



2018 Annual Report Trinity Lutheran Church



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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AGENDA

Trinity Lutheran Church

February 10, 2019

“Connect, Grow, & Serve with the love of Jesus Christ”

Call to Order

Opening Prayer- Pastor Nordheim

Confirmation of Quorum

The Secretary will confirm the presence of fifty (50) voting members

Voice Vote

Action requested: Suspend rules of order related to paper ballot voting and allow voice vote on all matters during this meeting.

Action

Approval of the Agenda

Action requested: Approve the agenda as presented.

Action

Approval of Minutes of February 11, July 22, October 14, 2018

Action

Business:

Senior Pastor Report

Information

2018 Budget Report

Information

The Treasurer shall present a review of the 2018 Financial Statement

Audit Committee Report

Information

The Audit Committee shall present the results of its audit of the Church's 2018 finances

2019 Budget, Treasurer

Action

Presentation of the 2019 Budget

Stewardship Discussion

Budget Vote

Action requested: Approve the 2019 budget as prepared by the Finance Committee and recommended by Council

2019 Audit Committee Election

Action

Action requested: Elect the 2019 Audit Committee

2019 Nominating Committee

Action

Action requested: Elect the following to the 2019 Council Nominating Committee: Ross Peterson & Ken Kramer.

Council Vacancy

Action

Action requested: Motion to elect Gary Peterson to the Congregation Council to fulfill the remaining two years of Rob Anderson's term.

Annual Report Resolutions

Action

Action requested: Approve the 2019 Annual Report Resolutions

The Lord's Prayer

Adjourn

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Minutes from Cong. Meetings	Pages 3-5	Worship & Music Report	Page 27
Senior Pastor Report	Pages 6-7	Children & Youth Educ. Report	Page 28
Associate Pastor Report	Page 8	Youth Ministry Team Report	Page 29
Youth Director Report	Pages 9-12	Technology Committee Report	Page 30
Children's Ministry Report	Pages 13-14	Safety Committee Report	Page 30
Outreach Coordinator Report	Pages 15-16	Mission Endowment Fund	Pages 31-32
Church Council Report	Pages 17	2018 Parish Acts	Page 33
Women of the ELCA Report	Pages 18-19	2018 Congregational Report	Page 34
Altar Guild Report	Pages 20-21	Bishop's Report	Pages 35-36
Witness & Outreach Report	Pages 22-23	Financial Reports	Pages 37-41
Stewardship Education Report	Page 24	2019 Proposed Budget	Page 42
Service Ministry Report	Page 25	Audit Committee Report	Page 43
Property Committee Report	Page 26	2019 Annual Meeting Resolutions	Page 44

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Trinity Lutheran Church
February 11, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Carol Wolsky (President)

Gary Peterson (Secretary) confirmed a quorum with 88 members counted in attendance

Opening prayer by Pastor Terry

Motion by Dave Wolsky to suspend rules of order, using voice vote rather than paper ballots.
Second by Ken Cheney. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Larry Guilfoile to approve the agenda. Second by Dorothy Chrun. **Motion carried**

Motion by Colleen Guilfoile to approve the minutes for 2016. Second by Rachel Carlson. **Motion carried**

Senior pastor report: Terry Nordheim referred the congregation his 2017 annual report.

Phil Deimel (Treasurer) presented the proposed 2017 balanced budget. Pastor Terry surveyed the total benevolence in both money and time given by the Trinity membership

Questions on the proposed 2018 budget

Did last year's budget include a transfer of funds from Pearl Nelson annuity? *Answer: Yes, but this transfer was not used.*

What is the reason for the 1% bonus salary payment rather than a 1% salary increase.
Answer: A 1% bonus is a one-time payment that does not add to the existing salary base for next year.

How much is left in the Pearl Nelson annuity? *Answer: \$96,000.*

Do you think the decrease in giving is a result of the Pearl Nelson bequest? If so how do we have discussion of this? *Answer: There was no dialogue on stewardship last year. The plan is for a more robust stewardship program. There is a need to establish a process for using the bequest money.*

A concern was raised that the Pearl Nelson annuity was not intended for long-term staff funding, but rather was intended as a bridge until the congregation could fully fund the staff.

Motion by Larry Guilfoile to approve the 2018 budget as presented. Second by Terry Hogenson. **Motion carried.**

2018 Audit Committee election. A comment was made that *Point 5* on the report should read 2018. The 2018 audit committee candidates were presented: Ron Holt, Sue Danielzuk, Peter Overgaard, Karen Sever, and Paul Ives-Chair.

Motion by Phil Deimel to approve the candidates. Second by Dale Fredell. **Motion carried**

The 2018 Council Nominating Committee candidates were presented: Phil Deimel, Jill Eisfelder, Gary Peterson, Karin Vukich, Carol Wolsky

Motion by Clark Malcomson to approve the candidates. Second by Colleen Guilfoile. **Motion carried**

Motion by Dave Wolsky to elect Guy Aki to the three-year vacant Church Council position. Second by Dorothy Chrun. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Ken Cheney to approve the annual report. Second by Marsha Smith. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)

**Minutes from a Special Meeting of the Congregation
Trinity Lutheran Church
July 22, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Carol Wolsky (President)

Opening prayer by Pastor Terry Nordheim

Gary Peterson (Secretary) confirmed a quorum, with over 180 members counted in attendance (50 is sufficient for a quorum).

- Pam Lukens moved to suspend the rules of order to allow a voice vote to amend the original motion presented at the October 15, 2017 congregation meeting, to include another option for the rental house. Second by Nichol Smith. **Motion carried.**
- Rhonda Mattson moved to approve the agenda, which is limited to action on the rental house. Second by Pam Lukens. **Motion carried.**
- Rhonda Mattson moved amend the original motion from the October 15, 2017 meeting to include another option for the rental house. Second by Clark Malcomson. **Motion carried**
- Pam Lukens moved to do a ballot vote on two options for the rental house:
 1. proceed with necessary repairs and rent to private or nonprofit entities and landscape a portion of the property for church use after that, in furtherance of Trinity's mission, or
 2. proceed with demolition and deconstruction of the rental house and garage, and then landscape for church use.

Second by Christa Overgaard

Discussion— Members discussed or advocated the following:

-- A member summarized past cash transfers to the church and income from the rental house, expressing the view that the house has generated sufficient income to pay for its maintenance and repair.

-- A member stated an intention to vote for retention of the house as a rental.

-- A member summarized a view of the circumstances that would indicate a vote for one or the other of two options.

-- A member expressed a concern that additional repairs will be needed in the future, and expressed an opinion that the house should be demolished.

-- A member and past president stated a memory that the purpose of purchasing the property was to provide housing for people in need and to supplement church income.

Question: how have candidates for renting been qualified in the past?

Answer: In the past Trinity has not inquired about the income of renters.

-- A member recalled that the original intent of purchasing the property was to provide housing and to supplement the budget, not for expansion of the church building.

-- A member recalled that expansion of the church building was an intent of purchasing the property, and cited building plans that were being contemplated at the time.

Motion carried

- A ballot vote was taken on two options for the rental house.

Final vote tally: Repair and rent: 98 Demolish and use for green space: 127

Total votes cast: 225

- Roger Kaske moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Nichole Smith. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)

**Minutes from a Special Meeting of the Congregation
Trinity Lutheran Church
October 14, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 10:15 by Carol Wolsky (President)

Opening prayer by Pastor Terry Nordheim

Gary Peterson (Secretary) confirmed a quorum, with over 65 members counted in attendance (50 is sufficient for a quorum).

- Pam Lukens moved to approve the agenda

Second by Joanne Nielsen

Motion carried

- Dave Wolsky moved that because we have two candidates for two positions on the Endowment Committee that we approve by voice vote.

Second by Pam Lukens

Motion carried

- Rhonda Mattson moved that because we have eight candidates for eight positions on the Church Council that we approve by voice vote.

Second by Clark Malcomson

Question: who will serve three year terms, and who will serve two year terms?

Answer: Dave Johnson will serve the two year term to fill the vacancy left by John Swenson.

Motion carried

Pastor Terry provided information on a Synod consultant who will assist the Church Council and congregation with communication

- Joel Palla moved to adjourn

Second by Clark Malcomson

Motion carried

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)

SENIOR PASTOR
2018 Report
Pastor Terry I. Nordheim

“Connect-Grow-Serve with the Love of Jesus Christ”

2018 has been a year filled with many joys, many challenges, and many constant reminders of the grace of God. It is a privilege to be called to serve with you in this place!



Here are some highlights of our ministry together:

- Several members of our staff had significant losses from late 2017 into 2018. Pastor Brad, myself, and Linda Rambow traveled the road of long-term illness and death with our mothers. Others from our staff have faced health challenges and surgeries with close family members. All the while, we, along with our lay visitation teams, provided ongoing care with many of our Trinity members; surgeries, Alzheimers, cancer, chronic illness, traumatic injury, suicide, and many other health concerns filled our days. It is our privilege to be the body of Christ together with people in these difficult moments.
- There were several employment needs during 2018. Our faithful organist of 60+ years, Carol Peterson, passed away, after an intense battle with cancer. Though we deeply feel the loss of her in our midst, we were blessed to secure the talents and employment of our current organists, Brian Voss and Joanne Endres. We are thankful for God's provision.
- Our office manager Betty Braun Auten provided excellent skills and compassion with us for 25+ years. In her retirement, the personnel team found a wonderful replacement in Amber VanHorn, who brings a warm and welcoming presence and creative skills to our church staff.
- The retirement of Pastor Brad on December 31, 2018, has been felt by the staff and congregation alike. His commitment to the gospel and social justice, along with his humor and playful enthusiasm are gifts that we will truly miss. We look forward to see how God calls new leadership in our midst.

Other highlights:

- We hosted Path to Home four times in 2018, learning each time what it means to share biblical hospitality with people in need.
- We came together for a mission festival two times during the year, entitled, “God’s Work, Our Hands.” These experiences were shared by four other ELCA churches in the Chisago County area. All are requesting that we do this again in 2019! These churches continue to explore what shared ministry in our area can look like. We call this effort MiChiLu (Mid-Chisago-Lutherans).
- Pastor Brad and David Carlson offering a variety of learning opportunities for adults. These weekly gatherings bring a community of passionate seekers together, as growth in faith is nurtured.
- In October 2018, three Trinity members traveled with a St. Paul Area Synod group of nine, exploring a partnership with *El Buen Pastor (Church of the Good Shepherd)* in San Antonio, Guatemala. Trinity members donated funds to purchase seven stoves as part of the church-wide stove project, making it possible for families to cook more efficiently and safely on a daily basis. We look forward to further connections, as we seek to be the people of God together.
- Coffee Conversations with Pastor Terry have been held on Friday mornings beginning in November, with 25 people dropping in at various times. We average 8-11 each week, and participants bring questions, concerns, and general topics related to the life of our church.

As I am approaching two full years at Trinity Lutheran, the mission of our congregation continues to be on the forefront. In March 2017 the staff and church council shared a retreat where we focused on the Vision 2020 statement and affirmed a 3-year simplified version that could help us share a common language for the multiplicity of ministries at Trinity. We wanted to build upon the hard work put in by the group that drafted Vision 2020, while empowering all (including children) to articulate what the purpose of Trinity is. Thus, “*Connect/Grow/Serve with the Love of Jesus Christ*” became our general theme.

Continued....

Centered on our common mission to embrace and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

CONNECT 2018: Connect with God, each other, and our world.

- An important goal during 2018 was to be addressing staffing needs (organist, office manager, associate pastor).
- Build trust and transparency through listening to one another.
- Develop a 3-year partnership “accompaniment” relationship with Guatemala. (This began with an exploratory mission trip to Guatemala in Oct. 2018).

GROW 2019: Strengthen and deepen our programs and ministries.

