



Be *thankful*  
in all circumstances

for this is God's will  
for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

2023 Annual Report

**TRINITY**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Rev. Fritz Fowler**  
Lead Pastor

Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

One of the hymns I have always enjoyed singing is *Give Thanks*, written by Henry Smith in 1978. The hymn, while short, carries a profound message:

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ,  
his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ,  
his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks!

Many do not realize when they sing this hymn that when Henry Smith was composing it at the age of 26, he struggled to find work after graduating from university. At the same time, his eyesight was failing because of a degenerative condition that would eventually leave him legally blind. Yet, despite the circumstances and where Smith found himself, he thanks God. No matter what happened, Henry Smith was assured of God's love for him and that God was present with him no matter what he endured. Indeed, it's a reason to give thanks!

Reflecting on 2023, I find myself full of reasons to "give thanks with a grateful heart!" Our theme verse for our 2023 Annual Report is 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

Be *thankful* in all circumstances, for  
this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

God has been incredibly faithful to Trinity this past year, and as I shared in the sermon on Christmas Eve, we share these ways not to show how great we are but rather how awesome God is. As our theme verse instructs, we are called to be thankful in all circumstances.

One aspect of our ministry that I am giving thanks for is the **calling of our Associate Pastor** Jonathan Steiner on All Saints Sunday, November 5th. It had been six years since Trinity had two full-time called pastors, and I am thankful for the gifts Pastor Jonathan brings to the ministry and how God will work through him to lead our ministries at Trinity.

A second aspect of our ministry that I'm grateful for this past year is the re-engagement in **partnering with United Lutheran Seminary** as both an internship site and a field education site. From January to July 2023, we served as the internship site for Vicar Cari States-Codding as she completed her internship as a part of her Master of Divinity. From September 2023 through May 2024, we are blessed with the presence of Seminarian Connor Watson, who is completing his field education requirement at Trinity.

The **LED panels** in our sanctuary installed this year have helped us expand our ministry and enhance our worship services. These digital stained glass windows were only made possible by the generosity of many in our congregation.



With excitement and grateful hearts, we gathered behind Luther Hall on September 10th for the dedication and blessing of the **Clark William Deardorff Pavilion**. What a special day to thank God for Clark and ask God's blessing on the newest addition to our campus. A big thank you to Curtis and Sue Deardorff for their generosity in making the pavilion a reality for our congregation and community!

While it will not be fully completed until mid-2024, the borough approval, permits, and demolition are completed to renovate and create a brand new ministry area for our children, youth, and young adults on the second floor of the education wing. This space will be known as **"The Loft"** and is made possible by the generosity of the Volker Family and in loving memory of Herb and Shirley Volker.

Like any passage of time, transition is inevitable. I am grateful for those members of the Trinity staff who shared their gifts, time, and leadership with our congregation and community in 2023. Thank you to Pastor Bill Petry, who served as our part-time pastoral associate until Pastor Jonathan was called. Pastor Bill helped to lead worship and preach, visit homebound and hospitalized disciples, and so much more. I'm also grateful to Ahmad Jamshid Refahi for his service as maintenance support. In 2022, we welcomed the leadership of our Interim Co-Directors of Faith Formation, Pastor Ric and Deacon Jane Elliott. Pastor Ric and Deacon Jane have helped guide our Faith Formation into unique new ministries, including weekly Sunday School, the largest VBS attendance since 2018, helping envision a thirty-minute worship service (Trinity Alive!), and so much more. In 2023, we also welcomed several new staff members, including Connor Watson as our Coordinator of Faith Formation in Young Adults & Adult Ministry, Amy Hawthorne as our Coordinator of Faith Formation in Children & Youth Ministry, Henry Strobel as our Assistant Director for Worship and Music, Susan Soule, Nursery Coordinator, and two new team members, Julia Claffey and Jackie Berardi, in our Preschool. I pause to remember and give thanks for Karen Wenhold who entered the church triumphant on September 8th. For decades, Karen served on our church staff and gave so much of herself to Trinity. I thank our dedicated and hard-working staff, who spend countless hours, often behind the scenes, to work on behalf of our congregation. Please join me in thanking them for their commitment!



Thank you to our Shared Leadership Team and our Congregational Council. Their leadership, faithfulness, and dedication in leading our congregation to share God's love is an excellent example of living lives generously. A special thanks to Karen Bergey, who served much of 2023 as our Congregational President, and to Teri Lanan, who stepped into the role after Karen's car accident. Thank you to both of you for your leadership!

I am also grateful to all our volunteers serving Trinity ministries and giving so much time to share God's love with the community and the world. From volunteering to read to children at elementary schools, serving meals at Feast, hosting guests at Code Blue, making coffee on Sunday morning, teaching Sunday School, serving as a worship assistant, and worshipping each week in person and online--thank you! Your presence and service do not go unnoticed and make an incredible difference in the lives of so many.

I hope you are getting a sense, dear Trinity, of how much we have to be thankful for at Trinity. God has blessed us richly this past year and will remain faithful to us as we move forward into 2024. Please take a few moments to read this report as we reflect together on 2023 and make plans to join us for our Annual Meeting on February 11, 2024, as we pray together for God to guide us into the future with grateful hearts!

I want to express my deep gratitude to Trinity for the opportunity to serve as your Lead Pastor here at Trinity. The joys and challenges we share are sacred, and I take seriously the bond and commitment we mutually share as pastor and congregation. Thank you for the care you show to my family and me and for inviting me to be a part of your family.

I close with these words from Dag Hammarskjold: "For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!"

With a Grateful Heart,  
~Pastor Fritz Fowler



Although my time with you here at Trinity has been short, I have been amazed at the ministry that happens here. I have witnessed generosity, service, compassion, and so many more blessings poured out for neighbors and one another.

As we lean into 2024, I encourage you to share your faith stories and ministry stories with each other, and with those outside of our church. We do this not to brag, but instead to invite others into the amazing work God is up to. Your words and actions bear God's Word, and the Holy Spirit will use you in sharing the Good News with the world.

~Pastor Jonathan Steiner



Vicar Cari States-Codding



Amy Hawthorne



Pastor Bill Petry



Connor Watson



Pastor Ric & Deacon Jane Elliott



Susan Soule



Ahmad Jamshid Refahi



Henry Strobel



Karen Wenhold



As a good neighbor and part of the community Trinity would like to show how *thankful* we are to all our partners in ministry. God has blessed us.

