



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

2023 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 2022.

Deborah Ruth Bambini

July 6, 1961 – February 4, 2022

Dennis Michael Lowe

September 29, 1947 – February 18, 2022

James Paul (Jim) Miller

November 15, 1946 – March 26, 2022

Adam E. Guigue

April 16, 1993 – April 3, 2022

Jerry Lee Hendricks

October 22, 1945 – May 11, 2022

Joan Elaine Sellman

February 9, 1948 – June 24, 2022

John David Holm

February 25, 1947 – July 19, 2022

Shirley Tedford

April 11, 1935 – July 29, 2022

John Edward Racek

September 19, 1945 – October 2, 2022

Joyce Schenk

October 8, 1937 – December 25, 2022

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

2023 Annual Meeting Agenda - January 15, 2023

Call to Order, Karen Unruh, Congregation President

Opening Devotions, Pastor Bob Linstrom

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the January 16, 2022, Annual Meeting Minutes (pages 6-8)

Appointment of Tellers

SPECIAL ORDER – Unfinished Business

ratification of amendments to Trinity’s Constitution and Bylaws (separate document)
(initial approval at 1/16/2022 Annual Meeting)

Nominating Committee Report

Ballot for Council (pages 9-12)

Three Year Terms on the Congregation Council

Steve Heacock	(2 nd three-year term ends 2026)
Brad Kessel	(2 nd three-year term ends 2026)
Jamie Kuntzman	(2 nd three-year term ends 2026)
Dan Butler	(1 st three-year term ends 2026)
Michelle Feutz	(1 st three-year term ends 2026)
Michelle Morin	(1 st three-year term ends 2026)

Two Year Terms on the Congregation Council

Chris Becker	(1 st three-year term ends 2025)
Susan Knoll	(1 st three-year term ends 2025)
Jacque Murray	(1 st three-year term ends 2025)
Chris Norton	(1 st three-year term ends 2025)
David Marquardt	(eligible to be elected to first three-year term 2025)

2023 Annual Meeting Agenda - January 15, 2023 *(continued)*

One Year Terms on the Congregation Council

Bill Bush	(1 st three-year term ends 2024)
John Fox	(2 nd three-year term ends 2024)
Sarah Huckstep	(1 st three-year term ends 2024)
Karen Unruh	(2 nd three-year term ends 2024)
Erick Kind	(eligible to be elected to first three-year term 2024)
Dakota Morin	(youth representative – eligible to be elected to second one-year term 2024)
Lauren Wright	(eligible to be elected to first three-year term 2024)

Ballot for 2023 Synod Assembly Delegates (page 13)

Bob Dever
Liz Dever
Joe Iaria
Marybeth Iaria

Ballot for 2023 Nominating Committee

Kate Bredwell
Amy Fox
Steve Stephan
Fred Ulreich

Review of Reports

Pastors (pages 14-18)

President (page 19)

Committee Reports (listed alphabetically by committee name, pages 20-35)

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2023 Budget (pages 36-38)

Chris Engle, Congregation Treasurer

New Business

approval of Restated Articles of Incorporation (separate document)

Announcements, Lord's Prayer and Benediction

Pastors Bob Linstrom, Dan Schewe and Kari Fast

Adjournment

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**Annual Congregation Meeting**

January 16, 2022

The 2022 Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church was called to order by Congregation Council President, Karen Unruh, at 12:00 P.M.

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

Motion to approve the agenda

With no additions to the agenda from the floor, the agenda was approved as written.

Approval the January 17, 2021 Annual Meeting minutes

There being no corrections from the floor, the minutes were approved as written.

Appointment of Tellers

The designated tellers took a count of attending members. Voting members in attendance:81

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee members met and recommend the following candidates for Council. Their profiles may be found on pages 9-12.

Ballot for Council Members

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

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

Gloria Von Der Heide moved to close the nominations and Mike Mulligan 2nd the motion. All nominees were approved.

Synod Assembly Delegates

Trinity may send two male and two female representatives to the Annual Synod meeting.

Ballot for Synod Assembly Delegates

Bob and Liz Dever

Joe and Marybeth Iaria

A motion was made by Mike Mulligan to cast a unanimous ballot for the Synod Assembly Delegates, George Bauer 2nd. The motion was approved.

Nominating Committee for 2022 Council Candidates

Nominees are: Amelia Crist, Paul Crist, Amy Stephan, and Fred Ulreich.

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 Gloria Van Der Heide to accept the nominating committee as noted.

Michael Mulligan 2nd the motion. All nominees were approved.

Review of Reports

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.

Pastors' Reports (pages 15-19)

Council President's Report (page 20)

Committee Reports (pages 21-35)

A motion to accept the Pastors' report, President's report and Committee Reports as written were accepted into the record.

Thank you to our outstanding staff members!

Treasurer's 2021 Report and Presentation of the 2022 Budget

Chris Engle, Congregation Treasurer

2021 (Trinity's fiscal year is February 1 – January 31)

There are still a few weeks left in this fiscal year.

Expenses are lower than budgeted, there are a few staff openings, but higher expenses in maintenance.

We expect to have a budget surplus.

Questions

Will the budget surplus be used and applied to the mortgage?

The Council will make that decision in February. Please contact any council member to share your thoughts.

What is the status of Trinity's mortgage?

It is a 7-year balloon with a low 5's rate. We are on pace to have it paid off on time.

Why is the Property budget lower than allocated last year?

Kitchen consumables will be removed from this category. Tess is now ordering these supplies from the Hospitality budget. Coffee budget funds came from Property and the cups came from Office Administration. These expenses are now allocated to Fellowship.

The church van insurance and expenses came from property. The funds from the sale of the van, (it was used mainly for youth events) have been moved to designated funds for youth.

Cleaning company costs have gone up.

Payroll

Trinity's new organist is also Director of Music. This position saw an increase based on Synod guidelines, and was approved by the Executive Committee.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and 2022 Budget as written and presented was made by Brad Kessel, Gloria Von Der Heide 2nd the motion. The treasurer's report was approved.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Q & A regarding the long pandemic separation at Trinity, and plans for re-entry into parish life. None

Action to call Pastor Kari Fast to serve as Trinity's Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Bill Bush chaired the interviewing committee, and he is privileged to introduce Pastor Kari.

Her background is in counseling and grief support. She is also a former Trinity member.

On behalf of the committee and council, I am honored to make a motion to extend a call to Pastor Kari Fast as Trinity's Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. Gloria Von Der Heide 2nd the motion. The motion to extend a call to Pastor Kari was approved.

Approval of Amendments to Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws

Copies of Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws are available

It has been six years since the constitution was reviewed. Council members John Fox and Steve Heacock took on this challenging task.

There are constitutional requirements from the ELCA, and the Synod publishes a model constitution as a guide for congregations.

This is more of an agreement between the church and Synod; some sections are pertinent only to Trinity.

Examples:

the congregation becomes this congregation

Synodical becomes Synod

The most important change is to bring in State laws that protect volunteers in non-profit organizations; the church is behind you.

Chapters 10-14 apply to Trinity.

The Congregation Council shall be representative of Trinity's membership including youth and a young adult.

The Executive Committee consists of the pastors and Congregation Council officers.

Previously, new Council members took office in June. In January 2023, their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

A simple majority is needed to approve these changes.

A motion to approve the amendments to Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws was made by Mike King, Chris Engle 2nd. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Following the close of official business, a reception was held to recognize and celebrate the service of

Pastor Karen Niemeyer.