- Continue to explore new opportunities for involvement together.
- Consider our influence of the Gospel, and our involvement, in our wider community.
- Deepen our understanding of stewardship as a response of generosity in faith.

SERVE 2020: Specifically identify areas and opportunities for service to Christ, involving all members.

- How do our work camp experiences help us to grow deeper in service?
- How we expand our Mission & Outreach involvement?
- How does the use of our Endowment resources open the door to new possibilities?
- What renovation needs to happen, to make our facilities more user-friendly in serving others?

How can we come together in prayer, reflection and commitment toward what it means to “*Connect, Grow and Serve with the love of Jesus Christ*”?

All of these focus on our core strengths as listed in Vision 2020. They are identified as ***Education, Faith Life and Outreach***. These remain high priorities, and we remain committed to them as we move forward together in faith.

Challenges:

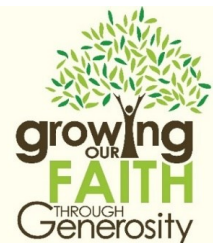
- Our rental house became a concern that took on a role far greater than ever anticipated. The decision about what to do with this property became divisive, and the aftermath of the congregational vote is still having a deep effect.
- Concerns around traditional worship and liturgy, with varying perspectives, has resulted in conflicts and misunderstandings.
- Bridging “Connect/Grow/Serve with the Love of Jesus Christ” with our Vision 20/20 statement has been a source of miscommunication for some.
- In response to these issues, the council engaged a synod-recommended consulting firm named *LeaderWise* to assist us in finding a constructive way forward. Listening sessions and interviews are held to honor a variety of viewpoints and concerns. *LeaderWise* will offer recommendations for staff, council and congregation.
- It is my prayer that this process will lead us to what the Apostle Paul refers to as “a ministry of reconciliation and restoration.”

I invite your prayers and support, as together we heal and strengthen our community with the love of Jesus – forgiving, renewing and being instruments of grace and peace with one another.

Called to serve, with you,



Pastor Terry I. Nordheim



“So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” II Corinthians 5:17-18

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
2018 Report
Brad Barr

2018 proved to be a time of challenge, change, and transformation. The challenge is, and always will be, in our call as Christ's disciples to live as broken people in a broken world. Maybe it's my history of recovery, but it seems to me that step one is to recognize and embrace the brokenness in my life and then admit that only God can restore me to wholeness.

We do that in this place through Word and Sacrament as God comes in Christ to forgive our sins and the Holy Spirit opens us to the possibility of New Life. That Word came this past year, not only in preaching, but in the myriad of Bible Studies and the special "soul seeking" session led by David Carlson. I would encourage all People of Trinity to engage in study and discussion about the things of God, Faith, and Life in 2019.

Our faith must be lived out in order to be effective. This past year I have challenged you to look at Advocacy for the poor and marginalized in our community, nation, and world. "*As you have done to the least of these, you have done to me*" Jesus told His original disciples. Can we do any less? My hope for your 2019 is that Advocacy will continue to be a focus, that Trinity may be faithful to Christ's call and make a difference in our world.

Change is perhaps the most difficult reality in our lives. It is bound to come whether we want it to or not. A very wise woman once said to me, "There is no pain in change, only in our resistance to change." This past year we have had an opportunity to change some forms of worship. I believe these changes are important and have been good for Trinity. Remaining relevant in the world is key to the survival of the Church, and it must be so in our Worship as well. May you not fear change in the coming year. Rather, may you be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and embrace new forms of Worship that can enliven this community.

And finally, there is transformation. Through challenge and change, as uncertain and painful as they may be, we are transformed to be more alive *in* and effective as Disciples of Christ. It is nothing short of dying and rising with Him, a true resurrection as we become the people of God we were meant to be. That transformation includes talking *with* and not *about* each other. Transformation includes seeking the will of God for us and our congregation, not our personal wished or agenda. And Transformation includes a healthy dose of forgiveness and reconciliation that we might once again find healing and unity as the Body of Christ. May 2019 bring you great opportunities for Transformation.

It has been a great blessing in my life to serve here with you, and I know Amy feels the same. You will never be far from our thoughts and prayers.

Peace and Good Cheer,
Pastor Brad

YOUTH DIRECTOR

2018 Report

Linda Rambow

"Be still and know I am God." Psalm 46:10

Each day is a gift filled with challenges and adventure! Every day, God calls us to do our best, to listen to others, to share his grace and compassion, to laugh, to play and to pray with others. As God's family, this is what we do together at Trinity to help our youth as they grow in our world. And he calls us to be still....to slow down, to listen for his voice, and to breathe deeply! As we work together (**connect**) to help Trinity youth and adults experience life (**grow**) through service and play, worship and prayer (**serve**), we all grow in His grace to learn and live out His words. Through all of this, God reminds me to *"be still and know that He is God."* - Psalms 46:10

Know that as you share your time, energy and love at Trinity, in our communities and the world, you are making a difference as you share your blessings. The youth, adults and I covet your prayers as we **wonder and wander in God's world!** We'd love to have you join us on this journey.

Youth Ministry Team This team evaluates, plan activities and discuss business and financial items. We are always looking for new members to help guide and shape the youth programs.

Elementary Youth Group (grades K-5th) This youth group meets monthly for games, bible studies, prayers, snacks and fun! Confirmation youth help lead these groups on Sunday afternoons. Other activities include: Crazzy and Wacky Olympics, Advent Journey and lunch, 5th grade Lock-in, and Wild Mtn. Snow Tubing. Many of these activities are for ***the whole family***.

Jr. Youth Group (grades 6- 8) This group is full of energy! They meet three Wednesdays a month (after confirmation classes) to play, pray and study the bible to learn more about themselves and their faith. Thanks to the Senior High youth and adults for their help with this group.

Other activities the Jr. Youth participated in were:

Two Lock-ins / Fun nights	See You at the Pole
Fall and Spring Mystery Trips	Leading Youth Worship Services & Musical
Good Friday Service	Confirmation Retreats (fall and spring)
Adventures at Outlaw Ranch and Klein Ranch in SD	
Summer Service Fun Events	Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg WI
Serving at Feed My Starving Children	Service projects for Meals on Wheels

Sr. High Youth Group (grades 9-12) The Sr. High youth group is constantly changing due to their schedules. We are continually trying to find ways to provide activities and learning experiences for them. Workcamp is a major part of our Sr. High program, along with the many youth who serve in Sunday School, Confirmation, Jr. Youth Group, and at lock-ins and retreats as leaders.

Activities the Sr. Youth planned and participated in were:

Two Lock-ins & three Sr. High Fun Nights	Sr. High Youth Group activities (<i>once a month</i>)
Fall and Spring Mystery Trips	Help with Confirmation openings and small groups
Meet You at the Pole	Good Friday Service
Boundary Waters Canoe Trip	Youth Worship Services Musical
Graduates Recognition Breakfast	Trinity's Summer Softball Team
Workcamp Soup Suppers during Lent	Workcamp (mission trip) to Greeley, Colorado
Luther Point Bible Camp - Grantsburg WI	Improv performances/training

Continued . . .

Combined Activities for Jr. and Sr. High Youth:

The following activities are for all youth in grades 6-12. A few of the activities listed below are fundraisers* to help youth raise money for camps and their youth accounts for other youth events. **Fundraisers** are hosted throughout the year and the money is divided among the youth who work.

Wednesday Worship and Suppers	Wild Mtn. Snow Tubing
Spring/Fall Service Projects	Day Camp and Play & Pray Day Counselors
Advent Journey and lunch	Outerwear Fair helpers
Pizza Party and Planning Meeting for 2018-2019	Kidsitting*
Small Town Christmas Carnival	Thirty-one fundraiser*
(service project for confirmation students)	Palm Sunday Breakfast*
Luther Point Bible Camp Winter Retreat	Karl Oskar Weekend events*
Silent Auction* (to help with camp costs)	Princess Party*
Harmony in the Park concessions*	Workcamp Coffee House Concert*
Workcampers' 5K*	Meals on Wheels projects/Blizzard Boxes
Workcampers served at Senior Choir Pops Concert	
Celebration of the Lakes Pancake Breakfast and Bingo for the community*	
Four youth-led worship services at TLC, including the Spring Musical	
Improv Troupe (<i>Vital Impact</i>) – presented at two DARE graduations, a Faith Formation night at St. Bridget's, St. Mark's Lutheran Speaker Night, Middle School Health Fair, Improv Training in February (a few were peer trainers and others were trained)	

YOWSA Activities for grades 6-12 The area youth directors meet monthly for support and to plan safe and fun activities for the youth in our communities.

2018 events included:

Ski/Snowboard Trip – Jr. & Sr. High to Spirit Mountain in Duluth
Feed My Starving Children
Valleyfair
Wild Mountain Water Park
Booth at the Middle School Health Fair
Night Out on the Town (*prom alternative for 10th-12th graders*)
Senior Celebration Worship (Baccalaureate) – planned by the 2018 graduates from the area churches

Confirmation

Our confirmation program includes 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Currently, we have **64** youth in the 2018-2019 confirmation year. We thank the many small group guides for their commitment to serve and lead a group on Wednesday afternoons. **Thanks to: SMALL GROUP leaders in 2018:** Gina Warnke, Kim Pihl, Pastor Tom Nielsen, Jenny Dresel, Melissa Vrudny, Noah Fritsche, Darin Straub, Noah Brezany, Cass Dennison, Sue Wehrenberg, Krista Overgaard, Lexi Winterlin, and Renae Reedy. Our **Sr. HIGH SCHOOL leaders:** Renee Christensen, Abby Gangl, Mitchell Keene, Anna Rein, Madison Haugen, Bo Wille, Maggie Wille, Erica Winterlin, and Ethan Eyler. We appreciate your time, energy and desire to share your faith with our young people!

The youth participated in spring and fall retreats. Thanks to the endless number of parents and other adults willing to chaperone and lead workshops at these retreats.

Continued . . .

Each confirmand is paired with an adult who serves as their **Faith Friend** (adult mentor) for two years. The Faith Friend spends time talking with a youth about their faith and daily lives. This is our 25rd year of Faith Friends! Thanks to all who have served, listened and prayed for our youth.

The 6th graders have a group activity on Faith Friends nights called **Club 2025**, led by a group of adults, which includes fun activities and service projects for Meals on Wheels. The gifts made by our youth are greatly appreciated.

Our **8th grade** program includes having the youth hear speakers each week on relevant topics and activities to help them take care of themselves and others. Some of the topics included: sexuality, alcohol and drugs, communication, exercise mind, body and soul, bullying, other faiths, volunteering, and the internet.

We confirmed **34 youth** this October, who continue to be active in worship, as leaders, and at youth events.

Spiritual Growth and Service Opportunities

The youth of TLC have many opportunities to grow in their faith through Sunday School, confirmation, bible camps, retreats, lock-ins and youth groups.

- **Service projects** include acolyting; helping with the nursery, Sunday School, day camp, youth groups, Kidsitting; leading worship services (on some Sundays and Wednesday nights); helping with Feed My Starving Children; and other projects. Thanks to Larry & Colleen Guilfoile for help each week with our acolytes.
- **Improv** Teen Theater provides a unique way for others to discuss current issues using drama. Ten youth are involved this year; six are peer trainers.
- **Camps** This summer was packed with many experiences that challenged our youth and adults and helped them to grow in their faith. The economy continues to have an impact on the number of youth able to go to camp; many received campships to assist them.

4 elementary, middle, and high school youth went to **Luther Point Bible Camp**

10 youth and 2 adults went to **Adventures Camp at Outlaw Ranch in South Dakota**

8 youth and 4 adults went to **Klein Ranch in South Dakota**

27 youth and 7 adults went to **Workcamp in New Mexico**

6 youth and 2 adults went to the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area**

College youth & young adults

Thanks to the young adults **who help** with lock-ins, retreats and confirmation. In May, we had 3 adults go to the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area** on the adult canoe trip.