### Those who support our ministries:

AAA Catering - Chef Chipper Catering  
Brittany Pointe Estate Residents Association  
Clemens Uniforms  
Clyde S. Walton, Inc.  
Corpus Christi  
Garden of Health  
Grocery Outlet  
Lansdale Catholic High School  
Lansdale Tavern  
Leidy's Premium Meats  
Manhattan Bagel, Lansdale  
Meadowood Retirement Home  
North Penn Rotary Club  
Panera Bread, Montgomeryville  
Sudz Laundry, Lansdale  
Wegmans, Montgomeryville

# Generosity Abounds

### Trinity shows generosity to:

Bear Creek Camp	Lutheran Congregational Services
Capital Harmony Works (Trenton Children's Chorus)	Manna on Main Street
Carson Valley Children's Aid	Mitzvah Circle Foundation
Center City Food Cupboard	North Penn Boys & Girls Club
Church World Services	North Penn School District
Diakon	Oak Park Elementary School
ELCA World Hunger	Paradise Manor
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Souderton	Prepared to Thrive
Gemma Services	Reconciling Works
Generations of Indian Valley (Meals on Wheels)	Rise Against Hunger
Hatfield Elementary School	Seaman's Church Institute
Inglewood Elementary School	SEPA Synod
Kencrest	United Lutheran Seminary
Keystone Opportunity Center	VNA Pediatric Clinic at Lansdale Hospital
	York Avenue Elementary School

### Trinity provides a free space for:

American Red Cross  
Boy Scout Troop #61  
Bridle Path/Montgomery Select Strings Orchestra  
Comfort Caring Canines (Therapy Dog Certifications)  
General Nash District - Cradle of Liberty Council - Boy Scouts of America  
Girl Scouts Eastern PA - NP Valley Service Unit  
Girl Scouts Troop #761, #71037, #71399  
Keystone Opportunity Center (English as a Second Language Classes)  
Lansdale AI-Anon Family Group  
Lansdale Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous)  
North Penn High School Chorus  
North Wales Elementary School Select Choir  
PMHCC - SE Regional MH Services (Mental Health First Aid Classes)  
Shared Support South (Crafting for a Cause, Advocacy for Rights for Folks with ID, Disney Yoga and Sign Language Classes or Meetings)  
The Steps We Took Meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Yogikrupa Health LLC (Skippack Pharmacy)



# The *Spirit* lives and grows.

Did you know that six Trinity disciples either are now seminarians or have graduated, moving on to serve as pastors in our wider denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Maeve Schurz is a graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Liz Ricketts, Ann Shade, Rich Bergen and Amy Smith are all graduates of United Lutheran Seminary's Philadelphia campus (formerly The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia). Connor Watson is a current ULS seminarian while also serving as Trinity's Coordinator for Faith Formation for Young Adults and Adults. Pastor Bergen graduated in 2018 and is serving as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ferndale, Bucks County. Pastor Smith completed her studies in 2022 and serves St. Luke Lutheran Church in Zieglerville. Pastor Schurz graduated in 2022 and since that fall has served as pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Feasterville.

Ann Shade graduated last May, completed her internship in August at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Glenside and is awaiting a call. Amy, Ann, Maeve and Connor all speak of how Trinity has been a factor in their spiritual discernment process.



**Annual Congregation Meeting**  
Sunday, February 11, 9:45 am

Welcome & Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Adopt Agenda

Approve

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes 21

2023 Special Meeting Minutes 22

Review 2023 Financial Activity 23

Present & Approve 2024 Budget 23

Appoint 2024 Treasurer 19

Introduce & Elect Council Nominees 19

Lead Pastor's Report

Recognize Outgoing Council Members

Recognize Outgoing Hub Members

Recognize Staff Service Milestones

Closing Remarks

Closing Hymn

Closing Prayer



Ann Shade and Liz Ricketts

Pastor Amy Smith with  
Bishop Patricia Davenport

Pastor Maeve Schurz with  
Bishop Patricia Davenport

Richard Bergen with his son  
and Bishop Patricia Davenport

“ Trinity was the place where my mustard-seed-sized faith took root and grew.

PASTOR AMY SMITH

Through the congregation I learned the value of relationships.

ANN SHADE

Trinity is such a warm community that has embraced me and my call to serve the large church.

CONNOR WATSON

The people of Trinity embodied the love of Christ. I always felt there were people who truly cared about me and my spiritual development. It was a safe community where I could grow and explore this calling God had placed on my life. ”

MAEVE SCHURZ



What began in 2022 as a dream to visually enhance worship, culminated in a successful fundraising effort of over **\$79,000** to install **LED panels** in the sanctuary. We reached our goal in September and the project was completed in November.

This new technology enabled us to engage Bill Hettel, recovering from a stroke at home, to help lead worship by serving as a virtual lector.

In another case, Chip Kern's sister, who regularly worships with us from Texas via our stream, also served as a lector.

## The ways we *Worship* together.

“ I am grateful to sing and participate fully in worship while holding both a grandchild and a bag of cheerios! ”

DAVE CROSSON

Maryanne and Rich West shared a similar sentiment. When asked if she appreciated being able to see the panels, Maryanne enthusiastically responded, “Yes!”



### WORSHIP TEAM

Marcia Pitzenberger, Team Leader,  
Andrea Baxter, Director for Worship

**Trinity Alive!** began in the summer with the faith formation and worship hubs coming together to design a worship experience with young families in mind. This service is an engaging and participatory thirty-minute worship experience on Sundays at 9:40 am in the chapel, and it includes Holy Communion each week. Katie Holstein, mom of Lily, Gabby, and Logan offers this about their worship experience.

“ Trinity Alive has been a fantastic worship experience for my family. The shorter format keeps my kids engaged for the full service and also helps with our busy schedules. Lily and Gabby are actively participating throughout the service, whether that is singing familiar songs or praying as part of the congregation, or by helping lead worship when they give communion or read the lessons. They look forward to Trinity Alive and ask when we are going, which to me is such a testament to the impact of the new service. ”





# We *Ging* to praise God.



One camper so enjoyed the camp that she decided to join Joyful Choristers!

ANDREA BAXTER

## Summer Music Camp

July 5-8, 2023 saw the first week of Music Camp at Trinity! 20 children and 12 staff members, led by clinician Michael Burkhardt from Detroit, Michigan, had an amazing experience exploring singing, handbells, drumming, and Orff instruments.

The culmination of the camp was an opportunity to help lead the closing worship service for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), held at Trinity on July 8. We are hoping to build on this first positive experience, and so camp will be held again the week of July 8-12, 2024.



Children's Christmas Pageant

*A special thank you to our volunteer music leaders, David Spitko, Tracy Calvaresi, and Sharon Saul, for countless hours of preparation, teaching, and leading in worship!*



**The Justice Through Music Team's** goal of supporting a music program in an under-served population has been overwhelmingly supported by Trinity's gift of **\$3694** to Capital Harmony Works (CHW) in 2023. In supporting CHW, we acknowledge the work of uncompensated black composers and pay it forward to a new generation.



The success we have enjoyed has come through the support of many people and organizations who recognize the essential nature of our youth development. Trinity Lutheran Church has provided financial support and perhaps more important, the care and energy our students need to succeed.



PAUL CHAPIN, CEO of Capital Harmony Works



Trinity's Faith Formation Hub is grateful, thankful and casts the net wide in being generous.

We are *grateful* for those participating in our many events to form *faith* in our lives.



Trinity was "On A Roll!" this summer with **VBS 2023: Food Truck Party: On A Roll With God!** The overarching theme for VBS came from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 6, "Give us this day our daily bread." Over **120 children** from across the greater community joined us for a week of unique crafts, groovy music, and fun time together all while learning about God's love. We give thanks to the congregation and all involved that we were able to provide VBS free of charge to each participant, truly sharing Trinity's spirit of generosity!