In January, 2015, a call was extended to Pastor Karen to serve as an Assisting Pastor. After five years in this capacity, Pastor Karen has chosen to retire, but she will remain a loyal member of Trinity.

With grateful hearts, a scholarship fund for Second-Career Seminarians has been established in Karen's name.

Lord's Prayer and Benediction: Pastor Karen

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jacobson, Recording Secretary



Dan Butler

Dan and Carol joined Trinity when they moved from the Chicago area in 2004. They appreciate the vision and mission of this congregation. They are active in several aspects of Trinity worship and mission, frequently at the 9:15 services. They have three grown children and seven smart grandchildren around the U.S.

Dan has a background in business. Since 2011, Dan actively mentors small businesses in the Grand Rapids area as they develop their business plans, particularly in growth and organizational development. He is affiliated with two local organizations as a business mentor.

In the past, Dan served on the Church Council at Trinity and has served in other church councils where he and Carol have lived. He has served as a board member including board chair for Exalta Health, a non-profit providing health care to underinsured persons in the Grand Rapids area.



Michelle Feutz

Michelle Feutz grew up in Forest Hills and attended Hope College where she graduated with a Bachelor's in Social Work. She completed her Master's of Social Work at the University of Michigan. She has worked part-time for the Kent County Health Department for 10 years in the Maternal Infant Health Program where she provides home visiting services to pregnant women and moms of infants. She speaks fluent Spanish which she uses daily at work.

Michelle has been married to Steve for 13 years and she is mom to Nathan (6) and Liliana (4). They live in Rockford and have attended Trinity since 2015. They are thankful for the strong community at Trinity, as they have formed several close friendships with other families through the church. Michelle loves to be outside and especially enjoys biking, hiking, skiing and traveling. She is passionate about social justice issues.



Erick Kind

Erick received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University in 1993. He was hired by the Michigan Department of Transportation in May of 1994 where he has been employed for nearly 29 years. Since December of 2015, he has been the Grand Region Engineer responsible for strategic planning, management and oversight of all areas of transportation within MDOT's responsibilities. Erick and his wife, Carol, have been members of Trinity since 2004. They have two daughters, Malena and Audrey. Erick serves as an usher at the 8:00 service.



David Marquardt

David and Rebecca Marquardt have been members of Trinity for seven years. They have two boys, Bergen (17), and Theo (15). David has the privilege of serving as the Director for the City of Grand Rapids Parks Department since 2015. The Marquardt family is originally from Madison, Wisconsin and most recently from Denver, Colorado where they lived for nearly seven years. David and his family generally attend the 10:45 services at Trinity. David and Rebecca are a part of Trinity's forest and land management stewardship committee. David, Bergen, and Theo also usher at the 10:45 service. David has been affiliated with the ELCA his entire life.

Dakota Morin—Youth Representative

Dakota Morin is nominated by the Youth and Family Committee to serve as the Council youth representative.



Michelle Morin

My name is Michelle Morin. My husband and I have been members of Trinity for 13 years. I grew up in Vicksburg, Michigan, and moved to Grand Rapids to attend Grand Valley State University. I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and met my husband, James, while at GVSU. We were married on the campus.

We have 3 wonderful children: Dakota (16), Clifford (11) and MayEllen (8). They take up most of my spare time. Our family enjoys camping and numerous outdoor activities. We are big fans of “Everyday is a Holiday”; especially “International Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19, in case you were wondering)!”

I work part-time in Mary Free Bed’s outpatient clinic. I am currently involved in the health ministry committee; who supported me in getting my Faith Community Nurse certification. I am also a member of the youth ministry committee.



Lauren Wright

Lauren and her husband, Colton, have been members of the church since 2019 as 8:00 AM attenders. January is their favorite month after being married in the church in 2020 and welcoming their son, Theodore, in 2022.

Lauren came to Grand Rapids after graduating from Hope College and growing up in Portage, MI. Professionally, she has worked for Farmers Insurance for the last 10 years, currently in the role of Project Manager.

In their free time, Lauren and Colton love to travel, hike, spend time with family and friends, and be on the water. They look forward to becoming more engaged with the Trinity Church Family through this opportunity.

I look forward to serving with you all.



Bob and Liz Dever

Bob and Liz Dever 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 Iaria

Joe and Marybeth Iaria have been married for almost 45 years and they have two sons, Chris and Nick, daughters-in-law Angie and Abigail, and three wonderful grandchildren, Audrey, Grant, and Isaiah. They also have a 6-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 six 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.



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

January 2023

There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen." But if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor: you ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need, you do to the Lord Christ himself.
—Martin Luther

Martin Luther, *The Martin Luther Christmas Book*, trans. Roland H. Bainton (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg, 1948), 38.

I was among those who were deeply disappointed by the 2022 blizzard cancellation of Christmas worship at Trinity and throughout our west Michigan region. As we plowed through the drifts of snow to free our vehicles following the 'bomb cyclone' which had upended our plans, I recalled Luther's Christmas assertion above. After "cancelling Christmas," what should we do? We should do precisely what we have been called to do, to serve our neighbor in need in Christ's name. In so doing we kneel before our newborn king in humble adoration. Christ born among us requires no less, even if we did not welcome the wondrous story in our candlelit nave with the beloved carols of the season. Christmas is much more than a holiday – it is a reality check. We cannot replicate the liturgies missed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but we can live into Christ born among us every day in our love of our neighbor. Thanks be to God.

As I review the year that has unfolded since our last Annual Meeting, I remain sincerely grateful for the return to "normal" worship and programming since March of 2021, almost exactly a year after our pandemic closure. 2022 marked a full year of "in person" gathering and the vitality of our congregational life together continues to recover. A renewal of assisting ministers and growing attendance in worship, the strengthening of children's programming and adult faith formation, and the return to some of our congregation's signature ways of serving in our community were marks of that vitality. We are not quite the same ministry that we were before March of 2020 when we closed for a year of pandemic vigil, but the significance of our 2022 Christmas worship closure is far less overwhelming after a yearlong closure. Still, we have the ongoing challenge of renewal in mission and ministry as we welcome 2023.

So, I come to the task of annual report. 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, for midweek worship and on festival days
- enjoying another round of monthly outdoor worship services on Trinity's west lawn from June through October of 2022
- remembering the ten Trinity members who had died and the sixteen who were baptized in the last year at our All Saints Sunday observance in November
- continuing to celebrate our 125th anniversary as a congregation after a yearlong emphasis on our heritage concluded in December of 2021
- sharing a vibrant visitation ministry with Pastors Dan and Kari, our Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley, and a great team of Stephen Ministers and "Trinity in Touch" homebound visitors; this gifted team has continued to support our life together in pastoral and lay visitation
- participating in the summer of 2022 dedication of a new cabin facility at Stony Lake Camp, dedicated to Trinity teenager Andy Larson who died after a tragic car accident several years before; Trinity members and friends raised more than \$100,000 for the capital campaign that made that project possible
- celebrating the return of the quarterly Men's Breakfast in October of 2022 after a hiatus that began with our pandemic closure
- seeking to be an active partner in facilitating some significant staffing changes, including
 - ◇ the conclusion of a decade of ministry by Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis
 - ◇ the retirement of organist Larry Biser after fourteen years of faithful music ministry
 - ◇ the retirement of Pastor Karen Niemeyer, a gifted partner for five years of her pastoral ministry after many years of lay leadership in our life together; with her retirement we celebrated the establishment of a second career seminarian scholarship fund in Pastor Karen's name that was valued at almost \$60,000 at the end of 2022
 - ◇ welcoming our new Associate Pastor Kari Fast, who began her call to a part-time ministry of pastoral care February 1

- ◇ welcoming our new Director of Music and Organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus, who now leads our music staff and our overall music ministry
- ◇ welcoming new Helping Hands Coordinator Jeanne Becker
- ◇ welcoming new IHN Coordinator Kathy Bush
- ◇ welcoming new Outreach and Discipleship Coordinator Laura Norton
- ◇ and, as 2023 begins, giving thanks for several years of hospitality ministry by Wedding Coordinator Amelia Crist – we will be seeking a new partner for this important role in our life together in early 2023

(2022 marked a shifting of the paradigm of how we staff a variety of critical ministries at Trinity. I am grateful for the gifted group of new partners who join us in forging that new paradigm.)

