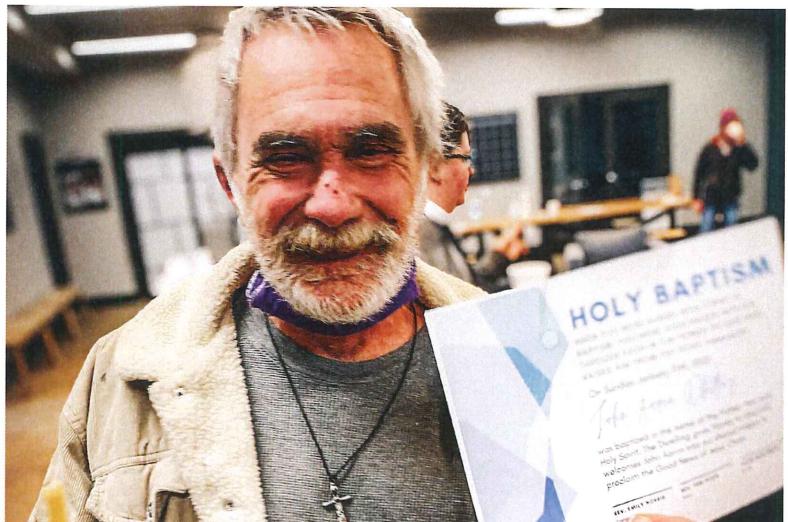
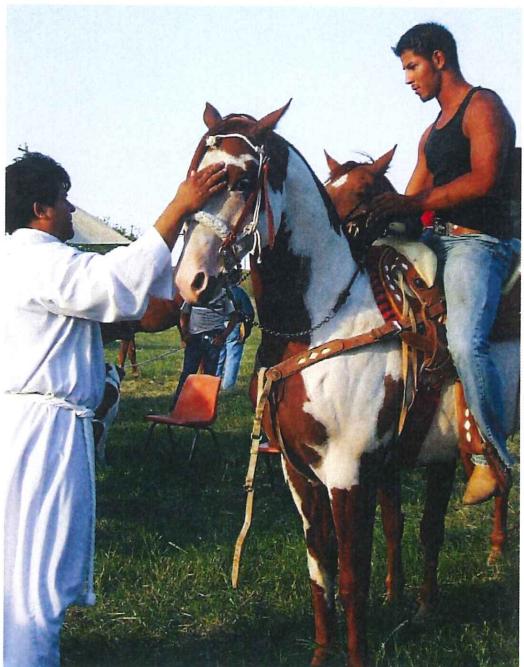


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God's enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

2022 Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Church

2700 Fulton East, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

616-949-2510, www.tlcgr.org

*"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 2021:

Ilene Viola Seadal

May 24, 1926 – January 21, 2021

Janet Ruth Chobanian

February 15, 1944 – January 26, 2021

Jack A. Greiner

March 26, 1938 – May 15, 2021

Ruth Margaret Helzer

January 22, 1932 – June 9, 2021

James Phillip Searfoss

May 31, 1946 – June 28, 2021

Terry James Carlson

October 21, 1942 – August 2, 2021

Gabriel Mark Mattison

September 2, 1999 – August 14, 2021

Dixie Lee Brinks

May 17, 1944 – December 25, 2021

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
2022 Annual Meeting Agenda - January 16, 2022**

Call to Order, Karen Unruh, Congregation President

Opening Devotions, Pastor Bob Linstrom

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the January 17, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (pages 6-8)

Appointment of Tellers

Nominating Committee Report

Ballot for Council (pages 9-11)

Chris Becker – first three-year term

Mike King – second three-year term

Susan Knoll – first three-year term

Alaina Lundgren – second one-year term (youth representative)

Jacquie Murray – first three-year term

Ballot for 2022 Synod Assembly Delegates (page 12)

Bob Dever

Liz Dever

Joe Iaria

Marybeth Iaria

2022 Annual Meeting Agenda - January 16, 2022 (continued)

Ballot for 2022 Nominating Committee (pages 13-14)

Amelia Crist

Paul Crist

Amy Stephan

Fred Ulreich

Review of Reports

Pastors (pages 15-19)

President (page 20)

Committee Reports (listed alphabetically by committee name, pages 21-35)

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2022 Budget, (pages 36-38)

Chris Engle, Congregation Treasurer

Unfinished Business

(none)

New Business

1. Q&A regarding Trinity's long pandemic separation and re-entry into parish life
2. action to call Pastor Kari Fast to serve as Trinity's Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
(letter of introduction on page 15)
3. approval of amendments to Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws
- 4.
- 5.

Announcements, Lord's Prayer and Benediction

Pastors Bob Linstrom, Dan Schewe and Karen Niemeyer

Adjournment

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Congregation Meeting

January 17, 2021

The 2021 Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church, via Zoom, was called to order by Council President, Paul Crist, at 12:00 p.m.

Pastor Bob Linstrom led the church members in the opening Litany.

Motion to approve the agenda: With no additions to the agenda from the floor, Bob Heine moved to accept the agenda as outlined in the 2020 Annual Report, Jim Coates 2nd/Passed.

A Motion to approve the January 19, 2020 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Karen Unruh, Kate Bredwell 2nd/Passed.

Appointment of Tellers: John Fox and Rick Radke were appointed tellers for today's meeting. Voting members in attendance: 104.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee met and recommends the following people for Council Members. Their profiles may be found on pages 9-12.

Ballot for Council Members

Bill Bush –First three-year term

John Fox –Second three-year term

Eric Golke –Second three-year term

Sara Huckstep –First three-year term

Alaina Lundgren –One-year term (Youth Representative)

Christophe Muganza –First three-year term

Karen Unruh –Second three-year term

The floor was opened to additional nomination; none were submitted.

Council Secretary, Carol Butler, cast a unanimous motion for one ballot.

Doug Haneline moved to close the nominations and Jim Coates 2nd the motion. All nominees were approved.

Synod Assembly Delegates

Trinity normally sends two male and two female representatives to the Annual Synod meeting. This Year's Synod Assembly will likely be a "virtual" gathering, and detailed information has not yet been finalized. If you are interested in serving as a voting member at this year's "virtual" assembly, please speak with Council President Paul Crist, Vice President Karen Unruh, or one of the pastors.

Nominating Committee for 2021 Council Candidates

Nominees are: Sue Cothern, Tess Lundgren, Mike Mason and Rick Radke.

Their profiles may be found on pages 13-14 in the Annual Report.

No other nominations were received from the floor.

Council Secretary, Carol Butler, made a motion for a unanimous ballot.

A motion was submitted by George Bauer to accept the nominating committee as noted. Jim Vanderwall 2nd the motion. All nominees were approved.

Review of Reports (pages 15-18)

The Pastors', Council President's, and Committee reports are found in the Annual Packet. Attendees are asked to take time to review them and raise any questions they might have.

Pastor Bob

With the emerging and growing pandemic, the decision was made on March 15 to close the church for in-person gathering. He is looking forward to the time we can again be together in worship, and is laying the groundwork for what that will look like.

Pastor Dan

This past year has been like no other, and Pastor Dan is looking at alternative plans for the summer. It may be necessary to cancel the summer mission trip to New Jersey and replace it with a week of local service.

Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen is thankful for the creative ways we have learned this year to do ministry; ways we never would have thought of.

With no questions from the attendees, Mike Mulligan moved that the Pastor's' reports be received into the record. Jim Coates 2nd the motion; the reports were received into the record.

Council President

Paul is deeply thankful for the dedication of Trinity's leadership who have adapted and brought the church forward in this time of pandemic. Special thanks also, to the church staff. They have adapted to working remotely, with flexibility, and stepped up in multiple ways.

With no questions from the participants, a motion was made by Kate Bredwell to accept the Council President's report written and as given, into the record. Bob Heine 2nd the motion; the report was received into the record.

Committee Reports

A motion to accept the Committee Reports as written was made by Mike Mason, Jim Vanderwall 2nd/the motion was approved.

Treasurer's 2020 Report and presentation of the 2021 Budget

Chris Engle, Congregation Treasurer

2020 (Trinity's fiscal year is February 1–January 31)

- There are still a few weeks left in this fiscal year.
- We expect to have an overage of approximately \$200,000, most of which comes from giving.
- Because of Covid, there was approximately \$100,000 in expense saving. This has been an odd year; expenses were much lower than expected.
- Some staff positions were not filled for the entire 12 months.
- Going forward, we won't have these types of savings again.
- Trinity is very well positioned financially for the future.

2021 Budget Proposal

- The proposed budget was approved by the Council with the caveat that it is approved at the Congregation meeting.
- The assumption was made that Trinity will return to pre-Covid circumstances.
- Technology upgrades are planned for the Sanctuary, a new security system, and a tech-support person.
- Every three years, an outside audit is done. This expense is now included in the budget.

Budget Surplus—How will it be used?

Not exactly sure how much it will be until the end of the year. We tithe 10% to the ELCA fund.

We were able to budget for an increase to staff. Cost of living and benefits have gone up.

Would it make sense to hold the meeting in February?

Holding the meeting in January allows us to start the year with an approved budget for the coming year.

Is it Council Policy to Allocate Funds?

The Council made an agreement in 2017-2018 to make an annual review of excess funds, and that was done. It was a short-term process made by the Council, not a continuing resolution.

What account is being used to pay for the Sanctuary AV system?

There was \$100,000 allocated for upgrades to the sanctuary AV sound system. This will provide for live streaming of the Traditional Service.

Security System Upgrades

The Property Committee reviewed Trinity's Security status, and researched options for improvements. Bids were requested for both interior and exterior.

This was paid for with Building Reserves and completed in February.