Ashley Han, mother of a participant and volunteers, writes, "Trinity truly lived into its mission statement of connecting all generations

of God's family during VBS..." continuing that "Christian, age 9, participated in VBS and thought that arts and crafts were 'cool!'" Ashley's older two children, Chloe and Caleb, were exceptional VBS volunteers.

Milo and Chase are both VERY excited for VBS 2024 - and we at Trinity are, too!

“ I had lots of fun at VBS and liked the weaving around the cup and sticks the most in the Crafts portion! ” MILO WEINZIERL

“ Chase enjoyed music time the most, saying his favorite song was "The Banana Song". ...as a parent, I could feel all of the love and kindness that VBS provided him.

REBECCA NAYLOR

#### FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Deb Neves, Team Leader,  
Lisa Cravener, Norma Nish,  
Connor Watson, Coordinator of Faith Formation in Young Adults & Adult Ministry,  
Amy Hawthorne, Coordinator of Faith Formation in Children & Youth Ministry,  
Pastor Ric and Deacon Jane Elliott, Interim Co-Directors for Faith Formation



**Appalachia Service Project** resumed this year celebrating **35 years** of serving. Three teams traveled to Southwestern Virginia (Nora, VA) transforming both the lives of people where we work/serve and transforming us.

“ I am thankful for the ASP trip because I got to know other Trinity members and we had a really great time together. I worked with my group to put new siding on my family's house and hung out with the other groups during the evenings. It was a great experience! ”

LIZ JOHANNESON





For **First Communion** we are thankful for having more time to interact with each family and prepare them for their child's first communion. Several families were re-connecting with Trinity for which we are grateful.

Twelve children received their **First Bible**. Trinity is thankful for the help of grandparents in giving a Bible to their grandchildren and for new visitors who asked for a Bible for their child and we responded generously.



## Faith *Steps* a journey of a lifetime.



Affirmation of Baptism, **Confirmation**, was held on October 22 and seven Trinity members took another step on their faith journey.

“ The journey of faith is almost never straight-and-narrow; it takes detours and turns, and we explore our faith through the different phases of our lives. I am incredibly grateful for Trinity's focus and support of **Young Adult Ministry**, and look forward to seeing it continue to bloom in 2024 through events and the generosity of donors who help us minister to this age group. ”  
**CONNOR WATSON**

*Trinity would like to thank Pastor Ric and Deacon Jane Elliott for their dedicated service to Faith Formation.*

“ **Adult Forum** gives us the opportunity to grow in faith and understanding. This year's focus on Our Neighbors' Religions has opened up new ideas, new people, and new avenues of faith. It is one of the many ways Trinity helps us to meet the challenge of accepting and living fully with our neighbors in a diverse world. ”

BARBARA AND JOE DEVLIN



Out of conversations between staff, parents, and youth, the idea of The Loft was born. This will be a new place for youth ministry located in rooms 200 A, B, & C. With the classroom walls removed, we are embracing a new open concept space. The Loft will be a welcoming, safe, open, and airy space for our youth. The Loft project has reinvigorated our youth and youth leaders. Our youth are so excited and thankful. The keep asking “when will it be ready? Will we get to use the space this year?” We will, with construction expected to end this spring.



Dream big and pray that the Holy Spirit moves people. God will surprise us.

PASTOR RIC ELLIOTT

Generosity and thankfulness abound! When a member of the congregation asked how to bless Trinity with a gift in memory of their parents, The Loft was lifted up. Explaining why, the member said, “We would like to give to the new youth project because our parents chose to join Trinity because Trinity had a good youth program.” Another donor remembered the youth visiting and singing to them, and celebrates the youth with a gift. A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all the generous donors!



“ I am really enjoying the time I spend in the classroom (Mrs. Honeyman’s 2nd grade). I am so touched by how the students want to say ‘hello’, talk and read with me. They give me joy. This is such a good ministry to be involved with. I think I am given more than I give.

PATRICIA RAMSEY-MACOMBER

### CHRISTIAN CARE TEAM

Linda Scheckenbach, Team Leader,  
Carol Reitz, Sandy Cottrell  
Vicki Seal, Director for Christian Care



The **Code Blue Ministry** is a men’s shelter that opens to the homeless community when Code Blue is declared and the outside air temperature falls below 30 degrees. In 2023 the Code Blue shelter was open **41 evenings** and 519 cots were used for an average of 15 guests per night. Trinity has 392 volunteer positions filled with over **1120 volunteers hours** served. In addition, 882 sheets and blankets were laundered and 45 breakfasts were provided with an additional 74 meals provided by volunteers.

“ Working the intake shift at Code Blue is busy and filled with the Holy Spirit. In the span of just 3 1/2 hours your role goes from welcome/sign-in to server to clean up to chatting but most importantly to make the guests feel safe, warm and welcome. ”

CINDY RYAN

# Caring partners in our Community.

In 2023 **Trinity School Volunteers** have made a difference at local elementary schools. The group began in February with eight volunteers in one school and has grown to thirteen volunteers in two schools, Hatfield and Inglewood Elementary School. The volunteers have given a total of **235.5 hours** in 15 classrooms and the Library since the beginning of the school year in October.

The teachers and school staff have been amazing, welcoming our volunteers and allowing us to work with students who need that extra support and care. To further provide support for families in need, over the extended Thanksgiving break, Pastor Fritz Fowler provided the funds to distribute twenty \$25 gift cards to food insecure families at Inglewood and Hatfield. We took additional donated toys to Hatfield Elementary School to be distributed to families to make the holidays a bit brighter.



“ The partnership that has developed between Trinity and the North Penn School District has been exciting and really innovative. It has been a rewarding experience for all and, I know, we are making a difference in the lives of these young students. ”

LINDA SCHECKENBACH

“ Thank you for the impact that you, the volunteers, and Pastor Fritz are making in the lives of our students, families, and staff! ”

TODD M. BAUER, ED.D., North Penn School Superintendent

“ We appreciate the partnership with Trinity and all of your support for our schools and families. Your volunteers and Pastor Fritz are unquestionably having a positive impact on our students and families who need it the most right now. ”



Trinity stepped up to meet the needs of food insecure families over the extended Easter break. The idea of “**Bunny Boxes**” was born! We needed 48 boxes and Trinity members provided an incredible **112 boxes** filled with non-perishable foods that will allow for supplemental nutrition for children. We were able to share with five elementary schools and two local social service agencies doing God’s work in our community!



In 2023 the **Refugee Resettlement** team continues to work with the Afghan refugee families and celebrates not only the progress of all 5 of our families (20 people) but also the volunteers who have given so selflessly. Thank you to all the volunteers who drove countless miles to ESL (English as a Second Language) lessons, medical and dental appointments, Social Security office, move-in day help, counseling, child care, and the list goes on.

The family looks forward to the arrival of the husband's father and is happy to know the TLC community will be there for him, too. Every volunteer has similar stories of real attachments to these refugees, and a sense of family which is pervasive as holidays, and birthday celebrations are shared. Their needs continue so please continue to assist our fundraising efforts on their behalf, as you can.