- enjoying the renewal of some of the learning ministries of our congregation that I lead, including Wednesday adult forums focused on lectionary texts in the winter, a deep dive into Genesis in the spring and an overview of the book of Revelation in the fall
- teaching the annual Young Children’s Communion Class in the fall and the annual Fifth Grade Communion Class during Lent
- celebrating with twelve 8th graders and their families as we marked their Confirmation Sunday in May of 2022 after three years of catechetical study with Pastor Dan
- meeting with families to plan and presiding at baptisms, weddings and Memorial Services for loved ones who had died in our life together
- welcoming 45 new members to our congregation in the late fall of 2021 and another 46 new members in the spring and summer of 2022
- marking the renewal of a number of critical “hands on” outreach ministries, including the return of quarterly Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) weeks housing homeless families onsite at Trinity, the packing of more than 25,000 meals with the Kids Coalition Against Hunger, a good turnout for a Habitat for Humanity build and a large Trinity delegation for the Mayor’s Grand River Cleanup workday
- continuing to support refugee resettlement with the Samaritas New Americans program, with two Afghan refugee families being the latest recipients of Trinity volunteer hospitality
- receiving the report in March of 2022 that Trinity had given more than \$506,000 to benevolent ministries beyond our doors in 2021, part of a 25-year total of \$6.2 million given by this congregation to those in need in the wider human community that was celebrated at our 125th anniversary gathering in late 2021
- supporting a significant “Outreach Ministry Fair” held in the Courtyard at Trinity in September of 2022, adding a measure of vitality and a holy cacophony to that Sunday morning as we welcomed more than a dozen of our benevolent partners to staff information booths while we enjoyed a sumptuous all-morning brunch
- noting that, since the conclusion of our building project in the of 2019, our projected \$2 million mortgage has been reduced to a principal balance of \$1,145,354 at the end of 2022; the generosity of the people of Trinity has been exemplary
- enjoying the long-delayed Trinity Travelers trip to Holden Village in the summer of 2022 with a dozen sojourners from Trinity
- continuing to be a voice for ecumenical and interfaith gatherings in our community, including welcoming the greetings of Rabbi Michael Schadick and Dr. Al Metwalli on Easter morning at Trinity, while bringing like greetings to Temple Emanuel for their Passover Seder and to Masjid at-Tawheed to close their Ramadan fast
- on a personal level, welcoming our granddaughter Chloe Christina Linstrom, our first grandchild, born to Monique and John in March of 2022, celebrating Rebecca’s retirement after 27 years of public school teaching in July of 2022, and beginning to plan the marriage of Emily Gustafson to our son Ben, scheduled for June of 2023; life in family is good . . .

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 ten 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 seven years, our new Associate Pastor Kari Fast since February of 2020, and a ministry staff rich in gifts to further the mission and ministry of this congregation. I am blessed by grace upon grace in these partnerships.

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 2023

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20

These are the final words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew; we call them the Great Commission. In them Jesus sends out his people with a mission. They are to teach, baptize, serve, and remember that Jesus is with them always. We too cling to this direction Jesus has given us. Our lives are ones with a mission, to teach, serve, draw people together, and remember that God is with us all the while. In 2021 we strove to help our young people embody this mission as we returned to life and faith together. I am continually thankful for our partnership in ministry as we seek to follow God on the path ahead of us. It is a joy to journey together.

Last summer we started to return some of the rhythms of our youth programming that had been paused during the worst parts of the pandemic, and in doing so experienced God in the mission laid out before us.

In the summer of 2021, a group of nine students and four adults traveled to Wethersfield, Connecticut, for our annual Mission Trp. While the group was smaller than usual, because many families were not ready to travel yet, it was an amazing impactful week. We were able to experience God in community and service in powerful ways.

We had thirty youth attend camp at Stony Lake Bible camp last summer. It was a powerful week of community and nature. For many of these youth this was their first experience of camp and I have heard from many of them that they cannot wait to return this summer.

The Charge conference in Traverse City that was planned for last March was moved to November and we had twenty youth and four adults attend. This was a special event for me as was the first event that I remember being canceled due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Everyone who attended had an amazing time experiencing God in community in new ways.

This fall our Confirmation Classes continue in person with a great group of young people delving into our shared history as Lutherans. We continue to record class sessions for those families who have a conflict on health issues. We finished up a unit on the Reformation this fall and will be delving in to the experiential lessons on the Sacraments in the new year.

Our high schoolers have continued to meet weekly on Sunday nights for youth group. This group has been using the Think.Believe.Do curriculum to help them delve deeper into what they believe and how they live it out. The group continues to participate in service projects in the community. This time has been a great benefit to these young people as they find a safe space to dig deeper into the issues and calling they experience in their lives.

In December we were able to decorate and deliver Christmas cookies again. We had over forty individuals help in some form or another and delivered to over thirty homes. It was wonderful to watch our community care for itself.

Next summer our high schoolers are heading to East Bank, West Virginia, on their annual mission trip. We already have seventeen youth committed with a few more working out their summer plans. We will be traveling to East Bank with a group from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant. We were able to connect with them last summer at camp and are excited to serve with them in West Virginia. I am very excited for this trip and how this experience will impact the lives of our young people.

Next summer we also head to camp at Stony Lake in July. Registration opens in January, and I know we will have a large group this year. I'm excited for both of my boys to join us at camp this year.

The ELCA Youth Gathering planned for last year was unfortunately canceled, but our group is already making plans to attend the 2024 Gathering in New Orleans. I was honored to be asked by Bishop Satterlee to serve as our synod's Gathering Coordinator. I'm excited for our group to get to experience the largeness of our expression of faith.

This past year I was blessed to work with a great team to work on a plan for the stewardship and renewal of the forests on our property. We have a forestry management plan in place and are creating dates to start on projects. It is wonderful that we can find ways to care for this small part of God's creation. I have also been able to work with multiple Eagle Scout candidates for projects on our property.

I am thankful that I get to use many of my technical skills from my former lives as a sound tech and IT professional. It is helpful when communicating with contractors and volunteers on our many projects. It also helps me model ways we can all use our gifts to follow in the path God has set of us.

Through these and many other experiences we have continually find ways to follow together on the path of life God has called us to. 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



Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

What a privilege, honor, and blessing to serve with you as one of your pastors at Trinity Lutheran; a healthy, vibrant place that loves Jesus and the people of world.

In a meeting with Pastor Bob, just prior to my first day, which was February 1, 2022, he said my focus areas to begin with would be: pastoral visits, pastoral care, and worship leadership. These three phrases still have a lot of meaning to me as I look back on the last

year.

The pastoral visits portion of my three-main focus areas brought me to members who mainly are in assisted living homes, along with Kristin Bradley, our parish nurse, combined we visited about 20 people a month. It is such a beautiful moment to visit, reconnect, and celebrate communion together. So many of these Trinity members continue to feel connected to Trinity through the livestream worship experience. Another part was reestablishing our Trinity in Touch Ministry (TnT) that had lagged during COVID by holding a training session – along with Kristin Bradley and Jeanne Becker, our new Hands-to-Hands Coordinator – so we could invite new people to serve.

