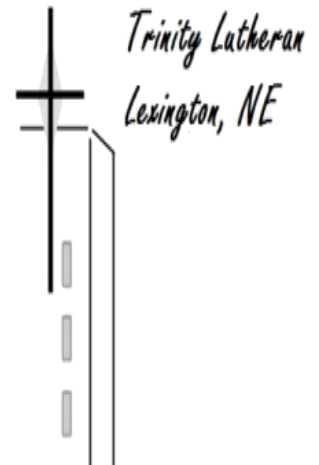


# January

Trinity Trumpet  
January 2023



## Servant Thoughts

Recently the Elders and I surveyed the congregation about the move from two services to one on Sunday. In part the reason for the survey was to evaluate how the change has been working and how it has impacted the Christian Education portion of our Sunday mornings. Later in the newsletter, you will see the actual results of the survey, which was completed by about 40% of the average worshipping congregation, though if you factor in children who likely wouldn't do a survey, that number is closer to about 50%, which is pretty good on such a survey.

After much discussion, it was decided to continue into the new year with the schedule we began this fall. I wanted to take a moment to discuss some of what I think we learned, and some of the things we are going to do moving forward, as well as some of the challenges. As we begin the new year, you will be receiving a letter introducing your elder assigned to you and I would encourage you to contact them or me if you have any questions or want to provide further input as it is appreciated.

One of the surprising things is that a clear majority of the congregation wants to keep just one Sunday morning service as almost 80 % would like to keep it, with 60% liking the schedule as is and the other 19% interested in a different time or switching the worship and Sunday school around. I think that was in large part the reason the Elders decided to keep the schedule as it is. From comments that were given, there was a lot of positive comments on the energy it brings to the service as well as getting to see more people that having two services doesn't allow for as often.

A second insight which probably isn't that surprising is that when it comes to a particular style of worship, there are those who do have a preference and would like to see more of their preference being used in the service that they attend. Having only one service doesn't allow of course for everyone to be satisfied with that, but we have discussed how to try and find a balance as much as possible, and blended worship provides the best avenue for that with just one service. Here is where some of the challenges come in. We are limited somewhat by availability of musicians, something that will become more difficult in the future. Legally we also are unable to stream our services if more contemporary music is used that isn't played by our own musicians, so one option is to stream and archive only the Saturday service, but if someone prefers the contemporary but isn't able to get to church, they won't be able to make use of that style of music. It should be noted by the way, that when we say contemporary, we are referring only to the songs, as our services remain liturgical and will continue to do so. One plan is to have BOB be our music book on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.

The other challenge, and one we will continue to wrestle with is the education piece. As you'll see we have seen decreased involvement in Bible Class and Sunday School. It does increase as we prepare for things like the Children's Christmas Program, but we are exploring things to keep both children and parents engaged.

I should note as well, that almost all churches in America are facing some of the same challenges, and while it might be discouraging at times, I would remind you of the Lord's promise that His Church will prevail. I am hopeful that we will continue to see growth, especially as we seek to grow spiritually together.

In the service and love of Jesus,

Hebrews 13:20-21



### Inside Trinity Trumpet

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LWML meets on January 12, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Opening: "New Year, New You?" by Marilyn Messerschmidt

Program: "Resolution" By Marcia Holtz

Closing: Mite Moment– Maydelle Messerschmidt

Hostesses: Donna Philips and Lee Ann Young



LUTHERAN HOUR– KRVN(880 AM)

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

◆ **January 1**

◆ **"Out of Egypt"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony Cook  
"Out of Egypt I called my son." With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today.  
(Matthew 2:13-23)

◆ **January 8**

◆ **"Gifted"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God?

(Colossians 1:16)

◆ **January 15**

◆ **"Gifts to Share"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A body of water becomes stagnant when there is no outflow. The same could be said of us.

(Colossians 1:29)

◆ **January 22**

◆ **"Whatever You Do"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge  
(Colossians 3:17-21)

◆ **January 29**

◆ **"Hopelessly Hopeful"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Colossians 1:27)



Christian Family Night Meals Chef Batie and her Hubby will be taking a long-awaited break during most of January. Volunteer chefs and servers are requested for CFN to fill in for them while they are gone.

Please see the signup sheet in the fellowship hall for ways you can help.

**Jan. 4**

Pizza

Baby Carrots

Leftover Christmas goodies for dessert

**Jan. 11**

Menu to be announced

**Jan. 18**

Menu to be announced

**Jan. 25**

(Chef Batie is back!)