New IT Person

This position is a new, on-site position and is included in the overall payroll.

Trinity no longer has a construction loan.

\$18,000 was allocated in Capital Reserves for repairs to the sewer system.

Year End

Building Endowment Fund: \$319,774

Mission Investment Fund: \$636,861

Cash and Checking Equivalents: \$1,164,524

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written was made by Bob Heine, Kelli Basher 2nd the motion. The treasurer's was approved.

All in favor of the 2021 Budget as presented? The budget was approved.

Unfinished Business—None

New Business

Q & A regarding the long pandemic separation at Trinity, and plans for re-entry into parish life.

Since March 15, knowledgeable and skilled people have been evaluating trends.

Two weeks of services were held, and then everything returned to virtual.

Led by Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, the team will be reconvening.

The Covid-19 case numbers are encouraging.

They will continue to plan for virtual, but the team will be tasked to prepare for re-entry to parish life.

Office Coordinator Kris Baker has been a constant, on-site presence. Thank you, Kris!

Announcements:

Pastor Bob. Thank you for being here!

Pastor Dan

- On January 31, the kids are going snow tubing.

- Mission Trip to New Jersey is tentatively on the summer schedule.

Pastor Karen—it is so exciting to see how many are attending this meeting!

Lord's Prayer and Benediction: Pastor Dan

Motion to adjourn: Carol Butler/Steve Heacock 2nd/Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jacobson, Recording Secretary



Chris Becker

Chris received his Michigan State University BA in International Relations 1992, and went on to Valparaiso School of Law and graduated in 1995. He was hired directly out of law school into the Kent County Prosecutors Office where he has been employed for 26 years. Chris served as Chief Assistant Prosecutor from 2011-2016, and was elected Kent County Prosecutor in November of 2016. He has handled over 170 felony jury trials in career with prosecutor's office. Currently he serves on Lt. Governor's Mental Health Diversion Counsel, Prosecuting Attorneys Association Legislative Committee and Board of Directors. Chris is member of Board of Director's Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County, Grand Rapids Boys and Girls Club, Mary Free Bed YMCA, and Families Against Narcotics. He is the co-chair of the Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team and a member of the Kent County Stop Elder Abuse Task Force. Chris has been a Trinity member since 1999 when he was married to his wife Jeanne in the church. They have three kids, Kelsey, William, and Allyson. He served as a Sunday School teacher for all three and is a past member of Children's Committee and currently serves as a lector at the 10:45 a.m. service.



Mike King

Mike and his wife, Molly, have been members at Trinity Lutheran Church since 2014. He attended Purdue University, is a licensed Certified Public Accountant, and recently completed his MBA from Western Michigan University. Mike works as a controller for Spectrum Health System Pharmacy and SH Pennock. He enjoys watching sports and spending time with his family.

**Susan Knoll**

I am Susan J. Knoll. I have lived on Grand Rapids west-side for pretty much my whole life. I am a graduate of Grand Rapids Christian High School, Calvin College, and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. My husband, Terry, and I were married by Pastor Cobb at Trinity on May 29, 1987. Terry and I have 3 adult sons, Taylor, Jordan, and Aaron. I did not attend law school immediately after my graduation from Calvin. For about 20 years, I worked as a medical administrative assistant in the Metropolitan Hospital system before I went graduate to school. After I graduated from law school, I worked as a general practice litigator at Schenk Boncher & Rypma for just over a decade. Since last year, I have slowed the pace of my legal practice and am currently self-employed. My husband is the electric guitar player at the Rejoice worship service each week and owns his own construction business. My hobbies are reading and walking with my dog.

**Alaina Lundgren—Youth Representative**

My name is Alaina Lundgren and I was born and raised in Ada, Michigan. I am bilingual in Spanish/English. I am currently in 11th grade at Forest Hills Central High School. I am a varsity member of the FHC Crew team and row both the Fall & Spring seasons as well as helping at the summer FHC Crew kiddie camp.

My family transferred from Grace Episcopal Church to Trinity Lutheran Church when I was in second grade. I completed the three year Confirmation Class and was confirmed here at Trinity. I have loved attending camp at Stony Lake for the last eight years and am looking forward to my 9th year, hopefully, when they re-open this summer. On my first mission trip with the Trinity Youth Group I went to South Dakota and learned so much about Jesus and about myself. I'm signed up for this year's mission trip and am looking forward to deepening my relationship with God, making friends, and helping the residents wherever God calls me. I have enjoyed being a part of Trinity's Outreach programs like Lutheran World Relief Quilting, serving at Dégagé, volunteering for IHN, and helping pack meals for Kid's Coalition Against Hunger. I am a member of Trinity's High School Youth Group.

I have enjoyed serving on the Congregational Council this past year and am looking forward to serving this year as well.



Jacquie Murray

Jacquie and Patrick Murray were married in 2017 and landed on Trinity as their church home in 2018. They have enjoyed teaching Sunday school, serving at IHN, and mentoring several new families. Their greatest joy has been welcoming their first child, John Timothy Murray, who was born in August of 2020.

Jacquie grew up in Grand Haven, Michigan. She attended Central Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Science and completed her dietetic internship at Western Michigan University. She works part-time as a Registered Dietitian for Head Start of Allegan County and in her spare time enjoys gardening, photography, and most importantly spending time with her family and friends.

Faith has always played an important role in Jacquie's life, and she is beyond grateful for her Trinity Lutheran Church family.



Bob and Liz Devers

Bob and Liz Devers moved from Kansas City, Missouri in late July of 2018, to live close to their three grandchildren. They share their Ada home with a big mutt named Mack and two cats, Dolly and Barney.

Bob enjoys nature, fishing, physical fitness, folk and country music, playing guitar, photography, and current events. Liz likes to read, sing, do crafts, scrapbooking, movies and theater, cooking, and taking classes at the YMCA. Together they enjoy traveling (especially to National Parks), spending time with family and friends and exploring sites and restaurants in their new home state.

They have enjoyed participating in a variety of Trinity activities, including the choir, IHN, Earthkeepers, Life Begins at 60, and Degage.



Joe and Marybeth Laria

Joe and Marybeth Laria have been married for almost 44 years and they have two sons, Chris and Nick, a daughter-in-law Angie, and two wonderful grandchildren, Audrey and Grant. They also have a 5-year-old Aussiedoodle, named Finn, who is full of energy and loves to bark.

Marybeth went to school at Fullerton College and received her Nursing degree at Santa Ana College and has been retired since 2005 when she left the nursing profession. She loves to paint and cook and enjoys gardening and camping but her favorite pastime is spending time with their grandchildren.

Joe has a Pharmacy degree from Idaho State University and an MBA from the University of Redlands and has been retired since 2015. He enjoys fishing and golfing although he considers himself a much better fisherman than golfer. He likes to camp, garden, and fix things around the house. Both Joe and Marybeth love to travel.

Joe and Marybeth moved to Ada about five years ago from Northern California, the Redding area. Before that, they lived in Humboldt county on the northern coast of California. They had been visiting relatives in Ada since the early 1990s and decided to retire here because they liked it so much. They have been members of Trinity for about four years.



Amelia Crist

Amelia Crist has been a member of Trinity since joining with her family in 2007. She and her husband were married at Trinity in 2015 after meeting at Aquinas College from which Amelia graduated in 2010. She assumed the role of Trinity's Wedding Coordinator in 2018 and continues to enjoy helping couples navigate planning and celebrating their marriage ceremonies in our beautiful sanctuary space.



Paul Crist

Paul and his wife Elisabeth have lived in Ada for 24 years and prior to joining Trinity were active members at St. Mathew Lutheran church on Cascade Avenue. They have been members at Trinity since 2007. They have four children. Amelia is 32 years old, an Executive Administrator at the Northwestern Mutual Insurance, and married John Taylor. They live in Ada and attend Trinity. Karl is 30 years old, a graduate of West Point, is now a Captain in the US Army, stationed at Fort Hood, TX and an Apache helicopter pilot. Peter is 29, and a graduate of the University of Michigan, recently got his Masters in Computer Science from Georgia Tech and recently got engaged to Rebecca Call. They live in Denver, CO. And last but not least, is Sofia. She is 26 years old and is a Nurse in the Pediatric Cardiovascular department at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, TN. She too recently got engaged to Kyle Walenta. Paul says they obviously had a very smart Mother.

Elisabeth has been a stay at home mom for 32 years and has been the costume designer for the Forest Hills Eastern School's theater program for 17 years, has also done costume work for various theater groups in Grand Rapids including the Grand Rapids Opera. She also works part time at Williams Sonoma. Paul works for PowerPlan, an enterprise software company focused on the Utility industry, with headquarters in Atlanta, GA and serves as its Vice President of Global Sales. Paul likes to play golf, tennis, likes to read and is an avid scuba diver when he is not spending time with his family.



Amy Stephan

Amy is a lifelong Lutheran, having grown up with a father who is a Lutheran pastor, spending her childhood living at camp Michi-Lu-Ca and graduating from Wittenberg University. With a Masters in Educational Psychology from MSU, she recently retired from teaching and coaching after 34 years and is currently working in the family business and figuring out her next adventure.

Amy has been a member of Trinity since the early 1990s. Her involvement within the church started as a VBS teacher and middle school mentor. She chaperoned several retreats and Mission Trips and served on the Youth and Family Committee. After her own children were born, she began serving on and chairing the Children's Ministry Committee, teaching Sunday School, teaching VBS, volunteering with IHN and being a Confirmation mentor. She is now back to chairing the Youth and Family committee and continues to look for ways to volunteer and be God's hands and feet.

She and her husband Steve met at Trinity as middle school mentors and were married at Trinity in 2001. They have three children: Keely (their guardian angel), Charlotte (16), and Isaac (14).