The pastoral care portion had me co-leading GriefShare and Surviving the Holidays with Carol Butler, making hospital visits and leading commendation of the dying services, and meeting with members who were experiencing loss, struggles, and trauma. Also, working with Kristin Bradley to find New Member Mentors for our individuals and families that joined this past summer and early fall. Another part of this area had me participating in the Health Ministry events focused on mental health; including the Mind your Mind Mental Health workshop day and Food for Thought dinner with a suicidal awareness presentation called Be the One.

The worship leadership portion found me preaching and assisting in leadership on some Sunday mornings and preaching during both the Lenten and Advent Wednesday Vigils. On those Wednesday evenings, prior to the service, I enjoyed moving from table to table connecting with those who were at the suppers.

As a member of Trinity, I enjoyed participating in various ways, including attending the Celebration of Music Concert Series, welcoming people to the VIP dinner, being an overnight host with IHN, and attending the IHN Family Promise Dinner & Fund Raiser.

In 2023, I look forward to many of the events, people, and ministries above; along with beginning in January three Heart-to-Heart Conversation events, helping the new Hands-to-Hands committee get on their feet, teaching a six-week bible study in the spring, helping support the new staff as they fully live out their ministries, even as I – as a relatively new person to Trinity – find the new ministries God may place on my heart as I serve with you at Trinity Lutheran Church. Another main goal and joy and excitement, which is the same as when I started, I want to learn all or at least most of the names of all you lovely people of Trinity. There are a lot of you!!!

God's Deepest Blessings,

Pastor Kari Fast
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my President's report last year, I said that the people of Trinity could reflect on 2021 and celebrate it as a year of renewal, revitalization, and transition for our facilities, our programming, and our staffing. As we look back on 2022, we see that Trinity has continued this renewal and revitalization.

We welcomed five new staff members in 2022. Pastor Kari Fast (Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care) and Dr. Darlene Kuperus (Director of Music and Organist) joined us in February and Jeanne Becker (Helping Hands Coordinator), Kathy Bush (IHN Coordinator), and Laura Norton (Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator) joined us in September. As the year ended, Amelia Crist tendered her resignation as Wedding Coordinator and we thank her for her years of dedicated service.

We have sought to be good stewards of our property and grounds. Parking lot maintenance and repairs were completed. A new sprinkler and water feature system was installed. Plans have been put in motion for the maintenance and/or repair of our cross tower, sanctuary roof, lantern, downspouts, main entry, and gutters. A land conservation/forest management plan is underway to care for our wetlands and grounds. Members of all ages have pitched in to help maintain the trails on the east side of the property and to beautify the grounds throughout.

Our congregational life flourished as we continued to resume activities that had been halted or diminished during the pandemic. We welcomed nearly 50 new members into our life together over the summer. Many Bible studies, Grace Groups, and book clubs resumed in-person participation after many months on Zoom. Several much-missed fellowship events were back in 2022, including Trivia Night, the Men's Breakfast, Advent by Candlelight, and the Scandinavian Smorgasbord. Trinity's youth attended Summer Camp at Stony Lake for the first time since 2019. Vacation Bible School and Sunday School became more robust, as in-person attendance among families with younger children has continued to increase.

Throughout the year, your Congregation Council has worked hard to ensure that the church buildings and the people who gather here are well cared for. A special thank you to Kate Bredwell, Carol Butler, Chris Engle, Amy Fox, Eric Gohlke, and Alaina Lundgren as they complete their terms on Council. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your President and I am grateful for such a strong and dedicated group of Council members, pastors, and staff members to serve alongside.

Thanks be to God!

Karen Unruh

Trinity's 2022 Budget also included \$36,200 for benevolence. That total has been distributed on a quarterly basis to organizations over the past year. Trinity's budgeted benevolence is distributed using a percentage formula.

Please keep in mind that, since our fiscal year does not end until January 31, the complete 2022 benevolence report will be published in the March 2023 edition of Trinity's monthly newsletter, The Messenger.

ORGANIZATION BENEVOLENCE	
GIFT RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
Access	\$1,409
Baxter Community Center	\$1,409
Christophe's Children	\$84,567
Community Rebuilders	\$10,289
Degage Ministries	\$2,361
ELCA Disaster Response	\$106,843
ELCA World Hunger	\$6,100
Exalta Health	\$1,972
Family Promise (IHN)	\$5,229
The Green Apple (The Pantry)	\$6,409
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,972
Home Repair Services	\$1,409
ICCF	\$5,909
In the Image	\$1,434
LIRS	\$5,789
Living Water Ministries	\$20,849
MI Interfaith Power and Light	\$2,451
Mission India- Neerekshe	\$7,000
MomsBloom	\$1,500
New City Neighbors	\$1,409
Safe Haven	\$4,409
Samaritas Resettlement MI	\$2,409
Trinity Refuge Family	\$5,076
SECOM	\$1,409
TOTAL	\$289,613

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 committee's goal is help insure there is balance between the three primary types of children's ministry programming: Christian education/faith formation; fun, fellowship events; and service to wider human community. The Children' Ministry Committee has 5 or 6 meetings scheduled throughout the year. Trinity members interested in joining the committee can reach out to Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall for more information at rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org.

Members serving on the committee are Paul DeBoer, Sarah Frecka, Ted Frecka, Cyndi Harrison, and Anne Meeuwsen. In addition, Michelle Hall and Dawn Brackmann served for the first half of the year. Sarah Frecka and Cyndi Harrison have 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: Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall; Family Activities Coordinator James Morin; Sunday School Coordinators Ingrid Brang (Jan-Sept), Sheri Mason, Andrea Severns (Jan-Sept), and Amy Stephan (Sept-present); and Nursery Coordinator Awilda Diaz.

Key Events in 2022

Sunday Morning Education - Sunday School is offered for children ages 3 years through 5th grade during the school year. Each week we will talk about what it means to connect with God and each other. The image of a light bulb reminds us that God calls us to be his light in the world. Connected together by faith, we shine bright! The Bible verse we've chosen to go along with the Connect theme is "He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together." - Colossians 1:17

Class for ages three years through third grade begins after Children's Time around 9:25 a.m. Kids and leaders meet in the Commons for songs, offering, and prayer. Then children are divided by age into small groups for classroom lessons, using a Lutheran, lectionary-based curriculum called Spark. Young children will study the same scriptures heard in worship, through Bible stories, activities, and crafts. Children return to worship during Passing of the Peace.

New this year, our fourth and fifth graders use a Lutheran curriculum called Connect. Bibles, videos, and learner sheets are designed just for tweens, blending solid theology with quirky humor. Connect's Bible-centered approach explores major themes in the narrative arc of the Bible—from Creation to Revelations. Class for 4th and 5th graders begins in the Lounge at 9:15 a.m. and children return to worship during Passing of the Peace.

Over 60 children are currently registered for Sunday school and weekly attendance ranges from 30-50.

This year the Children's Wing got a AV upgrade with the addition of a large-screen smart TV! Our Sunday School leaders use this new technology each Sunday for large group presentations and music time. Other groups using the Commons are able to take advantage of it as well.

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. The church Nursery is fully staffed each Sunday morning from 8:30-12:30, and provides a safe, loving environment for our youngest members.

Kids Coalition Against Hunger Meal Packing - Last year, we collected \$8750 and packed 25,732 meals on January 30, 2022.

