

2023 *ANNUAL REPORT*

Trinity Lutheran Church
Stillwater, Minnesota



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Table of Contents

Report of the Council President _____	Page 3
Lead Pastor _____	Page 4
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation _____	Page 7
Gifts Management _____	Page 8
Worship & Music _____	Page 10
Congregational Connections & Care _____	Page 11
Children, Youth & Family _____	Page 12
Outreach Missions _____	Page 14
Annual Meeting Agenda _____	Page 17
Minutes of Annual Meeting: November 20, 2022 _____	Page 18
Fiscal Year Statistics _____	Page 22
Pastoral Acts _____	Page 23
CPA Report _____	Page 24
Balance Sheet Summary _____	Page 40
Fiscal Year-End Summary of Income & Expenses _____	Page 41
Treasurer's Report _____	Page 42
Comprehensive Campaign _____	Page 43
Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Ministry Budget _____	Page 44
Report of the Nominating Committee _____	Page 45
Congregational Council Nominees _____	Page 46
Sample Ballot _____	Page 47

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we move into another winter season, I think about the ever-changing seasons of the life of our church. This past fiscal year, we experienced some profound changes. We, as a congregation, overwhelmingly approved the comprehensive capital campaign of “New & Renewing: The Next 150 Years” which involved a three-part plan of Financial Accompaniment, Debt Reduction, and Deferred Maintenance. Our long-time Parish Administrator, Bob Eiselt, retired after 24 years of faithful service to Trinity Lutheran Church and we hired Sarah Kinsman, making her the first woman to serve in this role in Trinity’s history.

The ongoing success of the comprehensive campaign has been life-giving. It is inspiring for our faithful community to continue to be more intentional in living our shared core values through a more vibrant expression of faith in the God who first loved us. Support for the campaign consists of 192 pledges totaling \$1,925,859 as of the fiscal year-end on Aug. 31, 2023. Much of this would not have been possible without the willingness of others to serve on the Comprehensive Campaign Leadership Team. The campaign cabinet was led by chairpersons Chris and Marilyn Johnson, Mike Karlsrud, Matt and Deb Simcik, Claudia Swendseid and Clark Thurn, and supported by Pastor Chris Bellefeuille and Pastor Peter Weston Miller, Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman (and Bob Eiselt prior to his retirement), Resource Coordinator Jeff Anderson, and Campaign

Consultant Steve Olson. The cabinet helped to inspire and lead all of the many teams involved in the capital campaign including Church Council, Ministry Teams/ Areas, Faith Formation Team, Spiritual Emphasis Team, Phone Caller Team, Hospitality/Event Team, Communication Team, and Advanced Visitors/Small Group Team. This has truly been a church-wide effort we can all be proud of together. A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your financial and prayerful support of Trinity Lutheran Church.

It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside such a wonderful team of individuals who care so deeply about being responsible, caring, and faithful stewards of our church community. The Congregational Council, this past fiscal year, included Vice President Krista Gossai, Treasurer Jeff Anderson (as well as Bill Bjorum who served in this role prior to Jeff’s appointment), Secretary John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, Tom Haugrud, Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Pastor Peter Weston Miller, and Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman (and again, Bob Eiselt prior to his retirement). A heartfelt thank you for your willingness to share your time and gifts in the spiritual and governance oversight of our church community. I also want to give special recognition to all of our Trinity staff and volunteers who support and put into action all of the important and amazing work that happens every day at Trinity—we cannot thank all of you enough!

As we move forward into a new fiscal year, there will continue to be new changes of seasons within the life of Trinity. Whether it’s the expected or unexpected, the uplifting or the challenging, the inspiring or the mundane, we continue to do it together as one church, Trinity Lutheran Church. Together we can continue to proclaim that we embrace all, welcome all, and provide a safe and loving place to nurture our relationship with God and each other. On behalf of your Congregational Council, we are grateful for you and our shared work together.

Andrew Thelander

President, Congregational Council
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Perhaps the holiest part of writing an annual report is the opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and marvel at the abundance of our life together. And to give thanks.

Trinity continues to forge a future focused on our call to be the body of Christ in Stillwater, the St. Croix Valley, the Saint Paul Area Synod, the ELCA and the world! Appropriately concentric circles of focus for ministry.

Let's take a look:

Comprehensive Campaign "New & Renewing: The Next 150 Years"

At our 2022 annual meeting, the congregation voted to approve a comprehensive campaign with three clear goals: debt reduction (70% of each gift), deferred maintenance (20%), and mission (10%). We had a fun and engaging imagination weekend with guest leader and preacher, Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalf, and kicked off the campaign in early March.

The campaign sparked tremendous participation, with pledges of just over \$1,925,000. (An additional \$65.5 thousand in designated gifts were also received.) This has already allowed us to reduce our mortgage principal to its lowest point in decades. (You can read more about the campaign on page 43 of this report.) We were able to tend to important updates at the drive-in property and will be able to begin work on preserving the historic Third Street exterior next spring. A first check was sent to the Saint Paul Area Synod Planting Hope campaign, and we are building an abundant fund to sustain mission into the future.

We hoped to reduce our mortgage payments enough to allow our general operating budget to fund the bulk of our mission work. However, that may be a dream deferred, as we face an interest

rate adjustment in May of 2024 that will take a bite out of the savings realized by paying down our mortgage. But we remain hopeful. Over the next two and a half years we will offer additional invitations to fulfill pledges, make first-time or one-time gifts, including a push ahead of the May interest rate adjustment.

We offer our thanks to the campaign general chairs: **Chris and Marilyn Johnson, Mike Karlsrud, Matt and Deb Simcik, Claudia Swendseid and Clark Thurn.** As well as to the rest of the campaign cabinet: **Jeff Anderson, Linda Flood, Pastor Peter, Bob Eiselt, Sarah Kinsman,** our consultant **Steve Olson of Olson Advancement,** and yours truly.

This campaign has brought a lot of hope and enthusiasm for the engagement of the congregation across all demographics by our investment in the wellbeing of the future.

Staff

Trinity enjoys great staff longevity. And with that comes retirements. In the fall of 2022, our Parish Administrator Bob Eiselt announced his retirement.

We drafted a job description and gathered a hiring team of **Debbie Beaudet, Mark Gieseke,** and **Pete Clements.** We had a robust response to our posting on Indeed. (We posted in multiple other places as well.) And were delighted to offer the position to **Sarah Kinsman.** Sarah comes with many years of experience as a parish administrator and has been a great addition to the team. If you haven't met her yet (she has been VERY busy with multiple anticipated and unanticipated facilities projects, budgeting, and campaign work!), please find time to reach out and say hello. Many thanks to the hiring team for their huge investment of time and energy.

We also hired **Pastor Rich Larson** as our new part-time visitation pastor. Rich retired from his role as pastor of Bethlehem in Bayport in the spring of 2022 and after giving him six months to rest, we were eager to invite Rich to be part of the team. Pastor Rich's focus is on members who are unable to get to worship or other activities on a regular basis. He also is part of the pastoral on-call rotation for emergencies and funerals.

Our former wedding coordinator also retired, and we were able to contract new member **Courtney Place**, who brings abundant energy and impressive organizational skills! We don't host very many weddings, but when we do, the role of wedding coordinator is a great gift.

Staff has organized our meeting times to create increased communication and team building. Weekly meetings include full office staff, CYF, and administration. Monthly meetings include worship, care team, program staff. There are also regularly scheduled leadership meetings and staff/supervisor one-to-one meetings.

Dinner Church

In the fall of 2022, we launched our third worship service, Wednesday evening Dinner Church. After a trial year, we determined it was a great fit for our community, so we kicked off year two in September. A huge thank you to **Tami Jensrud** for coordinating the meals. Suffice it so say, we are connecting with folks old, new, and former in this energetic (and short!) intergenerational service. And I am enjoying a renewed opportunity to teach/facilitate the Adult Faith Lab following Dinner Church.

Pastoral Care

This is a variable and ongoing part of any pastor or church's work. Sometimes the needs are many

and sometimes few. Pastor Peter, Pastor Rich, and I regularly spend time with members exploring their questions, processing suffering, navigating grief, and more. This work includes funerals and home visits. This past winter, Connections Coordinator Zanny Johnson, arranged for the three pastors to visit all the senior living communities in Stillwater where members reside. Invitations are issued and the facilities provide a space to meet. If the group is small, we meet in one of the apartments. Because of these visits, now in addition to a monthly communion worship at Boutwells Landing (first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.), Pastor Rich is leading a monthly communion worship at Oak Park Villas (first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.). Members and friends are always welcome.

If you have not had a visit from a pastor or member visitor and would like one, please contact the church office.

Connections Coordinator

Zanny Johnson completed her grief care facilitator certification. In addition to regular group spiritual direction, Zanny can now offer grief support groups. As Zanny will tell you, she is not a trained therapist but certified as a facilitator to connect folks with safe and supportive space to navigate the holy work of grief. If you are interested in participating in a future group, please reach out.

Zanny Johnson, Faith Community Nurse Kim Dahlgren, and I have all variously been part of the development of the new St. Croix Valley Grief Coalition, which will hold its first grief support group in 2024. This is a consortium of health care, faith communities, counseling services and more who saw the need for more regularly

-continued on next page-





scheduled grief support in the valley. They will offer six-week support groups twice annually—one in the spring and one in the fall. Locations and times will be announced at the formal kick-off.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast

Trinity was enthusiastic about becoming the new location of the Stillwater Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast. Under the leadership of the Stillwater Human Rights Commission, we had a great gathering last January opening our doors to students, civic leaders, faith leaders, citizens, the curious, the hopeful and the committed. Our own **Ann Wolff** was instrumental in forwarding Will Antell of the White Earth Nation to receive the 2023 Human Rights Award and we will look forward to continuing that celebration at the breakfast next January.



