred Ulreich and Cindy Zientarski will be leaving at the end of this year
- Peter McKinney and Bruce Youngman have volunteered to stay on

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of nominees:

Peter McKinney, Michael Mulligan, Nan Treul, Carrie Stine-Wygmans and Bruce Youngman

Bruce Schlanderer put forth a motion to accept the slate of council nominees, and it was seconded by Angela Davis. All in favor, none opposed, the motion was approved.

Fred Ulreich extended his gratitude and that of the council for the work done by an ad hoc committee to write Trinity's ministry profile. This committee, headed by John Johnson, was instrumental in preparing the information needed for Trinity's search for a new Senior Pastor.

**Council, Staff and Committee Reports**

Council president Fred Ulreich asked those in attendance to read the Pastor's, President's and committee reports found in the informational packet.

- Michael Mulligan submitted a motion to accept the committee reports found in the Annual Meeting report, and it was seconded by Anastasia McRoberts. No questions were raised on the various reports. All in favor; none opposed. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Presented by Peter McKinney and John Basher

- The budget for 2012 was slightly over \$1 million, and revenues were \$927,506. This resulted in a short fall of approximately \$200,000.  
\$90,000 was borrowed from the endowment funds, and \$30,000 has been paid back.  
A realistic 2013 budget has been developed to match expenditures to revenues  
Plans are to pay back the money borrowed from Endowment Fund.

### Questions from the Floor

How do we plan to handle benevolence and any leftover funds at the end of 2013?

Benevolence money will be dispersed throughout the year, and any non-dedicated revenues will be used to build up the Capital Reserve Fund.

Why is the Synod benevolence the same as last year?

\$120,000 was originally budgeted in 2012, but it was reduced to \$90,000.

There appears to be just a \$5,000 increase for staff. Is that enough?

Yes, Angela and Tim started last year and they are full time.

Does the budget include a parish nurse? Yes

How much time will be allotted for the nurse? 20 hours

Has a pattern emerged from the lowered pledges? Is it because people have left the church or are people giving less?

We received about \$75,000 less from people who pledged in 2012. And, when attendance goes down, people don't make up their offerings.

Have we looked into reducing our utility bills?

The church has had energy audits, and done just about everything possible to reduce costs.

Melissa Youngman submitted a motion to accept the 2013 budget, and it was seconded by John Johnson. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

### Parking Lot Proposal

No repairs have been made to the church parking lot in 14 years, and it has dramatically deteriorated. It is beyond repair and a complete tear down and rebuild is necessary. A Parking Lot Proposal was included with the Treasurer's report. A loan of \$300,000 with an 8% contingency, \$324,000, would be taken out so the work can be done this summer. At some point in time, a campaign would be initiated to pay off the loan.

### Old Business

#### Final Approval of Trinity's Constitution

- A copy of the new constitution is available on-line at Trinity's website, and one copy is on each of the tables.
- The constitution has been updated and now meets 2011 Synod standards.
- Roger Marks presented a motion to accept Trinity's updated constitution, and it was seconded by Fred Wilcox. All were in favor, and none opposed; Trinity's constitution was approved.

### New Business

#### Call Committee Update

- Dawn Brackmann shared in great detail the work and deep personal responsibility held by the committee members. It has been 18 years since Trinity has called a new Senior pastor, and many changes have taken place to our facilities and services.
- The call committee was a diverse group that included representatives from both Traditional and Rejoice services, different ages, long term members and others who were newer to the congregation.
- The high school representative took his role very seriously and the quality of his questions revealed his commitment to this process.

Trinity is the first church in the synod to use the new call process. Guidance was provided from the synod, but they were allowed to follow their own path.

- Questions they pondered among many were:
- What skills and competencies would we like in a Senior Pastor?
- What role does the Senior Pastor hold that brings us back to church each Sunday?
- Trinity's Site Document and Vision Plan were used as reference tools.
- The committee took the Taylor Core Values Index as if they were a Senior Pastor. This core values index was also given to the applicants. It provides a description of the innate, unchanging nature of an individual, which is different from personality and behavioral based assessments.

Three candidate names were received in November, and Dawn personally conducted an initial assessment.

- Interviews were held, and the committee met the following evening after each interview to share their thoughts.
- Follow-up questions were submitted to the candidates and reference checks were conducted.
- The selected candidate was presented to the Council on Wednesday evening, and the Council voted to submit the Call Committee nominee to the congregation.

Pastor Robert Linstrom of Peace Lutheran Church, South Haven, Michigan, was selected to be Trinity's Senior Pastor.

- A special meeting of the congregation will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, February 10, 2013, to vote on extending the call to Pastor Linstrom as Trinity's Senior Pastor. No other church business will be conducted at this meeting.

#### **Question from the floor**

Were any women interviewed?

We were open to a woman candidate, but none applied.

Thank you to Dawn Brackmann for leading the Call Committee and the committee members who devoted their time and seriously took responsibility in representing Trinity in search of our Senior Pastor.

#### **Synod Assembly Delegates**

- The Synod Assembly will be May 19-21.
- The new Bishop will be elected.
- Trinity may send four voting members, two men and two women.
- Please let Pastor Sarah know if you are interested in attending.

#### **Announcements**

- If you have not done so, please pick up your 2013 offering envelopes
- Grace Groups are forming and will be using the Lenten Devotional, Water Marks.
- Pastor Sarah announced that our Trinity youth will be collecting money for our local food banks on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3. Donations are gladly accepted following each service.

Pastor Sarah closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bruce Schlanderer and seconded by Dan Butler. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Jacobson



**Kathy Bush**

Hi, I am Kathy Bush. I have been a member of Trinity for 13 years. I am currently active as a Stephen Minister and Trinity's coordinator for IHN/Family Promise. At Trinity I have also taught Sunday school, been a confirmation youth mentor, member of several bible studies, played on Trinity's Know Mercy softball team, cooking group, and helping hands.

I am married to the love of my life, Bill Bush. We have 4 children and 3 beautiful grandchildren (ask me to show you pictures anytime). I am a nurse at Forest Hills Pediatrics.

I look forward to serving on church council.



**James Coates**

Jim and Sue are both retired and are coming to Trinity from Naples, Fla. They usually attend the 11:15 a.m. Traditional Service.