Annual Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday. Also, all families with children age 3 years through elementary school was mailed an Easter packet with fun activities.

Vacation Bible School- Our theme for VBS 2022 was MONUMENTAL! At Monumental VBS, kids celebrated God's greatness! Monumental was filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences for kids to see, hear, and touch! Over four mornings in June, Trinity was the place to be for over 110 kids and 50+ volunteers.

Blessing of Backpacks for Kindergarteners and Blessing of Pre-schoolers These milestones were celebrated this fall with a handful of children present for a blessings at the Rejoice worship on August 28 and September 18.

Fall Festival at Schwallier's Country Basket - On October 22, 60+ 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.

Kids' Food Basket: Sunday School collected over \$100 in children's offering this fall for Kids Food Basket. In class, kids learned about the impacts of hunger in our community, and how they can make a difference.

Children's Christmas Program - 51 of our pre-school through elementary aged children presented the story of Jesus' birth on December 11 in the sanctuary. Children dressed as sheep, cows, pigs, horses, donkeys, angels, and shepherds. 4th and 5th graders were narrators and had the roles of Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Gabriel, Herod, the Magi. This year's program included contemporary songs, Trinity musicians, and special solos by two Trinity children! A job well done - children, staff and volunteers!

Respectfully Submitted,

The Children's Ministry Committee

Report of the Director of Music & Organist

Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids MI

January 2022

It has been a joy and delight working among the staff and congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church since my arrival on February 1, 2022. I arrived at a time when churches were beginning to emerge from pandemic restrictions and regain their worship rhythm. I have seen significant, growing vitality in congregational singing and worship participation in my brief time at Trinity Lutheran Church. This renewed sense of vitality is also evident in the Rejoice bands, the Trinity Choir and the Resound Bell Choir.

This growing enthusiasm has also been clear in the Celebration of Music Concert Series. We have enjoyed strong performances with attendance of 170 – 200 at each event this past fall. Concerts are an outreach to the congregation and the surrounding community.

Here are some highlights of music ministry initiatives that I have supported in the past year:

- *Addition of a newly published, ELCA hymnal supplement “All Creation Sings” for use in the sanctuary services
- *Regulation and tonal work on the sanctuary Steinway piano
- * Refurbishment of the church’s 5-octave set of Malmark handbells by the manufacturer
- *Creation of a team of church members that serve as an Advisory Council for the Celebration of Music Concert Series 2022/2023
- *Serving as a speaker for the October Continuing Education meeting of the Stephen Ministers

In addition to larger projects, these are a part of my weekly work as Music Director & Organist:

- *Worship planning for congregational singing through hymnody and liturgy
- *Worship music leadership of sanctuary services as organist and pianist including mid-week Advent and Lent services
- *Scheduling and rehearsing with cantors, instrumentalists and vocal soloists
- * Meeting with church staff and music support staff
- *Serving as the accompanist for the Trinity Choir
- *Director of the Resound Bell Choir
- * Director of the Celebration of Music Concert Series monthly events

I am grateful for the work of Mr. Sid Hoeksema as Trinity Choir Director and Dr. Deb DeWitt, Rejoice Worship Coordinator and Keyboardist. Their leadership is deeply appreciated as they support the Music Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Darlene Kuperus

Director of Music & Organist

"A Forever Gift"- Trinity Endowment Fund Update

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to report that despite a turbulent year in the markets, due to our long-held investment and distribution policy, both endowment funds - the Mission Endowment Fund and the Building Endowment Fund - were able to make significant distributions this past year. Below is a summary of the change in each account over the last year.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>12/31/21 Value</u>	<u>12/31/22 Value</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Mission	\$ 849,723	\$ 716,987	\$ 132,736
Building	\$ 674,930	\$ 604,113	\$ 70,817

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 2022, the committee made a distribution recommendation to Council that was approved. The Mission Endowment will distribute **\$25,000** and the Building Endowment **\$14,000**. During a challenging year in the financial markets, 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.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Endowment Committee each of which 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, and Pastor Bob (ex-officio). Please reach out to me or any of the other committee members if you would like to join the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Mason
Chairperson of Endowment Committee

EVENTS

Advent by Candlelight – This event was cancelled due to low sign ups.

Advent Suppers – Suppers are offered on the 4 Wednesdays leading up to Christmas followed by Vesper Services in the Sanctuary. Our Advent Suppers were well attended this year with numbers ranging between 35-77. Our meals were potluck style with Trinity providing the entrees each week and parishioners bringing bread, sides, and desserts.

All-Congregation Potluck at Annual Meeting – Due to a rise in COVID the potluck portion of our annual meeting was cancelled in 2022. We are looking forward to our 2023 Potluck at the Annual Meeting.

Christmas Eve Supper for Pastors & Musicians -- Each year we put together a meal to care for our worship leaders on Christmas Eve. Thank you to those who signed up to bring food this year. However, due to the Winter Storm Warning from our National Weather Service our Christmas Eve Services were canceled.

Dinner Groups – Dinner Groups have not been reinstated since our pandemic closures. We are looking forward to revitalizing this Fellowship activity this year.

Easter Breakfast – This is a service project put together in combination of Fellowship & Hospitality and Youth & Family. The youth and their families do a great deal of the food prep, serving, and clean up. This is an event enjoyed by many parishioners each Easter and is well attended.

Euchre Night – We had 10 teams of Euchre players come out for our Potluck & Euchre Night event. This gave us 5 tables of play.

JOYful Days – JOYful Days is held twice a year in the Fall and again in the Spring on 5 consecutive Wednesdays. We start with Donuts & Coffee before Pr. Bob's Form. We then transition to a catered lunch in the Courtyard followed by a speaker. These events continue to be well attended with 30-55 participants each week. All adults are welcome to attend these series.

JOYful Days Holiday Lunch – The JOYful Days Holiday Lunch is a time for parishioners to come together and enjoy each other's company. There is no speaker at this lunch. This year we held our Holiday Lunch at Red's Restaurant at Thousand Oaks. We had 22 attendees.

KCAH Brunch – Kids Coalition Against Hunger is sponsored by our Children's Ministry. In collaboration with this event F&H provides a brunch for parishioners before or after they help pack meals for this awesome event.

Lenten Soup Suppers -- During the 5 Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter we gathered in the Courtyard for Soup Suppers. These suppers were well attended. We averaged between 12-20 soups each week which were often homemade by parishioners with 2-3 created by Tess.

Parish Pig Roast & Potluck – This event has morphed into the Annual Parish Summer Picnic. We held this potluck picnic in the Courtyard directly following the 10:45 church service. The potluck was well attended. Lots of food. Many comments that people enjoyed having it indoors due to heat and seating options.

Schwaillier's Corn Maze & Bonfire – Our 2nd Annual Schwaillier's Fall Event was held on October 23rd. We had 65 parishioners, families, couples, and singles join us for this wonderful evening which begins with a wagon ride to the award winning corn maze, which is followed by a bonfire where we all roast hotdogs and s'mores. The venue added more items this past year. Kids were playing on a huge trampoline pillow, a labyrinth, slides, etc.

Scandinavian Smorgasbord – Kris Shannon and her team put together a wonderful Scandinavian Smorgasbord this year. We had 82 brave souls venture out during a rather cold, snowy night. Katarina Lundgren was Santa Lucia and Lexi Shannon assisted as The Star Child. Kris and John Fox sang Santa Lucia while the girls passed out cookies. Karen Griewahn was our accompanist, she, along with the Foxes, lead the group in singing Christmas Carols.