Engagement in and beyond the St. Croix Valley

One of the great joys of life at Trinity is an increase in partnerships in the valley. The St. Croix Valley Ministerial Association continues to work with the Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team (HSAT) to support the Washington County Emergency Housing project, to seek opportunities for shared youth ministries, and to connect our faith communities in worship (such as Palm Sunday!).

We are part of the East Central Conference of the Saint Paul Area Synod, which meets monthly. Staff attended the Church Anew workshop at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie last spring. Your pastors and voting members (**Penny Catlin, Doug and Karen Dufty, Scott and Jill Kneeskern, Kirsten Parker**) attended synod assembly at St. Andrew's Lutheran in Mahtomedi in May.



The list of a pastor's engagements is too long and detailed for an annual report. (See, I can learn!) And the work continues to be life-giving and joyous.

I offer my personal thanks to our committed and faithful congregational council: **Andrew Thelander, Krista Gossai, Tom Haugrud, Jill Longnecker, John Hodler** and our Treasurer, **Jeff Anderson**. The Trinity staff has navigated a fair bit of change in the past 18 months and continues to operate in faith, love, curiosity and professionalism: **Monty, Jeannie, Phil, Zanny, Marilee, Ellen, Kim, Clark, Carol, Sarah K., Sarah O., Linda, Tom, Annie, Sonia, Ash, Eric** and **Pastor Rich**. I give thanks for you and look forward to being with you every day! **Pastor Peter** has made it possible to live the dream of walking into synod events together and having people say: There is a good partnership. Thank you, PP, for being a truth teller, supporter, challenger and true colleague.

And to my husband Ted, thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for this holy work. You are, simply put, the best.

People of Trinity, I have never doubted God's hand in our partnership. I am, as my dad would have said, "sinfully proud" of the way you lean in, love each other, stretch in faith, raise your hands in worship (crazy, right!?), and bring the joy of God into the world. It's a true honor to serve as your pastor. Thank you for being everything you are.

Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, D.Min.
Lead Pastor
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PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

I-Thou Relationship in 2023

A couple weeks back I was having coffee with a Stillwater Trinitarian. Our conversations have been somewhat acute to matters of illness, grief and faith; but also wide-ranging—including patterns of educational pedagogy and family systems, linguistic determinism and I-Thou relationships. You probably know that it is not uncommon to have this kind of conversation with someone from our Trinity community. Curious and contemplative. Painful and faithful. Expansive and rooted. Focused yet ever-eternal. Difficult and creative. From AI to Adam and Eve.

It's absolutely one of my favorite things about being a pastor and particularly at Trinity—though this type of holy dialog surely cuts across all vocations and locations.

In our last meeting, this community member mentioned the philosopher and mystic Martin Buber and the modality of I-Thou vs. I-It relationships. Buber characterized the I-Thou relationship as one of vulnerability, directness, presence, intensity and ineffability. Buber writes: "When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them." To him, the power of the I-Thou relationship, in contrast to the transactional I-It relationship, was a bold leap of heightened empathy.

We might call it accompaniment.

A community of practice.

The Body of Christ.

I shouldn't have been so enraptured or in-awe by this reference to

Buber. The reality is, it seems that folks have a consistent pattern of invoking this type of wisdom over an average cup of church coffee.

It happens often, glorious and gracious.

Not all the time, but a lot. A way of seeing the world in I-Thou relationship.

I-Thou Ministry

That kind of I-Thou relationship is what I'm most grateful to be a part of here at Trinity in a wide range of ministry. Pastoring in I-Thou relationship. Forming Faith in I-Thou relationship. Worshiping in I-Thou relationship. Serving our neighbors in I-Thou relationship.

This last year has included lots of highlights that reflect that vision of I-Thou, though there are many more than I can possibly capture here (even if I tried). What's also true and makes my heart overflow is how Ven-diagram these highlights are, both with staff and volunteers. Such as:

All Ages Dinner Church (which incorporates all CYF and adult specific I-Thou learning and affinity)

Vance Blackfox Education Series (collaborative across Ministry Teams and St. Croix Valley)

Sabbatical in Holden Village (incredible mountain top ministry moment—HUGE THANKS from me and my family)

Tiny House Roseville (blessing unhoused neighbors thriving in community-first, I-Thou relationship)

Sunday Forum Speakers and Engagement (ranging from the spiritual practice of water-color to the ELCA Civic Life & Faith study—and everything in-between. Not to be missed ever.)

Looking Ahead

Many of you might have seen my November *Trinity Today* newsletter article describing some of the

social and spiritual factors that have led us to invest more learning on Wednesday rather than "Sunday School," though it had probably not been anything like "school" for a very long time here at Trinity. Which is a good thing. And still a little different. But still seeking to cultivate I-Thou relationships passing on the Christian story.

We continue to experiment with opportunities to build, bridge, enhance, reach and accompany Faith Formation across the generations. This includes technical adaptations like Trinity's new mobile app (which has a plethora of tools!) and moving the playground to the Green Space (no small feat either!). It also means exploring new content, trends, partnership, curricula and congregation-wide study.

Always moving at the pace of I-Thou relationship. It's the kind of relationship Jesus embodied and what the world most craves.

Being known. Being loved. Taking faithful risks in the face of paralyzing questions and consuming fear. Planting trees of peace even when it looks like elements of our worlds are ending. Listening deeply even amidst so much noise.

Sipping average cups of church coffee.

Mostly because that I-Thou encounter is never average and our coffee at Trinity is actually pretty amazing.

Stillwater Trinitarians, I am thankful to you and thankful to God for another year of ministry. I'm really grateful for the I-Thou collegiality of our staff and this whole beloved crew. We are I-Thou together. In Christ's service and relating.

Pastor Peter Weston Miller

Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
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GIFTS MANAGEMENT

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!” – Hebrews 13:8

This passage is comforting! I am so thankful that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for all time! Being the same yesterday and today and forever, Jesus Christ promises us that all things will work together for good for those who put their trust in Him.

This year has been one of much change at Trinity. When I assumed this role in May, Trinity was already in the midst of a successful comprehensive campaign and hopefulness was apparent! In those first weeks of summer, Trinity dove into some long-planned and much-needed building projects—improvements to the drive-in and installing the new playground on the Green Space. Recently, as part of the city’s sidewalk project, we were able to address a sink hole and replace the broken concrete at the Fourth Street entrance. Yes, change has been apparent!

Thank you to the Facilities Team and the Helping Hands (formerly Tuesday Guys) crew for their efforts to keep Trinity’s facilities maintained and in good working order. All of these volunteers provide invaluable knowledge and expertise of the current and future needs of the “bricks and mortar” church! Our Green Space took a beating this summer—due to the construction of the playground project, intense heat and lack of rain. Thank you to Vic Thalacker for the donation and planting of five beautiful maple trees on the west side of the playground. I also wanted to express my gratitude to Sandy Wendt and our Landscape Team for their efforts to keep our indoor and outdoor gardens looking fresh and welcoming, as well.

In September, at TrinityFEST, the new Trinity Members App (powered by ShelbyNext) was officially rolled out. The new app provides parishioners with a secure, confidential, and convenient way to access giving history, the membership directory, the church calendar and listen to past sermons. You can now make your annual giving pledge and set up your giving option through the app as well.

For the staff at Trinity, change is happening as well. Ellen Neseth, our Accounting Coordinator, will be retiring in November. Ellen was invaluable to me as I navigated this new position. Thank you, Ellen, for your years of dedication to the financial management of Trinity. With the help of the Trinity staff, Ellen has worked hard and creatively to stay within the operating budget.

Lastly, a special thank you to Noah Schumacher and the Stewardship Team (as well as staff!) for their commitment, creativity, and hard work to this year’s fall campaign, “In Grace We Live, In Love We Give,” acknowledging that every gift is an act of love. We encourage you to share your gifts and your talents as “acts of love.”

One of the things about Trinity that has really impressed me in my time here is your commitment to serve—the countless volunteers that use their gifts to serve your community. What a blessing these volunteers are to this church—and this church is to the community. Trinity parishioners made me feel very welcome and for that I thank you!

May God continue to bless Trinity richly in 2024 and beyond!

Sarah Kinsman
Parish Administrator
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Facilities Maintenance Team Report

Members of the team are Dave Swager, Brian Larson, Ron Hagen, Tom Hosek, Sarah Kinsman and Mark Gieseke.

Projects Completed in 2023

In 2023 the first of the comprehensive campaign funds became available for deferred maintenance projects identified in the appeal. Projects in each of the five areas listed in the table are being defined and prioritized for funding. Currently the budget for campaign-funded activities is \$360,000, which will not complete all the work on this list. The table on the next page is an update on the status of the campaign-funded projects.

Other projects completed during the past year include the following:

- Relocated the playground to the Green Space, in partnership with LADC.
- Completed sidewalk restoration at the Fourth Street entrance.
- Restriped the parking lots.
- Repaired the damaged awning at the drive-in.

Please also see the priority projects in the table on the next page.

The Facilities Team would like to thank the volunteers who regularly take on many of these maintenance projects. Much of the work is completed by members of the team, custodial staff, and Trinity’s Helping Hands group. Their service greatly reduces the cost of maintaining our facilities and allows us to make far more progress than would otherwise happen.

Thank you to Sarah Kinsman who had barely a day to settle into her role as Parish Administrator before multiple projects landed on her desk.

The team is also grateful for the contributions of the Lakes Area Discovery Center (LADC) to projects that benefit both the church and the preschool.