“ The gratefulness of the families we serve is genuine and now easily expressed in English. As we journeyed with our family to a medical appointment, she expressed gratitude for all the help she received. She shared, “ You are always, always there for me. ”

LINDA WILLIAMS



**Health Ministry** was started again this fall. On the third Sunday of the month this group provides an avenue to discuss their health, assess blood pressure and to listen to the person's concerns.



“ Meeting other health professionals within the congregation, and working with them to provide a service to our members is very fulfilling. It is so rewarding, when people ask you when the next blood pressure screening is or if their blood pressure is better. They look forward to it, and so do I. ”

ELLEN CRAIGHEAD

## Making a *Difference.*

**Eucharistic Ministry** - over **184 visits** made by volunteers to care and bring the Eucharist to the homebound and those who are ill.

**Flower Delivery** (weekly and seasonal) - **280 flower arrangements** including poinsettia and tulips delivered during the holiday season.

**Hospital Visitation Ministry** - **150 visits**

**LoveLinks**...shared 200 new prayer requests with 240 updates with **88 pray-ers.**

*“ Love Links, Trinity's prayer ministry has been such a blessing in my life. I have received prayers, support and have felt a deep connection to those who receive our prayers. Collectively we pray to lighten burdens, and assure each person that they are not alone. Thank you for this ministry, for knowing the healing power of prayer and for fulfilling their call to this important ministry.”*

**Outreach Team** - over **7489 pounds** (including 3108 lbs. for the bunny boxes) of food was collected and shared with our local community and agencies

**Prayer Shawls** - over **33 prayer shawls** knitted

**Trinity Quilters** - over **102 quilts** to Church World Services

## *Thankful* we serve together.

**FEAST Community Meal & Food Pantry** continues to support our local community with meals every Monday night! The FEAST team remains committed to this ministry and has served over **9593 meals** with over **5482 guests** and **1808** volunteer hours served.

“ I love coming here on Mondays. It's too lonely to eat at home. ”

JUDY, FEAST guest

Thank you. Thank you. I really appreciate it.

BRANDON, FEAST guest

“ FEAST is a wonderful ministry that we are so happy to be part of. It is so nice to greet our guests each week and also work together with a dedicated group of volunteers that make FEAST happen. The camaraderie truly makes Mondays so special. ”

CAROL AND JOE VOICHECK



Trinity welcomes service opportunities within our congregation and our community. Opportunities in 2023 consist of cooking, baking, serving and offering exceptional hospitality at the Trinity Seniors Luncheons, Fellowship events and funeral receptions for a family that are grieving. Additional serving opportunities for our faithful volunteers are filling Easter eggs, carving pumpkins, gathering crafts, wrapping gifts for our neighbors and organizing events that are hosted on the Trinity campus. Trinity volunteers are dedicated in so many ways - from serving to sharing of their time and talents.

The gift of giving of your time and talents is a blessing that flows from God and all who have received and participated are truly blessed!



## Serving and Connecting with others.



The **Clark William Deardorff Pavilion** was dedicated on September 10th, 2023. The project provided motivation to get involved and reengage with our church family and the community. The Pavilion is an outdoor extension of Trinity's indoor Sanctuary. This new outdoor gathering space offers endless opportunities. Vacation Bible School, preschool events, outdoor church services, outdoor Sunday School, weddings, receptions, and birthday parties, to name a few. Not only does the Pavilion offer shade and rain coverage but it is a welcoming safe place for hosting. The openness is more inviting to all, both to the church and community. With no walls, it is a less restrictive place where folks can readily flow in and out. The Pavilion is a reminder that the church is not a building but people - a body of believers.

“ Trinity Preschool is very excited to host our end of the year celebration under the pavilion in May. We are looking forward to gathering with the entire preschool and their families. This is a perfect space where we can enjoy light snacks and have our farewells when we break for summer. ”  
TAMMY FERRO, Trinity PreSchool Administrator

“ The light from the pavilion at PumpkinFest provided a great space for the kids to feel safe trunking and treating! The addition of electricity was great for offering warm drinks and snacks too! ”

JULIA MENZO







In 2023 we gathered as a community to celebrate one another with an amazing catered breakfast for **Volunteer Recognition**. The Trinity Endowment Fund sponsored this wonderful meal to celebrate Trinity's faithful volunteers. The volunteers are within our community as well as our congregation. Trinity recognized the countless hours of service and the impact it has made around our community. We continue to offer an open invitation to serve among friends and share God's love with one another.

**FELLOWSHIP TEAM**

Cindy Ryan, Team Leader,  
Kim Wreath,  
Vicki Seal, Director for Fellowship

*Trinity would like to thank Cindy Ryan for her dedicated leadership to the Fellowship Team.*



After generous donations this Christmas season Trinity purchased over **130 gifts** of blankets and sweaters and volunteers wrapped them for a local nursing home.

“ Thank you for your generous gifts to our residents. You certainly made a difference and they were very happy during the holidays. Your church went above and beyond. We are so grateful. ”  
EDDY CHACON, Harborview Rehabilitation and Care Center



“ This ministry experience has changed the way I view an anniversary. I enjoyed meeting the couples and witnessing the love and commitment they share is so wonderful. The couples are eager to share their stories and we are so blessed to celebrate these wonderful milestones with our Church family. ”  
TAMERA HATTON

Trinity's **Marriage Recognition** is celebrated each and every year for those who have been married 50 or more years. Trinity shifted to a Saturday afternoon catered luncheon followed by an intimate Saturday night service with a marriage blessing for all who attended. This ministry is a wonderful way to recognize the blessings of our families and a way to celebrate our lives with our church family. Attendees were invited to bring photos and other items to share their lives with those around their table. This ministry continues to be a blessing to those who attend as well as those who serve.

“ Serving at the various Fellowship events is a great joy! The gratitude of the people we serve as well as the friendships made with others is truly a gift. ”  
JACKI MAUTE



# Teaching Generosity at PreSchool

The theme for this year is generosity and thankfulness. We have so much to be thankful for this year and a great deal of thanks goes to our preschool families here at Trinity Preschool. During the month of November, the families collected over **60 lbs. of cans and non-perishable foods** for Manna on Main Street which then directly helps individuals who may be food insecure in our community.

During the month of December Trinity Preschool presented the 1st Annual Angel Tree. We had 30 some angels on the tree and the families could pick an angel and help a family in need from either Oak Park Elementary or York Ave Elementary; both schools are in the North Penn School District. We also adopted two families that had specific needs. I am happy to announce that we raised over **\$600 in gift cards** and were able to give the **two families** everything that was on their children's wish list.

“ The ornament that caught my eye indicated it was for a family that attended the same elementary school as my children. We are very grateful to our school and are part of their close community. My heart ached to know that this family was in need. This tree will be touching the lives of so many. I am very thankful to be a part of it!

PEGGY VERNITSKY

“ I feel very lucky to be able to be a part of this community here at Trinity Lutheran Church where so many are doing great acts of kindness and I am able to contribute as well.