Sue is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with a bachelor of arts in art with an elementary education certificate. Sue is mother to five grown children, three sons and two daughters. She enjoys sewing, home decorating, and gardening as well as family time, traveling, golfing and reading.

Jim graduated from the University of Michigan with a BBA and MBA. He has two grown sons. Golf, bridge, reading, computers and business are some of Jim's passions in his free time.



**John Fox**

John Fox is the Senior Medical Director for Priority Health. He received his Doctor of Medicine from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed a pediatric internship and residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He also earned a Masters in Health Administration from University of Wisconsin.

He is married to Kristine and has three children, Linnea (21), Steven (19), and Andrew (17). He is very committed to youth leadership development and is active in the Boy Scouts of America as a scoutmaster and board member. He continues to practice medicine in third world countries, including Honduras, and leads one to two trips there annually. He helps keep nature nearby through the Land Conservancy of West Michigan where he serves as a work crew leader and on its board of directors.

He enjoys woodworking, singing, hiking, skiing and collecting all sorts of things.



**Jane Renwick**

As a nurse executive, Jane functions as the Director of Clinical Consulting in the Information Technology division of CHE Trinity Health in Livonia, Mich.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Michigan, and a master's in health administration from Central Michigan University. Jane is a Registered Nurse and is Certified in Executive Nursing Practice.

Gardening, golfing, and photography are among Jane's interests. She has experience in Parish Nursing. She most enjoys time with her family and golfing.

Jane is mother to two grown children, Andrew and Jason.



**Neil Sandler**

Neil and Sue Sandler became members at Trinity in 1990. They have two beautiful daughters, Stacy and Stephanie. You can see them regularly at the Rejoice but also at Traditional services.

He joined council in 2012 to fill a vacancy. Since that time he has been involved in many activities, and has led in several initiatives, including recognition of Pastor Emeritus David Paul. Neil has served Trinity in the past as Worship and Music Committee chairperson and Council liaison.

Neil has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from U-M. He works for the City of Grand Rapids in the waste water treatment.



**Mikaela Bradley**

My name is Mikaela Bradley. I am 15 years old and a sophomore at Forest Hills Northern High School. I have been in the Spanish Immersion program for 11 years. I take organ lessons, row crew, attend SMASH (youth group), and am a member on the WAY board. My faith has been shaped by my experiences of serving others during the Big Day of Serving, Group Workcamp Mission Trip, and my mission trip to the Dominican Republic. My most memorable moment from the above experiences was when I was working the education station in the Dominican and doing a lesson using Faith bracelets. I had prepared a bracelet for each person we were serving and one old woman said she didn't want one. After giving my lesson, she came up to me and asked me for a bracelet. It was very touching because I knew that she truly appreciated and understood what I was teaching. I want to serve on the council board because I want the youth at our church to be involved and enjoy serving and preaching their faith.



*"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."*

*Philippians 2:1-4*

It was one year ago on the day of Trinity's Annual Meeting that I was introduced to the congregation as your candidate for the call to serve as Senior Pastor. The call was extended in February and I officially began to serve among the people of Trinity on March 15.

Since joining the Trinity staff as Senior Pastor I have been blessed by the warm welcome extended and the goodness of a community of members and friends deeply engaged in sharing ministry together. A strong body of lay leaders joined with a deeply committed staff have made for a wonderful body of partners with whom to share my ministry among you. I am sincerely grateful for the hard work and dedication of Pastor Sarah Stobie who concluded the interim ministry period before my arrival and who has served as a supportive colleague in ministry. It is good to be a pastor serving among the people of Trinity Lutheran Church.

A few highlights of my first year with you:

- four months of Sunday evening Cottage Meetings with about 150 adult members, sharing the strengths of our ministry and our hopes and dreams, and presenting those findings at an October Council and staff retreat
- assembling a full staff to support and lead the ministry of this congregation and working closely with the staff in weekly meetings and an "open door" policy of daily consultations
- helping facilitate the completion of the Trinity Employee Handbook
- engaging in the weekly calendar of a busy parish and finding the rhythm of life at Trinity most satisfying, even the four worship service "Sunday morning sprint"
- launching a couple of midweek Bible study times that I facilitate with 50-60 members and friends
- helping welcome 84 new members into our life together with spring and fall New Members celebrations, in addition to a wonderful body of the newly baptized
- working with staff to actively recruit new assisting ministers in worship and to develop new six-month schedules for those who serve
- growing with our parish family in welcoming young children to Holy Communion and in encouraging the renewed practice of fresh bread for Holy Communion
- providing support to the major parking lot project of the summer of 2013
- helping facilitate the Steinway appeal, which has resulted in our beautiful new grand piano, and an initiative to provide advocacy for the Rejoice bands, resulting in major upgrades of equipment to support our life together in contemporary worship
- reactivating Trinity Endowment Fund and Stewardship Committees with new members
- encouraging regular financial reports which are profiled in the "Weekly Connection" and the "Messenger," and the development of new Endowment Fund guidelines to strengthen that resource and provide for carefully managed annual distributions for ministry

It is a privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor. I pray that the Apostle Paul's words to the church he loved at Philippi as I quoted them at the outset of this report provide a foundation for the ministry we will share together in 2014. Grace and peace to you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Bob Linstrom, Senior Pastor



I learned a very important lesson this past year. I learned to accept help. I even learned to ask for it... Let me explain...

This epiphany came to me on Monday, Jan. 6, which is also the Epiphany of our Lord. On Jan. 6, 2014, I found myself rock climbing up the rough side of Mount Arbel in Israel. It was not an easy climb. In truth, if I had known I would be rock-climbing, I would not have gone at all. My vertigo is quite real, and back spots soon marred my vision. Your pastor, I admit now on safe ground, at one point hugged the mountain and muttered prayers that the mountain would kindly disappear and a coffee shoppe would take its place... Yes, I admit that. But a voice below me offered help, and a voice above offered a hand, and I took both knowing that I would not reach the top unless I did. And when I did reach the top, I realized that 2013 was all about "help."

We are good at helping others. This past year, our congregation has assisted others in need in so many ways. The youth, too, stepped up as well—tithing their fundraising for mission trip, serving here in Grand Rapids, serving as lectors and readers, and praying for the people at worship. I look at IHN, our Family Promise golf fundraiser, DeGage, days of service at our summer camp and state-wide gathering, the many hours of service our confirmands give... it goes on and on. We are answering God's call to serve those *who need to be served*.