Hot Dog and Potato Dinner

Pickles

Bread

Peaches



**Prayers**

*In order to keep our prayer requests up to date, those prayers that are short term in nature, will be listed for two weeks. If, after that time, you would like your request to remain, please resubmit your request to the church office. Members will be in bold.*

**Health Concerns**

**Charlie Licking, Marilyn Hueftle, Ron Lau, Rod Swanson, Jim Hersh, Norm Hoveling, Loretta Copper, Karen Kitzing, Bonnie Bonczynski, Dave Poore, Aaron Winningham, Arlene Wassinger, Eileen Woltemath**

**Chronic or Long Term Health Conditions**

**Barb Horn, Jackie Rowan, Jon Buhlmann,**

**Mission & Ministry** Kearney Circuit Pastors and Congregations

**Comfort**— Family and friends of Esther Nierman who was called to her eternal rest December 4th



**THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY**

**Lucas Horn, Randy Kwiatkowski, Jason Murray, Dylan Samway, Andy Howard, John C. Moore, Ben Wichelt, Devin Hueftle, Nic Van Cura, Tyler Schukar, Dakotah Kwiaowski.**

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS AND THRIVENT ACTION GRANTS

#### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars is an easy way for ELIGIBLE THRIVENT MEMBERS to recommend how Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable outreach funds to organizations, such as Trinity Lutheran Church, Orphan Grain Train, Mission Central, Lutheran World Relief, St. Judes Hospital, St. Louis Seminary and many others. All organizations receiving Thrivent Choice dollars must be a 501 C 3 organization. For Thrivent members to be eligible to designate dollars, you must have a certain amount of cash value or own certain products. You can do this on the computer or you can call your representative (Scott Harvey 870-4663) or Thrivent at 800-847-4836 to see if you are eligible to designate dollars. You will have to call Thrivent or go on line to tell them where you want your dollars to go. Thrivent then sends the dollars to whatever account you have designated to receive them. You do not get tax credit for the donation. Choice dollars designated for Trinity go into a designated fund here at church and dollars are designated by the Board for certain expenses or requests. Every year these dollars must be designated by March of the following year. Example: 2022 dollars must be designated by March 31, 2023.

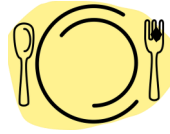
#### Thrivent Action Grants

Any Thrivent member 16 years or older may apply for an action grant. You can do this on the computer or you can call 800-947-4836 and they will do it with you over the phone. (Very easy to do over the phone.) You have to be able to tell the name of the project, date it will be completed, how many workers will be involved, do you want T-shirts and how the \$250 will be used. Only 1 request per project is allowed. This is given as a credit card, so be sure that where it is going to be spent accepts credit cards. Planning ideas: Orphan Grain Train, LWML projects, LLL projects, music for choir or band, Christmas Shoe boxes, Mitten trees, coats for children, school supplies for teachers, rodeo club needs and many more. A Thrivent member may do 2 projects a year, an investment member, one project. A final report must be completed (computer or phone) before a second request can be applied for.

If you have a Thrivent, Lutheran Brotherhood or an Aid Association for Lutheran policy or investment be sure to check if you are eligible for either benefit.

*Thank You!*

In Reach/ Out Reach would like to thank everyone who helped purchase Christmas gifts for our Angel Tree Families.



Noontime Nibbles will meet on January 18, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. In the fellowship hall bring your own meal.



**LLL MURDER  
MYSTERY  
DINNER**

*Presents*

*Lethal Luau*



Save the Date ...  
Saturday, February 11

**Be Still**

Women's Retreat

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lexington

Trinity Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, December 5, 2022

7:00 pm

Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was called to order by Steve Gierhan.

Pastor Rob opened with prayer.

IN ATTENDANCE

Pastor Rob Kuefner, Donna Phillips, Jared Bauer, Josie Bauer, Darek Hoefener, Michele Hoehner and Deb Porath

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes from November, 2022 were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report was handed out at the meeting, we remain around \$50,000 from week to week in our bank balance.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION REPORT

Board of Ed met in November. We have ornaments for all the kids involved in our Christmas program. We have had great attendance for Wednesday and Sunday. We will have the program Dec. 21st.