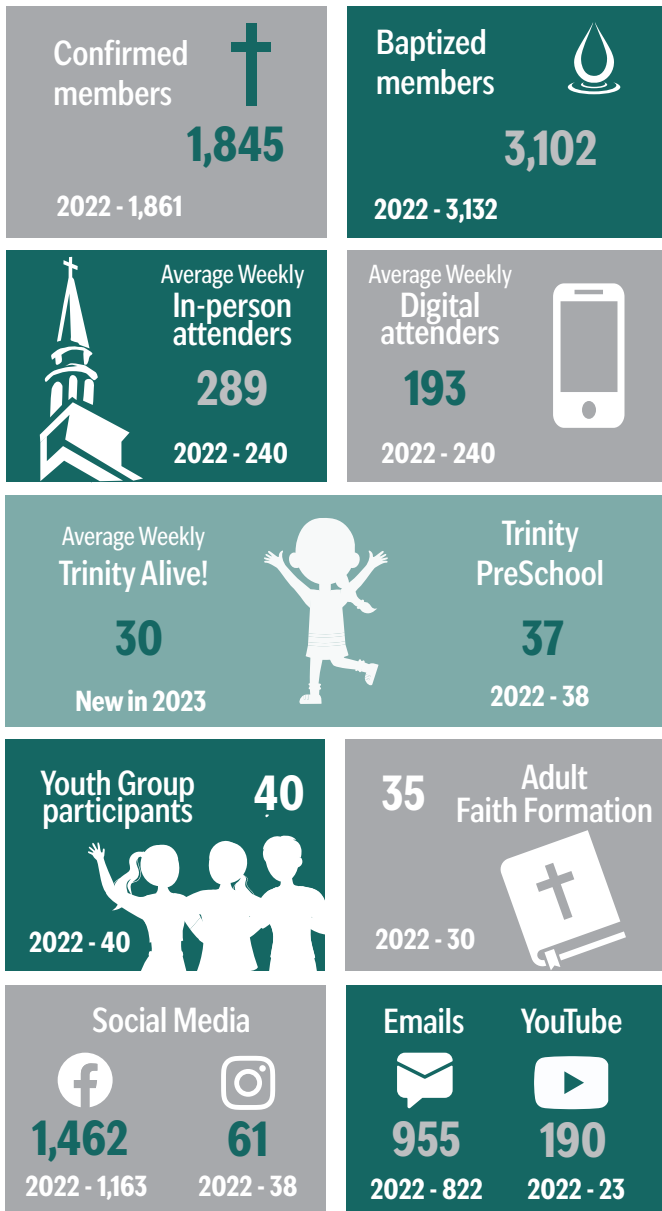
TAMMY FERRO, Preschool Administrator

“ The Angel Tree is a blessing. The single mom or dad or parents or grandparents who have children to support rarely have enough except for basic supplies, gas, food or utilities. Being given gifts of toys or clothing is beyond wonderful. It takes a little bit of stress away. Decades ago, I was the single mom of four, working 3 jobs, just getting by. Being given gifts of toys, clothing and food made our holidays full of joy. I am forever grateful for everyone who helped us. Now I get to help others, bring joy to those who need a little extra help. Thank you for your Angel Tree as it blesses so many people. ”

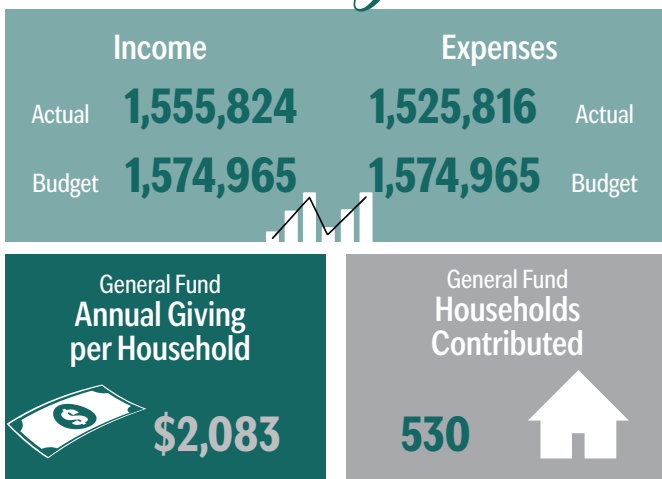
DEBORAH



# How we *Connect*



# How we *Give*



# Supporting all ministries.

The Ministry Support Hub supports the general and administrative functions of the church. The ministries under this HUB include:

- Safety Team
- Archives
- Accounting
- Columbarium
- Disaster Response Management
- Energy Management
- Generosity Team
- Maintenance

In 2023 we once again hosted blood drives through the American Red Cross, a vaccine clinic through Skippack Pharmacy, and the Senior Fair in September. We are thankful for the many volunteers who make these events happen and grateful for the wonderful space we can provide these organizations.

Dennis Smith, Manager for Buildings and Grounds along with the maintenance staff and the Monday Morning Crew have been busy working on improvements, repairs and upgrades in and around the Trinity campus. The major projects that have been completed in 2023 include:

- The Clark William Deardorff Pavilion was generously donated by Curt and Sue Deardorff in memory of their son, Clark William Deardorff, and built under the supervision of Dennis Smith.
- 64 Windows were replaced and recapped in the Educations Wing.
- Exhaust fans were installed in the Sanctuary to assist in bringing fresh air into the Sanctuary space.
- Sewer pipes were replaced in 4 bathrooms in the Education Wing
- Replacement of 6 outdated electrical supply panels in the education wing and Narthex
- Storm drain repair and replacement on the Hyson Hall side of the building
- Cement pad installed for dumpster relocation

These projects are possible because of the generosity of members of the congregation including financially and the giving of their time and talents.

### MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Lisa Corr, Director for Administration  
Denny Smith, Manager for Building and Grounds



# 2023 Church Council

According to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA, Model Constitution for congregations,

*“Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation” and “shall maintain and protect” Trinity’s property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs.”*

Although Trinity’s Council members meet regularly and frequently, they could not possibly fulfill the oversight and fiduciary functions without relying on a sundry of Committees and Task Teams. Therefore, in keeping with 1 Thessalonians 5:18, the Council thanks the members who are serving or have served on a Special Committee, Standing Committee, or Task Force assembled by the Council.



*The 2023 Church Council was (front row) Teri Lanan (Vice President), Karen Bergey (President), and Jamie Price (Treasurer), (back row) Michael Voicheck, Julie Kinzel (Secretary), Dave Freudig and Bill Shimer.*

Council positions transitioned in October of 2023 when Karen Bergey resigned due to health issues. Teri Lanan became President with Bill Shimer as Vice President .

Be *thankful*  
in all circumstances.

*Trinity would like to thank Karen Bergey and Teri Lanan for the dedicated service on Church Council.*

## Council Task Forces & Teams

### Community Partner Advisory Team (CPAT)

Formed in November 2022, the CPAT was one of Trinity’s earliest initiatives for becoming more mission-oriented and Kingdom-focused. In 2023, the CPAT developed a Partner Inventory Form, interviewed local leaders about partnering opportunities, surveyed Trinity’s ministries to identify where community partnerships already exist, and presented its findings and recommendations to the Shared Leadership Team in April.

The Council thanks CPAT members Julia Menzo (Convener), Karen Bergey, Lisa Corr, Linda Scheckenbach, and Vicki Seal for investing their time and talents to connect with current and potential community partners and for creating a process and resources to streamline the effort going forward.