But this past year, my own family needed some serving. What a different viewpoint I learned. When things crashed down this past May, the staff gathered around me and covered things in the office—I am so grateful. And you, the members, organized and provided assistance in things I never would have asked for... and Pete, the girls, and I were so grateful. We still are. We could not have made it through without you and the support you gave.

Which in turn gave me some serious perspective. Long overdue, perhaps. But God works that way.

When I serve people now, I understand what it is to accept help from the voice below, and the hand offered above. I understand that for some asking for help is hard, and saying "thank you" can be even harder. But if we are going to get through the hard times in life, we need to not only serve but also accept when we need to *be served*. And that's what communities of faith do best. They serve together faithfully, and accept help when they need it, too.

2014 is wide open. Only our God in Heaven knows what lies ahead for us. And I am at peace, finally, with that. And I will never look at a cliff again without remembering Arbel. The psalmist whispers in my ear, I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? <sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

And sometimes, the help from God comes in the form of a voice below, and a hand above.

This year, may we all offer help when we can, and accept the help we need when it is given.

May God continue to bless you, your families and Trinity—and I thank you for allowing me to serve you here as your associate pastor.

Pastor Sarah

January 16, 2014

Dear Members of Trinity,

It is a privilege to be a part of this congregation. We are a rich community of God, providing support each other as members and guests. We have outstanding opportunities for music and worship, providing opportunities for spiritual revitalization and respite. And we provide outstanding support to the Grand Rapids community, our Synod, and the larger church.

This has been an eventful and productive year. During 2013 we:

- Began ministries of our new Senior Pastor, starting just before Easter.
- Conducted our first definitive leadership training for Trinity members. Twelve Trinity members attended two great days at a Global Leadership Summit.
- Revitalized the youth programs, including plans to include a specific youth representative to our Church Council.
- Revitalized the children programs and "Jesus Club".
- Set definitive plans for a day camp for children next summer.
- Implemented a completely new definition of personnel practices for our Trinity staff, including clarity of benefits.
- Upgraded sound systems and planning for our Rejoice services
- Purchased a new Steinway Grand piano for our worship services.
- Completed a badly needed renovation and upgrade to our parking lot.
- Brought new visibility and transparency to our finances and financial processes.

Our world needs the Christian message more urgently than ever. The only question is how we, as individuals and as a group, will meet the needs. Each of us should engage according to our abilities. We are well positioned to expand our impact:

- We are planning another special opportunity for Christian leadership development, including another Global Leadership Summit this August, 2014.
- We have two outstanding pastors, with clearer roles and focus.
- Our Council and Executive Board are experienced and capable.
- We have very passionate and capable members.
- Attendance and giving are beginning to improve.

I very much appreciate opportunities to work with you and the Council over the past six years. I will continue to work with you, although in new roles. I'm eager to hear from you at any time.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Dan Butler  
Council President

It has been another exciting year in children's ministry here at Trinity. On average 70 children attend Jesus Club each Sunday being taught God's Word and Bible Stories from a roster of over 40 volunteer teachers.



2013 included many Family Experience events where we averaged 100 children and adults for our 5 Jesus Club Live events (pictured left). Trunk or Treat in October brought Trinity and neighborhood families together for a second time with well over 600 parents and children attending (pictured right).



Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a big success over the summer as 160 children attended throughout the week. We also launched a Buck-A-Chick service project during VBS that continued through Christmas which raised \$520.00. We're excited to announce that this year we will create our own unique VBS program call "Camp VBS."



Other major highlights from 2013's Children's Ministry included:

- Raising nearly \$1200.00 for Hurricane Sandy relief.
- Bringing 24 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders to Spring Hill Camps for the fall retreat (up 41% from 2012).
- Planning and preparing for the opening of Trinity's Day Care which will launch early in 2014.
- Starting a partnership with Spring Hill Camps that will result in a "Day Camp" coming to Trinity this August.
- Planning for an "Art Camp" to take place at Trinity in June.

It has truly been a joyful and blessed year for our Children's Ministry. We want to thank all those who spent countless hours helping to make it successful. We look forward to 2014 and continuing to assist in helping our Trinity youth to grow in their walk with Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Van Der Bilt (staff)

Brad Blair (Council Liaison)

Amy Stephen (Committee Chairperson)

It has been a challenging and rewarding year. A million thanks go out to each and every person who has made a difference in the lives of others; your service has not gone unnoticed. "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

We continue to strive to fulfill the mission of Trinity's Congregational Life which is to engage the members of Trinity into fulfilling the church's mission to "nurture each other in our daily journeys of faith and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace." We seek to accomplish this through the following ministries and programs:

**Altar Flower Delivery:** Our homebound members, members who have been hospitalized, those grieving and others had been the glad recipients of the Altar Flowers donated by members. This is a vital way to have those members who cannot make it to worship feel connected. Please consider signing up to give flowers in honor or memory of loved one or special occasion.

**Advent by Candlelight:** This year's Advent by Candlelight was planned by Venta Norris. She and her team did an amazing job. We had almost 100 women in the room to start off their Advent season with a time of fellowship and reflection. Our speaker was Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Sarah Friesen-Carper. We were entertained by three wonderful Musicians from Calvin. Venta had such a great time this year, she has signed on to plan the 2014 Advent by Candlelight, which will be on Sunday, November 30, 2014.

**Celebration of Service:** It was a day of recognizing everyone involved in Trinity's ministries. Centennial Hall was packed. We had people attend the potluck. (Lutherans love to eat!) It was followed by our Annual Meeting. Those present had an opportunity to meet Rev. Robert Linstrom and his wife Rebecca. Pastor Linstrom was the Call committee's candidate for new senior pastor.

**Dinner Groups:** Thank you to Joyce Schlanderer and Toni Petersen for once again serving as coordinators for the Trinity Dinner Groups. We had lots of old faces intermixed with some new faces. This year we had a total of 65 people sign up with three people who would be substitutes.

**Helping Hands:** This program has seen many needs this year, meals, rides to church for various service times, rides to doctor's appointment, etc. Unfortunately, some of our members, in particular our elderly members, needs have gone unmet this year. Therefore, when you receive the mailing to update your Time & Talents and are willing to serve in this way please make sure to mark it on your sheet.