New & Renewing Comprehensive Campaign — Deferred Maintenance Projects

Item Description	Status	Estimated or Actual Cost
Drive-in facilities need improvement.	Completed asbestos removal, took down the screen shell, and demolished the concession building.	\$62,500 (actual cost)
Historic east side of the church needs various repairs.	Quotes have been received from multiple companies. The work is expected to begin in spring of 2024.	\$150,000 – 250,000
Lower-level restrooms need upgrades.	Design options are being developed. One goal is to create some gender-neutral restrooms.	\$150,000
Carpeting and paint in the main offices are 20 years old.	Not started yet.	\$40,000
Complete refinishing of the Worship Center floor.	Not started yet.	\$60,000

Priority Projects for 2024

These projects are the next priorities recommended by the Facilities Team.

Item Description	Recommended Action	Estimated Cost in 2024
Historic east side of the church needs masonry repairs.	Complete repairs on the masonry, windows, doors, and trim using campaign funds.	\$150,000 – 250,000
Lower-level restrooms need upgrades.	Complete design of restroom updates for 2025 construction and interim solutions. This is a comprehensive campaign project.	TBD
The well equipment and the electrical service panels need protection from the elements.	Construct shelters at the drive-in property for the well and electrical service equipment.	TBD
Improved stage and storage at the drive-in property.	Review ministry needs and develop designs for an improved stage and secure storage. For future construction.	TBD

Mark Gieseke, Team Member
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WORSHIP & MUSIC



Of all the wonderful things that go on at Trinity, it is worship that is the constant that brings us together each week in the Worship Center and out at our Drive-in.

We are so lucky to be blessed with marvelous musicians, worship assistants, communion helpers, bread bakers, ushers, and greeters all of whom make worship happen each week. I'm grateful as well for our incredible music and worship staff: Carol Carver, Andrew Kreye, Sonia Esch, Phil Kadidlo and Ash Kadidlo who are committed to helping craft thoughtful and meaningful services each week both in person and online!

Some highlights from the past year that come to mind are:

- Bringing Andrew Kreye on staff to lead music at the contemporary service.
- Creating opportunities for the congregation to experience the many facets of the arts, such as the Trinity Choir's collaboration with the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra at our annual Christmas Concert.
- The formation of the "Trinity Brass" which is comprised of Trinity members!



- Our powerful presentation of Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ for Good Friday.
- Hosting 29:11, our friends from South Africa, and worshipping with them!
- Summer worship at the Drive-in, including Jazz Band Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, Run/Bike Sunday, and Blessing of the Cars.
- And so, so many wonderful Sundays at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services with the Trinity Choir, Worship Band and guest musicians!

Trinity is a place where we gather to worship God, make music, pray, laugh and sometimes cry. It is a place where all are welcome. Where we can be challenged. A place where we hear from the voices of all generations. Trinity is a place that I am proud to be a part of. I look forward to continuing our work together for many years to come!

Clark Weyrauch

Director of Worship & Music
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CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS & CARE

Connections

As I sit here in my office at Trinity and listen to the bustling and busy front office activities: Jeannie making calls to find lefse rollers, Linda laughing and welcoming Lutefisk ticket buyers, Sarah Kinsman stopping in my office to find a blank stewardship packet, Monty fielding Trinity members dropping in for Tech Tuesday...I am so happy. I love the background noise of folks going about ministry and fellowship—and as the Connections Coordinator, I love the connections!

Along with my work as staff liaison for the following groups: Circles, Solos, Quilting Ministry, Sunshine Ministry, Celebrating Seniors, Caring Friends, Make a Meal Ministry and the new LET'S GO* group, I have the pleasure of coordinating our visitor ministry along with volunteer Sharon Longnecker. We welcomed 29 new members to Trinity this fiscal year. In May our annual Talk & Tea speaker was Diane Millis, PhD, leading our women in *ReCreating A Life*, learning how to tell our most life-giving story—finally pivoting to an in house event since pre-pandemic in 2019!

On Nov. 12, 2022, 31 Trinity women gathered at Memorial Lutheran in Afton for our fall Half-Day Retreat, with the theme of *CoCreating with God*—how all of us were fashioned by God to be God's co-creative agents: creators of love, hope, joy, solace, beauty, possibility, and even art! Pastor Chris and I led this retreat and explored how we engage in this holy work as a community and as individuals.

The biggest change for me professionally in 2023 was the completion of my Grief Educator Certification in June, from David Kessler and Grief.com. David is one of the world's leading grief educators, who worked alongside

Elizabeth Kubler Ross, creator of the five stages of grief. David added the sixth stage of grief: finding meaning. This certification, along with my spiritual direction training, prompted the advent of facilitating grief groups here at Trinity. In the late spring, six widower Trinity members and I gathered for six weeks—supporting one another as they grieved their wives. I look forward to convening more groups and holding space for the holy and hard work of grief.

Last fall, Pastor Peter and I offered Affinity Groups—one of the groups I led was Spiritual Deepening, gathering for six weeks with those Trinity members desiring to deepen their spiritual practices, utilizing my spiritual director training and passion for contemplative practices.

More new experiences for me this year at Trinity were joining the Care Team, along with the pastors and our Faith Community Nurse, meeting regularly to make sure our members are cared for in body and spirit; helping with the tending of our physical building in coming alongside the Fine Arts Team and beautification committee, and contributing to the coordination of worship assistants, implementing the self-serve system along with online signups.

These beautiful connections—ways in which God's love is made visible—are the heart of my work here at Trinity. Connecting to God—connecting to others.

*LET'S GO is a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church that embraces ALL people through educational and recreational opportunities. Let's Go aims to inspire, invigorate, and build friendships while participating in a wide variety of activities, knowing that God is with us always.

Zanny Johnson
Connections Coordinator
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Care

I enjoyed being part of our care team and continuing to serve the needs of the congregation again this year. I am currently working with the Volunteer Visitation Team, Knitting Ministry and the Prayer Team. We have a wonderful team of four visitors that make up the Volunteer Visitation Team, along with our Visitation Pastor Rich Larson. The team tends to the spiritual and social needs of home-bound members. During times when in-person visits are not advised, calls are made and cards are sent. We use masks when needed or requested, and apply general safeguards to keep everyone safe. It is a joy to bring God's word and love on a regular basis. We have a team of 19 knitters and meet every fourth Thursday at church. Knitters continue to make prayer shawls and baptismal shawls as special gifts to members during both difficult and celebratory times in life.

I also send out a series of grief booklets to our members that have experienced loss of a loved one. I receive prayer requests and have continued to send out prayer request lists which are updated as needed. There are 20 people currently that receive the weekly prayer list and pray faithfully for our church and its members. I am also the person through whom care needs are directed. Specifically assisting with clarification and help with understanding medical needs and different levels of care. Along with Zanny Johnson, our Connections Coordinator, and our pastors we provide all kinds of love and care for our beloved faith community.

Kim Dahlgren, R.N.
Faith Community Nurse
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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Children & Family Faith Formation

God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good! This is one of my favorite call-and-response mantras to gain the attention of a large group when I'm leading time with children. A simple, yet powerful reminder that God's goodness is the ever-present and hopeful undercurrent for our lives. Over the past year at Trinity, in Children and Family Faith Formation, God's faithfulness continues to show up, pointing toward all that is good.

Last year saw a return to a more robust time of weekly Faith Formation on Sunday mornings. Children and their families met in between worship services to explore more deeply the themes of worship together. This format exposed just how much we've missed being together in person, and after summer listening sessions, it was determined that to better capture folks on the go throughout the week, moving Faith Formation to Wednesday evenings was worth a try. As today's church thinks about and honors what real life is like for families, we're hopeful the move from Sunday to Wednesday offers a measure of flexibility for full calendars that takes the stress off

weekends and makes space for family worship and Sabbath.

This fall, Faith Lab began on Wednesday evenings for children ages 4 through grade 5 to encounter God through community. Each week explores a particular biblical story using material from Illustrated Ministry and provides opportunities to focus on hearing and reflecting on the story with open-ended questions, creating meaningful art, sharing in an interactive activity based on the story, and providing an opportunity to share God's love. God is good, all the time!

The inaugural year of FAFA (fellowship and faith affinity) Groups was also a smashing hit last year! Elementary-age youth met with a variety of Trinity members who had special gifts and hobbies to share. Affinity groups included a Book Club, Woodworking Group, Creative Writing for Journaling, Yoga Devotion, and a Craftsperson Medley. Our Trinity youth were able to discover new interests, but even more beautiful were the intergenerational relationships that unfolded. God is good, all the time!

Families met once a month last year for fellowship and service opportunities through Monthly Family Faith Events. Together, we had a Fall Harvest Party, welcomed Advent, celebrated Christmas, created cards of care for elderly members of our congregation, found Easter eggs, and made emergency personal hygiene kits for neighbors in need. God is good, all the time!

Other highlights from last year also included a winter family retreat at Camp Wapo. Families took time over President's Day weekend to unplug together and enjoy the serene winterscape of Camp Wapo while exploring a variety of faith practices. Children presented *The Holy Family is Here*, a heartwarming Christmas Program that followed the Holly Family, playing the Holy Family, in their church's Christmas pageant. Last year also saw 18 children who completed the Communion Preparation Class, and 28 new saints baptized into the fold of God's community. God is good, all the time!

And then, there was Vacation Bible School. Watch out world, we now have several new universe menders on the loose! At VBS this past summer, we used the theme of *Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*. Children explored the Bible and discovered new ways to care for God's creation and one another. We were affirmed that everyone, even the youngest among us, have been given the power to heal, forgive, pray, and rest—essential tools to join God in mending what's broken. God is good, all the time!

The move of Trinity's playground to its new home on the Green Space cannot go unmentioned either! A herculean effort was put forth by several volunteers and key staff to lovingly and safely reconstruct our new, beautiful playground. Young families met over the summer for a Meet & Play event and then we blessed our play area with a ribbon-cutting at TrinityFEST this fall. God is good, all the time!

Do you see it, too? God is certainly good. All the time.