Fred Ulreich

Fred Ulreich is the founder and Managing Director of The Eastwind Group, LLC, a consulting firm that helps trade associations and select businesses improve their value to members and clients.

Before devoting his work fulltime to The Eastwind Group, Fred served as Chief Executive Officer at one of the leading trade associations in the residential construction and remodeling industry. During that time, he grew the value of the association by 20%, worked to establish performance standards for the association's chapters, and doubled the association sponsorships within one year after the invention of a new business development program. Fred served on the Remodeling Futures Steering Committee of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, was a member of the Association Forum of Chicagoland as well as a member of The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), the membership organization and voice of the association profession.

Fred's professional experience includes serving in staff positions with an international petroleum company as well as a major tire company. He went on to provide expertise and earned business from companies such as BMW, Goodyear, American Greetings and BP. A little known fact: Fred worked to design and implement the first consumer loyalty program in the country for a major Midwestern electric utility.

Originally from Chicago and now in Grand Rapids, MI, Fred has a business degree from Bowling Green State University as well as graduate work in Organizational Development from BG. He has also served on church council and as congregation president at Trinity Lutheran Church from 2008-2013. Fred was also selected for personal recognition in Lexington's Who's Who of Executives and Professionals.

In addition to being a consultant, Fred plays the tenor banjo and had performed aboard the showboat at Opryland and at one time was the featured entertainer at the Portside Festival Marketplace in northwest Ohio.

2022 Annual Meeting Agenda - January 16, 2022

Introducing Pastor Kari Fast

Greetings Trinity Friends and Families,

As Trinity celebrates Pastor Karen Niemeyer's retirement after serving beautifully for five years, I am grateful she will remain at Trinity as active member and caring presence. As well, I'm delighted the council will place me as pastoral candidate before the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 16. Assuming the votes confirm it, I eagerly await my role as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care, a 10 hour/week calling, starting February 1.

My first call to ministry was at Hope Lutheran, a small church in Plainwell, Michigan, where I was solo pastor for twelve years. As their part-time pastor I wore many hats, knew my people well, and worked closely with most committees and teams. An area of passion, honor, and deep meaning for me was providing pastoral care for couples, families, and individuals. A related ministry of great meaning was caring for those in the dying process along with their loved ones. Other areas of joy included leading spiritual formation classes, the annual Women's Retreats, and assisting in the Preschool Sunday School class.

This upcoming call to Trinity Lutheran, my second call to ministry, will be a call to the heart of ministry for me. It is, as the common expression says, in my sweet spot, *an optimum point or combination of factors or qualities*. It is with a joyful heart that I anticipate leading worship, getting to know Trinity's various ministries that help express God's love for all, and working with Pastor Bob, Pastor Dan, and the entire staff. It is with a humbled and honored heart that I anticipate getting to know and care for the people of Trinity Lutheran during times of joy and ease, as well, during times of difficulty and strain. For some, the idea of walking with a person when they are struggling, may seem draining or difficult; for me, it is a time of holy closeness to how God has gifted me in ministry.

Isaiah describes the power of drawing near to God during times of difficulty saying,

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:11

This season of life for my husband and me additionally seems precious, as he recently took early retirement and anticipates working only part-time. This affords us the freedom to visit more often our parents in Minnesota, our far-flung friends, and our adult children. Our daughter and son-in-law, Liz and Mackenzie, live in Minneapolis, Minnesota; our son David lives in Grand Rapids; and our daughter Kathleen lives in Columbus, Ohio. As well, we have other things that delight, amaze, and challenge us to grow including: improv, writing, reading, and our latest, backpack camping.

As you are comfortable, please introduce yourself. I look forward to getting to know you!

Sincerely,

Pastor Kari Fast





Report of the Senior Pastor to the Congregation Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

January 2022

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth . . .
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*

John 1:14, 16

The Gospel text for the first Sunday of January comes from the evangelist John's hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world. Thanks be to God.

I love verse 16 in John's hymn. "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." As a pastor among the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, I truly know that affirmation. Here, in this expression of the Body of Christ, I have been blessed with the gifts that all of you share in abundance. I have been blessed, as a ministry partner with you, with "grace upon grace."

I cited the same verses from scripture in my report to the congregation in 2021, after ten months of closure as the COVID-19 pandemic seemed to dominate our lives. That closure of our church for "in person" gathering in the face of the pandemic led us to explore what it meant to offer worship exclusively by live stream, for staff to shelter at home, to move all programs, meetings and planning to video conferencing formats and to somehow retain a sense of community in our separation. We had success in meeting the challenge of the pandemic on some levels and we most certainly fell short on others. But together we actively sought to perceive the light of Christ in the darkness of our pandemic reality. The community of Trinity Lutheran Church since March of 2020 has been, for me, a light in the darkness, bearing Christ to one another in a most challenging time. Grace upon grace.

As I review the year that has unfolded since our last Annual Meeting, I am sincerely grateful for the return to "in person" worship and programming since March of 2021, almost exactly a year after our closure. We sought to make this reentry with an abundance of caution, knowing that the pandemic was not yet behind us. Singing and the participation of lay assisting ministers reemerged in our life together in the summertime, a full return to the sacrament of Holy Communion was realized, and we began to see more of our members present in worship. Our Sunday School returned in the fall of 2021 after a successful outdoor Vacation Bible School program in the summer, and we began to welcome back Trinity families with children. Staff returned to active, onsite leadership of our parish ministry program, small groups began to meet again, and I had the privilege of leading an onsite Wednesday adult forum again in the fall of 2021. Although we considered moving back into a virtual format as another wave of the pandemic swept through west Michigan in the late fall of 2021, we gathered "in person" for Christmas Eve services, and 750 joined us for the Candlelight Services of Holy Communion. Grace upon grace.

Throughout this pandemic upheaval, the financial stewardship of the people of Trinity has remained faithful. We are on track to end the 2021 fiscal year with a healthy surplus at the end of January, blessed by the generosity of this congregation even as many in our life together refrain from gathering onsite and participate via virtual platforms. As we project a challenging budget for 2022, we do so with hopeful and well-grounded optimism for funding our ministry together. Grace upon grace.

Other highlights of my ministry with the people of Trinity in the last year have included:

- serving as the primary preaching/presiding minister of the congregation on Sunday mornings, during the special services of Lent, Holy Week and Christmas Eve, as the congregation's liturgist for midweek Lenten and Advent services, and for outdoor worship monthly from May through October
- celebrating our 125th anniversary as a congregation with a yearlong emphasis on our heritage, culminating with a very well attended anniversary celebration Sunday on December 5, 2021
- sharing a vibrant visitation ministry with Pastors Dan and Karen, our Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, and a great team of Stephen Ministers and "Trinity in Touch" homebound visitors; although protocols for hospital and homebound visits are still restrictive, this gifted team has continued to find ways to support our life together in pastoral and lay visitation
- seeking to be an active partner in facilitating some significant staffing changes as we concluded chapters in ministry with Rejoice Music Coordinator Kim Owens, Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouter, Sexton Steven Basher, organist and handbell director Larry Biser, Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis and Pastor Karen Niemeyer; all of those "endings" have resulted in new opportunities for staffing this congregation's ministries with Dr. Debora

DeWitt stepping up to serve as our Rejoice Music Coordinator, with new Hospitality and Fellowship staffing provided by Tess Lundgren, with Carrie Lamb now leading our communications ministry and with Grace Gohl employed as our new Sexton; in the weeks ahead we will welcome Pastor Kari Fast and Director of Music and Organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus to our staff team and begin the work of discerning what is next related to staffing congregational life at Trinity

- facilitating Wednesday adult forums on Desmond Tutu's Made for Goodness text last winter, a Bible study on Ruth, Jonah and James in the spring and on our Reformation Roots in the fall of 2021
- teaching the annual Young Children's Communion Class and the annual Fifth Grade Communion Class during Lent
- celebrating with our sixteen 8th graders and ten 9th graders and their families as we marked their Confirmation Sundays after three years of catechetical study with Pastor Dan; our 9th graders celebrated a deferred Confirmation Sunday after the cancellation of that celebration in May 2020
- meeting with families to plan and presiding at baptisms, weddings and current and deferred Memorial Services for loved one who had died in our life together
- additionally, after a long pause in celebrating those newly among us, welcoming 44 new members to our congregation in the fall of 2022
- beginning to plan again a pandemic-delayed Trinity Travelers trip to Holden Village in the summer of 2022
- helping coordinate and welcome the annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, back at Trinity again in November of 2021
- dedicating our "Orange Banner" project for 225 days of remembrance and lament of Native American children whose mass graves have been found on residential school properties in North America
- continuing to be a voice for ecumenical and interfaith gatherings in our community.

In addition to the ministries which have had my direct leadership, I have sought to be an active supporter of and cheerleader for our congregation's ministry with children, youth and families, and our congregation's wonderful and vibrant outreach ministry. I am grateful for my staff partners who lead these initiatives and I'm pleased to share the celebration of these ministries with many in the Trinity congregation.

As I mark nine years since I was introduced to the people of Trinity at the Annual Meeting in 2013, I am grateful to be a part of a growing and vibrant congregation. I have been joined by Associate Pastor Dan Schewe for nearly six years, Assisting Pastor Karen Niemeyer for five years, and a ministry staff rich in gifts to further the mission of this congregation. Again, grace upon grace.