**Homebound Ministry (Bulletin Mailing and DVD's):** We continue to send bulletin bi-weekly to several members so they can follow along with the service that is broadcast on GRTV channel 25 on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. This year also began a DVD ministry. We send DVD's of the 11:15 a.m. Traditional worship service to several members who do not have access to the cable channel. The December newsletter highlighted one of our members Merry Anne Gregory Barrows who benefits greatly from receiving the DVD's of the worship service. She can stay connected to her church family.

**New Member Program:** In 2013, we had 30 new households join Trinity. This breaks down into 26 adults and 9 children for spring 2013 and 27 adults and 22 children for fall 2013, a total of 53 adults and 31 children.

**Poinsettia Delivery:** During the Christmas season, we share the holidays with our homebound/shut-in members and some of our elderly Trinity Friends with the gift of a poinsettia. This year we had 20 deliverers take a total of 33 poinsettias to our members and friends. These were a wonderful reminder to our members and friends that they are missed and thought of by their Trinity family.

**Prayer Chain Ministry:** This year saw a new aspect added to the prayer ministry at Trinity. Kay Zeaman has started a card ministry that she does in conjunction with Trinity's electronic prayer chain. Kay's ministry has been a wonderful blessing and addition to Trinity's prayer ministry. In December the various members and staff involved in the prayer ministry - electronic prayer chain represented by Steve Cairns, phone tree prayer chain which has under used represented by Jean Denton. We will be seeking members who wish to be added to either list in an article in the February Newsletter.

**Special Needs Parent's Support Group:** Late in the summer several staff members met and determined that there was a need for a parents support group for all the parents of Trinity. With the help of Trinity's Parish Nurse, Sue Lassa, the group was renamed Parents Support Network. The group has continued with the format of meeting twice a month with the first meeting being a speaker and the second meeting being a self-facilitated discussion.

**Special Needs Team:** This was the team who helped organize some Parents Night Outs for families with special needs. They also focused on building relationships and meeting the individual spiritual needs of members and their families with a special need or disability. Most of the members of this team have moved away or moved onto other things. We will need to look at this, assess the programs and re-evaluate. With the expansion of the Parents Support Network, the Parents' Night Out events are also being evaluated.

**Start of Summer Celebration:** Thank you to Sylvia, Pastor Sarah and others who stepped up to help this annual event happen while I was out on medical leave. It is always a highlight for kicking-off of the summer.

**Time & Talents & Spiritual Gifts:** As we begin 2014, we will be sending out a big mailing to update our Time & Talents database. One comment that Pastor Bob heard over and over again is that I have not been asked to do X, Y & Z or I got a call to do Q, R & S and I no longer attend that service. In conjunction with this Carrie Stine Wygmans will also lead some sessions on helping members to understand and use their spiritual gifts. Keep an eye out and return the information so we can get you plugged into the programs and ministries you want to be a part of. Trinity is one body with many parts. We need every one of you.

**We're NEIGHBORS!** This year the We're Neighbors ministry has mainly been used in combination with the Helping Hands ministry. Hopefully this summer at the Start of Summer Celebration, we will do something fun that evening with the We're Neighbors neighborhood groups.

**Wild Wednesdays & Advent Meals:** Our weekly Wednesday night meals continue to be an opportunity for fellowship and connection between members. This year the night even provided a great forum for scheduling meetings whether it was for committees, sacristan training, piano appeal, or planning a reception for the Reformation Service being held at Trinity. In mid-October, the staff of Trinity learned that our church kitchen was not licensed to prep, cook or serve food out of it. We have worked diligently to continue these meals. This year also saw a change from a set charge for the meal to a free will offering. This has been well received. Our Advent meals this year took on a theme. Each week we celebrated and learned about a different religious/cultural holiday that falls during December, i.e. Kwanzaa, Chanukah, and Christmas from the Latvian Tradition. Several people commented on how much they appreciated this series. These Wednesday night meals in the spring, we were averaging 65 -70 people. This fall we have been averaging around 80-85 people.

As we look to 2014, there were some things we set out to accomplish in 2013 but did not. These goals have continued for the 2014 year and beyond.

- Recruit a team that will meet regularly to plan, develop and implement new programs and continuously improve and evaluate existing ones.
- Develop new and exciting ways to serve God, Trinity and the community.
- Seek God's guidance and support to continue to empower and grow the Body of Christ at Trinity.
- Create a program that provides opportunities for 18-35 year olds to gather, connect, serve and grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela G. Davis - Partner in Ministry - Congregational Life and Neil Sendler – Congregational Life Council Liaison

## *Review of Reports - Fellowship Committee, 2013*

Thank you to all of the many people who participate in Trinity's Fellowship events – be sure to spread the word to others about what a great time you have! The Fellowship Committee sponsors activities that provide an opportunity for members and guests to get to know each other in a fun, relaxed atmosphere while building a sense of Christian family and community within the congregation.

Some of Trinity's fellowship events in 2013 included Trivia Night, Soup Suppers, Spring and Fall JOYful Days, Richmond Pool Swim Party, JOYful Days Holiday Luncheon, Scandinavian Smorgasbord and the Trinity Caroling Party.

And thank you, too, to those who hosted/chaired events and who volunteered to help out in so many ways. Special thanks to our JOYful Days volunteers and to Kris Shannon for her leadership with the Scandinavian Smorgasbord.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Sylvia Stouten, Partner in Ministry – Discipleship  
Todd Brandstadt, Council Liaison, Fellowship

## *Review of Reports - Finance Committee, 2013*

I would like to thank the following people for serving on the Finance committee this following year: George Bauer, Chris Engle, Ted Niemeyer, John Basher, John Johnson, Pastor Bob and Pastor Sarah.

We also had an internal audit completed this year and approved by council. Thank you to the members of the Audit Committee: Dick McKenzie, Chuck Schadler, and Leo Ditchcreek.

I also want to thank John Basher for his countless hours on working on this year financials and next year budget.

The finance committee has been meeting the third Thursday of every month this past year to discuss and give guidance to the financials of Trinity. If you have any questions or concerns please contact anybody on the finance committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter McKinney  
Finance Committee Chair

*"I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

Jesus promised an abundant life to us and we as His followers can help others have a life that is more abundant in all forms of health. Trinity's Health Ministry continues to reach out to love and care for those hurting physically, mentally and spiritually as well as to support, encourage, and help to care for the bodies God has given us. Our Parish Nurse position was vacant for the first half of this year, but several ministries continued through the dedication of loving volunteers. We welcomed a new Parish Nurse, Sue Lassa in the middle of the year.