### Luther Hall Task Force (LHTF)

The LHTF was formed in October 2022 and began its work in earnest in January 2023 to (1) determine the current condition and uses of Luther Hall and the adjacent garage, (2) explore potential uses with the ministry Hubs, pastors, local services, and (3) acquire estimates for razing, repairing, and renovating, either or both of the buildings. The LHTF reported its findings to the Council on September 18 and concluded follow up discussions with Council on November 15, 2023. The Council plans to share the report with the congregation in Spring 2024 and will be holding open conversations with the congregation before making any decisions about the future of Luther Hall.

For the LHTF’s impressively thorough research and report, the Council thanks Sandy Cottrell (Convener), Gary Hatton, Ron Borneman, Jim Cottrell, Larry Ramsey-Macomber, Jen Pugles, and Lisa Corr.

### Safety & Security Task Force (SSTF)

The SSTF was formed and began its work in July 2023 to address the findings and recommendations from a safety and security (S&S) assessment performed by the Lansdale Police Department at Trinity’s request. Thus far, the SSTF has completed the “quick fix” infrastructure repairs, (2) gathered and prioritized the review of existing S&S policies and procedures, and (3) established 2024 goals and plans for enhancing Trinity’s safety and security for everyone

For their commitment, efforts, and plans to enhance and ensure safety and security at Trinity, the Council thanks SSTF members Harry Smyser (Convener), Dave Kriebel, Denny Smith, and Jim Muth.

# Council Committees

## Call Committee

A Call Committee is a Special Committee of the Council with the singular purview of vetting candidates and recommending the most suitable one to fill a particular pastoral vacancy. After its year-long search, the Call Committee recommended Pr. Jonathan Steiner to the Council and congregation for a call vote. Over the weekend of November 4-5 and at all three services, Pr. Steiner delivered his call sermon, members cast their vote, and Pr. Steiner was called to serve as Trinity's Associate Pastor.

For the Call Committee's prayerful patience with the process and faithful discernment, the Council thanks Cindy Weiss (Chair), Christy Johannesson, Cynthia Shimer, Jim Muth, Marcia Pitzenger, Steve Hull, and Tamera Hatton.

## Endowment Committee

Thanks to the generosity of members and their families through outright gifts and bequests over the years, Trinity is blessed with an Endowment Fund that helps support both new and existing ministries. Each year the Endowment Committee allocates approximately 5% of the Fund's total value and allots it equally among five ministry categories—Global Outreach, Local Outreach, Scholarships, Capital Improvements, and Discretionary.

In 2023, the Endowment Committee distributed **\$77,605**.

Here is but a sampling of the ministries and projects that received support from the Endowment Fund:

- New Automated External Defibrillator for the church lobby
- Various Synod scholarships
- Pick-A-Pixel Campaign
- Ordination support for Trinity seminarians
- Garden of Health/FEAST partnership
- Congregational Breakfast
- Luther Hall Task Force
- Faith Formation Guest Speakers
- High School Senior Recognition and Luncheon
- Bear Creek Camp meal donations
- Rise Against Hunger/MLK Day event
- Prepared To Thrive
- Bear Creek Camperships for 2023
- Kitchen Storage and tables for the Parlor renovation
- Computers and a laminating machine for TLC's office
- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- Partial reimbursement for Pastor Steiner's moving expenses
- On Eagle's Wings

For their steadfast stewardship in discerning and distributing support from Trinity's Endowment Fund over the past year, the Council thanks Tamara Hatton & Carol Voicheck (Co-chairs), Alex Hanna, Bill Graeff, Fran Reiner, and Tom McGuire.



*Trinity's Endowment Fund provided the funding for the MLK Day of Service with Rise Against Hunger. We packaged 10,000 meals with 85 volunteers in Hyson Hall on January 16, 2023.*

## Finance Committee

This committee's financially savvy souls collaborate closely with the Staff Directors and Hub Leaders in preparing Trinity's annual budget. The committee meets monthly to review the financial statements for variances, analyze their potential ramifications and remedies, and recommends funding sources for unanticipated expenses and capital projects such as the Loft and Visual Enhancement Panels. The Treasurer is also a voting member and invaluable fiscal advisor to the Council and works closely with Trinity's Church Accountant.

For their financial oversight and wise counsel throughout the year, Council thanks Jamie Price (Congregational Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair), Cathy Pezzuti (Church Accountant), Craig Dietterick, Dave Crosson, Fran Reiner, and Larry Ramsey-Macomber.

## Human Resource Committee

The HR committee facilitates a positive and productive working environment for Trinity's staff and rostered leaders. Some of the HR Committee's 2023, achievements include:

- Implementing an annual performance review process
- Updating work policies and documentation in the employee handbook
- Reviewing job descriptions for new hires
- Collaborating with Pr. Fowler on staff structure and management practices
- Providing guidance on selected staff coaching programs

For sharing their experience and expertise in organizational management, the Council thanks the knowledgeable and resourceful members of Trinity's HR Committee—John Wittenbraker (Convener), Jim Cottrell, Karen Towns, and newcomer Cassie Pickens-Jewell.





### Generosity Team

Without members sharing abundantly of their treasures, time, and talents, Trinity could not possibly provide relevant and robust ministries for our church family and vital services and support for our neighbors in need. Much of the credit for the generous spirit that flourishes here is attributable to the creative and moving messaging of Trinity's Generosity Team. Here are some of the Generosity Team's notable accomplishments in 2023:

- As of this writing, the 2024 Generosity Campaign resulted in a **5% increase** in the giving estimates submitted and an **8% increase** in the total dollars committed.
- Four new members joined the Generosity Team.
- Increased the frequency of communication with the congregation about stewardship and generosity.
- Increased the number of Trinity participants in the SEPA Synod's January 2023 Generosity Extravaganza.
- Partnered with and supported the Worship Hub in its January 2023 production of the stewardship-themed musical, "To The Castle."
- Elevated the focus on "Planned Giving" by hosting a Thrivent presentation in June and a September session on Wills & Estates.
- Handwrote 500+ mid-year Thank You cards to disciples who financially supported Trinity between January and June 2023.
- Worked with Trinity's staff to develop a Fundraising Calendar to better coordinate and schedule financial requests throughout the year.
- Coordinated the 2024 Annual Campaign with an earlier starting time in mid-October and the addition of a three-week sermon series and book study.
- Advanced the analysis of giving at Trinity with the help of new team members.

For keeping generosity at the forefront of the hearts and minds of Trinity's members, the Council thanks the creative and committed members of the Generosity Team: Bill Graeff (Chair), Betty Kern, Chip Kern, Chris Johnson, Craig Dietterick, Dave Kratz, Tamera Hatton, and Tim Bonitz.

Thankful hearts are  
Generous hearts.



*Generosity Team partnered and supported the musical and dinner theater "To the Castle" in January 2023.*



### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee seeks and vets members to fill positions on Council, Call Committee, and other committees and teams as requested by the Council or specified in the Constitution or By-Laws. Agreeable candidates are then recommended to the Council or congregation for approval or election.