It remains my distinct privilege to serve as one of your pastors at Trinity.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Bob Linstrom, Senior Pastor



Report of the Associate Pastor to the Congregation Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan January 2022

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. – Isaiah 43:16-19

This past year my mind has been continually returning to Isaiah 43, where the prophet calls the people out of the ways they had been doing things and into new ways of being the people of God. This second year of journeying through this pandemic has been much different than our first. In 2020 many experiences were canceled and indefinitely postponed, in 2021 we have found creative ways to return to community in person with each other and held on to some of the lessons we learned when our connections had to go completely online. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we tried many new ways to connect and continued to learn from all our experiences. This past year we have begun to live into a new way of being church with each other. I am continually thankful for our partnership in ministry as we seek to follow God on the road ahead of us, where and how ever it leads.

Last summer we brought camp to Trinity and had an amazing experience outside on our campus. Young people were able to experience God in community and nature right here in the middle of Grand Rapids.

In the summer of 2020 we also brought our annual mission trip to Grand Rapids. We partnered with Family Promise's partners in housing, Blessed by Brooklyn, and Urban Family Ministries for an impactful week of local service. This week allowed us to deepen our relationships with each other and these organizations.

This fall our Confirmation Classes returned in person with an online component for those families who wanted it. In addition to keeping contact down for families this also allows busy families to stay connected when they have to be away for a weekend. We continue to learn how to use our technology to help us stay connected. We have been delving through the Greek Scriptures (New Testament) and the Lord's prayer this fall.

Our high schoolers have returned to weekly youth group on Sunday nights, with a renewed focus on service. Monthly, or more often, they have been connecting with different organizations to continue to serve throughout the greater Grand Rapids community. The group has also made use of our fire pit to gather during the fall. Through the waves of COVID the group has grown tighter.

This December we were able to decorate and deliver Christmas cookies, much to the delight of those decorating and receiving them. It is good to return to some beloved activities.

This March we are looking forward to both high schoolers and middle schoolers attending Charge in Traverse City. This is a weekend conference put on by our friends at Living Water Ministries that focused on connection and faith formation. We already have a large group registered and it is continuing to grow. This promises to be a wonderful weekend of connecting and serving.

Next summer we return to camp at Stony Lake. There is palpable excitement in our young people and their families at this return. I am elated to spend a week with them at camp!

Our high schoolers are also returning to traveling next summer. They will be headed to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the rescheduled ELCA Youth Gathering and to Wethersfield, Connecticut, on our annual mission trip. Both groups are smaller than usual but growing. Both trips also promise to be life altering experiences.

We continue to work on maintaining the nature trail and our forested campus. This year with the help of John Ziech we installed a group of sculptures found along the path inspired by the beatitudes. We are also working on creating a land conservancy document to help guide our care for our grounds. The desire is to return as much of the forested areas to indigenous fauna and floral and repopulate areas where we have been losing trees. We are learning what we do not know, but also much in the ways of caring for this part of God's creation.

I continue to get to use a lot of skills from my former life as an IT professional. This has been helpful when working and communicating with contractors on various projects.

Through these and many other experiences we have continually find ways to follow together into the new life God has for us. It is my joy and honor to serve as one of your pastors. I look forward to the ministry God continues to lead us into. We are blessed, and we are a blessing, and God is with us, no matter what.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Dan Schewe, Associate Pastor



Assisting Pastor Congregational Report

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we join together in our 2022 congregational meeting on January 16, I am thinking back to the season of my life that began five years ago on the day of our 2017 congregational meeting, when by the grace of God our congregation approved calling me as assisting pastor. I am thinking about the day about a month later when I was ordained at Trinity as a Lutheran Minister of Word and Sacrament. I am thinking about how excited—and scared—I was to begin something new in my life, that I had *never* thought I would be fortunate enough to be one of your Trinity pastors—especially at this time in my life. And, of course, I am thinking about when Ted passed away just a short five months later and how you all so lovingly enfolded me and my family into your prayers and your lives, sweetening my life by encouraging me in my ministry and giving me purpose and direction for the days and years ahead.

Because of the support you have always given me, writing this overview of my 2021 ministry is a sort of trip down memory lane, as I think of the ministries I have worked on with so many of you. As I have shared in past annual reports, my ministry this year has (even in the midst of Covid) once again centered on working alongside the other pastors, staff members and members in pastoral care and visitation of our homebound and hospitalized members, assisting with worship services, officiating and assisting at funerals, presiding at my grandson Jax's baptism, leading a 13-week ZOOM Griefshare group, building community with Trinity seniors through our *Life Begins at 60* ministry, matching new members with Trinity mentor families, and teaching one of our new member *Lutheran Theology Trinity Style* classes.

But now it is time for a new season in my life. I love change, so I'm eager to see just what God has in store for me. It is time for me to take off for Florida for a month or so. It is time for me to take that southern France riverboat cruise that my daughter Kim and I have been talking about. It is time for me to help more often with my grandkids and great grandson. And while there's a part of me that will miss being your assisting pastor, I comfort myself in knowing that I will *still* be able work alongside you all in ministry as a volunteer! I will *still* be able to stay overnight with our IHN guests. I will *still* be able to attend *Life Begins at 60* events. I will *still* be able to attend Trinity Bible studies. And I will *still* be able to re-join Stephen Ministry as a care giver.

And I am so thankful to be welcoming Pastor Kari Fast to our pastoral staff. Kari comes to Trinity with many strengths that will enable her to carry on existing ministries as well as begin new ones. As I've said before, and it's always good to repeat: Trinity is led by and filled with wonderfully gifted members and staff who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and who deeply care for each other. I look forward to 2022 and all the exciting ways God will continue to lead us to do God's ministry with each other at Trinity and with our neighbors in our city, nation and world.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Karen

People of Trinity,

2021 marked the 125th anniversary of our congregation. We spent much of the year reflecting on and celebrating our history through photos, written accounts, recorded memories, and musical performances. After almost a year of pandemic closure in 2020, the people of Trinity can reflect on 2021 and celebrate it as a year of renewal, revitalization, and transition for our facilities, our programming, and our staffing.

Facilities renewal:

- Installed a new audiovisual system in the Sanctuary and upgraded the AV system in Centennial Hall, allowing us to livestream both our traditional and Rejoice services.
- Installed a new security camera system as part of our Safety and Security initiative.
- Renovated the Commons by replacing the flooring and installing new fans and window treatments, making this space more functional and welcoming for Sunday school, exercise classes, and IHN guests.
- Approved upgrades to the choir loft lighting and Overlook art space lighting.

Programming revitalization:

- Resumed in-person worship services, Sunday school, VBS, and other on-site programming with guidance from our Return to Worship team in consultation with Trinity members in the medical field.
- Completed an initiative to strengthen the rosters and leadership for all of our standing committees.
- Created a new Publicly Engaged Church committee and combined the Fellowship and Hospitality committees.
- Resumed new member classes and welcomed 45 new members.
- Resumed hosting IHN guests.

Staffing transitions:

- Sylvia Stouten retired as Director of Discipleship. Aspects of her position were taken on by Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis and Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall.
- Tess Lundgren, Carrie Lamb and Peter McKinney were hired in the new positions of Hospitality & Fellowship Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, and IT Coordinator, respectively.
- Grace Gohl was hired to replace Steven Basher as our Sexton.
- Deb DeWitt was hired as the new Rejoice Music Coordinator when Kim Owens stepped down.
- Larry Biser retired from his position as Director of Music and Organist. We will welcome Dr. Darlene Kuperus to this role at the beginning of February 2022.
- Angela Davis resigned from her position as Director of Congregational Life. As 2022 begins we will evaluate the needs of this position as we seek to fill Angela's many roles and responsibilities.
- Finally, on the day of our Annual Meeting we will celebrate Pastor Karen Niemeyer as she retires after five years of faithful service to Trinity. We will also introduce Pastor Kari Fast as our candidate for Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. Upon congregational approval of her call, she will begin her ministry among us in February.

Many thanks to Pastor Karen, Sylvia, Angela, Larry, Steven, and Kim for blessing Trinity with their time and talents! I am grateful for the continuing work of the Congregation Council, our pastors, staff, committee members, and all those who make Trinity the vibrant congregation that it is. It is truly a privilege to serve as your Council President. As we celebrate all that we have accomplished together in 2021, I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2022!

Grace and peace,

Karen Unruh

Review of Reports - Benevolence Committee for 2021

As part of Trinity's 2021 budget, a total of **\$34,600.00** was approved for benevolence. That total has been distributed on a quarterly basis to area organizations over the past year.

Trinity's budgeted benevolence is distributed using a percentage formula.

Below is a summary of some of the gifts that Trinity has been blessed to distribute through the third quarter of this fiscal year. The figures include budgeted benevolence as well as special gifts.

Please keep in mind that, since our fiscal year does not end until January 31, this is a preliminary report. The complete 2021 benevolence report will be published in the March 2022 edition of Trinity's monthly newsletter, *The Messenger*.

ORGANIZATION BENEVOLENCE	
GIFT RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
ACCESS	\$1,345.35
Baxter Community Center	\$2,345.35
Dégagé Ministries	\$1,745.35
ELCA Disaster Response	\$2,540.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$8,759.21
Exalta Health	\$45,633.49
Family Promise (IHN)	\$5,100.85
The Green Apple (The Pantry)	\$1,410.35
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,883.49
Heartside Gleaning	\$6,000.00
Home Repair Services	\$1,345.35
ICCF	\$1,345.35
In the Image	\$1,345.35
LIRS	\$40,000.00
Living Water Ministries	\$1,345.35
MI Interfaith Power and Light	\$807.21
Mission India - Neerekshe	\$2,152.56
New City Neighbors	\$1,345.35
Safe Haven	\$1,345.35
Samaritas New American Refugee Resettlement West Michigan	\$34,505.35
SECOM	\$1,345.35
TOTAL	\$163,646.01

Review of Reports - Children's Ministries for 2021

Trinity's Children's Ministry lays the foundation for a lifelong journey with Jesus Christ. Children discover that God is active in their lives, form loving connections with a family of believers, and share God's blessings with our community and the world. The purpose of the Children's Ministry Committee is to provide oversight, guidance, critique, and support for all programming related to children ages birth through 5th grade.