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

Thanks to the youth and adults **who are part of all these programs!** May God's Spirit continue to help you share your faith and love.

The activities we have provide hands-on, teachable moments for youth and adults. Together we play, work, and grow as the body of Christ! *Thanks to all who chaperone at the lock-ins, retreats, and on trips. Thanks to all who help with driving, serving the Wednesday meals, kidsitting, fundraisers, and other activities.*

Continued . . .

Special thanks to our ski, summer, and winter retreat adults: Sue Marquis, Darin Straub, Chris Duncan, Christian Schmidt, Andrea Johnson, Jolene Wille, Ashley Mitchell, Cass Dennison, Kim Anderson, Karen Mortenson, Noah Fritsche, Laura Holt, Noah Brezany, Kayla Partch and the many others who help us prepare for these trips. These trips and activities wouldn't be possible without your prayers and support.

Other ways that TLC members support us

- The money received from our **pop machine** sales and pop can recycling helps with youth trips, gas for the van, and other activities. Thanks to **Spit & Shiners** for their help with the recycled pop cans.
- **Camp Sponsorships** help youth whose families may be struggling (due to divorce, loss of jobs or changes, etc.) to cover the cost of camp. Many youth were helped this summer thanks to your generous gifts!
- **Camperships** are given to each youth going to camp to help with the cost.
- **Workcamp Sponsors** give a gift of \$50 or more to help support this mission trip. This money goes to help buy lumber, paint, nails, etc. at camp for the homes that will be repaired. Thanks to our sponsors and all who make donations in so many ways!
- **Silent Auction Thanks** to many of you for your donations of crafts, baked goods, and so much more! We were able to raise \$1,800 in 2018 to help with 2019 camps and events. We look forward to our auction in November. It is a blessing to help our summer campers and with other events throughout the year.

I am blessed to be a part of the family at Trinity. I am thankful ...

- for a wonderful staff and many wonderful volunteers! We are blessed.
- for communities and schools that see our youth as an important part of our daily lives!
- For my continuing education time at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Gathering this past January in Houston, Texas, and at the Recharge Conference in the Cities.
- for your prayers, support, gifts and pop cans (taking care of the earth!)
- that I can share my gifts of planning and leading worship services (Contemporary and Wednesday nights) and being the advisor/trainer for our Improv troupe.
- for continued good health and a loving husband. Thanks, Dean!
- to God for His patience, guidance, challenges, always hearing my prayers, love, compassion, grace and forgiveness. He will never give us more than we can handle!
- for everyone at Trinity who prayed for and walked along side Dean and I during my mom's stroke and her death. The prayers and support continue to carry us each day.

Every day, I am thankful for his blessings. I am ***humbled*** by His grace and power as He works through me. It is truly an honor to serve at Trinity, with so many wonderful youth and adults. And as I whisper these words each day ... "be still and know that I am God"... I know he is listening to my prayers and He carries me through each day.

My prayer is that God, our Savior and Spirit, continues to guide us, gives us strength through each day as we connect, grow and serve with one another in his love. Looking forward to more adventures with you!

Linda Rambow

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2018 Report

Sherry Holt, Director of Children's Education

"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

Thank you, Trinity Lutheran Church, for all the support, prayers and encouragement that you continue to show me. Thank you for acknowledging how important children are and for encouraging all God's children to feel welcomed and loved.

Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes all God's children by offering a variety of learning opportunities. Children, ages 3 to 5th grade, are eager to learn about God's love at our Rotation Workshop Sunday School. Our rotations lessons for 2018 were: Baptism of Jesus, Wedding in Cana, Sower and the Seed, Banquet with Simon, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, and Lent/Holy Week/Easter. A variety of workshops are offered with each rotation. They include: Holy Word Theater, Carpenters Creation, Solid Rock Café, Bible Quest, Holy Explosion, Mission Field, Bible Blockbusters, Godly Play, Creative Drama, Bible Games and the Church Mouse Pad.

Each Sunday, the students gather for announcements and songs led by Linda Rambow. We read and discuss the Bible lesson and then visit our assigned workshop, where we experience the lesson in different ways. One Sunday each month, we are reminded that we are all "Children of God" and have been welcomed into God's family through our Baptism. We honor the children with a ceremony celebrating their baptismal birthday during the month in which they were baptized. Throughout the Sunday school year, the Sunday school students join the 9:00 a.m. worship service to share our abundance by singing/playing music and participating in the worship service.

Sunday School students are reminded how they are called to share in their abundance and their love with others. Throughout the year, we collected food for the food shelf, collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, helped fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, brought in gifts for Santa 'Anonymous, made gifts for those who receive Meals on Wheels and collected hat and mittens for the Outerwear Fair. We also support Aaron from Guatemala through Compassion International by sending a monthly fee and an occasional letter.

Every Sunday School class has its own special Prayer Partner, praying for each student daily. We are grateful to our Prayer Partners: Marilyn Norberg, Ruby Johnson, Pat Turner, Gloria Murphy, Randy VonWald, Ilona Juergensen, Pat Moe, Kay Tate. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Prayer does make a difference.

Sunday School Highlights

- Sunday School students got into the Spirit by dressing up for Spirit Days during Sundays in March. Dress up days included: Superhero, Pajamas, and Ark Animals.
- The Sunday School kids had the opportunity to share the Good News with the congregation on Palm Sunday. The start of Holy Week began with a Palm Parade and singing at both worship services. During Lent, the Sunday School students and Wednesday afternoon Faith Kids collected \$368.91 for Feed My Starving Children. Sean and Kerry Drury matched the efforts of the kids by donating \$500.
- On Mother's Day, Sunday School led both worship services. The message was titled "Sequence". The Gospel reading was from John 17:6-19.
- Sunday School started with a Mission Festival Celebration in September. The students enjoyed using their hands at different outreach projects throughout the church and courtyard.
- On December 16, the Sunday School students presented the Christmas Program "Bethlehem Highway" at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Faith Kids

On Wednesday afternoons, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders gather at Trinity for Faith Kids. We share a time of fellowship and snacks before playing games, Bible study, Bible journaling and dramas. Afterward, we join family and friends for supper and Wednesday evening worship services. We are thankful for Hazel Audett for being our Prayer Partner.

Faith Stepping Stones

- Seven Sunday School students celebrated their “Faith Stepping Stone” of First Communion on March 29, after each of them completed the First Communion instruction class with their parents.
- Our 3 and 4-year-old preschool students and parents started the 2018 school year by having a Teddy Bear Picnic to learn the routine of Sunday School. Teddy Grahams and apple juice were served, and everyone took home a teddy bear to remind them of Jesus’ love.
- Sixteen 2nd graders and six 3-year-olds were very excited to receive a new Bible from the congregation on October 7. The following week they had a workshop on how to use their new Bibles and made Bible bookmarks.

Day Camps

- Thirty kids gathered at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church for a day to Pray and Play on January 22. The kids learned how to shine their light from Matthew 5:16. This group collected hygiene items for the homeless. Pray and Play Day is organized by the area Lutheran Churches.
- “*Let Jesus Be Our Guide*” was the theme for both our preschool day camp held May 29-June 1 and school-age day camp on June 11-15. At both camps, we sang fun songs, made awesome crafts, met new friends, played games and collected food for the local food Shelf, Family Pathways. Our offering money of \$100 went to the True Friends Organization. The 5th grade campers enjoyed an overnight camp-in after packing food at Feed My Starving Children where they packed 22,032 meals that were sent to Haiti. Both camps were very successful, due to the outstanding young people and adults who were so willing to help.

Endowment Gifts

Children’s Ministry was blessed with and benefited from many Endowment Gifts in 2018. Children’s Bibles were purchased and placed in the pews. Bus transportation is provided on Wednesday afternoons for students from Lakeside School. New technology was purchased to enhance music and Bible lessons in Sunday school. New costumes were purchased for the Christmas Program. Wednesday afternoon students and families enjoyed the comedy from Slap Happy as we kicked off our fall programs. This spring we look forward to using the green space and the Ga Ga Pit.

Children’s and Youth Education Committee

In January, twelve Children’s and Youth volunteers attended Recharge, which is a one-day event, filled with worship and workshops for Children’s and Youth volunteers. This committee prepared the Wednesday Night Supper for April 3 and served at the Community Meal on May 14. This committee also hosted Intergenerational/Family Events on Good Friday and Advent. During the summer, the Children’s and Youth Committee hosted a craft event during Karl Oskar Days and represented Trinity by walking in the parade and handing out candy.

We are very blessed at Trinity to have a team of dedicated Children’s Ministry volunteers who are passionate in their love for God and about His purposes for kids! You can see their love for kids on display as they build relationships with kids in their area of ministry. This team consists of more than 100 faithful adult, high school and middle school volunteers, many of whom have ministered to kids at Trinity for more than 10 years. These volunteers are amazing, and I thank God for each of them!

Children’s Ministry Core Values

Child of God - Each child will know that they are a gift from God, unique and wonderfully made by creating an exciting and fun learning environment with excellence.

Partner with Parents – Equipping and supporting parents by providing biblical teaching to foster a love of God’s word in their children. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Relationships – Investing ourselves in connecting children to God and one another. Affirming, honoring and valuing others through authentic leadership.

Safety – Providing an environment that is safe for children of all ages.

A Servants Attitude - Empowering leaders and children through active ministry opportunities. Children can positively impact the community for God.

Thanks to the kids, parents and entire Trinity congregation for your prayers, love, support and patience.
Blessings to all!

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

2018 Report

Bonnie Houger

HOW WE CONNECT, GROW, and SERVE WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST AT TRINITY

2nd SUNDAY 2nd OFFERING

Trinity collected \$12,088.48 in 2018 through our 2nd Sunday 2nd offering, with matching from the Pearl Nelson Bequest funds. \$24,176.96 went to help support Our Guatemala Partnership, ELCA Disaster Relief, Project Life Saver Program, Dragon Fly Project, Cystic Fibrosis, Covenant House, Young Adults in Global Mission, Brush with Kindness, Children's Greif Connection, Bdote Learning Center, Youth Link and NAMI..

PATH TO HOME

Trinity continues to work with 12 other churches in our five-county area to host families who are experiencing homeless situations. The program is run through New Pathways in Cambridge where families spend their days at the day center working on job skills, budgeting and housing. Trinity had the opportunity to host *four times this year* for one week at a time. Hundreds of volunteers, ages 4 years – 85 years gave over 1,345 hours by sharing Gods love with the guests in a variety of ways. Besides all the food “fit for a king” that was provided, volunteers shared their time and talents by playing games, doing crafts and making friends. God was truly working through us to make a difference for each family and also for us. Comments from the guests rave of the love and compassion they feel while staying at Trinity. **Thank you** Trinity, for all the love and compassion you are sharing with these families. In 2019 we are looking forward to hosting April 7th- 14th, May 19th- 26th, September 29th- Oct 6th, and December 1st - 8th.

OPEN HANDS

On the fourth Monday of each month, several Trinity members go to Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway and serve a noon meal at Open Hands. We normally leave Trinity at 9:30 a.m. and return about 3:30 p.m. It's always a fun and rewarding experience as we work together to help those in need in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This year, several volunteers from Trinity joined members of other area churches to do a FMSC mobile pack at Hosanna in Forest Lake. It was great to have the opportunity to pack meals so close to home.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Trinity held two Mission Festivals in 2018, “Gods Work our Hands,” on May 6th and Sept 16th. Both mornings were busy working on different mission projects, wrapped around worship. We tied polar fleece blankets, packed Christmas shoeboxes, made hygiene product kits, bagged String Bean Hot dish items for Thanksgiving baskets, made sandwiches to be distributed to Homeless people, assembled care packages for community service and military personnel, bagged dry laundry soap, put together Kitchen kits, made placement bags for Foster kids, and made dog/cat toys for Northwoods Animal Shelter. Both Sundays were a meaningful time of Connecting, Growing and Serving as we worshiped and worked together.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Several Thrivent Action Teams were led by trinity members this year. This is a great opportunity. If you are a Thrivent member and would like help with a project, contact Bonnie or another Thrivent member.