Sarah Olson

Children & Family
Faith Formation Coordinator
solson@trinitylc.org



Youth Faith Formation

We have seen things return to more of a normal pace with Middle School and High School ministries. Our middle schoolers in 678 Confirmation moved to meeting in the Garden Room, where the space needs met the size of our group a bit better. Forty-five kids met most Wednesdays for a mix of fun, small group connections and learning as we covered the history of Martin Luther, the Small Catechism, and the Ten Commandments. Service opportunities (including collecting for the Heifer Project), special speakers, and large group fun events were added to the mix, as well as game nights and a lock-in event.

Summer found us back to a regular rotation of middle school programming, as we offered Middle School Summer Stretch service program in July. Eighteen kids from both Trinity and St. Paul Lutheran churches participated and helped with yard work, painting, and various clean-up projects in the community. We continued our partnership with Camp Wapogasset near Amery, Wisconsin as 15 middle-school kids attended in mid-August for a week of sun, swimming, faith and fun.



High School

Our main ministry for high schoolers was once again our Puerto Rico Mission Trip. Twenty-two high school students and seven adult leaders spent a hard-working, faithful, and successful week in and around the Jayuya, Puerto Rico area in late June. The kids worked very hard, and outside of a little bit of rain, everything went off without a hitch.

This trip was a continuation of our new mission trip focus with a summer time frame, new but slightly different destination of Jayuya in central Puerto Rico, and a repeat trip partner in Minneapolis-based Praying Pelican Missions (PPM). They once again handled all the on-the-ground transportation, lodging, and work details, leaving our missionaries to focus their time and energy on making a connection with their hands and hearts on work projects and children's ministries.

We are in the beginning stages of Puerto Rico Mission Trip 2024 so we can continue the momentum of our new mission trip set up. Planning begins in December, but this will be only one of several summer 2024 opportunities for high school ministry. In partnership with St. Paul Lutheran in Stillwater, we will also offer the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans as well as a new option of leadership training at Camp Wapo both later in the summer.

We have also begun a new weekly Wednesday High School Youth Group gathering in the Youth Room at Trinity for Bible study, connections, and discussion. This is a different type of gathering, designed to be an option for busy kids to slow down and talk about whatever is on their minds. A half dozen kids have attended, and it is my hope that this new ministry will grow over time.

Middle School

We have begun another year of grades 6, 7 and 8 Confirmation, and although our numbers are a bit smaller, the enthusiasm of the kids has been fantastic. Keeping with our "learn, serve, play" philosophy, we are looking at the Old Testament on Wednesdays, and are sprinkling in service projects and other fun events throughout the year.

Our 9th graders gathered this fall to prepare for Confirmation Day and their transition into Senior High ministry. Fourteen young people confirmed their faith on Oct. 29 and are being set loose to plug back in to leadership roles within Wednesday and Sunday children and youth ministries.

I cannot believe this is my ninth year at Trinity! It goes without saying (but I will say it anyway) that I continue to remain very appreciative of the support of youth ministry by our congregation and look forward to where God is leading us!

Monty Lysne

Youth Faith Formation Coordinator
mllysne@trinitylc.org



OUTREACH MISSIONS

The Outreach Missions Team opens each monthly meeting with our mission statement: We will follow God's example of love by collaborating with others to facilitate a world in which the basic needs of all people are met in an environment of peace with justice.

Thank you to all who have continued to serve others in need during this past fiscal year. Our mission board continues strong and active. Many members of Trinity also serve in many ways to help our neighbors. Thank you.

In our local city, county and state, members of our congregation are very involved in helping those around us.

We have members involved in Alight, Team Sunflower (Ukrainian Refugees), Bundles of Love, Community Thread, ELCA World Hunger, Family Means, Global Health Ministries, HSAT (Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team), Hope House, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief, MICA (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing), Operation Bootstrap Africa, Our Community Kitchen, Settled Inc. (Tiny Homes), Solid Ground, Valley Outreach, to name just a few.

We have supported St. Paul Partners, through our Trinity members participation as well as financial support, to help our neighbors in Tanzania access clean water.

Our prison ministry continues with the Angel Tree (Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents and to their caregivers).

The quilters of Trinity made 25 baby quilts, five receiving blankets plus three sweaters, two burp cloths and two stuffed

toys for Bundles of Love; and 39 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They also made and donated four quilts for fund raisers at Trinity, which added \$2,500 to the General Mission Fund. Note cards have been made of 24 quilts that the team has made and are also being sold with proceeds also going to the General Mission Fund.

Again this summer, Trinity friends, in partnership with local organizations under the Community Thread umbrella, provided backpacks and school supplies to area students. Trinity's generosity by giving items or funds was stupendous! We said to our neighbors right here that we see them, we hear them, and we will walk alongside them sharing God's grace!

In March we had a large food drive at church and learned more about the specifics of Valley Outreach. The first Monday of every month, Trinity volunteers sort clothes for the StyleXchange store. Our children and youth are collecting personal items each week to donate. The need is great in Washington County. We can help.

Several mission team members visited Dream of Wild Health, a farming community near Hugo, Minnesota that is a Native-led nonprofit organization. Money from our Thanksgiving offering was sent to them to help with their educational goals.

Last Sunday Supper is a collaboration of three local churches (Trinity Lutheran, Ascension Episcopal and First Presbyterian) to provide a meal to anyone on the Last Sunday of each month. You are invited to participate and volunteer.

Through MCC (Metropolitan Council of Churches) and with a coalition of members from Trinity, Ascension Episcopal, Boutwell's Justice Team and Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center (ETCIC)—we sponsored a family of five from Afghanistan. In June, we celebrated and recognized World Refugee Day by inviting our sponsored Afghan family to attend both worship services at Trinity. Mr. Sadat's presentation was an inspiration to many and the family's presence was enjoyed by all. We are watching them thrive and celebrate the time we spend with them.

Nationally, Trinity members are involved with Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and we support the work of the Racial Justice Ministry Team at Trinity.

And globally, we continue to support students from our sister congregation in Mwatasi, Tanzania, to have the opportunity to go to high school and further. This past year we helped pay tuition (for those unable to have family members pay their tuition) for 28 students. We gave support to one of the pastors of the Tanzanian Lutheran Church who needed help with medical care and we paid for our local Mwatasi pastor and his spouse to travel to Iringa for a pastoral retreat and medical exam. We continue to work with the Tanzania Mwatasi water project to help provide clean and running water. The Trinity Outreach Missions Team is planning a trip to our sister congregation in 2024. Come along!

Team members are also involved in Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Global Health Ministries. We have

given funds to Lutheran Mideast Development and Lutheran World Relief.

Our high school youth completed an overseas mission trip with a week in Puerto Rico helping our friends with Bible School and manual labor. We continue to support them as we are able.

Specifically, this fiscal year, we have donated to Stillwater and Minnesota agencies, international groups and to Tanzanian missions.

There are currently ten members on the Trinity Mission Board: Glenda Bjorum, Spike Carlsen, Michele Hermansen, Mike Johnson, Mike Karlsrud, Marie Liberda, Arlyce Melheim, Lynae Olson, Renae Oswald-Anderson and Sandy Wendt. We welcome your input for ways to continue helping those in need. Funds to the Mission Board are through fund raisers and donations from you. With the comprehensive campaign, in the future we hope to receive funds and be part of the annual budget. As we are in a transition year, we have limited our gifts and retained some of our income, to use as needed for continuing service and mission to those in need.

We thank you for your continued support and pray that we may help our neighbors in need. We continue to follow the words of Matthew 25:35-36—For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.

Marie Liberda, Chair
mbvgro@gmail.com



why trinity?

Because God
first loved us,
we live as Jesus in the world,
loving God and
loving neighbor.

core values

Engaging Worship
Radical Hospitality
Authentic Community
Lifelong Faith Formation
Compassionate Action



welcome

Trinity Lutheran Church is a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater.

We seek to be a church grounded in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In doing so, we intentionally educate ourselves in becoming more effective advocates for all of God's people.

We embrace those of strong, uncertain, or undiscovered faith.

We embrace all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

We embrace every age, family structure, race, ethnicity, physical and mental capacity, and economic circumstance.

We believe all people have been created in the image of God, and therefore have valuable stories and infinite worth.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

153rd ANNUAL MEETING OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Stillwater, Minnesota

November 19, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

1. Meeting Called to Order – President Andrew Thelander
2. Opening Prayer
3. Sharing of the Peace
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Introduction & Recognition of Congregational Council Members
6. Introduction of Parliamentarian
7. Approval of Procedures
8. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2022 Annual Meeting
9. Election of 2024 Council Nominating Committee
10. Report of the 2023 Council Nominating Committee
11. Election of Two (2) Congregational Council Positions
12. Recommended Motion – Nomination of Delegates for Synod Assembly
– May 10-11, 2024
13. Reports from the Congregational Council, Staff and Ministry Teams
14. Report of the Church Treasurer for FY 2023
15. Presentation of Proposed Budget for FY 2024
16. Approval of Proposed Budget for FY 2024
17. Other Business
18. Closing Prayer – Adjournment

MINUTES

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

Minutes of the Congregational 152nd Annual Meeting

Held Sunday, November 20, 2022

Location: In person at Sanctuary and remote via Microsoft Teams

Attendance: 97 in person and 9 by remote means

1. Meeting Called to Order.
The Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church of Stillwater, Minnesota ("Trinity Lutheran Church") was called to order at 12:00 noon by Congregational President Andrew Thelander.
2. Opening Prayer.
Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille provided the opening prayer.
3. Sharing of the Peace.
Andrew Thelander announced the sharing of the peace.
4. Approval of Agenda.
M/S/P to approve the agenda as set forth in the handout presented at the annual meeting.
5. Introduction and recognition of Congregational Council Members.
Andrew Thelander introduced and recognized the following current members of the Congregational Council:
 1. Chris Bellefeuille – Lead Pastor;
 2. William Bjorum – Treasurer;
 3. Krista Gossa -- Vice-President;
 4. Thomas Haugrud – Secretary;
 5. Jill Longnecker;
 6. Carol Straka;
 7. Andrew Thelander – President;
 8. Robert Eiselt -- Parish Administrator (non-voting member); and,
 9. Peter Weston Miller – Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation (non-voting member).
6. Introduction of Parliamentarian.
Andrew Thelander introduced Dan Wilson as the Parliamentarian for the annual meeting.
7. Approval of Procedures.
Parliamentarian Dan Wilson summarized the following procedures for the annual meeting:
 1. The Constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church provides that the individuals entitled to participate and vote at the meeting are confirmed members of Trinity Lutheran Church and who, during the current or preceding calendar year, have communed in the congregation and made a contribution of record to the congregation.
 2. Also pursuant to the Constitution, Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure at the meeting.
 3. In the spirit of the purpose of the meeting, all comments and discussions are to be kind, positive and seek to advance the mission of Trinity Lutheran Church.**M/S/P** to approve the foregoing procedures.