The Children's Ministry Committee began 2021 with the task of strengthening the committee roster and defining leadership roles within its members. Previously serving members Paul DeBoer, Anne Meeuwsen, Ted Frecka, Sarah Frecka, and Cyndi Harrison were joined by new committee members Michelle Hall and Dawn Brackmann. Sarah Frecka and Cyndi Harrison accepted the role of committee co-chairs. Anne Meeuwsen serves as secretary. Sarah Huckstep is council liaison.

The committee works in partnership with the following part-time staff: Rachele Battreall (Director of Family Ministry), James Morin (Family Activities Coordinator), Ingrid Brang, Sheri Mason, and Andrea Severns (Sunday School Coordinators), and Awilda Diaz (Nursery Coordinator).

The committee meets every other month over Zoom. Topics of discussion center on how to effectively engage Trinity families during the ongoing health crisis.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' " Matthew 19:14

Key Events in 2021

Sunday Morning Education - Sunday School is offered for children ages 3 years through 5th grade during the school year. Sunday School leaders use *Spark*, a lectionary-based Lutheran curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress. Sunday School lessons were offered virtually from January - May 2021. This included a weekly video with Bible story, discussion, craft or activity, and prayer. Families received weekly coloring pages and worship bulletins.

For a special Easter treat, the Sunday school staff partnered with Trinity's Youth to assemble and deliver sets of *Resurrection Eggs* to the home of each Sunday school family. A video of the Easter story using the eggs created a memorable, interactive lesson.

Starting in September 2021, Sunday School met in-person at Trinity at 9:30am. Kids are dismissed from worship after Children's Time and return to their families during Passing of the Peace. 45 children are currently registered for Sunday school and weekly attendance is between 15-25. Children of all ages are taught in a large group in the Commons, allowing ample space in which to spread out, and requiring only a handful of volunteers.

Vacation Bible School- The beautiful Trinity grounds was transformed into Rocky Railway VBS in June of 2021! Over three partly sunny/partly rainy days, 91 kids and 30+volunteers experienced the power of Jesus' love through songs, skits, stories, and more.

Nursery Ministry - The Nursery Ministry at Trinity is for families with children ages birth through 3 years old. New babies are welcomed to Trinity with a gift of a baby Bible. In 2021, approximately 12 babies were welcomed with baby Bibles. After a lengthy pandemic pause, the church nursery re-opened in August 2021. Available on Sunday mornings to children under 5, the staff offers a safe and welcoming atmosphere for our youngest members.

Kids Coalition Against Hunger Meal Packing - Having taken a break in 2020, this fundraiser and meal-packing returned in summer of 2021. Fundraising for the \$8750 required was kicked off at Vacation Bible School in June, and on July 18, a total of 25,488 meals were efficiently packed by a group of dedicated volunteers. This annual event will return to the regular winter-date on January 30, 2022.

Blessing of Backpacks for Kindergarteners and Blessing of Pre-schoolers These milestones were celebrated this fall both in-person and virtually! A handful of children were present for a blessings at the Rejoice worship on August 26 and September 12, and an equal number of children participated by submitting photographs.

Fall Festival at Schwallier's Country Basket - A brand new tradition! On October 23, over 83 Trinity members and friends gathered at Schwallier's orchard for apple picking, hay rides, a corn maze, and a bonfire with hotdogs and s'mores.

Good Night Trinity – The "2021 Holiday Series" of Good Night Trinity brought back some of Trinity's favorite story tellers to read Thanksgiving and Christmas themed books. This 10-15 minute read-aloud featured books geared for pre-school and elementary children, with a faith-based and/or a positive message.

Review of Reports - Children's Ministries for 2021, continued

Christmas Program - 41 of our pre-school through elementary aged children presented the story of Jesus' birth on December 12 in the sanctuary. Joyful young children dressed as sheep, cows, pigs, horses, donkeys, angels, and shepherds. 4th and 5th graders were narrators and had roles of Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, the Innkeeper, the Wisemen. This year's program was complimented for the added clarity achieved by the improved sound system in the sanctuary. A job well done - children, staff and volunteers!



Respectfully Submitted,

The Children's Ministry

2021 was another unique year, like no other. Trinity's staff and congregation has continued to learn new ways to be church together during the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again, the majority of events that normally take place during the year were canceled, moved to virtual/online or format changed this last year. The Trinity Church family continues to astonish me. This year also saw staffing changes with my office mate Sylvia Stouten retiring at the end of May 2021. For part of the year, I continued to be the staff liaison to or be a member of The Communications Committee, David Fox, Website Designer and Manager.

In May, as preparations were made for Sylvia Stouten's retirement, my job description was redone to incorporate some of Sylvia's job and other tasks of my job were given to the two newly hired part-time staff. Carrie Lamb came on staff as the Communications coordinator. She took over Trinity's Facebook page, serving on the Communications Committee, working with David Fox Trinity's web designer and manager.

Tess Lundgren was hired to do what she does best, as the new Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator, she jumped right in. Tess also received some of my job tasks mainly those related to food and fellowship. Tess will now be handling, Start of Summer Celebration, Advent Meals, Advent by Candlelight, Angels of Advent, the meals for New Member Curiosity classes, and Dinner Groups.

We strive to accomplish Trinity's mission through various ministries and programs creating opportunities to live out their faith.

Altar Flowers/Altar Flower Delivery: We have continued with the new process, we began in fall 2019, where members need to contact a local florist (several suggestions are made on the SignUpGenius) and order and pay for their flowers and have them delivered to the church on the Friday before the Sunday.

Advent by Candlelight: Tess Lungren, now in charge of this, consulted with Pastor Bob and due to the pandemic, this event was canceled for 2021.

All Church Potluck and Annual Meeting: The third Sunday in January, we came together after the late service filling The Courtyard for our all-church family potluck. Lutherans love to eat! Once the meal is finished, we address the business of our church at our annual meeting, such as election of council members, delegates to Synod Assembly, changes to the constitution and any other business of the congregation. This year there was a water main leak at the road which caused the water being shut-off. It was the quickest clean-up ever. A special thank you goes to Pastor Dan who got the city to hold off shutting the water off so we could do the dishes.

Dinner Groups: Tess Lungren, now in charge of this canceled due to the pandemic for 2021.

Helping Hands: The Helping Hands Meal program continues to be a blessing for Trinity families who need help in the form of a meal. This year the Helping Hands Rides program took a big increase in need for the families of Trinity. At the beginning of the pandemic, we have several members willing to get groceries, prescriptions prepare meals, etc. Please consider this important ministry. Finding rides for church members who want to come to worship is often at times difficult to find drivers. Please consider this important ministry.

Homebound Ministry (Bulletin Mailing and DVD's): A lot of Trinity members are live streaming or viewing the service after the fact. Kris Baker during the pandemic began to send out the worship resources and has continued with this. An thank you goes to Pastor Dan who has been making sure that the live stream worship has been getting sent to the public broadcasting station GRTV channel 25 so our members who do not have access to YouTube can continue to see the service.

New Member Program: Finally, after almost two years of no classes we held our first New Member Curiosity classes in the fall of 2021. Instead of our normal November receiving of members it was held in September. We welcomed a total of 31 adults and 14 children making up a total of 20 households.

Prayer Ministry: Steve Cairns continues to do a first-rate job managing the electronic prayer chain. The prayer chain continues to be a significant part of the prayer ministry of Trinity. The goal of expanding the electronic prayer chain continues. If you would like to join, please email Steve Cairns at [sljcraig@gmail.com](mailto:sljcraig@outlook.com).

The Prayer Tree is in its sixth year. Our fifth year finished in the midst of the COVID-19 with our prayers continuing throughout the summer. We kicked off the 2020-2021 Prayer Tree with 68 children being prayed for and 31 adults praying for Trinity's children and youth, in-utero to 18 years of age.

Poinsettia Delivery: This year's poinsettia delivery kind of felt almost like normal. Each year the process continues to improve and make it easy for the deliverers to be God's hands and feet. Once again, we showered our homebound/shut-in members, some of our elderly Trinity friends, and those members who lost loved ones with the gift of a poinsettia. This was another Trinity Touch. This year we had 77 poinsettia receivers. We had 15 volunteers deliver poinsettias to our members. Once again, the Trinity Lutheran quilters provided quilts for about 18 of the Poinsettia receivers.

Medicare Consultation with Trinity Member Jo Murphy, Executive Director of Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program: Trinity member Jo Murphy, has once again, offered her expertise and met with congregation members and/or

Review of Reports - Congregational Life for 2021, continued

their loved ones to assist them with enrolling in Medicare and Medicaid. Due to the pandemic Jo was able to make adjustments to the needs of our members, providing in person, via Zoom or a phone call. Thank you to Jo Murphy for volunteering her expertise and services.

Trinity in Touch – During Pandemic Several of the staff worked together under the guidance and direction of Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse, to develop a plan on how to communicate and keep folks connected during the COVID-19 shutdown. We had callers who were staying in touch with those alone and homebound or who really need a friend. This has continued on a somewhat lesser scale and is handled by Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse.

Trinity Neighbors – Trinity Neighbors kicked off in January 2021. Each Trinity Neighbors group met with Pastor Bob, Pastor Karen and me as we worked to get this up and running. Some of the Trinity Neighbors have had difficulty with connecting with their neighbors and others have had cookouts, fun at the park, book studies, and outings to restaurants. One of the Trinity Neighbors groups renamed their gatherings to “Wellness Checks” as the pandemic lingers on they wanted to make sure everyone is doing well. This ministry continues to be a work in progress.