**Health Ministry Advisory Council:** While welcoming those who had served previously, Sue invited others to join this group, while renaming it to better reflect its purpose. The name reflects that this will be the visionary, planning group. Many of the members also wanted to be actively involved with specific areas of ministry as well. Current members include: Renee Fisk (council liaison), Sherry Blair, Linda Grinstead, Karen Krummel, Jason Loepp, Jan Palm, Jane Renwick, and Cindy Zientarski. In the coming year, we will form a Health Ministry Team whose members will actively coordinate various areas of ministry.

**Blood Drive:** Three blood drives were hosted; 105 pints of blood collected. Thank-you to coordinators Linda Taffs and Jules Brubaker, canteen workers, homemade cookie bakers and the 133 donors.

**Flu Shot Clinic:** We held our flu shot clinic on a Sunday morning that allowed nearly 50 people to be immunized and help themselves avoid the flu and stay healthy this winter.

**Parents' Support Network:** After discussion with the current Special Needs Group coordinator and staff, it was decided to morph the group into one that was open to all parents. There have been several meetings, the last one in 2013 had 20 parents attend.

**Fitness:** The "Fit 4 Moms" organization began utilizing the facility on two mornings a week for their "Stroller Strides" classes, where moms exercise by pushing their babies in strollers. We held a small "Holiday Hold-Off" contest for council, staff, and Stephen Ministers. We had 6 participants who *lost* a total of 24 pounds, ranging from 0.8 to 7.2 pounds! Our goal was to avoid gaining weight between Thanksgiving and New Years.

**Stephen Ministry:** Trinity's active Stephen Ministry program continues and plans to send our new Parish Nurse Sue Lassa and current Stephen Minister Chris Straw to Leadership Training early in 2014. Sue coordinated continuing education speaker from Pine Rest who helped the nearly 20 attendees learn more about ending the relationship after the need is resolved.

**Homebound Communion:** One of the roles of the Parish Nurse is to coordinate the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ to those who are sick, in facilities, or homebound. We support about 8 deliverers who take communion to 10 or so who are homebound.

**Background Checks:** Sue conducts these on new volunteers and employees, as well as to repeat them every other year on those who continue to volunteer with children.

**AED/First Aid/CPR:** Sue oversees these safety measures at the church. CPR classes are next on the list to be addressed.

**Pine Rest Church Assistance Program (CAP):** Trinity had contracted with Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services to provide 24-hour, 7 days a week access to counseling for Trinity members, friends and visitors via a hotline. It was noted that it was not well used so more promotion was done. Despite that, usage did not increase so it has been decided to be better stewards of those funds. In 2014, we will have a designated fund that will allow for payment of counseling when one of the pastors or the parish nurse deem it necessary.

**Parish Nurse:** During 2013 Sue did not track all her contacts, but has begun to do so. She coordinated monthly pastoral/parish nurse visits to homebound members as well as coordinating the activities in the above report.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Lassa, Parish Nurse & Renee Fisk, Health Ministry Committee Council Liaison

The Human Resources Committee accomplished a major milestone in 2013 by publishing a complete Employee Handbook for all employees of Trinity Lutheran Church. Special thanks to Dawn Brackmann who led the development of this handbook. Nan Treul worked in Joplin for most of the year, so other activities have been postponed to 2014. The Executive Committee of the Congregational Council served as our Human Resources Committee. The Human Resources Committee will be activated this year, and if you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Nan at [ntreul@gmail.com](mailto:ntreul@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nan Treul  
Council Liaison of Human Resources

Praise God for the blessings Trinity members shared with others! A listing of donations-in-kind and special offering totals to date are below. Thank you to all of you who so generously made contributions in 2013! Many volunteer hours also help to make Trinity a giving congregation – without you, it would not happen!

*Please look for the financial totals of our benevolence-giving in the March edition of the Messenger. Because of the change to our fiscal year (Feb. 1 to Jan. 31), this information was unavailable at the time of our Annual Meeting.*

Trinity's Outreach Committee

- ◆ ACCESS Hunger Walk: Several Trinity members were among the 900 + walkers for this 36<sup>th</sup> annual spring event to help raise funds and awareness about hunger issues. Trinity contributed \$3,185.00 towards the total of over \$100,000 raised to help support 18 local and 4 international hunger-fighting organizations.
- ◆ ACCESS County Wide Food Drive: Volunteers throughout the county collected, sorted, and packed more than 50 tons of food to help restock 50 area food pantries. Trinity partnered with Mayflower Congregational Church and coordinated volunteers to collect food donations in East Grand Rapids.
- ◆ Backpacks: 81 backpacks plus school supplies were collected and distributed to local organizations serving children in need.
- ◆ Buy the Book: Trinity members gave \$1,304.50 to help vulnerable people in our community receive bus tickets to get to jobs, medical appointments and support organizations.
- ◆ Operation Christmas Child: Trinity filled 72 boxes for distribution to children in need around the world.
- ◆ Coat Drive: We collected 180 + gently used and new coats (plus winter wear) to help vulnerable adults and children stay warm this winter.
- ◆ ELCA Good Gifts: our Lenten offerings during mid-week worship services resulted in a \$5,090 donation to purchase two water wells, plus 1 goat and 2 ducks.
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity: A Trinity team of 11 volunteers helped build a home as part of the Thrivent Builds program .
- ◆ Holiday Meals: For Thanksgiving, Trinity members provided 71 meals and \$1,730; for Christmas, \$1,910 was donated and 74 meals were provided by Trinity members.
- ◆ Family Promise/IHN: Trinity volunteers surround homeless families with care and love (plus food, activities, and shelter); we hosted four weeks in 2013. Each week we host IHN families, it requires 350+ volunteer hours.
- ◆ Family Promise Golf Outing: \$8,372.85 was raised to benefit Family Promise programs.
- ◆ Souper Bowl Sunday: Trinity's High School Youth Group collected \$1,821.70 to benefit ACCESS of West Michigan.
- ◆ Year-round Food Collection at Trinity: 2,798 pounds of food was donated to SECOM, our local food pantry, to provide for families experiencing tough economic times.
- ◆ Trinity Quilters: donated 30 Baptismal quilts, 8 quilts for Trinity members, plus 8 quilts to MapleCreek and 21 to Lutheran Social Services.
- ◆ Diaper Drive: 34 packages of diapers were collected and \$40 donated to Ascension Lutheran's Diaper Project.