8. Appointment of Tellers.

M/S/P to appointment the following individuals as the Tellers for the annual meeting: Chuck & Joan Newman; Jeff & Kristie Anderson; Paul & Kathy Fristad; and Greg & Gail Wires.

9. Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2021 Annual Meeting.

M/S/P to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2021 Annual Meeting as submitted.

10. Election of 2023 Council Nominating Committee.

The 2022 Council Nominating Committee consisted of Doug Johnson, Erica Kanewischer, and Mel Sullivan. The 2022 Council Nominating Committee recommended the following to serve as the 2023 Council Nominating Committee:

1. Erica Kanewischer;
2. Carol Straka; and
3. Mel Sullivan.

M/S/P to approve the recommended candidates and appoint them as the 2023 Council Nominating Committee.

11. Report of the 2022 Council Nominating Committee.

Mel Sullivan presented the report of the 2022 Council Nominating Committee.

The 2022 Council Nominating Committee nominated John Hodler to serve a three-year term to fill the seat presently held by Carol Straka, who Council appointed to fill the vacancy following David Martin's resignation effective December 1, 2021, with her term expiring at the annual meeting.

12. Election of One Congregational Council position.

The Nominating Committee presented John Hodler as the nominee to serve on Council.

The Bylaws of Trinity Lutheran Church provide that it remains the prerogative of the congregation to make nominations to Council from the floor. Andrew Thelander made inquiry on three occasions whether there were any nominations to Council from the floor, and there were none.

M/S/P to close the nominations for the open Council seat.

M/S/P to suspend voting by ballot for Council member and proceed with voice or raising of hand vote.

M/S/P to appoint John Hodler to a three-year term on Council.

13. Recommended motion – Nomination of Delegates for Synod Assembly – May 12-13, 2023.

M/S/P to authorize the Congregational Council to elect members of Trinity Lutheran Church to attend the 2023 St. Paul Area Synod Assembly to be held May 12 and 13, 2023.

14. Reports from the Congregational Council, Staff and Ministry Teams.

The reports from the Congregational Council, Staff and Ministry Teams were included in the 2022 Annual Report. Andrew Thelander made inquiry whether there were any questions about the reports and there were none.

15. Report of the Church Treasurer for fiscal year 2022.

Due to illness of Church Treasurer William Bjorum, Parish Administrator Robert Eiselt presented the report of the Church Treasurer for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2022.

The 2022 Annual Report included a chart with the 2022 fiscal year-end summary comparing the 2022 actual to the 2022 budget, and also a separate chart for the 2023 fiscal year proposed budget. For easier reference, the 2022 fiscal year-end summary and the 2023 proposed budget were re-formatted on one page,

which was handed out at the annual meeting and also available online. For fiscal year 2022, Trinity Lutheran Church experienced a deficit of \$77,848.00.

16. Presentation of Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2023.

Parish Administrator Robert Eiselt summarized the proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year, which was reviewed and recommended for approval first by the Finance Team and then by Council. Robert Eiselt responded to several inquiries about the proposed budget.

17. Approval of Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2023.

Upon the conclusion of the Treasurer Report and the presentation of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023, President Andrew Thelander then sought congregational approval of the proposed budget.

M/S/P that the budget for fiscal year 2023 be adopted and approved as submitted.

18. Presentation of proposed Capital Campaign.

President Andrew Thelander provided an introduction and summary of the genesis of the proposed Capital Campaign.

In November 2021, Council held a Financial Vision Retreat to fully consider the financial condition of Trinity Lutheran Church and to discern a vision of how to deal with the significant debt, make needed improvements and repairs due to deferred maintenance, and support mission work. It was determined to explore the feasibility of a capital campaign. Council interviewed three consultants experienced in capital campaigns, and selected Pastor Steve Olson doing business as Olson Advancement to conduct the feasibility study. Pastor Olson concluded the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study report and recommended proceeding with a capital campaign. Council determined to seek congregational approval of the capital campaign at the annual meeting, and to require a super majority vote of 2/3 to proceed with the capital campaign.

Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille reviewed the Case Statement for a Comprehensive Campaign (revised November 7, 2022). The Case Statement included a campaign proceeds allocation chart providing for the following allocation of capital campaign funds:

Mortgage reduction: 70%;

Deferred maintenance: 20% but not to exceed \$650,000; and,

Financial accompaniment: 7.50% to missions and 2.50% to the St. Paul Synod.

In the event the capital funds for deferred maintenance reach the \$650,000 cap, the allocation for deferred maintenance would at that point be re-directed to mortgage reduction.

Pastor Chris responded to several inquiries about the capital campaign.

Pastor Chris announced that a capital campaign cabinet has been formed in the event the Capital Campaign is approved, consisting of the following individuals: Chris and Marilyn Johnson; Mike Karsrud; Matt and Deb Simcik; Claudia Swendseid; Clark Thurn; Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille; Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Weston Miller; Parish Administrator Robert Eiselt; Consultant Steve Olson; and a Resource Coordinator yet to be named

19. Approval of proposed Capital Campaign:

A vote on whether Trinity Lutheran Church should proceed with the Comprehensive Campaign as outlined in the Comprehensive Campaign Proposal dated November 7, 2022 was conducted via paper ballots for those members attending in person and electronically by those members attending remotely.

The tellers counted the ballots and President Andrew Thelander announced that the Comprehensive Campaign was approved with 99 votes in favor and 7 votes opposed, resulting in a majority vote of 93%.

20. Other Business.

Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille introduced Pastor Steve Olson from Olson Advancement. She expressed her thanks and gratitude for his work and for the congregation's commitment to proceed with the capital campaign. She also further expressed her thanks and gratitude for the work and commitment of Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation, Peter Weston Miller, the entire staff of Trinity Lutheran Church, and the entire Congregation Council, and for the on-going support of her husband.

21. Closing Prayer – Adjournment.

Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille provided the closing prayer.

Upon conclusion of the closing prayer, the annual meeting was then adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Thomas Haugrud
Thomas Haugrud
Congregational/Council Secretary
Electronically signed

Minutes subject to approval at the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

2022 Christmas Eve:

IN PERSON

11 a.m.	181
2 p.m.	175
4 p.m.	411
9 p.m. (in-person only)	203
TOTAL	970

ONLINE VIEWS

11 a.m.	40
2 p.m.	90
4 p.m.	213
TOTAL	343

2023 Easter:

Ash Wednesday (7 p.m.) _____ Canceled due to weather

Maundy Thursday (7 p.m.) _____

IN PERSON _____ 200 (approx.)

ONLINE VIEWS _____ 85

Good Friday

7 p.m. IN PERSON _____ 370

7 p.m. ONLINE VIEWS _____ 364

Easter Sunday

IN PERSON

7 a.m. (in-person only)	126
9 a.m.	539
11 a.m.	330
TOTAL	995

ONLINE VIEWS

9 a.m.	166
11 a.m.	59
TOTAL	225

Special Services:

TrinityFEST (one service only at 10 a.m. – Sept. 18, 2022) _____ 308

Christmas Day 2022 (one service only at 10 a.m.) _____

IN PERSON _____ 96

ONLINE VIEWS _____ 80

Jan. 1, 2023 Lessons & Carols (one online service only at 8:45 a.m.) _____

ONLINE VIEWS _____ 199

Palm Sunday (one service only at 10 a.m.) _____

IN PERSON _____ 300

ONLINE VIEWS _____ 254

Average Sunday Worship Attendance:

In person at Trinity _____ 216

Online views _____ 197

Drive-in _____ 181

Average Wednesday Dinner Church Worship Attendance:

In person at Trinity _____ 100 (approx.)

NOTES: All online views are views in one week (and include live viewers). (Per ELCA guidelines, the number of views per week will be reported to the synod as multiplied by two to factor in multiple viewers in one household.)

Average Sunday worship attendance includes all Sundays (including Easter).

Drive-in worship was open through September 18, 2022 (reopening May 28, 2023) for a total of 17 Sundays in fiscal year 2023.