Continued...

“The Stove Project” for ILAG

Trinity set a goal to purchase 5 Plancha Stoves (\$150 each) for Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. Trinity exceeded that goal and raised \$995.00, and the Endowment Committee voted to grant an additional \$450.00 donation. The \$1,445.00 will be used to purchase 9 stoves! All money donated in December is being matched by a donor, and that means 18 stoves will make their way into Guatemala homes. These new stoves allow for ventilation and remove smoke pollutants from the home, they decrease the amount of wood needed by 70%, are more efficient, and help protect women and children from burns. The Plancha Stoves will replace open flame fires.

OTHER ACTIVITIES that Trinity is involved in to reach out to a community in need:

Adult Day Club (New)
Blizzard Boxes for Meals on Wheels recipients
Brush with Kindness – Habitat for Humanity
Card Ministry
Care Packages for college students
Cell phones for Refuge for Battered Women
Christmas Angel Tree
Comfort Bears
Community Meals on Mondays at Zion
Compassion International
Endowment Fund gifts
Feed my Starving Children
Food4Kids Backpack program
Food Shelf
Helping Hands ministry
ILAG- Guatemala Partnership
Meals on Wheels drivers
Meals on Wheels favors
Military personnel card ministry
Open Hands Midway
Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes
Outerwear Fair
Path to Home
Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House
Prayer Blanket Ministry
Santa Anonymous
School Supplies for area students
Tapestries to Mexico
Thanksgiving and Christmas meals
Thrivent Action Teams
Treats for Troops and care packages for Military personnel
Workcamp youth mission trips

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Carol Wolsky, 2018 President

Dear Members of Trinity,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Church Council President this past year. I have been truly blessed to work with the dedicated and hardworking members of the council as well as the Trinity staff, including Pastor Terry Nordheim who has shared his vision, counsel and leadership with all of us. A big thank you goes out to each and every one of them for their dedication and hard work.

I would also like to recognize the outgoing council members; Phil Deimel, Jill Eisfelder, Karin Vukich, Gary Peterson, Rob Anderson and Paula Anderson for their service, leadership and commitment. A special welcome to the incoming council elected at the congregation meeting held in October; Kim Anderson, Jim Jordal, Jolene Wille, Nancy Johnson, Diane John, Allen Blegen, David Johnson and Colleen Guilfoile. Since that meeting, Gary Peterson has agreed to serve out the remainder of the term in one of the vacant positions. He will be officially elected at the upcoming annual meeting.

As I reflect on the year and all the things that council has been involved with, it becomes very clear that our main focus was around how to bring the congregation together on a decision about the future of the rental house. This decision was years in the making with lots of due diligence from many current and past council members, staff members and congregation members. While not an easy decision, the outcome should benefit Trinity for many years to come. Some of the other projects council worked on during the year involved developing and refining financial and property-related policies (ie: Gift policy, Liability waiver, and Building Use) as well as researching and ultimately changing Insurance carriers for the church to better support our activities and ministries. The council was also involved in the planning and execution of two retirement celebrations, one at the beginning of the year for our Office Manager Bette Braun-Auten and the other at the end of the year for our Associate Pastor, Brad Barr.

This past year also brought to light a few opportunities that we have as a congregation to stay healthy and continue to grow closer together as a church family. With the full support of the synod we hired an outside consultant to work with Trinity to give us the tools and teach us how to use them in a respectful manner to do just this.

In closing, I wish to again thank the dedicated staff who supports our congregation's day to day needs for the multitude of unseen tasks required to keep things running as smoothly as they do. I also want to extend my thank you to the congregation of Trinity, whose many gifts and support make all of the above possible.

Women of the E.L.C.A.
2018 Report
Co-coordinators: Carol Johnson and Cindy Kaske

As women of the ELCA we are committed to “grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.” There are three circles at Trinity that meet at different times, monthly for Bible study and fellowship. We extend an invitation to **all women of Trinity to join us.**

April 8th – 15th the Women’s group hosted a Silent Auction at Trinity. We raised \$1,136.17 which is all given to Outreach opportunities.

Carol Johnson was the delegate for the W/ELCA Synod convention at Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo, May 4th-5th. The theme was “The Grace of God is With You”.

The Circle’s from Trinity hosted the Parmly Birthday party on August 14th. Treats were provided for the residents. There was music and fun for all.

Sarah Circle hosted the W/ELCA Fall gathering meeting Saturday, October 6th. Debbie Whitacre shared floral designs with us and several women went home with floral door prizes. 36 women enjoyed the event.

Trinity women participated in Lutheran Women Today’s monthly Bible study.

Elim, Fish Lake and Trinity hosted the Fall Cluster Gathering meeting at Elim Church in Scandia on Thursday September 13th at 8:30 a.m. The program was “Safety Tips for Seniors.” The presenters were Sheriff Brandon Thyen and Sergeant Cliff Sheppeck of Chisago County Sheriff’s Department.

125 Hospice kits were assembled and delivered to Global Health Ministries. Also \$181.00 was sent for mailing expenses.

In August, Trinity women made 129 fleece blankets. Many were given to Trinity’s Coat Drive, Toys for Teens in Chisago County, Path to Home. In addition to giving many blankets to Trinity members.

Many women and men helped at Trinity’s Garage & Bake Sale, held in May. Proceeds went to church maintenance, van fund and outreach initiatives.

We visit and bring greetings to the Trinity shut-in list during the holidays.



WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A

Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2018

Beginning Balance December 31, 2017 **\$1,108.59**

Deposits:

Circle Offerings	\$ 892.85
Trinity Endowment	\$ 1,100.00
Silent Auction	\$ 1,136.17
Special Gifts/Memorials	\$ 255.00
Fall Gathering Offering	\$ 181.00
Total Deposits	\$ 3,565.02

Disbursements:

Women of ELCA dues	\$ 600.00
Women of ELCA offerings	\$ 200.00
ILAG Offering	\$ 200.00
Aids Hospice Kit Expenses	\$ 445.00
Fall Gathering Expenses	\$ 200.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 100.00
Lutheran World Relief-Disaster Relief	\$ 100.00
Trinity Lutheran Church-Community Dinners	\$ 100.00
Avocado Tree Farm	\$ 100.00
Family Pathways Back Pack Program	\$ 100.00
Trinity Lutheran Church-Workcamp	\$ 100.00
Trinity Lutheran Church-Path to Home	\$ 100.00
Trinity Luthera Church-Helping Hands Fund	\$ 100.00
Katie's Fund	\$ 100.00
Good Gifts	\$ 500.00
Amber Van Horn	\$ 50.00
Dean Rambow	\$ 50.00
David Heldt	\$ 50.00
Global Women-Guatemala	\$ 100.00
Cluster Gathering Expenses	\$ 60.00
Bank-Checks	\$ 26.15
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,381.15

Balance December 31, 2018 **\$1,292.46**

Report Submitted by Twyla Mitchell, Treasurer

ALTAR GUILD 2018 Report

Pam Deimel, President

Diane Johnson and Mary Schmitz, Vice Presidents Colleen Guilfoile, Secretary, Pam Swenson, Treasurer

Our mission as an Altar Guild is to care for the sanctuary of the church, furnish suitable vestments for the altar, and be custodians of the altar linens and all the furnishings of the sanctuary.

Membership includes: Pauline Anderson, Vicky Bergquist, Marci Carlson, Pam Deimel, Kelly Duncan, Becky Dudley, Cheryl Fish, Dan Ford, Becky Fredell, Colleen Guilfoile, Katsy Hanson, Marilyn Heldt, Carol Johnson, Diane Johnson, Ilona Juergensen, Pam Lukens, Bunny Lumby, Carol Lundholm, Joni Mattson, Pat Moe, Mary Nelson, Sandy Nickelson, Marlene Olson, Georgiana Peterson, Jeanette Peterson, Karen Seaver, Patty Schimke, Mary Schmitz, Pam Swenson, and Kay Tate.

We were saddened by the death of Dorothy Leisch this fall. She was an Altar Guild member for over 55 years. As president in the 1970's, she created the first Altar Guild three ring-binder outlining the monthly duties for members. Dorothy was extremely organized. We credit her for the black notebooks around the friendship pads found in the east and west wings of the sanctuary. She also determined plant stands could be used for holding communion trays while waiting to be changed out during communion services. We are so very thankful for Dorothy's contribution to Altar Guild.

After five years, Coke Guilfoile has resigned her position as Altar Guild secretary. We thank Coke for her years of service and welcome Karen Seaver as our new secretary.

During the Lenten/Easter season the theme was "From the Cradle to the Cross." The cross was created from two old branchless Christmas trees. Three new tree skirts were created by Sandy Nickelson to be placed at the bottom of the cross and the two deciduous trees that accompanied the cross. A crown of thorns from Israel was purchased so it could be displayed on the cross. Christmas ornaments brought in by congregational members hung from the deciduous trees along with ones made by the Sunday school children.

This year the organizations represented in the Easter Memorial Garden were: Easter Flower Garden, Food Shelf, Work Camp, and Patron of the Arts, Camperships, and Altar Guild. Again, the Easter flowers were delivered to our homebound members after their display in the sanctuary. Two vases of a dozen red carnations, babies' breath and leather leaf were ordered for All Saints Sunday, November 4.

Battery operated candles were purchased to replace the votive candles. Don Johnson created 8 wooden crosses for laying the lit battery candles in a base in the shape of a cross. The same candles were used for the Christmas Eve service.

Thank you Coke for providing the figurines for the nativity scene and again thank you Don Johnson for the wonderful nativity stable to complete the scene that was on display in the Kirvida Lounge. Once again, Spit and Shine and Altar Guild decorated the church for Christmas. Red and white poinsettias adorned the sanctuary and Christmas wreaths were hung in the windows. The large Christmas tree in the Narthex was beautifully decorated.

LeRoy Mitchell suggested to Pam Deimel to have our offering plates refurbished by Joe Deters Metal Finishing Company. The eight plates were polished at \$90 per plate and was funded through Trinity's Endowment fund. Paul Bodmer created a beautiful cabinet for safely storing the offering plates. An additional cabinet will be made for the balcony.

Thank you to Gary Peterson for making our communion bread and Mary Schmitz for creating our baptismal napkins. Sandy Nickelson continues to update the baptismal and funeral banners. Larry and Coke Guilfoile assist with the responsibility of preparing the acolytes for the 9:00 service. We would like to thank Ilona Juergensen for arranging for second service congregational members who take care of the communion vessels and elements after the service.

We work cooperatively with Spit and Shine. Their assistance was especially appreciated this year in assembling the new battery candles.

Finally, we would like to thank Trinity members for their constant support of Altar Guild.