Josie

ELDERS REPORT

TLC BOARD OF ELDERS REPORT (FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2022 ELDERS MEETING)

ATTENDANCE: PASTOR KUEFNER, DON BATIE, STEVE GIERHAN, TED HARVEY, KYLE HOEHNER, TOM PHILLIPS, MARCUS PORATH, AND JOEL RINGENBERG

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ELDER PICTURES AND LETTER – TO BE SENT OUT IN JANUARY

SUNDAY SERVICE WORSHIP SURVEY – TO BE FORWARDED TO CONGREGATION IN NOVEMBER

CHILI FEED COOK-OFF – THANKS TO TOM & DONNA PHILLIPS AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO HELPED ORGANIZE, ETC. THIS EVENT

SACK CANDY FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – ELDERS TO SACK CANDY AT NEXT ELDERS MEETING DEC. 20TH (7PM)

INREACH/OUTREACH REPORT

No updated information. Worked on the Angel tree during the scheduled meeting.

Dana Thornburg

InReach/Outreach Chairperson

PLANNING REPORT

No report.

## TRUSTEE REPORT

Sprinkler system was winterized

Jones plumbing called due to a furnace not running in the north wing. Bird nests were located in the intake and exhaust vents. Nests were removed and screening installed.

Furnace filters were changed in church and parsonage. We switched to a single manufacturer and standard merv rating for all filters

The toilet in women's restroom in the north wing was not functioning. Toilet was cleared and is back in service.

Small rectangle of carpet in sanctuary lifted out at beginning of advent service. Glued the carpet piece back down.

Discussion was started regarding fans in the sanctuary. Spoke with HVAC personnel and was advised that keeping at least one bank of fans on continually will greatly help keep heat/cooling evenly and reduce energy usage.

Respectfully submitted

Jared Bauer

Trustee In addition to the attached report, it was noted that the sink in the Sacristy is dripping.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Put together a worship survey to gauge the impact of our change to one service this fall and if any changes are needed. Will be evaluating with leadership and Elder's will be considering any changes going forward. I also want to take some time in the New Year to work with the church leadership to look over questions on a congregational self-study as we look to the next 5-10 years of ministry at Trinity. We have made the transition over to Church 360, which kept our old Shepherd's Staff historical information, but will be updating some of the contact info that was in the Faithlife Equip church management software into Church 360 as it reflects changes since January 2021. We will also be changing our website in the New Year as that feature of Equip is also going to be sunset by April. We hope to accomplish that in January. I will be participating in a continuing education experience with a pastor pod of 3-4 pastors in our area, along the lines of the Leadership Learning Community, but less travel involved as the pastors are in Holdrege and Kearney.

## OLD BUSINESS

Sound System- Fellowship Hall sound/video is pending until March of 2023 at the earliest due to supply chain issues on equipment. We are still receiving gifts toward the cost of the project.

## NEW BUSINESS

Pastor presented results of the Worship Survey thus far. Notable results: 58% of current responses indicate a desire to keep the current schedule. There was no change in average worship attendance between fall 2021 and fall 2022. It was suggested the Elders revisit why the change was originally made. Pastor suggested we reach out to our individual Elder with ideas.

We will provide the survey to Sunday School parents by way of sending home with students

It was suggested to refresh the Facebook newsfeed to bring the survey to the top

Pastor will continue to remind congregation of survey in announcements at worship

Membership Changes – Deceased, Esther Nierman, December 4, 2022.

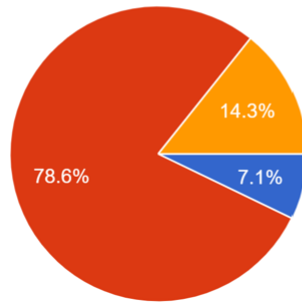
Next meeting will be January 9th at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Deb Porath  
Secretary

### My Sunday Worship attendance...

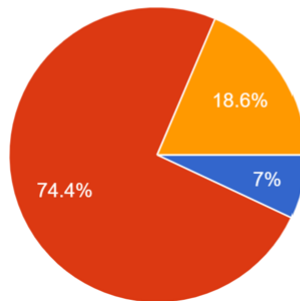
42 responses



- has increased
- remained about the same
- has decreased

### My Bible Class/Sunday School attendance...

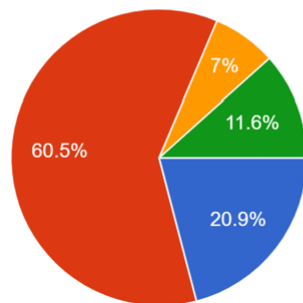
43 responses



- has increased
- remained about the same
- has decreased

### If it were up to me, I would...

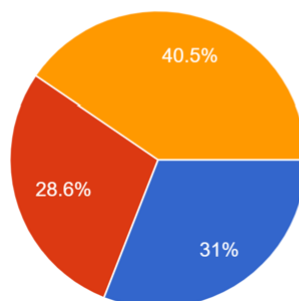
43 responses



- return to two Sunday services with Bible Class/Sunday School between (old schedule)
- keep the new Sunday morning schedule as is
- keep just one Sunday service but have Church before Bible Class/Sunday School
- keep the new Sunday morning schedule but with different times