Summer Celebration – This year our Summer Celebration was held outside after the outdoor service in June. We had a traditional Lutheran Potluck. Lots of food and lots of fellowship. We held a cake walk which was fun but was a bit hot for frostings.

Sunday Fellowship Hour – Sunday Fellowship Hour is offered after each of our 3 services each Sunday. We offer coffee, ice water, cookies, fruit, etc. We are currently looking for people who are interested in being hosts at the Hospitality Counter. There are 2 shifts: 8a-10:30a (with a break to attend the 9:15am service) and 10:30a-12:30pm (with a break to attend the 10:45am service). You can serve as a family, as a couple, with a friend, by yourself and make new friends. If interested, please contact Tess Lundgren, 616.889.9503.

Trivia Night – We moved this event into April to try to get away from some of the not so wonderful Michigan weather. Karen Unruh once again created an amazing trivia night experience for the crowd who showed up for our potluck and trivia game.

White Elephant Gift Exchange – 2021 was our first even White Elephant Gift Exchange. We had 15 participants. We enjoyed a potluck followed by choosing and unwrapping presents. We had a good time with laughter and fellowship. Looking forward to this event growing in popularity as the years go on.

RECEPTIONS

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

- Confirmation
- Funeral Receptions
- Graduation
- New Member
- Veterans Appreciation

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Choir Luncheons
- Brunch for all staff Church Wide Calendaring meeting
- Service Projects with the High School Youth to make meals for UFM (Urban Family Ministries)

OTHER

Decorating of the Church for the Christmas Season – Our decoration team comprised of Kristi Flatts, Keith & Diane Flatt, Chris & Joanna Waite, Breslin Waite, Sydney Waite, Tim & Tess Lundgren, Katarina Lundgren, and Alaina Lundgren. Stephanie & Andy McLeod donated a pre-lit, slim Christmas Tree for the Choir room which allowed us to move the larger tree from the choir room to above the main door entrance. During construction a reinforced floor and electricity were added so that we can safely use this space. Thank you to everyone who helped make our building space festive during Christmas time!

Kitchen – A huge thank you to Gene Gunderson, Steve Stephan, and John Potter who have donated time, skills, and items to make our kitchen more efficient with shelving, tinfoil/saran wrap station, etc. I am very grateful for all your help each time I think something might be great in the kitchen!!

Licensure – Our kitchen is state licensed. We are inspected on an annual basis and have surprise inspections throughout the year. We have passed all of our inspections as noted by our current license that is posted behind the Hospitality Counter in the Courtyard. In addition to the kitchen itself being licensed the church must maintain a ServSafe Manager on site. I am that person and I renew the state testing every several years to remain current to keep our kitchen open.

It continues to be my honor to serve the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran church as your Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator. My door is always open and I'm happy to hear any ideas parishioners may have to get people together in fellowship. If any member of our congregation feels called to serve our parish family through their gift of hospitality please be touch with me. I'd love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Tess Lundgren
Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator

Review of Reports - Finance Committee for 2022

The Finance Committee is happy to report that TLC's finances remain sound. TLC's investment in live-streaming of our Rejoice contemporary service and our traditional service in the sanctuary make it possible for many people to remotely join on-site worshippers every Sunday morning. We pray that COVID remains under control so that more people can be with us face-to-face so that we can welcome them! Changing attendance and giving patterns through 2022 did make it difficult for our committee to predict offering income month-to-month. Income is 10% below budget, but expenditures have been held to 9% below budget. Thank you to all the faithful TLC congregation members who supported Trinity's work through 2022!

Our Finance Assistant Joanna Waite kept the books and generated a reliable flow of information for TLC leaders. Way to go, Joanna!

Thank you to the following people who served on the Finance Committee during 2022: Treasurer Chris Engle, Jim Coates, Peter McKinney, Gloria Von der Heide, Pastor Bob, and Finance Assistant Joanna Waite. Mike King was a valued member of our Finance Committee until early 2022 when a career promotion triggered his relocation. Thanks for your work with TLC's Finance team, Mike! And so we have an open committee seat to fill...

The Finance Committee meets five times per year, on the third Monday of every other month (February, April, June, September, November). 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 February 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM (usually in the Library next to the church office). If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact anybody on the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
George Bauer, Chair

Health Ministries Annual Report 2022

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

Our Faith Community Nurse (FCN), Kristin Bradley, oversees the Health Ministries committee, and supports the Spiritual Growth team. She continues to organize & participate in visitation ministry, along with our pastors, and she is the staff liaison & referral coordinator for Stephen Ministry. During the time our Congregational Life staff position was vacant, Kristin assisted with New Member Mentors and Helping Hands.

In collaboration with Pastor Kari and Jeanne, Kristin helped revitalize *Trinity in Touch* - our homebound communion/phone call ministry team. We now have 10 members providing home communion to those unable to join us in worship.

Kristin provides health care resources and connections within our community and she is a part of the area wide Faith Community Nurse organization and the national ELCA Faith Community Nurse organization. Supporting members in our congregation who are caregivers was another area Kristin pursued this year. In addition, she maintains our First Aid/AED supplies, schedules CPR training, coordinates the Flu Shot Clinic, and facilitates our quarterly blood drives

The Health Ministries Committee

The committee met 6 times in 2022

Our main focus for 2022 was Mental Health Care and we are so grateful for the wonderful discussions, openness and care that our congregation is providing to each other! Awareness is a huge key to understanding!!

In January & February we held a 6 week zoom study on the book "**All Who are Weary**". During the last session the author, Emmy Kegler, joined us to answer our questions and provide additional insight. Twenty seven people received the book and many participated in our discussions.

In May we dedicated a Saturday to "**Minding your Mind**". With our Standing Together Partner congregation, Westminster Presbyterian, we brought many mental health professionals to Trinity for a morning of workshops and education. Nearly 50 people attended. Videos of several presentations are still available on Trinity's YouTube Channel.

In November we welcomed Vonnie Woodrick from *i understand* to our first "**Food for Thought**" dinner and conversation event. Over 40 people attended. A Thrivent grant was procured to cover the cost of the meal.

Led by Carol Butler and supported by Pastor Kari, we hosted 10 people for the 13 week series of **GriefShare** in Spring. Attendees were both from Trinity and the community.

In November, Pastor Kari facilitated the **Surviving the Holidays** grief support seminar which was well attended.

Four **Blood Drives** were held at Trinity with Versiti Blood. In 2022 we collected 80 units of whole blood and 23 double reds. Sincere thanks to our dedicated donors, enthusiastic volunteers, and to Culvers for the "Give a pint, Get a pint" program!

The **Fitness Program** continues Tuesday and Thursday mornings with class options including somatic yoga, strength & balance and Tai Chi. Kristina Kuhlmann volunteers her time and talents as our fearless instructor.

The **Flu Shot Clinic** provided 104 immunizations to our members through Spectrum Health Visiting Nurses. #Prevention!!!

The **Longest Night** service was coordinated by Kristin and supported by our pastors, musicians, and Stephen Ministry team. It occurred during the last midweek Advent service.

CPR Training was held once in 2022 and was facilitated by our Red Cross instructor, James Morin. The next training will be in Spring of 2023.

Our 2023 theme is “**Living Well**”.

We look forward to finding and meeting the health needs of our congregation.