Fiscal Year 2023 Statistics

Total number of baptized members on September 1, 2022 _____ 2,584

Number of members received through baptism _____ 19

Number of members received through confirmation _____ 8

Number of members received through transfer/affirmation of faith _____ 29

Number of members removed through death _____ 22

Number of members removed through transfer, request, etc. _____ 92

Total adjusted number of baptized members on August 31, 2023 _____ 2,618*

Non-member funeral services conducted by Trinity pastors _____ 4

Weddings conducted by Trinity pastors _____ 2

* Statistical adjustment from database

2023 Trinity Congregational Council

Andrew Thelander _____ Council President

Krista Gossai _____ Vice President

John Hodler _____ Secretary

Jeff Anderson _____ Treasurer

Jill Longnecker _____ Council Member

Tom Haugrud _____ Council Member

Trinity Staff as of August 31, 2023

Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, D.Min. _____ Lead Pastor

Carol Carver _____ Organist

Kim Dahlgren, R.N. _____ Faith Community Nurse

Sonia Esch _____ Children's Choir Director

Linda Flood _____ Admin Support & Food Service Manager

Thomas Hosek _____ Lead Custodian

Zanny Johnson _____ Connections Coordinator

Ashton Kadidlo _____ Audio Visual Technician

Phil Kadidlo _____ Director of Audio Visual

Sarah Kinsman _____ Parish Administrator

Rich Larson _____ Visitation Pastor

Monty Lysne _____ Youth Faith Formation Coordinator

Anne Mikesh _____ Custodian

Ellen Neseth _____ Accounting Coordinator

Sarah Olson _____ Children & Family Faith Formation Coordinator

Marilee Tangen _____ Publications Manager

Eric Trosdahl _____ Financial Secretary

Jeannie Wendorf _____ Office Manager

Pastor Peter Weston Miller _____ Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation

Clark Weyrauch _____ Director of Worship & Music

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTIZED

Henry Arthur Kroening
Stellan Douglas Gustafson
George Peter Harris
Finnley Budd Sanocki
Elliott Andrew Knoflicek
Dorothy Joanne Kruse
Linden Miles Kruse
Amelia O'Brien Vickers
Lewis Stanley Wilmes
Ingrid Clare Illikainen
Reed Doyle Ahern
Cameron Thomas Bjerk
Cole Charles Hoffstatter
Rosie Elizabeth Neumann
Sophia Anne MacSwain
Calvin Lewis Weyrauch
Nash Roland Madline
Elliana Lynn Reid
Brooks David Pallas
TOTAL = 19

CONFIRMED

Jack Palmer Budion
Henry Michael Collyard
Ella Caroline Cronk
Vanessa Joy Goulette
Lucas Norman Hildrum
Isabel Rose Isaacson
Porter Michael Johnson
Liam Joel Kutzer
Andrew Thomas Linnell
Jillian Rose Maddux
Clara Elizabeth Ann Melin
Madeline Viola Nelson
Ava Rae Noah
George Ryan O'Connor
Isaac Jack Sainsbury
Anya Elizabeth Schultz
Miranda Roxanne Stafne
Elsa Jayne Stebbins
Ava Kathryn Stober
Nora Genevieve Tweed
Caroline Rose White
Lydia Zehr White
Marit Evelyn Wolden
TOTAL = 23
NEW MEMBERS = 8 (bold text)

MARRIED

Kallyn Appleseth &
James Dimmerman
Kimberly Ledman & John Ledman
TOTAL = 2

DEATHS

Robert (Bob) Allen Shopbell
Jean Ann Johnson
Don Amus Fultz
Evelyn Louise Linner
Audrey Clair Halvorson
Edward Gerald Gillstrom
Sharon Lee O'Neil
James Harold Bradshaw
Julianne (Julie) Carlson Pederson
Vincent Donald Parker
Karen Lee Olson
James Arthur Swanson
Michael Edward Dorendorf
Joan Eleanor Wyland-Burns
Merilyn Lloyd Cummings Kirby
Phillip Terry Giebler
Margaret (Peggy) Tocko
Sylvia Berg
Allen Elmer Ost
Mary Anne Staberg
Geraldine Pearl Hepola
L. Donald (Don) Lobitz
Paul Douglas Amos
Sharon Lee Swanson Germain
Constance (Connie) Elizabeth Rome
TOTAL = 25
MEMBERS = 21 (bold text)



CPA REPORT



FOLEY
KALSEIM
& COMPANY, LTD.

Certified Public Accountants

To Church Council
Trinity Lutheran Church

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Trinity Lutheran Church (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis as of August 31, 2023, and the related statement of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets and cash flows – all on the modified cash basis, for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Trinity Lutheran Church as of August 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note B.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As disclosed in Note B to the financial statements, the capitalization of property and the recording of depreciation over the estimated useful lives of the assets is a generally accepted modification of the modified cash basis of accounting. Management has informed us, however, that the Church has stated property and equipment in the accompanying financial statements at the November 1, 1995 replacement cost, which is not a generally accepted modification of the modified cash basis of accounting. Capital additions after that date are being recorded at cost or fair market value if received as donations. The effect of these accounting departures from the modified cash basis of accounting on the financial statements is not practical and has not been determined.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Trinity Lutheran Church and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note B of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note B, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

foleykalseim.com

12415 55th Street North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
P: 651.430.3635

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Trinity Lutheran Church's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Trinity Lutheran Church's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Prior Period Financial Statements

The August 31, 2022 financial statements were reviewed by us and our report thereon, dated November 2, 2022, stated we were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to those statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. However, a review is substantially less in scope than an audit and does not provide a basis for the expression of an opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

Foley Kalsheim & Company, Ltd.

Lake Elmo, MN
November 8, 2023

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 581,799	\$ 331,198
Investments	1,176,248	1,147,105
Prepaid expenses	3,905	5,179
Deposit	451	451
Master plan design fees	-	336,085
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	3,426,797	3,629,046
Total assets	\$ 5,189,200	\$ 5,449,064
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Payroll liabilities	\$ 18,627	\$ 11,590
Program deposits	5,190	3,300
Drive-in escrow	-	8,600
Security deposits	1,288	1,288
Designated mission funds	111,260	118,546
Line of credit	105,000	78,000
Long-term debt	2,655,486	3,136,019
Less debt issuance costs, net	(5,525)	(5,805)
Total liabilities	2,891,326	3,351,538
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	718,507	827,649
With donor restrictions	1,579,367	1,269,877
Total net assets	2,297,874	2,097,526
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 5,189,200	\$ 5,449,064

See independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Other Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

	2023		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:			
Contributions	\$ 1,262,282	\$ 868,103	\$ 2,130,385
Rental income - church property	66,941	-	66,941
Rental income - post office building	24,000	-	24,000
Rental income - Croix Center	60,576	-	60,576
Fees and other payments for program activities	60,554	-	60,554
Interest income	-	50,394	50,394
Government grant - ERC	71,224	-	71,224
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of property and equipment (loss)	-	-	-
Unrealized gain on investment (loss)	-	25,610	25,610
Net assets released from donor restrictions upon expiration of proposed restrictions	634,617	(634,617)	-
Total revenue and support	2,180,194	309,490	2,489,684
EXPENSES:			
Staff salaries and benefits	1,030,951	-	1,030,951
General operating expense	241,159	-	241,159
Building maintenance expense	178,304	-	178,304
Interest expenses and other borrowing costs	109,970	-	109,970
Missions and benevolence	95,365	-	95,365
Children, youth & family ministries	18,304	-	18,304
Communications	2,816	-	2,816
Lifelong learning ministries	2,918	-	2,918
Worship and music	33,592	-	33,592
Mutual care/small groups	24,522	-	24,522
Impairment of design fees	336,085	-	336,085
Depreciation expense	215,350	-	215,350
Total expenses	2,289,336	-	2,289,336
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(109,142)	309,490	200,348
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	827,649	1,269,877	2,097,526
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 718,507	\$ 1,579,367	\$ 2,297,874

	2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:			
Contributions	\$ 1,281,066	\$ 173,920	\$ 1,454,986
Rental income - church property	53,331	-	53,331
Rental income - post office building	24,000	-	24,000
Rental income - Croix Center	55,976	-	55,976
Fees and other payments for program activities	54,088	-	54,088
Interest income	-	46,036	46,036
Government grant - ERC	-	-	-
Miscellaneous income	200	-	200
Gain on disposal of property and equipment (loss)	(7,447)	-	(7,447)
Unrealized gain on investment (loss)	-	(204,557)	(204,557)
Net assets released from donor restrictions upon expiration of proposed restrictions	247,572	(247,572)	-
Total revenue and support	1,708,786	(232,173)	1,476,613
EXPENSES:			
Staff salaries and benefits	991,012	-	991,012
General operating expense	233,605	-	233,605
Building maintenance expense	42,357	-	42,357
Interest expenses and other borrowing costs	115,556	-	115,556
Missions and benevolence	105,247	-	105,247
Children, youth & family ministries	10,268	-	10,268
Communications	3,505	-	3,505
Lifelong learning ministries	3,695	-	3,695
Worship and music	27,795	-	27,795
Mutual care/small groups	29,002	-	29,002
Impairment of design fees	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	223,176	-	223,176
Total expenses	1,785,218	-	1,785,218
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(76,432)	(232,173)	(308,605)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	904,081	1,502,050	2,406,131
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 827,649	\$ 1,269,877	\$ 2,097,526

See independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Statements of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 200,348	\$ (308,605)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation	215,350	223,176
Impairment of design fees	336,085	-
Non-cash interest expense	280	280
Loss (gain) on disposal of property and equipment	-	7,447
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(25,610)	204,557
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	1,274	(3,063)
Deposits	-	74
Payroll liabilities	7,037	2,933
Drive-in escrow	(8,600)	-
Program deposits	1,890	3,300
Designated mission funds	(7,286)	(7,022)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>720,768</u>	<u>123,077</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of endowment fund, net	(3,533)	(14,900)
Purchases of property and equipment	(13,101)	(105,259)
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>(16,634)</u>	<u>(120,159)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Borrowings on line of credit	363,500	187,000
Payments on line of credit	(336,500)	(109,000)
Payments of debt	(480,533)	(119,369)
Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>(453,533)</u>	<u>(41,369)</u>
Net change in cash	250,601	(38,451)
CASH		
Balance at beginning of year	<u>331,198</u>	<u>369,649</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 581,799</u>	<u>\$ 331,198</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 109,690	\$ 115,276

See independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE A - ORGANIZATION

Trinity Lutheran Church (the Church) located in Stillwater, Minnesota was organized in 1871. The Church is a constituent of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The Church is a nonprofit organization and is dedicated to engaging as many persons as will share its confession of faith in the fellowship of worship, learning, witness, service and support, so that the Word of God may become effective in their lives together and individually. This includes relationships with other Christian fellowships and with social institutions at home and throughout the world. The Church is supported primarily through contributions of the congregation.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared on the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the modified cash basis, revenues are generally recorded when cash is received and expenses are generally recorded when cash is disbursed. Modifications to the cash basis of accounting include recording:

1. Property and equipment purchased as assets
2. Accumulated depreciation and depreciation expense on property and equipment
3. Liabilities arising from the receipt of borrowed cash
4. Employee FICA and withholding taxes not deposited with the IRS
5. Net assets with donor restrictions at fair value

The modified cash basis of accounting does not give effect to account receivables, pledge receivables, inventories, accounts payable, and accrued expenses.