For their confidentiality and discernment in recommending Curt Deardorff, Sandy Cottrell, and Susan Pashos to fill the three impending Council vacancies, we thank Julie Kinzel (chair), Al Hanna, Marcia Hoffa, Randy Ehm, and Vicki Seal.

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## Continuing Council Members



### Serving 2nd year of 1st term **David Freudig**

Dave was born in Bethlehem, PA and raised in nearby Center Valley. His class was the first class to go through the new Southern Lehigh High School. Dave then went to Gettysburg College. After college he became a teacher in the Souderton School District and spent his career there. While there he also went to Lehigh University where he received a Master's degree and became certified K - 12. In his youth he became an Eagle Scout and received the God and Country award from his church. Dave currently lives in the Lutheran Community in Telford. In 1986 he joined Trinity and has served in several capacities, including but not limited to Usher Team, FEAST, Generosity Committee, and Funeral Receptions.



### Serving 2nd year of 1st term **William (Bill) Shimer**

Born in Hellertown, PA, William "Bill" Shimer graduated from Muhlenberg College and Baylor University Law School. He spent forty-one years as an attorney with Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, also managing first the Pottstown office and later the Norristown office. He retired at the end of 2016. Bill is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves (1971-1977). A lifelong Lutheran, he has served on church councils in addition to numerous committees. He enjoys singing in the church choir. His wife, Beth, and daughter, Cynthia, are also Trinity members.



### Serving 2nd year of 1st term **Michael Voicheck**

As a husband, father, son, and lifelong member at Trinity, Michael enjoys sharing his musical gifts with the church regularly. He is a high school teacher who loves working with youth and encouraging them to realize their potential and recognize their own gifts. Michael earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from Immaculata University, but is most proudly known as a Hokie, having graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in teaching. He was baptized at Trinity many years ago, and spent countless hours accompanying the various musical groups at Trinity, including a touring praise and worship band for many youth gatherings and events.



### Church Treasurer Re-Appointment **JAMIE PRICE**

Jamie has been a member of Trinity's Finance Committee since 2014 and served as Treasurer from 2015 thru 2018. Jamie has been active at Trinity as a grade 6/7 Sunday School teacher and D2D Guide. Jamie and her wife, Heidi Wertz, live in Sellersville and have been Trinity disciples since 2000. Their sons, Tyler and Trevor, were baptized and confirmed at Trinity. Jamie received her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Penn State University and MBA in Finance from Saint Joseph's University. She has worked for Johnson & Johnson the past 20 years.

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## Church Council Candidates



### Re-election for two-year term **JULIE KINZEL**

Julie is a lifelong Lutheran and the daughter of a Lutheran minister. She joined TLC in 2001. Julie has served on church council in the past as co-president and this past year as secretary. She has been a Eucharistic Minister and involved with the health ministry team. Currently, Julie serves as an Assisting Minister, the Racial Justice Team and Code Blue. She is a Physician Assistant (PA) and she lives in Skippack with her wife, Amy Smith, and two dogs and one cat. She enjoys most outdoor activities, being with friends and cooking.



### New Candidate for a two-year term **SANDY COTTRELL**

Trinity member since 1974, Sandy's taught SCS (32 years), taught VBS, traveled with On Eagle's Wings, been a Stephen Minister, serving now as Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, and Worship Support. She was a Eucharistic Minister (10 years), then served as EM coordinator, which she's done again for 2 years. Sandy led/participated on special committees/task forces and served on council (1985; 2016 to 2021). Currently she's on the CC Hub leadership team. Working in the pharmaceutical industry and as a university adjunct professor, she now serves as US Agent to FDA for biotech companies. Sandy's passions include her faith, Trinity, and her church family.



### New Candidate for a two-year term **CURT DEARDORFF**

Trinity has always been our home. My wife, Sue, and I are blessed to be lifetime Trinity members. Our three children also grew up at Trinity and now our eight grandchildren are part of our Trinity legacy. Sue and I owned and operated a family dental practice in Lansdale for 30 years before retiring. I served on the church council during the major church expansion, the staff support and evangelism committees, co-chaired the energy management team and am a Eucharistic minister. I will always welcome input, suggestions, and concerns our Trinity family may have and strive for transparency.



### New Candidate for a two-year term **SUSAN PASHOS**

Susan became a Lutheran at the age of 25. She can relate to people who come to us from other traditions. She deeply appreciates our worship practices while being open to what we might learn from other perspectives. A soul-feeding worship experience is critical to attracting and retaining members—along with our educational and personal support services. Susan sings in Trinity Choir (or makes joyful noise) and serves as Lector. She served in Altar Guild and will work this summer in the FEAST garden. Susan was employed for 43 years in book publishing. She looks forward to serving you all.



## Trinity's Dedicated Staff



**Pastors and Christian Care Staff**  
 Pastor Fritz Fowler (Lead Pastor), Pastor Jonathan Steiner (Associate Pastor), Vicki Seal (Director for Christian Care and Fellowship).

**Worship Staff**  
 Linda Graeff (Digital Worship Coordinator), Miwa Sperring (Assistant for Worship & Music), Andrea Baxter (Director for Worship & Music), and Henry Strobel (Assistant Director for Worship & Music).



**Ministry Support Staff**  
 Maria Brown (Administrative Assistant/Receptionist), Lisa Corr (Director for Administration), Saci Bartos (Maintenance), Karen Brown (Office Assistant/Receptionist), Denny Smith (Manager for Building and Grounds), Cathy Pezzuti (Church Accountant), Victoria McKelvie (Director for Communications). Not pictured: Susan Soule (Nursery Coordinator), Susan Underkoffler (Maintenance), and Jill Wenzel (Maintenance).



**Faith Formation Staff**  
 Amy Hawthorne (Coordinator of Children & Youth for Faith Formation), Deacon Jane Elliott (Interim Co-Director for Faith Formation), Pastor Ric Elliott (Interim Co-Director for Faith Formation), and Connor Watson (Coordinator of Young Adults & Adults for Faith Formation).



**PreSchool Staff**  
 Tammy Ferro, Preschool Administrator, Carol MacDonald, Danielle Scherer, Jackie Berardi, Kim Nolen, Jennifer Schuster, Allison Dotterer and Julia Claffey.

# Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes: February 12, 2023

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The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 12, 2023 in Hyson Hall following the 8:30 am service. The meeting was also held simultaneously via virtual meeting platform, Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by Karen Bergey, President, with 147 in attendance in Hyson Hall and 10 on Zoom. Pastor Fowler gave the opening prayer.

Karen Bergey welcomed everyone noting theme of meeting as "Better Together". She explained the voting system to be used will be to ask for a show of hands for those voting no and for those abstaining, with the balance of votes then to be considered as Yes. A motion was made by Sandy Cottrell, seconded by Joe Devlin, and passed to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Shirley Bastian, and passed to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2022 Annual Congregation Meeting.

Jamie Price, Council Treasurer, presented the 2022 financial review. She noted offerings for 2022 were over one million dollars. A Property Plan needs for 2023 was shown and Denny Smith thanked for his assistance in preparing it. Final results from 2022 showed total income of \$1,468,429 vs total expenses of \$1,381,021, and a \$77,898 loss in the Thrivent Mutual Fund, ending with a net surplus of \$9,510.