### If we only have one Sunday morning service I prefer...

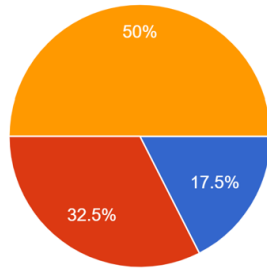
42 responses



- more traditional style of service
- more contemporary style of service
- blended style of service

Impact on our Sunday morning worship change on Bible Class/Sunday School...

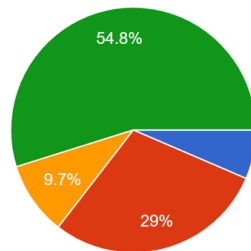
40 responses



- has been negative
- has been positive
- has not made any significant difference

If you have seen a decrease in attendance in either or both worship and Bible Class/Sunday School since the change in schedule, what is the main reason...

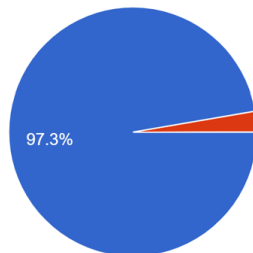
31 responses



- time of worship service
- preference for different type of worship
- time of Bible Class/Sunday School
- hasn't been related to the change at all

If we were to return to two services, which would you prefer...

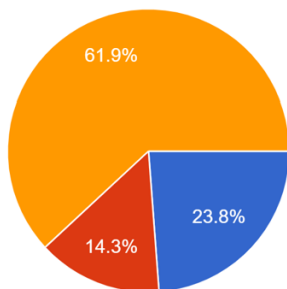
37 responses



- 8:30 am Traditional 11:00 am Contemporary
- 8:30 am Contemporary 11:00 am Traditional

Which response most reflects your preference...

42 responses



- I would usually attend 8:30 am regardless of style of worship
- I would usually attend 11:00 am regardless of style of worship
- I would usually attend the service which has my style of worship

Sunday School Attendance												
	Sept 18	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 4
PS	4	4	0	3	4	2	4	7	3	7	7	8
EL	1	1	0	3	3	3	3	9	9	4	2	8
MS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	3

Bible Class Attendance
On average last spring we had 40-45 in attendance. This fall average attendance has been between 30-35, with the higher attendance starting in November.
Worship Attendance
Average Worship Attendance Fall of 2021 – 107
Average Worship Attendance Fall of 2022 – 107
Survey Response 41% of Avg. Worship



Trinity Staff Contact Information

Senior Pastor;

◇ Rev. Rob Kuefner:  
Cell:(308) 746-2270

[rkuefner@tlclex.org](mailto:rkuefner@tlclex.org)

Secretary:

◇ Maria Rodriguez  
Office (308) 324-4341

[mrodriguez@tlclex.org](mailto:mrodriguez@tlclex.org)



- Roger Jensen January 02**
- Sandra Watkinson January 02**
- Beverly Kitzing January 03**
- Camryn Yilk January 03**
- Dale Barnes January 06**
- Westin Potter January 07**
- Dylan Richman January 07**
- Logen Callahan January 11**
- Elaine Cox January 12**
- Bobby Potter January 15**
- Sandra Goodrich January 17**
- Karter Barnes January 18**
- Brian Graham January 18**
- Saidi Ringenberg January 18**
- Lucille Grassmeyer January 19**
- Amanda Ziegenbein January 19**
- Tessa Callahan January 25**
- Ted Harvey January 26**
- Laurel Schram January 26**
- Mary Sue Haag January 27**
- Stephanie Ringenberg January 27**
- Henrey Barnes January 28**
- Craig Uden January 28**
- Cynthia Callahan January 29**
- Ed Johnson January 30**
- Chelsey Andersen January 31**
- Gabriel Fees January 31**

- Peck, Eldon & Elaine January 05**
- Samway, Dennis & Pat January 16**
- Swanson, Rod & Shirley January 27**



◇ Our Anniversary and Birthday list is generated by information in the computer. If there is a mistake or we missed something, please let us know in the office. Thank you!