The members of Trinity's Outreach Committee focus on providing opportunities for Trinity members to help address unmet basic needs both locally and globally. We do this through our financial donations as well as the collection of tangible items and through our time and spiritual gifts. All are encouraged to choose those activities to which they feel called to participate - it is not expected that everyone take part in all of Trinity's outreach opportunities.

Global issues are addressed through the work of ELCA World Hunger as well as Operation Christmas Child, the Fair Trade Coffee Project and Lutheran World Relief. During Lent, the offerings at our mid-week Lenten worship services were designated for ELCA Water Projects. As a result, we were able to make a donation to purchase two wells to be placed somewhere in the world with a need for clean drinking water. Trinity members were made aware of opportunities to be of help financially through Lutheran Disaster Response when disasters strike such as the typhoon in the Philippines, Hurricane Sandy and Oklahoma tornadoes.

Trinity participated in a Thrivent Habitat Build in Grand Rapids during the summer with eleven volunteers plus six members who provided a delicious lunch for the hard-working crew. Trinity member, Gloria Von der Heide served as our Build Director and volunteer organizer. Thank you, Gloria.

"God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" on Sept. 8 was a celebration, through service, of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ELCA. Trinity members were invited to participate in one or more of the following: donation of non-perishable food items for local pantries, return filled coin boxes for donation to ELCA World Hunger, purchase Fair Trade items, join volunteer teams to serve meals at Degage, view a film about hunger issues entitled "A Place at the Table," participate in the local ALS Walk, work on a Habitat Shed Build and attend an LWR Quilting Bee! It was wonderful to see so many Trinity members, of all ages, involved in these service projects.

The Lutheran World Relief Quilting Bee on that date resulted in a group of women who plan to continue meeting regularly on the first Sunday afternoon of the month to assemble quilts for distribution around the world. It is the goal of this dedicated group to complete 100 quilts and to send them as part of the Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Collection in October, 2014. Sue Bailey, Dixie Brinks and Jane Barsema provide leadership for this group – thank you!

The NEST Committee (Nurturing Environmental Stewardship at Trinity) continues to educate us about environmental issues through their thought-provoking articles in the *Messenger*. Thank you to Kim Brock, Pete Stobie, Missy Ziech and Sarah Turnage for keeping us posted on timely issues.

Trinity also continues to support the work of community organizations such as ACCESS of West Michigan with our ongoing collection of food and participation in the ACCESS Hunger Walk, the ACCESS County-Wide Food Drive and we support our Trinity youth with Souper Bowl Sunday. Members provide reading help for elementary-age students with the Schools of Hope program and tutoring adults through the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

Trinity members serving evening meals at Degage now total five teams of volunteers. Degage Panhandler Vouchers have been made available for purchase by our members to give to people publicly asking for money. We continue to hope for more Trinity members to join us when we host homeless families as a Host Congregation for Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network. Congregation Ahavas Israel is now our Support Congregation for IHN, taking responsibility for volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week we host. In the fall, Trinity participated in the Family Promise Golf Outing which is one of their major fundraisers.

The Outreach Committee continues to facilitate the collection of much-needed items to be distributed through-out greater Grand Rapids such as backpacks and school supplies, diapers, person hygiene items and cleaning supplies, bus tickets, underwear, coats, blankets and Holiday Meals through the ACCESS Holiday Giving Network.

Thank you to the current members of the Outreach Committee, Joyce Schlanderer, Don and Judy Otten, Beth Engstrom, Elaine Rongey and each and every Trinity member for your generosity and support of the Outreach Committee's projects.

Respectfully Submitted by

Sylvia Stouten, Partner in Ministry – Discipleship

Bruce Youngman, Council Liaison, Outreach Committee

The Property Committee is served by: Fred Wilcox, Council Liaison, Jane Barsema, Facility Director, Mark Johnson, Myron Pearson, Dale Barkema, Dan Workman, Dick Tedford and Frank Remsburg

During this past year, the Property Committee has been involved in many activities and volunteer hours dedicated to the management of our beautiful facility and to the growing and changing needs of the congregation. Our 50 plus year old building, while still looking very good, definitely needs special attention consistent of a building constructed in the early 60's. Roofing, windows and mechanical systems were designed and constructed of materials and methods common for that period and low cost energy of that era. In this last year we have had a number of plumbing, electrical and mechanical problems to resolve. Roof leaks are also regular occurrences and if not addressed quickly, result in much bigger repair needs. This is evident by the water stains and peeling paint in a number of locations. The single largest project of the year involved the total replacement of our parking lot. It should be noted, the parking surface has been added to a number of times and had several minor overlays over the years. It has served very well but was completely worn out and crumbling. The time was right and the project undertaken following a detailed study of options.

Reconstruction of the parking lot was a complex and expensive undertaking. Work began in mid-July and was not substantially complete until mid-August. During the work, many drainage issues were fixed and a several traffic flow issues improved on. On a side-note, we encountered a worker with the asphalt contractor who was involved with the original parking lot installation some 50 years ago. How's that for longevity!

As we look forward in 2014, it is clear that our facility still has several major challenges to be addressed. Our flat roof is nearing the end of its expected life; our cross tower shows signs of some crumbling stone and the limestone exterior needs to be resealed and critical tuck pointing repairs must be done. Planning for these needs is ongoing and will be a focus of our Property committee in 2014.

We want to express special thanks to Myron Pearson and Mark Johnson and Frank Remsburg for their dedication and many hours of volunteer time. Jane Barsema, our Facility Manager has done an excellent job covering many unexpected issues and needs in addition to her regular work load. Also Dan Workman has been instrumental in many equipment needs including replacement smoke detectors and other supply needs. Finally, thanks to Roger Marks for his assistance in the permitting process for the parking lot project.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Remsburg

Through the efforts of this committee and with a firm belief in the importance of life-long learning, Trinity members are afforded many opportunities for spiritual growth. Thank you to the members of the Spiritual Growth Committee (Julia Bauer, Carrie Wygmans, Kim Brock and Kris Racek) for your efforts in keeping us focused on enhancing our spiritual lives through small group Bible Studies.