“Special thanks to the Trinity quilters for the prayer quilts, to the Trinity Card Makers for all the handmade greeting cards, and to the Trinity crafters for the pocket hearts. Being able to share these tangible ‘touches’ with others is a privilege and blessing.” ~ Kristin

Respectfully submitted,

Trinity Health Ministries Committee

Corina Dulecki (Chairperson), Carol Butler (Council Liaison), Kristin Bradley (FCN), Kristen Lamprich, Debbie Lown, Michelle Morin, Kate Schaefer, Rebecca Ulrich, Gale Volkerding, Kay Zeaman and Cindy Zientarski.

Review of Reports – Helping Hands Ministry for 2022

August, 2022 a new part-time position was created and filled to handle part of Angela Davis’s full-time position, Director of Congregational Life. The title of this new position is Helping Hands Coordinator and oversees ministry for meals and rides. Coordinates the delivery of altar flowers and Christmas poinsettias to homebound, grieving, hospitalized and recovering members. Works with staff and pastors to coordinate the “Trinity in Touch” ministry. Coordinates the Prayer Tree Ministry and renewal of “Trinity Neighbors”. This position will also provide support for outreach with prospective members.

Helping Hands Meal and Rides: Since August, Trinity has provided several families meals in times of medical issues and with the blessing of new babies. We have also helped homebound members with rides to attend church service and with medical appointments.

Poinsettia Delivery: As another Trinity Touch we delivered 66 poinsettias to our homebound members and those who have lost loved ones. We had a wonderful turnout of 22 volunteers to deliver the poinsettias. The Trinity Lutheran quilters provided beautiful quilts to 15 of the poinsettia recipients.

Medicare/Medicaid Consultation: Once again, Jo Murphy, retired Executive Director of Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program donated her time and expertise to nine Trinity members to assist them with enrolling in 2023 Medicare and Medicaid.

Trinity in Touch: This program has been revised and restarted in coordination with Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse and Pastor Kari Fast and currently has 10 Trinity visitors providing communion to our homebound members.

The Prayer Tree Ministry: This ministry is in the process of being revised if needed and restarted as it has been on hold during the past year.

Trinity Neighbors: This ministry will be further evaluated to see what changes could be made to make it a more successful ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Becker, Helping Hands Coordinator

Thank you to all of you who so generously made financial contributions as well as gifts-in-kind and too many volunteer hours to count. Trinity is a very giving congregation in so many ways!

The TLC Outreach Committee provides financial help, tangible gifts, and volunteer help to local agencies. This dedicated committee consists of: Kathy Bush, Jan Curry, John Fox, Cheryl Love, Kathleen Noble, Don & Judy Otten, Pastor Bob Linstrom, Sandy Rothfuss, Vince & Carol Schumacher, Amy Stephan and Laura Norton.

As part of Trinity’s 2022 budget, a total of **\$22,500** was approved for Trinity’s Mission Endowment Fund. Some of the criteria used in forming these recommendations include the essential nature of their work to successful living, their reputation for success in the community and having Trinity members who serve in some way through the organizations. The following are recipients of this year’s Endowment Fund:

Living Water Staff Champions	\$4500	MI Interfaith Power and Light	\$1500
ICCF Community Homes	\$4500	MomsBloom	\$1500
Community Builders for Linc Up	\$4500	Urban Family Ministries	\$3000
Safe Haven	\$3000		

*In November & December the Outreach Committee collected over 300 warm weather articles and delivered them to Samaritas, In the Image, IHN, Baxter, AYA Youth Collective, Exodus, Degage and Congress School.

*LWR Quilters created and shipped 102 quilts in October for International Relief. The Quilters are also sewing & personalizing 29 book bags and created 62 quilts for Christoph’s Kids.

* Tess Lungreen.....

* Kathy Bush, Coordinator of IHN, reports since her start date, Trinity has hosted 2 IHN weeks on Sunday, Sept 4-11 and then again Sunday, Dec 4-11. In Sept we housed 4 families for the week and in Dec we had 5 families spending the week with us.

During our IHN weeks it takes about 70 people to volunteer to make this important program run at Trinity. Kathy is truly thankful for all our volunteers.

*Food Pantry donations are collected every week in our grocery carts located near the bottom floor elevator and near the sanctuary. The items are donated to Secom to supplement their pantry which serves over 4,500 children & adults.

*Sheila Talsma was the coordinator for the Co-sponsoring of two Afghan couples resettling. She and many volunteers worked with Samaritas and the families to coordinate housing and provided support in adapting to a new culture.

Members of the co-sponsor team had roles where they donated their time:

- Transportation coordinator – coordinated rides to medical appointments, grocery runs, misc things for 6 months
- Medical advocate – 1 per couple – interface with doctors, help them navigate health system
- Tutors – try to coach them on English
- Financial coach – help set up budget
- Assistance finding apartments
- Assistance with driving practice
- Assistance with job applications, arranging interviews after Samaritas service ended.

I am thankful to Trinity Staff, Council and the Outreach Committee for their guidance, patience and support in my new role.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton- Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator

Spiritual Growth Committee for 2022

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 is lead by Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall since the summer of 2021. In September 2022, Pastor Bob gathered 17 spiritual growth committee members from the past, potential future members, and interested parties together for a brain storming session. A smaller group will gather in 2023 as the Spiritual Growth Committee lead by Rachele Battreall. Bill Bush serves as the Congregation Council liaison. Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Rachele at: Rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org.

2022 activity highlights:

Lenten Grace Groups: Grace groups are Trinity's small group Bible studies that take place during Lent. From Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, groups meet weekly for fellowship and conversation on the assigned reading. The Grace groups met on a variety of days, times and either in person or via Zoom. Trinity members served as small group facilitators of the Bible study published by the ELCA entitled "Daily Discipleship."

Book Clubs: Trinity's book clubs met throughout 2022. The Tuesday evening book club meets the second Tuesday of the month. This group is multi-gender and multigenerational. They meet in homes, at Trinity, or via Zoom. The Friday morning women's book club meet in club member's homes the second Friday of the month from September through May. Both clubs are open to new members.

Men's Breakfasts: Men of Trinity assembled for breakfast followed by brief Bible study and guest speakers. After a pause in 2020 and 2021, the men have restarted meeting quarterly for fellowship and learning about important topics for our congregation and community.

Advent Devotional: Devotionals for Advent 2022 were written by and for the members of Trinity. The devotional was printed in a booklet and also distributed via email by request. Themes are present in the selected scripture and writer's expressions as we prepared during Advent for the arrival of the newborn Savior.

Study Groups: Women's Bible studies are offered on both Tuesday and Friday mornings from September to June. Experienced lay leaders have delved into studies including *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to the Holy Spirit: Hand-Raisers, Han,* and *the Holy Ghost* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and *The Fruit of the Spirit* from LifeGuide® Bible Studies.

Pastor Bob offered Bible studies throughout 2022 during Wednesday morning forums. The themes and selected studies during 2022 included a focus on the upcoming Sunday's readings in worship; a study of the book of Genesis; and a study of the book of Revelation.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Bush, Congregational Council liaison and Rachele Battreall, Director of Family Ministry.

2022 Stephen Ministry Annual Report

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 has been a Stephen Ministry congregation since 1996. In 2022, we put God's love into action by walking alongside 20 individuals during a time of need.

In addition to one on one care, we facilitate the "Journeying Through Grief" booklet ministry. Eighty-five books have been shared with people who have known loss this year. We are grateful for the strong commitment of this group for sharing Christ's love with others during challenging times.

In 2022 we commissioned our 11th class of Stephen Ministers! We currently have 5 leaders shaping the continuing education and peer support for our team of 19. In our continuing education we reviewed the book "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado, learned how to use music for prayer and reflection, explored perseverance and resilience, gained a better understanding of how to support people experiencing a medical or mental health crisis, and dove into the concepts of spiritual distress, forgiveness and grace.