Altar Guild Treasurer's Annual Report			
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018			
Pam Swenson, Treasurer			
Balance on Hand, January 1, 2018	\$315.23		
RECEIPTS			
Altar Guild Offerings and Memorials from Congregation	\$517.00		
Easter Memorials			
Memorials for Altar Guild	\$230.00		
Memorials for Food Shelf	\$120.00		
Memorials for Patron of the Arts	\$245.00		
Memorials for Work Camp	\$485.00		
Memorials for Camperships	\$275.00		
Memorials for Flowers	\$796.00		
TOTAL RECEIPTS and Balance on Hand			\$2,983.23
DISBURSEMENTS			
Easter Memorials			
Memorials for Food Shelf		\$120.00	
Memorials for Patron of the Arts		\$245.00	
Memorials for Work Camp		\$485.00	
Memorials for Camperships		\$275.00	
Memorials for Flowers		\$609.00	
The Rose Garden (poinsettias)		\$186.00	
Floral Creations - Flowers		\$109.55	
Christmas Decorations		\$80.11	
Thank You Gift Don Johnson		\$100.00	
Thank You Gift Dave Heldt		\$100.00	
Communion Trays		\$97.98	
Crown of Thorns and Silk Flowers for Crown		\$54.88	
Communion Dispensers/fillers		\$103.71	
Palm pots, saucers and palms		\$48.21	
All Saints Sunday flowers		\$79.98	
Tea Lights		\$9.99	
Swiffers, doilies, misc		\$85.32	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$2,789.73
Balance on Hand December 31, 2018			\$193.50

WITNESS & OUTREACH

2018 Report

Karin Vuckich

Witness and Outreach Mission and Purpose Statement: *“called to empower, equip, enable and encourage God’s people to faithfully share the amazing love of God in Christ with the world.”*

Committee members include: Pauline Anderson, Rachel Carlson, Louise Alcott, Carol Wolsky, Bonnie Houger (Outreach Coordinator), Randy VonWald, Rhonda Mattson, Pastor Terry, Colleen Guilfoile.

This past year, Trinity welcomed nine new families into the congregation. The New member Sundays was held in May along with new member orientation so that these families could become better acquainted with Trinity and the Lutheran church. With each New Member Sunday, the Witness and Outreach committee provided special breads between services on those Sundays to mark the occasion.

Other areas of Witness include the WELCOME TABLE on Sunday mornings. Coordinating a hostess is done each Sunday by the committee. For those visiting our congregation, along with a red cup at fellowship time between services, Trinity pens with little notebooks are given at the Welcome Table. The pens list Trinity’s pertinent information including address, phone number and website. In May, the committee recognized the women of Trinity with a notepad and pen for MOTHER’S DAY, acknowledging that all women are a mother, daughter, aunt, etc. In June, the committee sponsored Root Beer Floats in honor of FATHER’S DAY. Trinity also continues to be involved and supportive of the Monday Night COMMUNITY MEALS held at Zion Lutheran in Chisago City by providing volunteers for serving meals and desserts as well as members to serve on the Community Meals Board. Thank you to all Trinity members who continue to make financial donations, so this program can continue to exist. All are welcome to come join in on the meal and fellowship. In July the committee participated in HARMONY IN THE PARK sponsoring Trinity’s booth for the evening. In October, the committee assisted St. Bridget’s by providing and serving the meal for the HANNAH’S ARMS PROGRAM, which meets monthly and offers tips to young mothers on care of young children.

The CARD MINISTRY’S mission is to maintain contact with members of Trinity during times of crisis or health issues, and with those who are unable to regularly participate in church life. Cards are sent to let them know their church friends are thinking about them. You can help by dropping off cards in the office.

OUTREACH

Throughout 2018, Trinity members have continued to wholeheartedly embrace the PATH TO HOME program. Our guests were with us four times in 2018. More than 140 volunteers and countless hours are needed each week to make this program successful.

Other Outreach efforts in 2018 included the ANNUAL GARAGE & BAKE SALE. More than \$5,000 was raised with the money going to Spit and Shine for building maintenance projects at Trinity, to help reduce the Van debt and for Chisago Lake Community Meals program. The annual OUTERWEAR FAIR took place at the end of October with more than 450 coats being distributed to help 120 families. In November, everyone was busy packing shoeboxes out for OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Some boxes were packed during the Mission Festival in September and in November, the youth put together more shoeboxes from items donated by the congregation. Shoeboxes full of items were brought in by the congregation and the community for a total of 271 shoeboxes. The ANGEL TREE was beautiful in December with many gifts as Trinity members responded to the needs of those in our community. Both of these projects evidence of Trinity reaching out and sharing God’s love during the Christmas season.

Continued...

The Second Sunday Offering program was again coordinated through the Witness and Outreach committee where Trinity members share their abundance with others. Second Sunday offerings are matched 1-1 through the Pearl Nelson Bequest Fund. Here are the totals:

January:	ILAG	\$1,962.50
February:	ELCA Disaster	\$2,749.10
March:	Project LifeSaver	\$1,551.00
April:	The Dragonfly Project	\$1,774.62
May:	Cystic Fibrosis-MN Chapter	\$1,905.64
June:	Covenant House	\$2,074.00
July:	Young Adults in Global Missions	\$1,442.00
August:	Brush with Kindness	\$2,532.00
September:	Children's Grief Connection	\$1,000.00
October:	Bdote Learning Center	\$2,289.20
November:	Youth Link	\$2,286.90
December:	NAMI	\$2,610.00

Trinity members continue to be involved in many other Outreach efforts: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Helping Hands Ministry, Food Shelf, Food4Kids backpack program, Blanket Ministry, Santa Anonymous, collecting School Supplies, Brush With Kindness, Meals on Wheels, Blizzard Boxes, Treats for Troops, Care Packages for college students, Feed My Starving Children, Hospice Kits, Open Hands Ministry, Comfort Bears, Tapestry for Life in Mexico, cell phone collection and soup labels and box tops for schools, demonstrating Trinity is a congregation connecting with others, growing in the Spirit and in service to others.

We ended the year by building a Food Shelf Snowman, made from donated packs of toilet paper that were donated to the Family Pathways Food shelf.



STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

2018 Report

Rob Anderson

Members: Pastor Terry Nordheim, Zach Hansen, Gail Seaver, Rob Anderson, David Johnson, and Madisen Vukich

The 2018 Stewardship Committee first met on June 19, 2018. We were very blessed to have a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion. The first meeting centered on gratitude and giving. We discussed past practices, potential challenges and new approaches to the campaign. The members felt very strongly that Stewardship should be incorporated throughout the year and that the members should be better informed as to the outcomes of their giving.

When the committee met in September plans were already in motion. Pastor Terry had laid out future worship themes and how Stewardship could be woven into those themes. Plans were made for videotaping short segments of members and how gratitude had affected their lives. Such videos could accompany future temple talks. Informational letters were scheduled to be sent out September 23rd and commitments cards to be mailed out October 28th.

October's meeting included further discussion surrounding videos and commitment cards. It was agreed that the 2nd mailing for cards would go out the week of November 26th. The members requested that the Stewardship budget allocation for 2019 be raised from \$250 to \$3,000. That request was submitted at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. 3rd mailings for commitment cards would go out on December 6th.

December's meeting was about taking a "snapshot" of where we were at as far as commitment cards received. Follow-up calls would go out starting 12/17/18 to those who had not yet pledged. Revisions for 2019 as well as a work plan were discussed.



Service Ministry Committee 2018 Report Diane John

Mission statement: To strengthen the body of Christ within Trinity Lutheran Church.

Through the leadership of the Sunday serving program, governance of kitchen guidelines, 'management of kitchen assets, and coordination of specific events, the committee provides opportunities for service and fellowship.

We thank all the members of this committee for their commitment in serving others. Their time and efforts are appreciated and are a blessing to Trinity. Committee members are: Dorothy Chrun, Marilyn Heldt, Betty Helgason, Diane John, Carol Johnson, Diane Johnson, Council Representative Paula Anderson, and funeral team liaisons LaVonne Ludke and Cheryl Pemble.

- Completed the 2018-2020 Service Group Book to help coordinate volunteers for Sunday mornings to greet, cover the office during services, serve coffee and treats and revised the "Coffee Host" form.
- Worked with funeral team during the transition of leadership, the discussion of funds that affect the kitchen, its upkeep and expenses, revision of the form for Special Occasions, the use and maintenance of tablecloths, new stove burner inserts, who orders what for the kitchen and the set up of the CUPS schedule.
- Cleaned the kitchen and if this needed to be done more often, cleaned Fellowship tables, did inventory, discussed the need for a washer and dryer, the storage of supplies and the "Rental House Discussion Worksheet"
- Other special events coordinated by Service Ministry:
 - Supplied bars for soup supper on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.
 - Prepared Maundy Thursday Light Continental Lunch March 29th, serving 55 people.
 - Provided donut holes between 1st two services on Easter Sunday, April 1st, serving 105-120 people, items not used went to the Monday night community dinner.
 - Held a joint Service Ministry/Funeral Team meeting April 17th.
 - Lead a Workshop on April 19th, to train coordinators.
 - Helped with items and labor for the garage/bake sale May 16th to 19th.
 - Service Ministry members helped with Paths to Home

The Service Ministry Committee leads the service group coordinators who ensure volunteers are in place for Sunday morning assignments. Special thanks go out to the Service Group Coordinators: Emmy Lundeen, Connie Eastman, Betty Helgason, Diane John, Mike Leadholm, Kris Henley, Juliann Wilcox, Mary Hagglund, Priscilla Kuhnly, Judy Haagert (Connie Christensen has filled in for Judy), Bunny Lumby, Becky Miller, Cathy Johnson, Diane Johnson, Bonnie Holt, Margueritte Malcomson, Kathy Hogenson, Cindy Kaske, Carol Johnson, Louise Bye, Marilyn Heldt and all those who volunteer to help with funerals and special occasions.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2018 Report

Ross Peterson

The following members contributed their time and energy in 2018 to maintain Trinity Lutheran church and help others in our community: Lynn Asher, Woody Bjork, Paul Bodmer, Mike Chrun, Larry Guilfoile, David Heldt, Terry Hogenson, David Johnson, Don Johnson, Jim Koenig, Mark Lukens, Clark Malcomson, Orvin Melaas, LeRoy Mitchell, Vern Mollan, Tom Norberg, Gene Ommen, John Pemble, George Popa, Dean Rambow, Gail Seaver and Ward Schultz.

Some items preformed in community outreach included cleaning gutters, raking & collecting leaves, installing hand rails, installing window treatments, repairing doors, and replacing a garage door opener.

Property items replaced or acquired by Endowment included: lawn tractor, snow blower, rug cleaner, retaining wall repair on north -east corner of church, re-stripping of the parking lots.

Item required by safety committee was the purchase and installation of fire extinguisher compartments.

Items which failed and required replacement were: ceiling fans in sanctuary (added individual speed control), east parking lot light fixtures (replaced with energy-efficient LED), main blower fan on nursery/Narthex furnace, and failed power supply on steeple light on roof.

During a late winter windstorm, a small portion of siding came off the steeple and was replaced. We also experienced a sewer back -up in the lower rest rooms which required professional help to fix. Several posts on the privacy fence along the west border of the west parking lot required replacement and were repaired by members of the church.

Other repairs completed were replacement of deteriorating concrete block at outside steps next to Sacristy, repair of a wall in the lower level (former nursery), and reversing the door swing at the east side of the Narthex.

Also, members made new rods that support the Paraments hanging in the Sanctuary. They also made candle holders for the new battery powered candles (used on All Saints Sunday), made a cabinet to hold offering plates, and designed new post hangers for bags in the Narthex.

Thanks to Pastor Terry and all who assisted in installing new shelves in Linda Rambows' office.

Spit & Shine also provided many hours cleaning windows, setting up for special events, maintaining flowers & bush's, cleaning up leaves, recycling cans, and stepping up to keep our church looking great!

Looking ahead to 2019 we have many challenges facing us. Most of the HVAC systems in our building are well past their useful life. Several have already failed- stressing those that continue to function. The roof over the fellowship hall is 35+years old, has several leaks and needs replacement. The restrooms located on the main floor do not meet current standards for accessibility and will need to be modified with any improvements made to the building. Previous studies have identified many of these issues and general costs were obtained. While best efforts have been made by all, these decisions will be forced upon us with the termination of these systems.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

2018 Report

Terry Hogenson

Committee Members: Joanne Endres, David Groettum, Derick Kurpiel, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Linda Rambow, Mike Savold, Brian Voss and Terry Hogenson (Council Representative).