The biggest change for the end 2021 was that I, Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life submitted my two weeks' notice to resign from my position. My last day at Trinity Lutheran Church was Thursday, December 30, 2021. This was a very difficult and a prayerfully considered career change. I have truly enjoyed the last nine years and five months at Trinity serving with, worshiping with and walking along side this amazing church family. My deepest and heartfelt prayers go with you as you seek to find someone to fill this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela G. Davis – Director of Congregational Life
Eric Gohlke – Congregational Life Council Liaison

The Digital Communications committee was created by the Congregation Council to help create and enhance Trinity's use of digital technologies given the increased benefits, growth, and reliance upon using digital communications. Our third year continues to have a diverse and talented group with varying digital technology skills that have been in place since we were established in December 2017.

We added a new committee member in the spring of 2021, Carrie Lamb, our communications coordinator at Trinity, which has been a huge blessing with her skill and digital expertise.

The purpose of this committee is to serve as an expert digital communications resource to Trinity staff, council, program leaders, and the entire congregation for Trinity related digital communication needs: This includes: evaluate, qualify, and make readily available an evolving set of recommended digital communication methods. Provide digital communication expertise to staff, council, and program leaders, and the congregation.

The initial focus of this committee was to streamline communication methods with Kris Baker. Bill DeWitt finalized this year to build a better event calendar in which the congregation can view which events they want to see (filter out other content that are not useful for them). With the focus being implementation of Google calendar, Google form for event submission, and plug-ins available, we were finally able to complete.

We continue to refine Trinity's new website, which is the focus of David Fox, who built Trinity's current web site and has been maintaining and hosting this site for Trinity, leading this effort. David has updated the current web site with Trinity's new logo and color scheme, as well as making some other improvements, including calendaring and navigation. Although, the information is having to be changed quickly when things can move to a virtual platform instead of an onsite program. Our new website has easier navigation, streamlined content, and makes it easier for staff to update the web site. We now have more Trinity members viewing our website for information regarding services, and programs where before mostly external guests were viewing our information.

Carrie Lamb continues to maintain the Trinity Facebook page with over 579 people following this page. We also have a youth ministry page as well, which has continued to grow with the focus on virtual youth programming. Carrie created the Trinity Instagram page, make sure to follow at @tlcgr

We were thankful that Pastor Dan had already been creating and posting more YouTube content for sharing and viewing events and programs throughout 2020-21. You can subscribe to this YouTube channel by searching for Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Rodammer, Committee Chair & Council Liaison

Kris Baker, Trinity Staff Member

Jim DeJonge, Committee Member

Bill Dewitt, Committee Member

David Fox, Committee Member

Carrie Lamb, Trinity Staff Member

Peter McKinney, Trinity Staff Member

Pastor Dan Schewe, Trinity Staff Member

Pastor Robert Linstrom, Trinity Staff Member

"A Forever Gift" – Trinity Endowment Fund Update

The Endowment Fund Committee is please to report that both our Endowment Funds – the Mission Endowment Fund and the Building Endowment Fund – are growing due to generous contributions and favorable investment performance. Below is a summary of the change in each account over the last year.

Fund	<u>12/31/20 Value</u>	<u>12/31/21 Value</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Mission	\$ 661,249	\$ 849,723	\$ 188,474
Building	\$ 331,370	\$ 674,930	\$ 343,560

The purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund is to provide for mission work that is beyond the duly adopted operating budget for the congregation. The purpose of the Building Endowment Fund is to provide for the care and maintenance of the church facilities and grounds that is beyond the duly adopted operating budget.

In the 4th quarter of 2021, the committee made a distribution recommendation to Council that was approved. The Mission Endowment will distribute **\$23,000** and the Building Endowment **\$10,500**. During another challenging COVID 19 year, we are pleased that our Mission Endowment fund was again able to distribute a record amount of funding to many charities that are in great need.

The Endowment Committee brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and vision to help this ministry grow at Trinity. The Committee consists of George Bauer, Todd Brandstadt, Chris Engle, Brad Kessel, Mike Mason, and Pastor Bob (ex-officio).

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Mason
Chairperson of Endowment Committee

With the retirement of Sylvia Stuten the Church reevaluated the job descriptions of Congregational Life and Discipleship, as well as the work of the Hospitality Committee and the Fellowship Committee and redefined the responsibilities of these areas. I was hired on June 1, 2021, stepping into the newly created Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator role. Below are my areas of responsibility.

Due to the ongoing pandemic some events were postponed until next year, other events were tentatively scheduled while we kept an eye on the recommendations of the CDC and local Kent County Health Department. Several events were canceled when there was evidence of a rise in COVID cases and our county in particular was listed in the severe risk category.

EVENTS

Advent Angels – postponed

Advent by Candlelight – canceled due to severe risk category

Advent Suppers – We offered suppers on the four Wednesdays preceding Christmas as part of our Advent preparations. I changed up the menus this year for our Advent Suppers: we served Swedish meatballs and sweet chili meatballs, almond & parmesan-encrusted tilapia, chicken cordon bleu and chicken stuffed with broccoli and cheese, pulled pork and pulled chicken. The best parts of our suppers were the wonderful dishes some of our parishioners brought to our shared table and the fellowship we enjoyed with each other.

All-Congregation Potluck at Annual Meeting – Our potluck was postponed this year but the annual meeting was held via Zoom. During the meeting we addressed the business of our church, such as the election of council members, delegates to Synod Assembly, voting on the new budget, receiving the reports of Church life, and changes to the constitution and any other business of the congregation.

Dinner Groups - postponed

Easter Breakfast - postponed

Fall Auction - postponed

Euchre Night - This event is being brought back, dusted off, and will be held in March with a potluck.

JOYful Days Christmas Luncheon - canceled due to severe risk category

JOYful Days – JOYful Days is held twice a year in the Fall and again in the Spring on 5 consecutive Wednesdays. It is a series of 5 catered luncheons followed by speakers. All adults are welcome to attend. The Spring series was not held due to COVID. The Fall series was held in October/November and attendance was between 30-49 each week.

KCAH Brunch - Kids Coalition Against Hunger, sponsored by Children's Ministry, is usually held in January; however, this year it was postponed until summer due to COVID. The event was held with a smaller group this year but was very successful. The last several years has seen a partnership between Children's Ministry and Hospitality for this event. Fellowship & Hospitality takes on the brunch portion of the event and feeds participants either before or after they help create bags of food which will be shipped all over the world helping those in need. We will again be offering a lunch at the upcoming January 2022 KCAH Meal Pack & Brunch.

Lenten Soup Suppers - postponed

Parish Pig Roast & Potluck - postponed

Schwallier's Corn Maze & Bonfire – In lieu of Trunk or Treat this year F&H partnered with Children's Ministry for a new multi-generational event. This event was inclusive of all Trinity parishioners: young or old, with kids or without, single or married. We booked Schwallier's for an exclusive event to include a hayride, corn maze, 2 bonfires for roasting hotdogs and S'mores. We had 84 parishioners attend. Everyone had a great time and asked for this to become an annual event. So watch for it next year!

Smorgasbord - canceled due to severe risk category

Summer Celebration - postponed

Sunday Fellowship Hour – We slowly brought back our Sunday Fellowship Hour in July. The refreshments are scaled back, serving coffee, hot tea, water, cookies, sweet bread, and grapes. We serve Equal Exchange coffee and teas. *Equal Exchange is a for-profit Fairtrade worker-owned, cooperative headquartered in West Bridgewater, MA. Equal Exchange distributes organic, gourmet coffee, tea, sugar, bananas, avocados, cocoa, and chocolate bars produced by farmer cooperatives in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.*

White Elephant Gift Exchange – This is a new event to be held January 22, 2022 for all parishioners 16 and older. We will have a potluck before our present extravaganza. The nursery will be available after the potluck. Participants bring a wrapped present for the Present Extravaganza table. We will sit in a circle and one by one we will choose either a present yet to be opened or steal one that someone else has already opened making that person choose a new present. Laughter and merriment will be had. Please join us.

Review of Reports - Fellowship & Hospitality Committee for 2021, continued

RECEPTIONS The following receptions were held this year to honor members of our congregation.

Confirmation
Funeral Receptions
Graduation
New Member
Veterans Appreciation

SPECIAL EVENTS - Special Events were held which included the following:

125th Celebration Reception
Choir luncheons
Luncheon for all staff Church Wide Calendaring meeting
Pastor Conference breakfast
Staff Christmas luncheon

OTHER

Decorating of the Church for Christmas Season – This year we had a team comprised of Kristi Flatt, Keith & Diane Flatt, Tim & Tess Lundgren, Katarina Lundgren, Alaina Lundgren, and Jeff McLaughlin. Kristi and Tess walked the Church and came up with a new vision for decorating. New garland, ornaments, and some new wreaths were purchased as well as new greens to adorn the pews in the Sanctuary. A huge thank you to all who came in and volunteered their time and talents to make our Church home so beautiful. A special thank you to Kristi Flatt, and Keith & Diane Flatt for donating a significant amount to fund this effort.

Licensure of the kitchen - Our kitchen is a state licensed kitchen. We are inspected on an annual basis with spot checks throughout the year. We passed our inspections, as noted by our current license that is posted behind the Hospitality Counter in the Courtyard.