Jamie Price then presented the 2023 Ministry Plan. Income is projected to be \$1,570,965 and expenses projected to be \$1,574,965, with a \$4,000 gain in the Thrivent Mutual Fund, ending with a 0 balanced budget. She noted that the Heilemann Trust will provide \$154,085 income in 2023. Questions were responded to, including: reason for FEAST income reduction (projecting a more conservative income from participants); how do pledges compare with last year (pledging less but amount of giving more (Bill Graeff from Generosity Committee provided some detailed numbers); amount of benevolence giving comparisons between 2022 and 2023 (increase for 2023 based on 8.2% of increased projected income); and explain \$35,000 left over from loan forgiveness (Jamie explained how PPP Loan Forgiveness system worked with \$117,810 of total forgiveness of \$153,219 used in 2022).

Highlight: A motion was made by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Bill Shimer to approve the 2023 Ministry Plan as presented as a balanced budget - motion passed with 0 no and 2 abstain votes.

Cindy Weiss spoke for the Nomination Committee. She introduced and reviewed the background of the three new Council candidates for two-year terms - David Freudig, William Shimer and Michael Voicheck, and Karen Bergey, who is running for an additional one-year term. Since there were no questions:

Highlight: A motion was made by Rodger Brown and seconded by Sandy Cottrell to approve the following slate: Karen Bergey (incumbent), David Freudig, William Shimer, and Michael Voicheck. - motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Fowler gave the pastor's report. He noted how Trinity is 'better together', highlighting that the Shared Leadership Team (staff, Council and HUBS) have come up with goals for 2023, and highlighting what he is excited about for 2023. He noted the following staff transitions: leaving during 2022: Deacon Karen Matthias-Long, Saci Bartos (as full time), Karen Wenhold and Emily Brands, and welcoming Henry Strobel, Jamshid Refahi, Jill Wenzel, Deacon Jane Elliott, Pastor Ric Elliott, Tammy Ferro, and Julia Claffey. Still looking for full-time Associate Pastor and Associate Director for Worship and Music. Thanked staff and introduced those in attendance. Introduced HUB leaders: Marcia Pitzenberger (Worship), Deb Neves (Faith Formation), Cindy Ryan (Fellowship), and Linda Scheckenbach (Christian Care). Thanked Cindy Weiss for her Council service as she ends her term of office, and Cindy was recognized with a certificate of service for her five years as a Council member.

Julie Kinzel, Council Secretary, was introduced and showed/spoke on the revised Trinity's Reconciling in Christ welcoming statement, which had been approved by Council and endorsed by the Shared Leadership Team. Julie Kinzel also introduced members of the following committees and task forces: Finance, Endowment, Human Resources, Nominating, and Call Committees, Covid Advisory, Racial Justice, Transition Team, Luther Hall, the Loft, and Property Assessment Team Task Forces.

Teri Lanan, Council member and convenor of Shared Leadership Team, was introduced and stated that a poster showing the Shared Leadership System, outlining the staff and HUB system, was set up in the room for viewing. HUB members were introduced.

Two Staff members were recognized for service anniversaries. Jamie Price recognized Cathy Pezzuti for 10 years of service as Church Accountant and Tammy Ferro recognized Kim Nolan for 20 years of service in the PreSchool.

A video was then shown highlighting Worshipping Together, Learning Together, Serving Together, Sharing Together, Better Together. Trinity's intern, Vicar Cari States-Codding, gave the sending prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted by: Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary



# Special Congregational Meeting Minutes: November 4-5, 2023

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A special Congregational meeting was held on November 4th and 5th for the sole purpose of voting on calling Pastor Jonathan Steiner to serve as a full-time Associate Pastor.

The meeting was called to order, following conclusion of the Saturday 5:30 pm, November 4th service, by Council President, Teri Lanan.

At each meeting, Pastor Leslie Richard, SEPA Synod Deputy, provided guidance and oversight of the voting. Each meeting was opened with prayer and Pastor Richard verified and affirmed who is a member of the congregation, who is eligible to vote, and noted number needed for a quorum (5% of members). Cindy Weiss, Chairperson of Call Committee, followed by introducing the Call Committee members, and reviewing why they are recommending the candidate for the Associate Pastor position. Questions were requested and responded to. Ballots were distributed for a yes or no or abstain written vote and collected for counting after all three meeting sessions were concluded.

Saturday night's meeting was recessed at 6:55 pm and was reconvened at the conclusion of the Sunday 8:30 am November 5th service, following the same process as the first session. The second session was recessed at 9:55 am and was reconvened at the conclusion of the Sunday 10:45 am service, following the same process as the previous sessions. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm, at which time all ballots received at the three sessions were counted.

A call needed a YES vote of 2/3 (181 votes) of total votes. The following results were announced at 12:30 pm.

Total ballots cast were 274.

YES votes were 273.

NO votes were 1.

Abstain votes were 0.

Pastor Steiner was offered and accepted the call. He addressed the congregation and the meeting was then closed with a prayer at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary

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Be *thankful*  
in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you  
who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

## 2024 Ministry Plan-Revised February 2024

Income	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Difference
Offering Income	\$1,158,192	\$1,158,192	\$-
Preschool Tuition	91,380	96,784	(5,404)
Building Use Income	28,557	26,000	2,557
Thrivent	12,369	9,907	2,462
Worship Sponsorships	13,198	12,350	848
FEAST	10,720	7,800	2,920
Administration Sponsorships	7,055	4,600	2,455
Fellowship Fund Raising	3,396	4,500	(1,104)
Student Ministry	1,478	3,100	(1,622)
Coffee Hour	887	900	(13)
Missionary Support	310	600	(290)
Preschool Directed Giving	1,900	2,025	(125)
Certificate Income	263	100	163
Funeral Reimbursement	38	96	(58)
Heilemann Trust	137,970	100,000	37,970
PPP Loan Forgiveness	35,409	-	35,409
Univest & Thrivent Mutual Fund - Loss/(Gain)	52,702	24,000	28,702
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,555,824</b>	<b>\$1,450,954</b>	<b>\$104,870</b>

Expenses	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Difference
Compensation	\$988,433	\$1,052,911	\$64,478
Property	180,118	183,600	3,482
Administration	145,526	127,328	(18,198)
Synod Benevolence at 8.2%	94,890	91,946	(2,944)
Worship	48,814	44,270	(4,544)
Faith Formation	9,827	14,705	4,878
Christian Care	18,589	16,350	(2,239)
Fellowship	10,591	12,320	1,729
Generosity	4,868	4,901	33
Hospitality	3,699	4,200	501
Communications	6,974	9,502	2,528
Preschool	5,756	5,683	(73)
Council	7,731	4,870	(2,861)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,525,816</b>	<b>\$1,572,586</b>	<b>\$46,770</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$30,008</b>	<b>\$(121,632)</b>	<b>\$151,640</b>





We are *thankful*  
in all circumstances.

TRINITY  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

[trinitylansdale.com](http://trinitylansdale.com)

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