This Committee is responsible for making sure that the Worship Service is set up in an appropriate manner to insure that the Congregation is inspired by the total service. The Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. No meeting is scheduled for the month of December. Members of the congregation are welcome at our meetings to express concerns or suggest improvements that would benefit and enhance Worship.

News of 2018

Our committee members express sincere thanks to Russ Morris and Dan Ford for their hard work on the Committee for part of the year. This Committee would invite at least one member of the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services to step forward and join our committee. Please seriously consider this for 2019.

Derick Kurpiel joined the Church Staff, replacing Melissa Vrudny, to run the sound and video during our services. Please let Derick know if you have an interest in helping out as there is always a need to fill in.

Brian Voss has been a wonderful addition to staff as our new organist. He is extremely talented and his knowledge of the organ and its internal workings is beyond our expectations. The Lord has truly blessed us with Brian.

The organ chimes will be moved in the near future (hopefully within the next few months). This will be a wonderful addition to our sanctuary.

The south speaker of our Carillon went out and a new speaker has been ordered. As soon as the cold weather subsides, it will be installed.

Organ and piano tuning is now on a set schedule.

In closing, thank you to Pastor Terry and Pastor Brad for their tireless serving and commitment to the congregation of Trinity. A special thanks to Pastor Brad as he retires. He will be missed and is wished God's speed as he embarks on a new journey.

CHILDREN & YOUTH EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

2018 Report

Jill Eisfelder, Council Liaison

Committee Members:

Emmy Lundeen, Tiffany Kurpiel, Jolene Nielson, Linda Rambow, Sherry Holt, Jill Eisfelder, Julie Meredith, Joleen Rein, Cinnamin Theisen, Gail Schrieber, Laura Nugteren, Alisha Peterson, Katie Roche

Nursery:

Nursery is offered during the 9 a.m. worship service September through May and is maintained by the Children's and Youth Educational Ministries committee. Confirmation students and their parents are scheduled to work in the nursery as their Confirmation service project. The nursery is also heavily used by the Path to Home families during their stay.

Confirmation:

Confirmation classes for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades are made possible through the work of Linda Rambow and many volunteers. As part of this program, youth are engaged in activities such as Faith Friends, Club 2025, retreats and service projects. The Confirmation Celebration occurs during October of the 9th grade year.

Children's Education:

Sherry Holt, Christian Education Director, coordinates programming for the children of Trinity. Programs offered include Sunday School, Faith Kids, pre-school summer day camp and school-aged summer day camp. Many volunteers are actively involved in these activities – about 30 for Sunday School and more than 45 for Faith Friends. It takes a lot of people and help to keep these activities flourishing. Sherry has an additional way to make announcements to parents with the help of an endowment request.

Events and Activities:

Several additional events were offered through the Children's and Youth Educational Ministries Committee in 2018. These included:

- Volunteers and committee members attended the Recharge Conference
- Pray and Play Day with the area Lutheran Churches
- Many Family Events
- Spirit Days in March
- Intergenerational Good Friday Event
- Family Summer VBS
- Teddy Bear Picnic for Preschoolers
- Bibles given to 2nd grade students and 3 year olds* (*new this year)
- Children's messages during the 10:30 a.m. worship services and Lenten services
- First Communion instruction
- Intergenerational Advent Celebration
- Served supper at the Community Meal
- Rally Sunday service ministry table and participation
- Monthly Baptismal celebrations
- Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas services for the congregation

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

2018 Report

Karin Vukich

“We cannot always build a future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future.”
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Members: Linda Rambow, Sherry Holt, Krista Overgaard, Joleen Rein, Karin Vukich, Gina Warnke, Jolene Wille.

Youth Ministries Mission: The Youth Ministries Team, along with the Youth Director, help guide the Youth Ministry Program in providing spiritual growth, fellowship, recreation, service and outreach. The ultimate goal of the program is for our youth to develop and sustain a lifelong relationship with Christ and the Church. Our vision is to offer activities that will give every young person an opportunity to grow in their faith. Our Youth Director, Linda Rambow, has submitted a detailed summation of all the fine accomplishments of the past year, the growing numbers of youth and volunteers involved, and deserved acknowledgements of all the people it takes to make a difference.

Youth Activities: Trinity is very proud of the extremely active youth program we have spanning all age groups, including Kindergarten through 5th grade, Middle School and Senior High. The ministry team evaluates past youth activities; discusses possible issues; reviews plans; assembles the youth budget and makes decisions on how to use budgeted money; makes decisions regarding upcoming events; issues policy statements; and discusses new ideas for future events and then passes those suggestions on to the youth.

2019 Goals of the Youth:

Grow involvement of youth in programs and trips

Increase parent education nights (**connect**) and grow involvement with the youth through a combined effort with the Christian Education group

Continue working with senior high students to improve their leadership skills and provide mentoring opportunities for them (**serve**) with the middle school group.

Thank you to the many parents and other volunteers of all ages who have unselfishly shared their time, talents and energy with our young people this past year. However, we can always use new members and volunteers. Bring your unique talents and join us in shaping the youth of this congregation.

There are a variety of ways to apply your talents to lend a helping hand to our youth program and strengthen the faith and lives of our youth. Please consider joining in and lending a helping hand to this very important mission.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

2018 Report

Jill Eisfelder, Council Liaison

2018 Members: Twyla Mitchell, Ken Kramer, Jill Eisfelder

Recap of 2018:

The Technology Task Force formed in 2017 consisting of Ken Kramer, Jill Eisfelder, Matt Mitchell, Ken Cheney, Twyla Mitchell, Melissa Vrudny, and Pastor Terry did not meet, but activities were carried out that were identified in 2017. Patrick Doman of MN IT was hired to assess current technology and give recommendations for future needs.

In March, Trinity upgrade our internet and phones from Frontier to Mid-Continent. As our technology needs continue to grow, we needed to upgrade our systems in order to keep up with the demands.

Over the summer, Trinity was forced to make the decision to purchase a new server, after our old server could no longer be updated to keep up with our current technology. This summer was a difficult time for keeping all of our technology up and running, and we are thankful for the new server.

A new website was released at the same domain www.trinitylindstrom.org in October, under a new provider. Under this new domain, we were able to change staff emails, so they are web based. Church Staff also upgraded to a newer version of our church management system, formally known as Shepherd Staff, and will now be using Concordia's program called Church 360.

We would like to thank Matthew Mitchell for all of his time and energy put into our technology this year. He spent endless hours repairing and reprogramming the server, internet, and our computers.

Plan for 2019:

Technology Task Force to continue to analyze present and future technology needs. Work with Church Council to implement changes. Recruit new talented members for Technology committee.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

2018 Report

By Guy Aki

As a church Trinity Lutheran will always be a safe place for all to gather. The safety committee met this year to discuss and find ways to better the process the insurance of the church and the permission and liability waivers. The men of spirit and shine finished the installation of the fire extinguishers for the building where they were needed.

The safety committee did some research into a program that gives us multiple avenues for those liability waivers and found a company Formswift that at a fee can help us with not only the liability waivers but other legal forms if needed throughout the year that will help us all.

The church has a new insurance company and having said that there are multiple things covered in our new policy that weren't covered in the old. We are now able to start the background check process with those involved with the children, youth, drivers, and Path to Home groups. Background checks are done online and the church is invoiced for that process.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

2018 Report

Ken Kramer

Members and officers of the Trinity Church Mission Endowment Fund Committee for 2018 were:
Karin Vukich, Chair ~Tiffany Kurpiel, Recording Secretary ~ Todd Peterson, Financial Secretary ~ LeRoy Mitchell, First Vice-Chair ~ Mike Chrun, Second Vice-Chair ~ Ken Kramer, Council Liaison- Ex-Officio non – voting ~ Pastor Terry Nordheim, Ex-Officio non-voting

Mission funds available for distribution in 2018 were based upon the growth of ELCA investment in 2017. The amount available for grants was \$146,984. A total of \$136,292 was awarded. The remaining \$10,692 stays in account for future gifts.

Grants were awarded for the following projects.

Local Outreach

Blanket Ministry
Community Meals
Helping Hands
Open Hands
Family Pathways Youth programs
Comfort Bears
Trinity Workcampers
Meals on Wheels
Together we rise
FMCS Mobile Pack
ELCA Shared Ministry
The Isaac Initiative
New Pathways
Fraser Children's Mental Health
Unexpected Company Choral
Lifesource

Global Outreach

ELCA World Hunger
Alaska Bible Study
Operations Christmas Child
ILAG
ELCA Good Gifts
Global Health Ministries
Vietnam Big Build- Habitat for Humanity
The Gideon's
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Brighter Tanzania
Hotel Everest
ILAG Gala Fundraiser
Travel cost Guatemala Partnership Trip
Support Missionary's working with youth
Uganda Christian University
Guatamala Scholarships
Partners for Hope
ILAG Stove Project

Education

Youth worship bibles
Peer Ministry Leadership Training
Luther Seminary
Youth Leadership Training – Sherry Holt
Youth Leadership -Guest Speakers Trinity Sunday
School
Spring and Summer Seminar sessions- David Carlson
Trinity Youth -Youth Programs up-date costumes
Aging Workshop
Adult Retreats -focus on women and elderly
Faith in Social Action- teaching about poverty

Capital Improvements

Battery operated candles
Lawn Tractor
Repair retaining wall and parking lot
Carpet cleaning
Remove and replace choir door
Organ repairs/tuning
New front desk Office
New cabinet main office
Upgrade server to cloud /new hardware
Projector for Sanctuary/ Fellowship Hall
Computer for Sanctuary
Fire extinguisher cabinets and signage
Cleaner and wet/dry vac
New snow blower

Continued...

Discretionary

Scholarship Fund

GaGa Ball Pit

Fall Kick off /Spring conclusion events for Children and Youths

Trinity Van Fund

Utility Cargo Carrier and racks for Van

Group work camp /Puerto Rico

Faith Kids – provide after school transportation for kids to get to Trinity

Refurbish Trinity Offering Plates

Server upgrade /Sherry Holt laptop

Main Office Cabinet /additional funds were needed to complete

We celebrate that we were able to give away the largest amount to date from Endowment Fund.

On Jan. 22nd Trinity celebrated Endowment Sunday. Pam Deimel spoke about the Comfort Bears project and Haley and Krista Overgaard spoke about how a similar project affected their lives.

In 2018 The Mission Endowment Committee continued with the goal of helping congregation connect with the projects that received grants this year. The Committee will again have a brochure to highlight 2018 grants. The Committee will continue with occasional Temple Talks and Monthly Chime articles. We encourage congregation to read monthly highlights in Chimes to share in our gift of giving. We will be celebrating Endowment Sunday this year on Jan. 20th.

LeRoy Mitchell has completed his second 3 -year term. We would like to thanks LeRoy for his caring and insightful guidance. Jenny Dresel accepted the invite to join the Mission Endowment Fund Committee and was elected by the Trinity congregation at special congregational meeting.