Stephen Ministry is available to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing a crisis, difficult circumstances or everyday stress. Connect with any of our Pastors, our Faith Community Nurse or a Stephen Leader to learn more.

We appreciate all who have established, grown and supported this ministry. We are dedicated to continuing to care for the people of Trinity for many years to come.

Thank YOU for being on the lookout for anyone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister. Think Stephen!

In His care,
Beth Vanderwall, Sheila Talsma, Kris Racek, Norm Palm & Kristin Bradley (FCN)
Stephen Leaders

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

Trinity Lutheran Church
Youth and Family Ministry Committee

2022 Annual Report

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

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

2022 In Review

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

Service Opportunities – Both high school and middle school youth had opportunities to serve both within our church walls and in our community. Some of the highlights were

VBS Volunteers – VBS was back at full capacity and many of our middle/high schoolers volunteered in a variety of ways: snack helpers, station assistants, photography, tech board and small group leaders.

Set up/Serve/Clean Up at Events – Annual Meeting, Easter Breakfast, Rummage Sale, Food Packing

Urban Family Ministries – Meal prepped at church and delivered for their Tues/Thurs weekly meals

Blessed by Brookelyn – painted, sorted clothes, light construction

Trinity Outdoor Worship Space – spreading mulch, staining benches, cleaning up trails

Christmas Cookie Decorating/Delivering – 30+ middle/high school youth and families gathered at church to decorate Christmas cookies and then set off delivering them to 28 different congregational members.

Mission Trip – This high school event took place June 25-July 2 as nine youth and 4 adults traveled to Wethersfield, CT to build ramps, paint homes and dig deeper into their faith.

Stony Lake Camp – July 10-15 middle and high school youth joined our elementary kids for a week at Stony Lake complete with ropes courses, waterfront time, campfires, bible studies and much, much more!

30 Hour Famine – Held at church and in our local community, this was a 30 hour event with activities, discussions and community service that focused on the issue of hunger.

CHARGE! – Moved from its typical March time slot, this youth gathering took place the first weekend of November and for the first time included high school students as well. Seventeen youth traveled to Traverse City for this weekend long event lead by Living Waters Ministries staff.

MS Youth

Confirmation – Confirmation classes took place on Sunday afternoons lead by Pastor Dan, Christian and many adult small group leaders, September through April. On May 1st, 12 8th graders were confirmed

Youth Group Events: Middle school met from 2-3, just prior to confirmation class and was a combination of service and fun.

HS Youth

Youth Council Member – Alaina Lundgren was our rep and Dakota Morin will be our new rep.

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 – Gathered on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8pm.

Graduation Sunday – Trinity celebrated graduates with special bulletin inserts and honored them at a spring service.

Review of Reports - Youth & Family Committee for 2022, continued

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, Easter Breakfast and the Annual Rummage sale made its return! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us pull it all off and for your generous financial support.

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



Treasurer Report

How are we doing this year?

		2022-2023 Budget	Actual 2022-2023 Projected (10 actual + 2 estimated)
50000	BENEVOLENCE	\$ 147,700.00	\$ 147,700.00
51000	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 11,300.00	\$ 8,321.00
52000	MUSIC	\$ 11,930.00	\$ 12,160.00
52500	WORSHIP	\$ 6,975.00	\$ 3,926.00
53000	EVANGELISM	\$ 1,660.00	\$ 1,290.00
54000	STEWARDSHIP	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,881.00
55000	YOUTH AND FAMILY	\$ 11,150.00	\$ 6,781.00
56000	FELLOWSHIP	\$ 15,825.00	\$ 13,486.00
57000	PROPERTY	\$ 47,010.00	\$ 66,730.00
58000	UTILITIES	\$ 64,816.00	\$ 74,960.00
59000	LEASES	\$ 23,200.00	\$ 21,882.00
60000	OFFICE AND ADMIN	\$ 60,173.00	\$ 54,351.00
61000	PAYROLL	\$ 697,461.00	\$ 613,596.00
62000	STEPHEN MINISTRY	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 1,970.00
63000	RESERVES	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
64000	HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 993.00
65000	OUTREACH	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,570.00
66000	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 764.00
67000	SPIRITUAL GROWTH	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 1,161.00
70000	FINANCING COSTS	\$ 59,400.00	\$ 52,018.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,194,450.00	\$ 1,105,540.00
70100	LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 54,216.00	\$ 61,598.00
40000	REVENUE (REGULAR GIVING)	\$ 1,248,666.00	\$ 1,146,319.00
	Supporting total cash flow		
	Net Cash Flow		\$ (20,819.00)

Proposed Budget for 2023-2024

February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

		Proposed 2023-24 Budget		Projected Current Year (10 actual + 2 estimated)
50000	BENEVOLENCE	\$ 143,408.00		\$ 147,700.00
51000	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 9,800.00		\$ 8,321.00
52000	MUSIC	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,160.00
52500	WORSHIP	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 3,926.00
53000	EVANGELISM	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,290.00
54000	STEWARDSHIP	\$ 4,200.00		\$ 3,881.00
55000	YOUTH AND FAMILY	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 6,781.00
56000	FELLOWSHIP	\$ 15,825.00		\$ 13,486.00
57000	PROPERTY	\$ 56,125.00		\$ 66,730.00
58000	UTILITIES	\$ 77,155.00		\$ 74,960.00
59000	LEASES	\$ 25,244.00		\$ 21,882.00
60000	OFFICE AND ADMIN	\$ 56,628.00		\$ 54,351.00
61000	PAYROLL	\$ 702,160.00		\$ 613,596.00
62000	STEPHEN MINISTRY	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 1,970.00
63000	RESERVES	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
64000	HEALTH MINISTRIES	\$ 1,850.00		\$ 993.00
65000	OUTREACH	\$ 1,150.00		\$ 1,570.00
66000	HELPING HANDS	\$ 825.00		\$ 764.00
67000	SPIRITUAL GROWTH	\$ 2,150.00		\$ 1,161.00
70000	FINANCING COSTS	\$ 50,496.00		\$ 52,018.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,192,616.00		\$ 1,105,540.00
70100	LOAN PRINCIPAL	\$ 63,120.00		\$ 61,598.00
40000	REVENUE (REGULAR GIVING)	\$ 1,255,736.00		\$ 1,146,319.00
	Supporting total cash flow			
				\$ (20,819.00)

Simplified Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	As of 11/30/2021		As of 11/30/2022
Cash and Investment Accounts			
Checking and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,116,401		\$ 1,023,549
Mission Endowment Fund	\$ 821,581		\$ 701,050
Building Endowment Fund	\$ 655,670		\$ 582,940
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 2,593,652		\$ 2,307,539
Fixed Assets			
Land and Building	\$ 6,173,950		\$ 6,173,950
Improvements (Construction spending)	\$ 6,759,171		\$ 6,759,171
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 12,933,121		\$ 12,933,121
Long Term Debt	\$ 1,362,742		\$ 1,145,354

There is a projected budget deficit this year. Higher than expected building repair and utility expenses along with giving that was below budget contributed to this deficit.

Payroll and benefit expenses were below budget due to open positions. It is expected that we would have those positions filled for the upcoming year.

The proposed 2023-2024 budget represents a slight decrease in comparison to this year's budget.

In addition to the budgeted loan principal payments, we made \$26,903 in additional principal payments to our mortgage.

Our cash position includes \$813,719 in Designated Funds including \$387,051 in our operating and capital reserves.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

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