I am honored to serve the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church as your Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator. I am currently assembling a committee to begin January 2022. I will begin posting volunteer opportunities after the new year and look forward to working with members of the parish who feel called to serve our parish family through the gift of hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,
Tess Lundgren, Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator

Review of Reports - Finance Committee for 2021

The Finance Committee met via Zoom at the beginning of 2021, and COVID vaccinations allowed us to return to in-person meetings midyear. We are happy to report that TLC finances remain sound. TLC's investment in live-streaming capability made it possible for many of us to worship "together" even when it was not possible to physically be in the same space. Thank you to all the faithful TLC congregation members who continued their giving to support Trinity's work through a transitional 2021.

Our Finance Assistant Joanna Waite kept the books and generated a reliable flow of information for TLC leaders, continuing to work in lonely isolation along with Kris Baker in keeping the TLC church office operational through Springtime; I think that they rejoiced as additional staff returned to on-site work and activities resumed inside! Thank you to the following people who served on the Finance committee during 2021: Treasurer Chris Engle, Mike King, Jim Coates, Peter McKinney, new member Gloria Von der Heide, Pastor Bob, and Finance Assistant Joanna Waite.

The Finance Committee meets the third Monday of every second month. We discuss actions to sustain reliable and secure operation of TLC's computer systems, review income and expenditures versus budget, and give guidance on Trinity's finances as we plan for the future. Our next meeting is January 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. (usually in the Library). If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact anybody on the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
George Bauer, Chair

The mission of Health Ministries at Trinity is to share God's gifts of love and grace to promote spiritual, physical and emotional well being.

Faith Community Nurse

Kristin Bradley continues to serve as our Faith Community Nurse (FCN). Her expanded role regarding public health monitoring and establishing pandemic protocols & guidelines has been important as we carry on the life of our congregation during 'these covid times'. She wishes to give special thanks to Pastor Bob, Pastor Dan, Pastor Karen, Mike Unruh, John Fox, Bill Bush, John Bradley, Jim Coates, Jan Jacobson, Michelle Hall, Paul Crist, Carol Butler, Karen Unruh, Steve Heacock, Jamie Kuntzman, Mike Mason, Rick Radke, Corina Dulecki, Chris Engle, Mike King, Jeff Postlewaite and Rachele Battreall for their time, expertise, input, and discernment since March of 2020.

Our Faith Community Nurse directs the Health Ministries committee and is a member of the Spiritual Growth committee. With Pastor Karen's assistance, Kristin oversees *Trinity in Touch* (our homebound communion/phone call ministry team) and organizes & shares in visitation ministry with our pastors. She is the staff liaison and a referral coordinator for Stephen Ministry and assists with continuing education. In addition, she maintains our First Aid/AED supplies, schedules CPR training, coordinates the Flu Shot Clinic, and facilitates the blood drives (after Sue Babin moved in early Spring). Kristin provides health care resources and connections within our community and she mentors Calvin nursing students interested in learning more about Faith Community Nursing. Offering monthly prayer zoom sessions and supporting members in our congregation who are caregivers were also things Kristin pursued this year. Thanks to Linda Taffs, Diane Field, Ruth Ann Evans and Pam Gotch for providing Kristin with over 200 handcrafted cards to be used in her ministry this year.

The Health Ministries Committee

- The committee met 6 times in 2021.
- Four **Blood Drives** were held at Trinity with Versiti Blood. In 2021 we collected 86 units of whole blood and 22 double reds impacting the lives of nearly 300 people. Sincere thanks to our dedicated donors, enthusiastic volunteers, and to Culvers for the "Give a pint, Get a pint" program!
- Tai chi classes continued outdoors in the parking lot during spring and summer. The **Fitness Program** resumed indoors in fall of 2021, expanding the class options to include yoga, functional movement and tai chi. Xristina Kulmann volunteers her time and talents as our fearless instructor. The donations raised from these classes funded the purchase of the wall mirrors in the newly updated Commons.
- In Spring we hosted a "**Mental Health Matters**" zoom webinar. *i understand* founder Vonnie Woodrick, Pastor Dan and Kristin Bradley highlighted the need to support our mental health and dispel myths surrounding suicide.
- The **Flu Shot Clinic** provided 90 immunizations to our members through Spectrum Health Visiting Nurses. #Prevention!!!
- **Walk & Talk** completed its year-long program in September. Rebecca Ulrich coordinated weekly emails to all of the participants. Monthly zooms (during winter and spring) led to onsite walks around the property where participants could finally 'Walk and Talk' together.
- The **Longest Night** service was coordinated by Kristin and supported by our pastors, musicians, committee members and the Stephen Ministry team. It occurred during the last midweek Advent service ~ in person this year!
- **CPR Training** was held twice in 2021. Our Red Cross instructor, James Morin, certified 14 people this year.
- In early 2022 we are excited to hold a book study on "**All Who Are Weary**" by Pastor Emmy Kegler. This 6-week zoom study will culminate in a 'meet & greet' with the author.
- Plans for Blood Pressure Sundays, health screening fairs, walking programs, disability awareness, accessibility studies and suicide prevention training are things we look forward to in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Trinity Health Ministries Committee

Corina Dulecki, Debbie Lown, Rebecca Ulrich, Kay Zeaman, Cindy Zientarski, Kristen Lamprich, Michelle Morin, Deb Bambini, Carol Butler (council liaison) & Kristin Bradley (FCN).

Our mission is to support the congregation in growing their understanding of God's Word by encouraging lifelong Christian learning and providing opportunities for members to deepen their personal faith.

The Spiritual Growth Committee benefited from years of faithful leadership under Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten, until her retirement in May of 2021. It is important to acknowledge the dedicated volunteers that supported the Spiritual Growth Ministry at Trinity, including: Kim Brock, Wendy Johnson, Kristin Bradley, Sue Babin, and Brad Kessel. And also to express appreciation to members Karen Unruh, Kris Fox, Carol Hendricks, Corina Dulecki, and the many Grace group leaders and Advent devotional writers.

In summer 2021 Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall took on administrative duties for the Spiritual Growth Ministry. This was a smooth transition thanks to Sylvia's pre-planning and the many experienced volunteers. In October 2021, Pastor Bob convened a "Spiritual Growth Brainstorming Meeting." Twenty-two members met over Zoom to discuss ideas for spiritual growth- past, present, and future. It is anticipated that a new "refreshed" Spiritual Growth Committee will emerge in early 2022. Bill Bush serves as the Congregation Council liaison. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Rachele at: rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org.

2021 in Review:

Lenten Grace Groups

Grace Groups are Trinity's short term small group Bible Studies that take place during Lent, between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, meeting for weekly study and conversation. Trinity members served as small group facilitators, using a lectionary-based study published by the ELCA entitled "Daily Discipleship." The groups met at a variety of days and times, over Zoom and in-person.

Book Discussions

Trinity's two book clubs met consistently throughout 2021. The Tuesday evening book club meets the second Tuesday of the month. The group is multi-gender and multigenerational, and meets at church, at members' homes or via Zoom. The Friday Morning Women's Book Club typically meets in a member's home the second Friday of the month (September-May) and has also opted to meet at TLC or by Zoom when needed. Both clubs enthusiastically welcome new members to join!

Advent Devotional Booklets

Advent devotions based on the lectionary and written by Trinity members were compiled and offered in written booklet form and via daily emails. Devotions helped members to focus on the preparatory purpose of Advent, preparing our hearts for the arrival of the Christ Child.

Study Groups

Women's Bible Studies are offered on both Tuesday and Friday mornings September - June, led by experienced lay leaders. In 2021, both groups met over Zoom and in-person at Trinity, sometimes even meeting outside! Studies included *Daily Discipleship*, a Bible study produced by the ELCA; and *The 23rd Psalm The Lord, Our Shepherd* by Juanita Ryan.

Pastor Bob also offered opportunities for study during Wednesday morning forums. The winter of 2021 series was based on Desmond Tutu's *Made for Goodness; and Why This Makes All the Difference*. In fall 2021, Pastor Bob lead "Reformation Roots," a 12-session series that brought to life the stories and struggles that still impact us today.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachele Battreall, Director of Family Ministry

Bill Bush, Congregational Council Liaison

The mission of Trinity's Stephen Ministry is to equip inspired members of Trinity to put God's love into action by giving people a safe place to be heard in a time of need, and to make it natural for people to seek and accept the loving hand of a Stephen Minister.

Our vision is that our church is a place where a ministry of skilled caregivers, sharing Christ's love, assures that no one is alone in a time of need.

Trinity's annual report gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past year and anticipate the year ahead. As we look back on 2020 and the challenges brought by the pandemic, we are grateful in many ways. As we look forward to 2021, we expect to celebrate, grow and strengthen Trinity's Stephen Ministry.

During this year, Stephen Ministers have been matched with 16 men and women experiencing some of life's challenges. We are thankful that this confidential, Christian ministry has remained strong during a difficult year. Meeting in person is always the preference in Stephen Ministry but, during the pandemic, our Stephen Ministers and care receivers have found new ways to meet; by phone, FaceTime, text and email. Also, the Stephen Ministry team has become very comfortable with meeting via Zoom twice per month for peer support. While we look forward to being able to meet again in person, we are thankful for new ways to care for others and stay connected!

Active Stephen Ministers include Nancy Anderson, Kris Baker, Patty Boer, Kim Brock, Bill Bush, Carol Eriksen, Susan Knoll, Rebecca Mattison, Patti Mutch, Norm Palm, Bob Pfau, Carol Schumacher, Sheila Talsma and Dale Volkerding. Those who will be inactive for 2021 include Jeanette Sorensen, Kathy Bush, Marjorie Paul, and Rebecca Mattison. Brenda Heacock is retiring from the leadership team and will be inactive in 2021. Sue Coates is also stepping off the leadership team but will remain an active Stephen Minister. We are grateful for the dedication and strong commitment of this group of Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers for sharing Christ's love with others during difficult times. We thank Marjorie Paul for reaching out to bereaved Trinity members by sending the "Journeying Through Grief" booklets. This year she has personalized and sent over 100 booklets.