2018 Endowment Pictures



2018 PARISH ACTS

Baptisms:	Jacob Robert Commers	February 18	Pastor Terry
	Georgia Lucille Woodruff	March 11	Pastor Terry
	Eloise Werner Sorenson	March 18	Pastor Terry
	Leon Stryfe Waldvogel	April 29	Pastor Brad
	Lincoln William Bushweiler	August 5	Pastor Terry
	Aubrey Michelle Stenson	September 23	Pastor Terry
	Eleanor Alphied Marie Beuning	September 30	Pastor Terry
	Hazel Jane Hanson	November 18	Pastor Terry
	Ceiley Sylvia Fritzke	November 18	Pastor Terry
	Sienna Lee Hendrickson	November 25	Pastor Terry
	Emma Elizabeth Williams	November 25	Pastor Terry
	Tucker Cole Hemme	December 2	Pastor Brad

Funerals:	Noah Rockenback	January 20	Pastor Brad
	Dale Olson	February 26	Pastor Brad
	Warren Scullen	March 27	Pastor Brad
	John D. Swenson	April 26	Pastor Brad
	Timothy Bergquist	May 11	Pastor Brad
	Lucille Severson	June 16	Pastor Terry
	Nolan Trepanier (burial service)	June 25	Pastor Terry
	John Mahaffey	June 27	Pastor Brad
	Rebecca Miller	June 29	Pastor Terry
	Sylvia Ommen	June 30	Pastor Brad
	Beth Rose	July 22	Pastor Brad
	Janet Riley	July 31	Pastor Terry
	Diane Knowlton	October 27	Dwight Rudquist
	Dorothy Leisch	December 8	Pastor Terry & Don Oldenburg

Weddings:	Nathaniel Smith & Trish Johnson	June 23	Pastor Brad
	Jeffrey Hollister & Alexandra Swenson	July 21	Pastor Terry & Don Oldenburg
	Tyler Pojanowski & Amanda Dahlke	September 15	Pastor Brad

First Communion:	8
Confirmations:	34
New Members Received:	15

2018 CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

	Adults & Children (under 15)	Adults
Baptized Membership at end of 2017	1,258	1,051
Members Received in 2018		
By Baptism (children)	11	0
By Baptism (adult- over 15)	0	0
By Affirmation of Faith	22	19
By Transfer	0	0
Members Reactivated	6	2
Confirmed Youth		34
Total Members Joined	39	55
Members Removed in 2018		
By Death	13	13
By Transfer	5	5
Dropped by Request	11	10
For other reasons & statistical adjustment	19	19
Total Members Removed	47	47
Total Baptized Membership in 2018	1,250	1,059

Additional Information:

Members who do not have a recorded baptism-
Active Non-Members-

Adults: 12
Adults: 49

Children: 6
Children: 43

Attendance Information:

Average Weekly Attendance	291		Sunday and Wednesday Services
	353		Sunday School Included
	Average 9:00 Attendance	170	
	Average 10:30 Attendance	85	
	Average Sunday School Attendance	62	
	Average Sunday Attendance	244	
		306	Sunday School Included
	Average Wednesday Attendance	85	

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD, ELCA
105 West University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2094
651-224-4313 www.spas-elca.org

"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I was greeted by the eloquent words of John 1 in worship on Christmas Day, reminded at year's end that our lives are swaddled in the grace of God, made fully known to us in Jesus Christ. How fortunate we are to be a part of the church in which God's love, forgiveness, and grace are a daily part of our lives. Grace upon grace.

Young Adults at the Forefront

During 2018 we leaned in to hear the voices of young adults from across our synod. Thirty young adults served as inspirational speakers, discussion group leaders, and provocateurs at the Synod Assembly. They challenged us to live into the fullness of our vocations, reminding each of us that God has equipped us to make a difference in this world. These same young adults spoke at our fall mission support event and wrote blogs for our website about their experiences as part of the church and synod. The Young Adult Initiative, piloted the previous year, has included an exploratory trip to Tanzania, experiential learning in the city, and a civil rights immersion in Atlanta. It is a bright spot in our synod's common work.

Welcoming New Leaders

We continue to be blessed with the pastors and deacons we need to serve the 112 congregations and mission starts of the synod. This past year 25 rostered ministers were installed within the synod. There were also 3 consecrations of new deacons and 3 ordinations of new pastors. These new colleagues include: Sister Stacie Lightner, deacon at St. Paul-Reformation in St. Paul; Allen Blegen, deacon with Ecumen Hospice in North Branch; Heather Roth Johnson, associate pastor at St. John's in Lakeville; Lindsey Bina, associate pastor at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley; Kari Olsen, deacon at Christ on Capitol Hill and Shobi's Table, both in St. Paul; and Brice Bloxham, associate pastor at Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview.

The vocation of each of these new leaders grew through years of nurture and formation – within families and local communities of faith and eventually in seminary. In 2018 the synod has walked with 41 candidates as they prepare to serve as rostered ministers. This includes 19 men and 22 women. Currently our candidates are enrolled in ten different seminaries with the greatest number at Luther, Wartburg, and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. They come from thirty congregations, reminding us that a congregation like yours is the seedbed not only for raising up pastors and deacons, but also the next generation of church council members, stewardship leaders, and teachers of the faith within your congregation.

Renewal & Learning

In 2018 the synod applied for and was awarded a grant of \$375,000 from the Lilly Endowment for a five-year project to strengthen the ministry skills of pastors within the synod. This generous award will also help the pastor-participants equip their lay leaders with biblical imagination and administrative insights. The first learning cohort will be convened in early 2020.

2018 was an active year for new mission explorations and renewal work across the synod. In Hugo, the Depot Church was launched in September as a partnership between St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi, the synod, and ELCA Churchwide. After a time of restructuring, Shobi's Table was relaunched in October. Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood and Christ the Servant in Vadnais Heights both moved into intentional redevelopment status with support from the synod and ELCA Churchwide. In addition, Hope Lutheran in St. Paul became a parallel new start, embracing a small established congregation and a mandate to form a new congregation alongside the old.

Continued...

Some of the most significant work for congregational vitality occurs as congregations enroll in a year-long process of renewal. The 2018 participants in the Year of Renewal cohort included Living Waters in Lino Lakes, Trinity in Stillwater, House of Prayer in Oakdale, Cross of Glory in Mounds View, First in Harris, Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood, Amazing Grace in Inver Grove Heights, and Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview. Each committed to a year-long process of discipleship formation, engagement with the surrounding community, and active stewardship training.

A second strategy for strengthening our congregations uses a model for shared ministry in which two or more congregations agree to share programming or staff while maintaining a unique congregational identity. In 2018 five congregations in mid-Chisago County (Zion in Chisago City, Trinity in Lindstrom, Chisago Lake in Center City, First in Taylor Falls and Immanuel in Almelund) coordinated a joint “God’s Work, Our Hands” service day, sharing in worship, a meal, and fellowship. In a more formal way, Atonement in New Brighton and Cross of Glory in Mounds View are preparing to call one pastor to serve both congregations. St. Mark’s and St. Luke’s, both in the city of St. Paul, are sharing an interim pastor and Spring Lake in North Branch is being served during their interim by the pastor of Calvary in Stanchfield. There are many other examples across the synod and I hope your congregation is one that has discovered ways to be stronger by working together with other congregations.

In September the synod hosted a Partnership Building Event to bring together those with interests in global and local mission for a common conversation. This group began exploring ways to address hidden biases and cultural and racial stereotypes so that the gifts of all neighbors might be received and respected.

Walking Together

It’s no longer a surprise to be reminded that the word synod means to walk together; it is what we do so that others will know the grace and mercy of God. We walk together with our companions in the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and in La Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala. Walking together is what we do at conference meetings and in consultation with congregations in conflict or transition. Walking together is also what members of the synod staff do when invited to preach in your congregation. In 2018 the bishop and the four assistants to the bishop preached 93 times. If you were not one of the congregations that invited a synod staff member to preach, please do so in 2019. We are eager to share God’s Word with you and to experience the life of your congregation.

At the end of one year and the start of the new, I am grateful for the work and witness of your congregation. Thank you for being bearers of God’s grace upon grace to one another and in your witness in the wider community. I am also grateful for the members of the synod staff and all that they do. They include Michael Gold, office assistant; Alicia Rodriguez, office manager; Chloe Ahlf, communications coordinator; Greg Triplett, financial administrator; Joe Lees, assistant to the bishop for vital congregations, vital partnerships; Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for next generation ministries; Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation; Anna Marsh, executive assistant to the bishop; and Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega and assistant to the bishop. What a joy it is for all of us to serve with you in the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Yours in God’s service – Bishop Patricia Lull

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements			
		As of	As of
Receipts		December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Pledged Envelope Offering		\$ 402,667.44	\$ 411,088.57
Non-Pledged Offering		\$ 71,624.50	\$ 80,361.23
Loose Offering		\$ 14,206.46	\$ 15,407.17
Easter & Lenten Offerings		\$ 10,859.81	\$ 9,689.24
Thanksgiving Offerings		\$ 782.00	\$ 719.00
Christmas Offering		\$ 3,820.00	\$ 3,132.00
Sunday School Offering		\$ 499.41	\$ 484.02
Initial Offering		\$ 596.00	\$ 382.00
Checkbook Interest Income		\$ 15.09	\$ 12.60
Special Gift-P/E Nelson		\$ 27,474.68	\$ -
Other Receipts			\$ -
	Total Receipts	\$ 532,545.39	\$ 521,275.83
Disbursements			
Benevolence		\$ 35,000.00	\$ 36,550.00
Van Interest		\$ 734.24	\$ 951.72
Personnel		\$ 414,686.32	\$ 394,254.51
Christian Education		\$ 2,780.48	\$ 3,087.96
Youth		\$ 2,182.74	\$ 2,470.24
Witness and Outreach		\$ -	\$ 619.49
Service Ministries		\$ 65.57	\$ 83.05
Stewardship Education		\$ -	\$ -
Worship & Music		\$ 6,893.14	\$ 5,872.79
Finance		\$ -	\$ -
Administration		\$ 39,911.84	\$ 36,606.84
Building and Maintenance		\$ 55,668.13	\$ 48,715.46
Misc. Short Term Funds		\$ -	\$ -
Council Expenses		\$ 1,115.00	\$ 962.00
	Total Operating Disbursements	\$ 559,037.46	\$ 530,174.06
Receipts less Disbursements		\$ (26,492.07)	\$ (8,898.23)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet					
				12/31/2018	12/31/2017
Current Assets					
	Checking Account-General		\$	10,778	\$ 46,095
	Operational Reserve		\$	18,209	\$ 18,194
	Savings Account		\$	222,425	\$ 204,144
	ELCA Mission Investment Funds		\$	784,156	\$ 783,698
	Checking Account-Youth		\$	15,727	\$ 14,376
	Certificate of Deposit (Youth funds)		\$	2,455	\$ 2,454
	Checking Account-Rental Property		\$	2,918	\$ 13,706
	Endowment Fund Investment		\$	1,037,697	\$ 1,003,428
	Endowment Fund Income		\$	32,738	\$ 32,738
	Endowment Fund Change in Value		\$	757	\$ 109,377
	Endowment Fund Checking		\$	1,512	\$ 2,464
	Endowment Fund Withdrawals		\$	(250,285)	\$ (116,065)
	Sub-Total of Endowment Funds		\$	822,419	\$ 1,031,943
	Temporary Cash Holdings		\$	2,000	\$ (4,100)
	Stock Certs. Held for Sale		\$	1,001	\$ -
Total Current Assets			\$	1,882,088	\$ 2,110,511
Fixed Assets					
	Land, Building, Stained Glass		\$	2,873,559	\$ 2,851,339
	Rental Property		\$	-	\$ 150,000
	Personal Property		\$	342,096	\$ 359,556
	Vehicle		\$	41,220	\$ 41,220
	Depreciation Allowance		\$	(365,554)	\$ (458,002)
Total Fixed Assets			\$	2,891,321	\$ 2,944,114
Total Assets			\$	4,773,409	\$ 5,054,624
Liabilities					
	Dedicated Funds Payable		\$	1,155,199	\$ 1,135,107
	Misc. Endowment Fund Contributions		\$	608,363	\$ 743,481
	Line of Credit		\$	1,604	\$ 18,120
	Member Deposits		\$	3,201	\$ -
Total Liabilities			\$	1,768,366	\$ 1,896,708
Equities					
	Equity		\$	3,286,184	\$ 3,459,320
	Allowance for Depreciation		\$	(281,141)	\$ (301,403)
Total Equities			\$	3,005,043	\$ 3,157,916
Total Equity and Liabilities			\$	4,773,409	\$ 5,054,624
All inter-fund transfer balances have been eliminated properly.					