Sunday Morning Adult Education meets weekly for an hour in the Parlor at 10 a.m. for Bible Study. During the spring of 2013, this small group focused on “What it Means to be Lutheran.” Since September, we have discussed two DVD series: a five-week study entitled “Embracing a Life of Meaning” by Kathleen Norris followed by engaging discussions on “Understanding Emergence Christianity,” a six-week study by Phyllis Tickle.

Trinity members also had study opportunities during the week depending on their interests and life circumstances including four Women’s Bible Study groups, Wednesday Morning and Evening Bible Studies, and the Men’s Thursday Morning Breakfast Group. Friday Morning Book Club, Sarah Guild and Latte meet for fellowship and study on a monthly basis.

During Lent, we used a devotional book from Augsburg Fortress for our personal studies, as well as some of our small group Bible Studies, “Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Water Marks.” The study helped us daily to remember our baptism as we heard and experienced God’s Word through scripture passages about water. “Water Marks” was also the foundation for our Trinity mid-week Lenten worship services.

Women of Trinity were given the opportunity to view and discuss four of Rob Bell’s videos from the NOOMA series in July and August. A small group of women also participated in a special two-day event, Priscilla Shirer Live. A number of Trinity women participated in Café Chocolat Women’s Retreat on a Saturday during November, led by Pastor Sarah Stobie. Using chocolate as a metaphor for God’s grace, we learned about goodness in a whole new way by focusing on some of the miracles Jesus performed during his time on earth. And we enjoyed eating chocolate!

For Advent in 2013, we tried something new with the distribution to Trinity members of a daily devotional booklet written by Paul L. Maier entitled “Faithful Facts for Advent.” The devotionals focused on the prophecies of the Old Testament that were effectively shown to be fulfilled in Jesus in the New Testament. Feedback, while limited, was positive in the sense that the information was educational and meaningful for members’ Biblical understanding.

Thank you to Carrie Wygmans, Rebecca Mattison, Rebecca Ulrich, Kris Fox, John Johnson, Rose Ranville, Joyce Schenk, Janet Genow and Cindy Zientarski for the leadership of their respective study groups. And a special thank you to Pastor Sarah and Pastor Bob for facilitating a total of four adult Bible Studies themselves and for providing leadership and guidance for studies led by and for Trinity members.

Respectfully Submitted by

Sylvia Stouten, Partner in Ministry – Discipleship

Carrie Wygmans, Council Liaison, Spiritual Growth Committee

Our Mission: Trinity Lutheran Church is a dynamic family called by God to nurture each other in our daily journeys of faith and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.

Greetings to the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church.

This has been a special year for all of us. In addition to the traditional business of our committee we've had the opportunity to welcome our new Senior Pastor, Bob Linstrom. Our prayers are for him, Rebecca and family and we welcome them all as part of our congregation!

On Sunday, September 29, 2013 Pastor David Paul was given the title Pastor Emeritus of Trinity Lutheran Church. God's continued blessings for Pastor Dave and his family.

A special thank you to Nadene Delana who has served so capably as our chairperson for several years. Though no longer chairperson of our committee, she remains a dedicated committee member.

Our year began by discussing some needed changes for our Rejoice Worship services. This summer we had a cookout for all of the Rejoice bands and spent more than an hour listening to their needs. As a result, we were able to see those needs met. This fall the repair and updating of the sound and AV systems used in Centennial Hall were completed. The committee continues to resolve similar issues in the sanctuary.

Our music department continues to add meaning to our worship experience with their choral and instrumental talents. They continue to plan for regular and special worship services as well as the "Trinity Concert Series". A Music and Arts Camp will be held this summer, July 16-20, 2014.

We have also begun planning an "All Trinity" worship service this summer, July 20, 2014. The location will be at the Ada Township Park. Further details will be made available as the date nears.

Another task for our committee has been to secure worship assistants and have them scheduled for six months in advance. This is going well (Thank You Jodi) and the scheduled assistants have been provided with a complete roster and are making changes as necessary. We are thankful for all worship assistants who make our Sunday worship experience complete and meaningful.

With a number of our parishioners using electronic fund transfers for their offering, we felt it would be nice if there was a card available for people to place in the offering, indicating their use of the EFT. These cards are ready for use and are found in the narthex and at the entrances to Centennial Hall.

Communion remains available at all services. All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Pastor Bob has met with pre-school through fifth grade students and their parents, opening up the opportunity for the communing of children. Rebecca Linstrom has shared her bread baking skills with several parishioners and we now have a devoted group of people providing our communion bread on a weekly basis.

In the fall, our council approved the purchase of a grand piano for our sanctuary. A funding campaign was initiated and as of this writing it appears our goal has been met. Our new piano will debut Sunday, January 19, 2014.

Finally, thank you to the members of the Worship and Music Committee for their commitment and dedication. We are a marvelous blend of musicians and worship styles. We work together sharing God's gifts of love and grace.

Trinity continues to be an evolving congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon Engstrom, Chair, Worship and Music Committee

Lynn Hagenbush, Council Liaison

God's Peace!

*In 2013, our Youth & Family committee was pleased to share in the joys, the growth, and the excitement over our youth programs. In MANY areas, we saw our youth stepping up in their service and participation. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to 2014 as we continually plan to meet the needs of our youth and their families at Trinity!*