The Church has stated property and equipment in the accompanying financial statements at the November 1, 1995 replacement costs, which is not a generally accepted modification of the modified cash basis of accounting. Capital additions after that date are being recorded at cost or fair market value if received as donations. The effect of this accounting departure from the modified cash basis of accounting on the financial statements has not been determined.

Financial Statement Presentation: Net assets, revenues, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets of the Church are classified and reported as follows:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets currently available at the discretion of the Church Council for use in the Church's operations, and those resources invest in land, buildings and equipment.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Grants and other contributions with explicit donor restrictions which specify how the gifts are to be used, including net assets restricted by donors in perpetuity as endowments or irrevocable trusts. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets – modified cash basis as net assets released from restrictions.

Concentration of Credit Risk: The Church places its cash with two banking institutions. At times, the amount on deposit exceeds the insured limit of the institution and exposes the Church to a collection risk. Uninsured balances were \$367,746 and \$130,781 as of August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Additionally, the investments in the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust of the ELCA are not insured and consequently expose the Church to a collection risk. The Church has not experienced any losses.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Property and Equipment: All property and equipment on hand at November 1, 1995 is valued at the replacement cost on that date. Additions to fixed assets after November 1, 1995 are valued at actual cost if purchased, or fair market value at date of donation for donated property. Valuation of fixed assets at current replacement cost is not in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

Depreciation has been computed on the straight-line basis, beginning with the 1997 financial statements. The Church capitalizes all expenditures in excess of \$500, and whose useful lives are more than a year.

Cash: For the purposes of statement of cash flows, the Church considers all short-term debt securities purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash.

Revenue Recognition: Contributions, including unconditional promises to give are recognized in the period received. All contributions are available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met.

Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized. All other donor-restricted support is reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets – modified cash basis as net assets released from restrictions.

Investments: Investments are reported at fair value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in the statement of activities.

Income Taxes: The Church is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is also exempt from state income taxes.

The Church has evaluated for uncertain tax positions and management has expressed there are no uncertain tax positions as of August 31, 2023. Tax returns for the past three years remain open for examination by tax jurisdictions.

Subsequent Events: In preparing these financial statements, the Church has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through November 8, 2023, the date the financial statements were issued.

Use of Estimates: Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could vary from the estimates that were used.

Prepaid Expenses: The Church has recorded prepaid expenses which is a departure from the modified cash basis of accounting.

NOTE C – LINE OF CREDIT

During the year ended August 31, 2022, the Church renewed the line of credit in the amount of \$200,000 at a 4.75% interest rate. There was a balance outstanding of \$105,000 and \$78,000 for the years ending August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The line of credit comes up for renewal on January 25, 2024.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE D – MASTER PLAN DESIGN FEES

In 2014, the Church Council appointed a special task force group to review the Opening Doors campaign and determined it should be discontinued. There is a master plan design fees asset of \$336,085 that resulted from this that the Church still believes hold value and is reviewed annually by an architect. For the year ending August 31, 2023, the Church Council deemed the master plan design fees have no value and should be written off in full.

NOTE E - INVESTMENTS

Cost and fair value of investments held as net assets with donor restriction consist of the following:

	2023		2022	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Endowment Fund				
Pooled Trust - ELCA	<u>\$ 1,079,547</u>	<u>\$ 1,176,248</u>	<u>\$ 1,076,014</u>	<u>\$ 1,147,105</u>

NOTE F - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	2023	2022	Depreciation Lives
Land	\$ 630,000	\$ 630,000	-
Drive-in	484,784	484,784	-
Church Building	4,205,095	4,205,095	40 years
Croix Center	330,000	330,000	10 years
Remodeling	1,881,873	1,880,555	5-25 years
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	1,084,001	1,073,097	2-25 years
Computers	163,137	163,137	5 years
Website	7,000	7,000	5 years
Music equipment	520,118	519,239	5-25 years
Vehicles	26,672	26,672	5 years
	<u>9,332,680</u>	<u>9,319,579</u>	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(5,905,883)</u>	<u>(5,690,533)</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 3,426,797</u>	<u>\$ 3,629,046</u>	

NOTE G - LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	2023	2022
Mortgage bearing interest at 3.50%, payable in monthly principal and interest installments of \$15,727. Interest rate will be adjusted every three years to the current rate for similar loans, which will be reviewed next on May 1, 2024. Matures May 1, 2043. Secured by Church building and land.	\$ 2,655,486	\$ 3,136,019
	<u>\$ 2,655,486</u>	<u>\$ 3,136,019</u>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE G - LONG-TERM DEBT (continued)

Future maturities of long-term debt, are as follows, August 31:

2024	\$ 98,758
2025	100,846
2026	104,433
2027	108,147
2028	111,994
Thereafter	<u>2,131,308</u>
	<u>\$ 2,655,486</u>

Amortization of debt issuance costs (\$280 in 2023 and 2022) are reported in the statements of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets – modified cash basis as interest expense.

	<u>Aug. 31, 2022</u>	<u>Aug. 31, 2022</u>
Principal amount, less current maturities	\$ 2,655,486	\$ 3,136,019
Less unamortized debt issuance costs	(5,525)	(5,805)
Total long-term debt less unamortized debt issuance costs	<u>\$ 2,649,961</u>	<u>\$ 3,130,214</u>

NOTE H – ELCA ENDOWMENT FUND POOLED TRUST

During 1997, an Endowment Fund Committee was started by the Church Council. The committee has established policies and procedures for the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. Earnings on the Endowment Fund are restricted for one year after they are earned. Earnings on the Endowment Fund was \$50,394 and \$46,036 in the year ended August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

NOTE I - RETIREMENT PLANS

The Church makes monthly contributions to two retirement plans on behalf of eligible employees. Eligible employees are those employees who work 32 hours or more per week. During the year ended August 31, 2023, retirement contributions for 11 eligible employees were funded at a cost of \$40,106. During the year ended August 31, 2022, retirement contributions for 12 eligible employees were funded at a cost of \$39,614.

NOTE J - PROGRAM SERVICES AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Program services and supporting activities are summarized below:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Program services	\$ 1,831,469	\$ 1,428,174
Management and general	<u>457,867</u>	<u>357,044</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 2,289,336</u>	<u>\$ 1,785,218</u>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE K – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions at August 31, 2023 and 2022 are available for the following purposes or periods:

	2023	2022
Debt Reduction	\$ 705	\$ 26,374
Building Improvements	30,739	28,980
Other Designated	12,259	17,291
Memorials to be Designated	32,018	19,980
Hymnal Fund	63	280
Organ Fund	641	641
Endowment Funds	1,176,248	1,147,105
New and Renewing	297,663	-
Scholarship Fund	8,819	8,819
Roof	7,671	7,671
Fund Raising	7,377	7,377
Capital Funds	5,164	5,359
	<u>\$ 1,579,367</u>	<u>\$ 1,269,877</u>

NOTE L - LEASES

Post Office – The Church owns and leases to the United States of America, the building and land for the current Stillwater Post Office. The lease calls for monthly payments of \$2,000. The lease may be renewed at the option of the Government for four five-year terms. The lease is currently in its third five-year period. The third lease will expire December 31, 2026 unless the Government exercises its option for the fourth five-year period. Rent collected under this lease was \$24,000 for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022.

Lil' Tulips – The Church owns and leases to Lil' Tulips, Incorporated. The lease was renewed for 5 years and will expire April 30, 2025. The lease calls for monthly payments of \$2,536 and increases 3% each year. Rent collected under this lease was \$31,107 and \$29,544 for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Reclaiming Beautiful – The Church owns and leases to Reclaiming Beautiful, LLC. The lease was renewed for 3 years and will expire April 1, 2026. The lease calls for monthly payments of \$1,942 for the 1st year, and increases to \$2,001 for the 2nd year and \$2,100 for the 3rd year. Rent collected under this lease was \$29,469 and \$26,432 for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Future minimum lease payments to be received on operating leases, are as follows, August 31:

2024	\$ 79,335
2025	67,337
2026	38,700
2027	8,000
Total	<u>\$ 193,372</u>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE M - LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Church leases copiers. Rental expenses under these leases totaled \$21,869 and \$24,038 for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The copier lease was renewed for 5 years and will expire in April 2029.

The minimum future lease commitments are payable, as follows, August 31:

2024	\$ 22,914
2025	20,784
2026	20,784
2027	20,784
2028	20,784
Thereafter	13,856
Total	<u>\$ 119,906</u>

NOTE N – FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

Level 1

Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Church has the ability to access.

Level 2

Inputs to the valuation methodology include: quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3

Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at August 31, 2023.

ELCA Funds – The fair value of investments in marketable equity and debt securities is based on quoted market prices of the funds in the investment.