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dedicated Accounts and Special Gifts				
	12/31/2017			12/31/2018
	Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Camping & Youth	\$ 12,378.06	\$ 12,668.60	\$ 14,008.48	\$ 11,038.18
Music/Worship	\$ 8,815.87	\$ 12,179.27	\$ 4,832.76	\$ 16,162.38
Education	\$ 17,341.53	\$ 17,704.93	\$ 15,737.07	\$ 19,309.39
Property	\$ 13,713.50	\$ 17,640.33	\$ 8,825.44	\$ 22,528.39
Misc.	\$ 133,740.85	\$ 90,866.25	\$ 89,618.20	\$ 134,988.90
Building Fund	\$ 7,915.71	\$ 1,540.00	\$ -	\$ 9,455.71
Continuing Education Acc'ts.	\$ 7,526.85	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 5,345.29	\$ 5,931.56
Helping Hands Funds (formerly Pastor's Fund)	\$ 1,711.70	\$ 490.00	\$ 190.88	\$ 2,010.82
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 783,698.40	\$ 12,580.93	\$ 12,123.48	\$ 784,155.85
Total Dedicated Accounts	\$ 986,842.47	\$ 169,420.31	\$ 150,681.60	\$ 1,005,581.18

Rental Properties			
Balance 01/01/2018			\$ 13,705.99
Rental Income			\$ -
Property Taxes			\$ (1,912.00)
Building Repairs			\$ (7,623.00)
Electric, Water and Sewer			\$ (754.28)
Environmental Assessment			\$ (500.00)
Checking account interest earned			\$ 1.13
Balance 12/31/2018			\$ 2,917.84

OPERATIONAL RESERVE		
Balance 01/01/2018		\$ 18,193.75
Interest Earned		\$ 15.09
Balance 12/31/2018		\$ 18,208.84

FINANCIAL REPORT

ENDOWMENT FUNDS SINCE INCEPTION		
ASSETS		
ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME	\$	122,870.24
UNREALIZED CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE	\$	(11,127.28)
FUND WITHDRAWALS	\$	(246,659.48)
ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENT	\$	957,335.16
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	822,418.64
LIABILITIES		
FUND WITHDRAWALS	\$	(211,244.34)
MISC. ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	819,607.35
DEDICATED FUNDS PAYABLE	\$	131,434.75
ADJUSTMENTS TO EQUITY	\$	82,620.88
TOTAL EQUITIES	\$	822,418.64

ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
2018 CASH FLOW		
BEGINNING BALANCE - ELCA	\$	1,029,479.49
BEGINNING BALANCE CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$	2,464.00
TOTAL	\$	1,031,943.49
MISC. CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	1,080.00
ELCA FUND A INCOME	\$	34,268.53
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE	\$	(108,620.90)
TOTAL INCOME	\$	(73,272.37)
SUB TOTAL	\$	958,671.12
LESS		
ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS	\$	136,252.48
TOTAL	\$	822,418.64

FINANCIAL REPORT

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND		
Balance 12/31/2017		\$ 783,698.40
Deposits		\$ -
Interest earned		\$ 12,545.93
Sub-total Additions		\$ 796,244.33
Withdrawals		
	Guatemala ILAG	\$ (981.25)
	ELCA Disaster Relief	\$ (1,374.55)
	Chisago County Project Lifesaver	\$ (775.50)
	Dragonfly Project	\$ (887.31)
	Cystic Fibrosis	\$ (952.82)
	Covenant House	\$ (1,037.00)
	ELCA YAGM	\$ (721.00)
	A Brush with Kindness	\$ (1,266.00)
	Children's Grief Connection	\$ (500.00)
	Bdote Learning Center	\$ (1,144.60)
	Youth Link	\$ (1,143.45)
	NAMI	\$ (1,305.00)
Sub-total Withdrawals		\$ (12,088.48)
Balance 12/31/2017		\$ 784,155.85
Second Sunday Match from Mission Investment Fund		
Beginning Balance		\$ 70,000.00
2016 Expenditures		<u>\$ 2,785.00</u>
Balance 12-31-16		\$ 67,215.00
2017 Expenditures		\$ 13,022.93
2017 Additional Gift from P/E Nelson Bequest		<u>\$ 8,590.60</u>
Balance 12-31-17		\$ 62,782.67
2018 Expenditures		\$ 12,088.48
Balance 12-31-18		\$ 50,694.19

BENEVOLENCE GIVING 2018	
From	Amount
Endowment	\$ 134,220.00
Second Sunday Offering	\$ 12,088.48
Compassion Int'l	\$ 384.00
Family Pathways	\$ 1,870.00
Community Meals	\$ 2,523.85
Guatemala Stove Project	\$ 995.00
A Brush with Kindness	\$ 220.00
Chisago Lakes Clergy Association	\$ 1,000.00
Luther Point Bible Camp	\$ 3,000.00
Tapestries of Life	\$ 25.00
Saint Paul Area Synod	\$ 32,000.00
Total	\$ 188,326.33

2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

2019 Proposed Budget		
Income	2019	2018
Envelope-Pledged	\$ 376,705	\$ 397,420
Envelope-Unpledged	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,000
Loose	\$ 14,000	\$ 16,000
Sunday School	\$ 500	\$ 500
Dedicated Transfer for Staff	\$ 23,126	\$ 50,423
Sub-Total	\$ 489,331	\$ 554,343
Lenten Offering	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Easter Offering	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 800	\$ 800
Christmas Offering	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Sub-Total	\$ 13,800	\$ 13,800
Initial Offering	\$ 500	\$ 400
Checkbook Interest	\$ 15	\$ 25
Sub-Total	\$ 515	\$ 425
Totals	\$ 503,646	\$ 568,568
Expense		
Benevolence	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Personnel	\$ 361,941	\$ 422,015
Educational Ministries	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
Youth	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Witness & Outreach	\$ -	\$ -
Service Ministries	\$ 100	\$ 150
Stewardship Education	\$ 3,000	\$ 250
Worship & Music	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,275
Finance	\$ -	\$ -
Administration	\$ 39,205	\$ 37,770
Building/Maintenance	\$ 52,000	\$ 54,048
Council	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Van Debt	\$ -	\$ 6,960
Totals	\$ 503,646	\$ 568,568

AUDIT COMMITTEE- 2018 Report

Audit Committee (Ron Holt, Sue Danielzuk, Peter Overgaard, Karen Seaver and Paul Ives -Chair)

On the evening of Monday, January 28, 2019, the audit review committee met, along with Twyla Mitchell, bookkeeper, to review the books and records of Trinity Lutheran Church for the twelve months ended December 31, 2018. During the audit, our use of questionnaires regarding internal controls, policies, and procedures along with substantive testing of cash receipts and disbursements were performed. We also performed reconciliation of the supporting documentation and the financial statements for the year ended and any recommended entries were completed. Although our review is limited we feel that Trinity's Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2018 have no material misstatements in them.

Based on our review we make the following observations/recommendations in no order of priority:

- While a reconciliation of GL Balances in property and equipment, which appear reasonable, was complete, an insufficient property listing exists. Specific cost and NBV calculations of large value items, such as, furniture, kitchen equipment, sound equipment, desks and chairs is difficult to compute without the detailed inventory. The last inventory was conducted in 2009.
- For non-employee services paid through a third party, such as janitorial services, Trinity received payments from the third party and in turn paid internal employees. The committee recommends these payments should not be recorded as payroll employee expense, instead, recorded as contractor services to be issued through 1099 payment form. These contractor services are not considered employee salaries and Trinity has no employer obligation to deduct employer taxes even though employee wages accumulate. The committee recommends a written procedure for the bookkeeper to record contractor services on Form 1099 instead of payroll wages in instances where the employee is acting as a contractor to a third party as opposed normal duties of Trinity employment.
- The prior year audit committee recommendation for capitalization was to provide documentation establishing a procedure to timely capture new and disposed property with related accumulated depreciation schedules. The finance committee in 2018 developed an electronic fixed asset and depreciation schedule of all Trinity congregational fixed assets cleaning up NPV of each fixed asset, and reconciled accumulated depreciation in the process. The current schedule and methodology satisfies the committees' observation of 2017 and supports the prior year recommendation to provide the bookkeeper with a written procedure.
- In 2018, the congregational vote resulted in the decision to demolish the rental property. The financial impact at year end resulted in a transfer of \$22,220.00 from the Rental Property fixed assets to the General Property fund for the value of the lot retained by the congregation for green space.
- The application to combine the rental lot with the main property has been submitted to Chisago County. In 2019, it is expected Trinity property will be combined with the rental property into one parcel.
- The rental property bank account is to be closed and transferred to the Rental/Greenspace dedicated funds to close the rental property financial position. Currently, Trinity is awaiting final billing for demolition services provided Dresel Contracting.
- During a review of cash disbursements, the testing of controls determined 3-way matching of credit card receipts, vendor payments, and employee reimbursement were missing a number of vendor invoices and receipts for reimbursement on the Visa credit cards. The committee recommends a written procedure for credit card purchases is issued to all credit card holders.
- A review of Insurance policies noted each of the policy declaration coverages for property, business auto, general liability, umbrella, and workman's compensation were available to the committee. The policy declarations for 2018 renewals in property 11/1/18 – 11/1/2021, workman's compensation 11/1/18 – 11/1/19, and auto 11/1/18 – 11/1/19 all appear to adequately cover values of the designated property insured. The coverage limits are 100% of the co-insurance percentage values which is an increase coverage over the 80% co-insurance coverage of the previous policies.
 - Additional notes property: In other amendments and endorsements of the Property Coverage Declaration Page the document lists other property coverage on the copier machine using the old copier C224E S/N# rather than the new Konica C308 copier. The insurance company should reissue an updated declaration page listing the correct asset covered.
 - The detached garage was not listed separately in the property description of the policy. An inquiry to the insurance should be conducted to determine that the garage is included in the insurance policy and a new declaration page detailing the detached garage as an insured item should be reissued.
 - All committee members have agreed to participate in the 2019 year-end audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ives, Chair – Trinity Lutheran Church Audit Committee

2019 Annual Meeting RESOLUTIONS

Be it Resolved, the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church:

1. Accepts all reports as printed and explained.
2. Recognizes with gratitude and appreciation the work and service of returning Church Council members: Ken Kramer, Ross Peterson, Terry Hogenson, Guy Aki, Rachel Carlson.
3. Thanks to those who have served on Council: Phil Deimel, Gary Peterson, Carol Wolsky, Jill Eisfelder, Karin Vukich, Paula Anderson and Rob Anderson, for their service, leadership and commitment to Congregation and Council over the past years.
4. Welcomes new church council members elected this past year: Kim Anderson, Allen Blegen, Jolene Wille, Diane John, Jim Jordal, David Johnson, Nancy Johnson and Colleen Guilfoile.
5. Recognizes with heartfelt appreciation all committees, volunteer task forces, other groups and individuals who gave of their time, talents and resources to Trinity during this past year; and acknowledges the generosity of members who have been a part of our ministries. Our church is stronger because of your commitment, involvement and contributions. Thank you for your gifts and ministry.
6. Recognizes with gratitude and appreciation the diligent work that the church staff does on behalf of the ministry of Trinity Lutheran: Amber VanHorn, Pastor Brad Barr, Pastor Terry Nordheim, David Groettum, Dave Heldt, Sherry Holt, Bonnie Houger, Twyla Mitchell, Brian Voss, Joanne Endres, Linda Rambow, and Mike Savold.
8. Expresses a special thank you and well wishes to Pastor Brad Barr on his retirement from ministry after four years at Trinity Lutheran. His playfulness and enjoyment of telling a good joke will be greatly missed.