### **Some quick notes to share:**

- We mailed to all youth a **special newsletter** this Fall, detailing our programming for the Fall/Winter. A new newsletter is currently in the works, and will be mailed home by the end of January 2014.
- **We renamed our youth group gatherings**—Sunday School became BASIC (brothers and sisters in Christ), Wednesday night youth group is called SMASH (Students ministering and serving Him), and Middle School youth group is called Ignite!
- We created a **youth advisory board called WAY** (we are youth), which has 6 high school members who meet with Pastor Sarah about ideas and programming.
- We have **our own Youth Band** called Faceless that plays on a regular schedule for the Rejoice Services, with leadership by Tom Demmon.
- Our **High School Sunday School class, now called BASIC**, is led by Kathy Meuser, Bill Thorsen, Chris Engle and Dan Lynn as teachers—thanks for being so awesome!
- We created **our own new Facebook page** for Youth Ministries!
- **High School Mission Trip:** This year our mission trip was to Middletown, Ohio. We had 22 youth and 6 adult mentors (Jessica Marks, Roger Marks, Bill Thorsen, Dan Lynn, Pastor Sarah Stobie, and Chris Engle)! The youth have continued to tithed their fundraising profits to local charities here in Grand Rapids and also through the purchase of canned goods for local food banks at the mission trip site.
- **ABC (Affirmation of Baptism):** ABC currently has 46 students and this past Reformation Sunday we confirmed 20 students. Again, thanks to the mentors who have been so faithful... Dawn Brackmann, Pete Stobie, Charles Krug, Rebecca Ulrich, Dieter Panzer, Kristin Bradley, Michael Mulligan and Kris Shannon! Our two year program covers the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and our two Lutheran sacraments. Our youth learn also about helping at the church through service hours and being an acolyte at Traditional worship services.
- **Summer Camp:** Stony Lake Camp was incredible this year, with our largest group yet attending! Stony Lake Lutheran Camp is our ELCA camp for West Michigan. While we are there, we learn about our Lutheran heritage and meet other youth from area Lutheran churches. We had more than 43 3-8th graders join us for our annual week in July. We are very grateful to offer a special scholarship to our 6-8th graders for our camp experience

**2014 already promises to be a fabulous year... with more youth signed up for mission trip than ever before, and with a new energy in all of our programs. Please prayerfully consider how you can help our youth programs grow at Trinity!**

*Respectfully submitted by Pastor Sarah Stobie and Michael Mulligan (chair), on behalf of Youth and Family Committee, Jan. 2014*

*Treasurer's Report—2013 Budget and 2013 Forecast  
11 Month Actual (Feb '13—Dec '13) and Jan '14 Forecast*

<b>Description</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Forecast</b>	<b>2013 Variance</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>925,000</b>	<b>955,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Budgeted Benevolence	25,000	35,720	10,720
Synod Mission Support	90,000	90,000	0
Christian Education	8,000	7,600	(400)
Worship & Music	13,980	24,432	10,452
Evangelism	1,020	1,737	717
Stewardship	5,000	2,124	(2,876)
Youth & Family	9,400	10,847	1,447
Fellowship	2,775	1,804	(971)
Property	27,970	48,088	20,118
Utilities	44,500	49,318	4,818
Leases	16,891	14,984	(1,907)
Technology	5,040	5,580	540
Office & Administration	48,750	54,856	6,106
Staff	581,845	581,947	102
Stephen's Ministry	700	700	0
Capital Reserve	17,562	16,232	(1,330)
Health Ministry	1,925	1,574	(351)
Outreach	700	632	(68)
Congregational Life	6,500	5,658	(842)
Spiritual Growth	2,000	2,878	878
Day Care Center	0	3,500	3,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>909,558</b>	<b>960,212</b>	<b>50,654</b>
Parking Lot	15,442	10,789	(4,653)
<b>Grand Total Expenses</b>	<b>925,000</b>	<b>971,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>
<b>Endowment Distribution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) General Fund</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

*Treasurer's Report - 2013 Year-End Balance Sheet*

	As of 12/31/12	As of 12/31/13	Change
<b>Cash / Equivalent Accounts</b>			
General Fund			
General Fund - Checking	\$ 66,685	\$ 132,088	\$ 65,403
General Fund - Prepaids	-	1,472	1,472
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 66,685</b>	<b>\$ 133,560</b>	<b>\$ 66,875</b>
Dedicated Fund			
Dedicated Fund - Checking	\$ 53,918	\$ 146,950	\$ 93,032
Dedicated Fund - ELCA	120,943	128,982	8,039
<b>Total Dedicated Fund</b>	<b>\$ 174,861</b>	<b>\$ 275,932</b>	<b>\$ 101,071</b>
Endowment Fund			
Endowment Fund - Ameriprise	\$ 260,871	\$ 322,555	\$ 61,684
Endowment Fund - ELCA	93,265	93,396	131
<b>Total Endowment Fund</b>	<b>\$ 354,136</b>	<b>\$ 415,951</b>	<b>\$ 61,815</b>
<b>Total Cash / Equivalent Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 595,682</b>	<b>\$ 825,443</b>	<b>\$ 229,761</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Land & Building	\$ 5,384,000	\$ 5,384,000	\$ -
Parking Lot	-	390,942	390,942
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,384,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,774,942</b>	<b>\$ 390,942</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,979,682</b>	<b>\$ 6,600,386</b>	<b>\$ 620,703</b>

Description	2013 Forecast	2014 Proposed Budget
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>955,000</b>	<b>974,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Budgeted Benevolence	35,720	33,000
Synod Mission Support	90,000	97,000
Christian Education	7,600	11,000
Worship	7,261	10,275
Music	17,171	6,875
Evangelism	1,737	1,660
Stewardship	2,124	3,700
Youth & Family	10,847	10,700
Fellowship	1,804	2,500
Property	48,088	42,525
Utilities	49,318	48,025
Leases	14,984	15,000
Technology	5,580	4,000
Office & Admin	54,856	49,500
Staff	581,947	579,188
Stephen's Ministry	700	1,625
Capital Reserve	16,232	16,257
Parish Nurse	1,574	2,400
Outreach	632	1,200
Congregational Life	5,658	7,500
Spiritual Growth	2,878	3,750
Day Care Center	3,500	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>960,212</b>	<b>947,680</b>
Parking Lot	10,789	26,320
<b>Grand Total Expenses</b>	<b>971,000</b>	<b>974,000</b>
<b>Endowment Distribution</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) General Fund</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<u>Description</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
<b>Salaries</b>		
Clergy	\$ 137,443	23.7%
Non-Clergy	\$ 279,671	48.3%
Contract	\$ 18,460	3.2%
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 435,574</b>	<b>75.2%</b>
<b>Benefits</b>		
Clergy	\$ 50,064	8.6%
Non-Clergy	\$ 70,580	12.2%
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 120,644</b>	<b>20.8%</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Payroll Taxes	\$ 22,970	4.0%
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 22,970</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 579,188</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



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Pastor Sarah Stobie, Associate Pastor (ext. 24), 616-291-6997 (cell), [sarah.stobie@tlcgr.org](mailto:sarah.stobie@tlcgr.org)