Norm Palm and Sheila Talsma participated in the Stephen Ministry Leader Training Course this fall through Zoom. We are very blessed that Stephen Ministries adapted a new way of training during this public health crisis. Norm and Sheila were commissioned as Stephen Leaders at Trinity on November 8th. Being trained in both ministry and leadership has provided flexibility in meeting the need for matches during this challenging year. We appreciate the willingness of all our trained leaders to accept care receivers as needed.

Looking to 2021, we hope to train a new group of Trinity members to become Stephen Ministers. This was delayed from 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. It's with a great deal of excitement and anticipation that we await the time that we can gather and train a new group so that we can continue to meet the needs of our congregation.

In 2021, we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Trinity's Stephen Ministry at the same time we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church! It will be a year of rejoicing!

Please remember that Stephen Ministry is available to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing a crisis, difficult circumstances or everyday stress. Allowing someone to journey alongside you can help ease the burden. Connect with any of our Pastors, our Faith Community Nurse or a Stephen Leader to learn more.

We thank all who have listened to God's call to become Stephen Ministers and Leaders. We are grateful to those who have accepted care and support. We thank our pastors, council and congregation for your support and prayers. We continually thank God for this and all ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

In His Peace,

Kristin Bradley, Sue Coates, Brenda Heacock, Norm Palm, Kris Racek, Sheila Talsma, and Beth Vanderwall
Stephen Ministry Leaders

Review of Reports - Youth & Family Committee for 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church Youth and Family Ministry Committee

2021 Annual Report

Committee Members: Amy Stephan (Chairperson), Tess Lundgren, Joni Korb, Rachele Battreall, Michelle Albaitis, Alaina Lundgren (Youth Rep.), Michelle Morin **We are looking for a couple more committee members. Please let Pastor Dan or Amy Stephan know if you are interested.

THANK YOU to Peter and Jill McKinney who served on the committee for years and have decided to step away from the committee during their son's senior year.

Thank you to the congregation for your continued volunteer and gracious financial support for the youth and their activities.

2021 In Review

Faceless – Youth Worship Band – continues to be on hiatus as we look for an adult team to take on the leadership role. Anyone interested, please let Pastor Dan know.

VBS Volunteers – VBS was back! It looked different than the past as everything was held outdoors, but it was a success. Many of our middle and high school youth were able to help lead the younger members of the congregation.

Outdoor Worship Space and Nature Trail – Work continued on the outdoor space as more trees were removed, mulch laid, and various art statues designed by Trinity member John Ziech were installed along the trail.

Christmas Cookie Decorating/Delivering – About 15 middle/high school youth gathered in the youth room to decorate Christmas cookies and then set off delivering them to 35 different homes of congregational members.

Middle School Youth

Confirmation – We had a return to in-person classes in the fall and continue meeting weekly as well as recording them for access from home. Two classes of confirmands were confirmed and celebrated, one in June and the other in August.

Youth Group Events: Fall brought the return of in-person middle school youth group gatherings. Middle school meets from 2-3, just prior to confirmation.

Charge! – canceled yet again in 2021, but back in full swing for March of 2022.

Stony Lake Camp – canceled in 2021, but a local week of camp was held at Trinity with Stony Lake staff leading the ministry.

HS Youth

Youth Council Member –Alaina Lundgren is our youth council member for 2021-22.

Youth Synod Assembly Representatives –Alaina Lundgren is our representative this year.

Living Waters Ministry – Bridge Builders canceled, back on for Summer of 2022.

Mission Trip – The typical large trip was canceled, but a modified local week of service took place. Groups of high schoolers served at Blessed by Brookelyn, Urban Family Ministries, and Family Promise.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – first Sunday of the month gathering with Pastor Dan (includes donuts and juice!) averaging 6-10 youth in attendance.

High School Youth Group – Returned to in-person in the fall, gathering on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

30 Hour Famine – canceled.

Graduation Sunday – Trinity celebrated graduates with special bulletin inserts and an outside service to honor them.

College Care Packages - Jamie Kuntzman led the effort to mail boxes this fall to our college students. These included food items, Starbucks gift cards and letters from Pastor Dan and Pastor Bob.

Fund Raisers for Mission Trips –Can Drive, Wreath Sale

Respectfully submitted by: Amy Stephan, Chairperson of Youth & Family Ministry Committee

Summer Mission Trip at Blessed by Brookelyn



Christmas Cookie Decorating on December 4, 2021



*Treasurer's Report - 2021 Budget and 2021 Projected
February 2021 to November 2021 Actual plus December/January 2022 Projected*

		2021 Budget		2021 Actual Projected (10 actual + 2 estimated)
50000	BENEVOLENCE	\$ 142,300.00		\$ 142,300.00
51000	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 11,345.00		\$ 6,562.00
52000	MUSIC	\$ 11,930.00		\$ 11,700.00
52500	WORSHIP	\$ 6,975.00		\$ 2,686.00
53000	EVANGELISM	\$ 1,660.00		\$ 1,640.00
54000	STEWARSHIP	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 3,214.00
55000	YOUTH AND FAMILY	\$ 11,150.00		\$ 7,839.00
56000	FELLOWSHIP	\$ 8,925.00		\$ 3,699.00
57000	PROPERTY	\$ 49,590.00		\$ 54,969.00
58000	UTILITIES	\$ 61,900.00		\$ 61,835.00
59000	LEASES	\$ 24,400.00		\$ 21,663.00
60000	OFFICE AND ADMIN	\$ 69,760.00		\$ 55,423.00
61000	PAYROLL	\$ 631,991.00		\$ 615,811.00
62000	STEPHEN MINISTRY	\$ 2,750.00		\$ 2,178.00
63000	RESERVES	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
64000	HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 1,550.00		\$ 1,374.00
65000	OUTREACH	\$ 1,050.00		\$ 560.00
66000	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$ 6,500.00		\$ 3,738.00
67000	SPIRITUAL GROWTH	\$ 2,150.00		\$ 710.00
70000	FINANCING COSTS	\$ 68,400.00		\$ 63,855.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,138,326.00		\$ 1,079,756.00
70100	LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 45,225.00		\$ 52,443.00
40000	REVENUE (REGULAR GIVING)	\$ 1,183,551.00		\$ 1,290,755.00
	Supporting total cash flow			
	Net Cash Flow			\$ 158,556.00

Treasurer's Report
Comparison of 2021 Financials and Proposed 2022 Budget

		Proposed 2022 Budget		Projected Current Year (10 actual + 2 estimated)
50000	BENEVOLENCE	\$ 147,700.00		\$ 142,300.00
51000	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 11,300.00		\$ 6,562.00
52000	MUSIC	\$ 11,930.00		\$ 11,700.00
52500	WORSHIP	\$ 6,975.00		\$ 2,686.00
53000	EVANGELISM	\$ 1,660.00		\$ 1,640.00
54000	STEWARDSHIP	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 3,214.00
55000	YOUTH AND FAMILY	\$ 11,150.00		\$ 7,839.00
56000	FELLOWSHIP	\$ 15,825.00		\$ 3,699.00
57000	PROPERTY	\$ 47,010.00		\$ 54,969.00
58000	UTILITIES	\$ 64,816.00		\$ 61,835.00
59000	LEASES	\$ 23,200.00		\$ 21,663.00
60000	OFFICE AND ADMIN	\$ 60,173.00		\$ 55,423.00
61000	PAYROLL	\$ 695,769.00		\$ 615,811.00
62000	STEPHEN MINISTRY	\$ 2,650.00		\$ 2,178.00
63000	RESERVES	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
64000	HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 1,850.00		\$ 1,374.00
65000	OUTREACH	\$ 1,100.00		\$ 560.00
66000	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$ 4,100.00		\$ 3,738.00
67000	SPIRITUAL GROWTH	\$ 2,150.00		\$ 710.00
70000	FINANCING COSTS	\$ 59,400.00		\$ 63,855.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 1,192,758.00		\$ 1,079,756.00
70100	LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 54,216.00		\$ 52,443.00
40000	REVENUE (REGULAR GIVING)	\$ 1,246,974.00		\$ 1,290,755.00
	Supporting total cash flow			\$ 158,556.00

Treasurer's Report
Simplified Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	As of 11/30/2020		As of 11/30/2021
Cash and Investment Accounts			
Checking and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,164,524.00		\$ 1,116,401.00
Mission Endowment Fund	\$ 636,861.00		\$ 821,581.00
Building Endowment Fund	\$ 319,774.00		\$ 655,670.00
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 2,121,159.00		\$ 2,593,652.00
Fixed Assets			
Land and Building (original cost)	\$ 6,173,950.00		\$ 6,173,950.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 6,759,171.00		\$ 6,759,171.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 12,933,121.00		\$ 12,933,121.00
Long Term Debt	\$ 1,586,903.00		\$ 1,362,742.00

- The Hospitality and Fellowship categories have been merged into Fellowship. There have also been some subcategories related to kitchen and coffee expenses that have been reallocated to the Fellowship category.
- We project a budget surplus for this fiscal year.
- The Mission and Building Endowment funds have grown significantly this year.
- In addition to the budgeted loan principal payments, we made \$163,511 in additional principal payments through 11/30/2021.
- Our cash position includes \$819,120 in Designated Funds including \$400,658 in our operating and capital reserves.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Litany

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

The musical score consists of four staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are as follows:

1 God of the fertile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try side, dear to the the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

All Creation Sings #1063

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**O God,
you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021