Long-term debt and line of credit – The carrying amount reported in the statement of financial position approximates fair value because the Church can obtain similar loans at the same terms.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE N – FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Church's assets and liabilities at fair value as of August 31, 2023 and 2022 as follows:

Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using:			
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets and Liabilities (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)
<u>August 31, 2023</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>		
ELCA Fund A	\$ 1,176,248	\$ -	\$ 1,176,248
Long-term debt	2,655,486	2,655,486	-
Total	<u>\$ 3,831,734</u>	<u>\$ 2,655,486</u>	<u>\$ 1,176,248</u>
<u>August 31, 2022</u>			
ELCA Fund A	\$ 1,147,105	\$ -	\$ 1,147,105
Long-term debt	3,136,019	3,136,019	-
Total	<u>\$ 4,283,124</u>	<u>\$ 3,136,019</u>	<u>\$ 1,147,105</u>

NOTE O – ENDOWMENT

The Church's endowment consists of a fund established for a variety of purposes. As required by authoritative guidance, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Interpretation of Relevant Law

The Church Council has interpreted the Minnesota Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment fund absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Church classifies as net assets with donor restrictions the original value of the gifts to the permanent endowment and the value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment. In accordance with UPMIFA, the Church considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

1. All funds shall be used as the donor intended at the time the Church solicited or accepted the gift.
2. Investment portfolio shall provide a long-term growth real (inflation-adjusted) assets.
3. Provide a predictable stream of income to the Church for programs.
4. Follow investment policies of the Church.
5. Other resources of the Church.
6. General economic conditions.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE O – ENDOWMENT (continued)

		<u>Donor Restricted</u>
September 1, 2021	Donor-Restricted	
	Endowment Funds	\$ 1,336,762
	Contributions	14,900
	Unrealized Loss	<u>(204,557)</u>
August 31, 2022	Endowment Net Assets	\$ <u>1,147,105</u>
September 1, 2022	Donor-Restricted	
	Endowment Funds	\$ 1,147,105
	Contributions	3,533
	Unrealized Gain	<u>25,610</u>
August 31, 2023	Endowment Net Assets	\$ <u>1,176,248</u>

Investments Objectives and Strategies

The Church has adopted an investment policy to provide guidelines for investing endowment assets. Under this policy, as approved by the Church Council, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to maintain the purchasing power of the current assets and all future contributions, maximize return within reasonable and prudent levels of risk, and maintain an appropriate asset allocation based on a total return policy that is compatible with a flexible spending policy.

To achieve these objectives, the Church follows an asset diversification plan, sets performance benchmarks for investment managers, and has established various asset quality and limitation thresholds. The Church expects its endowment, over time, would achieve total returns after all fees to be equal to or exceed an annualized realization rate of 5%. These total returns are expected to meet or exceed the composite performance of the securities markets on a three to five-year basis. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2023 (audited) and 2022 (unaudited)

NOTE P – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The following reflects the Church's financial assets as of the statements of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis date, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions within one year of the statements of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis date.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Financial assets at year-end	\$ 1,758,047	\$ 1,478,303
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to:		
Donor-restricted for endowment funds	<u>1,176,248</u>	<u>1,147,105</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 581,799</u>	<u>\$ 331,198</u>

As part of the Church's liquidity management, it invests in cash and fixed income securities. The Church has loan commitments described in notes C and G as of August 31, 2023 and 2022.

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

Balance Sheet Summary	Aug 31, 2023	Aug 31, 2022
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current Assets		
Cash Accounts		
Checking, Money Market & Savings Accounts - General	244,918	259,448
Savings Account - Current Year Endowment	47,113	45,400
Debt Reduction Funds (New & Renewing/OD)	289,767	26,349
Investment Account-Trinity Endowment (ELCA Fund)	1,176,248	1,147,105
Accounts Receivable/Prepaid Expenses	4,356	2,689
Total Current Assets	1,762,402	1,480,992
Fixed Assets		
Land	1,130,528	1,130,528
Buildings	4,557,755	4,557,755
Work in Progress	0	0
Furniture & Fixtures	3,623,250	3,610,429
Passenger Van	26,672	26,672
Accumulated Depreciation	-5,905,883	-5,690,533
Total Fixed Assets	3,432,321	3,634,851
Other Assets		
Master Plan Design Fees	0	336,085
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	5,194,724	5,451,928
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current Liabilities		
General Funds Held For Future Disbursement		
Designated Gift Funds	41,772	43,740
Capital Funds	331,904	59,432
Memorial Funds (Not Yet Designated)	34,386	21,261
Temporary Funds	4,611	4,813
Misc Donations: Mission Trips/Outreach	111,260	118,546
Payables (including payroll liabilities)	25,105	21,838
Operations Cash Flow Line of Credit	105,000	78,000
Endowment Earnings Available: Current Yr & Next Yr	47,113	45,400
Council Designated Reserves	71,224	120,000
Total Current Liabilities	772,374	513,031
Long Term Liabilities		
Mortgage - Thrivent Financial	2,655,486	3,136,019
Total Long Term Liabilities	2,655,486	3,136,019
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Investments - Endowment Fund	1,157,815	1,132,205
Net Assets	670,674	739,896
Current Year Change in Net Assets	-61,624	-69,222
Total Equity	1,766,864	1,802,879
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	5,194,724	5,451,928

FISCAL YEAR-END SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENSES

	FY 2023 Actual	% of	FY 2023 Budget
	Sep '22 - Aug '23	Budget	Sep '22 - Aug '23
OPERATING SUMMARY			
OPERATING INCOME:			
Contributions - General	\$ 1,262,281	93%	\$ 1,361,300
Contributions - Restricted	42,153	112%	37,500
Mission Revenue	57,340	72%	80,000
Released from Endowment	45,400	100%	45,400
Croix Center Rent	60,576	100%	60,700
Rental Income	66,941	101%	66,500
USPS Facility Rent	24,000	100%	24,000
Fees and Payments	67,087	97%	69,500
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,625,778	93%	\$ 1,744,900
OPERATING EXPENSE:			
All Personnel Expenses	1,030,951	99%	\$ 1,038,000
Finance, Facilities, Operations	319,958	115%	277,600
Loan Interest	109,690	99%	110,400
Communications	2,816	47%	6,000
ELCA Mission Support	30,000	100%	30,000
Other Benevolence	8,025	89%	9,000
Missions	57,340	72%	80,000
Children / Youth / Family	18,304	71%	25,700
Lifelong Faith Formation	2,918	58%	5,000
Groups and Teams	24,522	89%	27,500
Worship	33,592	111%	30,300
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$ 1,638,116	100%	\$ 1,639,500
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (12,338)		\$ 105,400
CAPITAL SUMMARY			
CAPITAL FUNDS:			
Capital Funds	34,418		23,200
Capital Campaign Funds	450,513		
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	484,931		\$ 23,200
CAPITAL EXPENSES:			
Mortgage Principal	\$ 136,056	113%	\$ 120,570
Capital Campaign	\$ 450,513		-
Other	13,101		7,500
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$ 599,670	468%	\$ 128,070
Capital Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (114,739)	109%	\$ (104,870)
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (12,338)		\$ 105,400
Capital Surplus (Deficit)	(114,739)		(104,870)
Total Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (127,077)		\$ 530

Adjustment to tie to CPA Report: Page 28

OPERATING INCOME (from above)	1,625,777
CAPITAL FUNDS (from above)	484,931
TOTAL INCOME	2,110,708
add: Deferred Endowment Earnings - NET	4,994
Deferred Sabbatical Grant Income	(202)
Government Grant - ERC	71,224
Adjusted Income	2,186,724
Total Operating Expenses (from above)	1,638,115
add: Depreciation Expense Annual Allocation	215,350
add: Impairment of O.D. Master Design Fees	336,085
add: Depreciation of Expense - Amortization Part	280
add: New and Renewing Expense	106,036
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,295,866
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(109,142)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Trinity's 2023 Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2023. See the summary below for a recap of financial activity. Budgeted as well as non-budgeted transactions are included.

INCOME

Contribution Income	1,262,281
Other Income	363,496
Capital Contribution Income	34,418

(Designated for Debt Reduction)

Total Income	\$ 1,660,195
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EXPENSES

Administration	1,364,009
Debt Reduction & Interest	245,745
Other Ministry Expenses	177,517

Total Expenses	1,787,271
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SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (127,076)
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NON-BUDGETED INCOME

Council Designated Reserve:	
Funds Released	120,000

Comprehensive Campaign:	
Contributions Released	450,513

Total Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 570,513
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NON-BUDGETED EXPENSE

Comprehensive Campaign:	
Authorized Payments	450,513

Total Non-Budgeted Expense	\$ 450,513
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NON-BUDGETED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 120,000
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<u>NET YEAR-END SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u>	<u>\$ (7,076)</u>
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Here are a few highlights from last year. Actual income from all budgeted categories was less than budgeted, and the Church Council authorized a release of \$120,000 from Council Designated Reserves to support ministry costs. Additional non-budgeted income was provided from Comprehensive Campaign contributions totaling \$450,513. (See more information on the next page.) Actual expenses from all budgeted categories were 1% over budget. Trinity's operating Line of Credit fluctuates as cash flow timing needs dictate and had a year-end balance of \$105,000.

Trinity's financial staff and volunteer Finance Team have been very busy this past year managing various aspects of financial management and reporting. Our long time Parish Administrator, Bob Eiselt retired after 24 years, and our Accounting Coordinator, Ellen Neseth is retiring in November, 2023 after 21 years. Trinity has benefitted greatly from these two dedicated financial management staff. I personally want to thank them for an incredible run! In May, 2023 we welcomed our new Parish Administrator, Sarah Kinsman.

I encourage Trinity members to approve the 2024 Budget (see page 44.) This budget is designed to continue the process of restoring Trinity's financial health following a few years of uncertain and unexpected financial challenges. We are confident of strong congregational support of Trinity's ongoing and important ministries in 2024 and beyond.

Endowment Fund

Since its inception in 1997, the main purpose of the Trinity Endowment Fund has been to support new and emerging ministry opportunities. Thanks to the generosity of members over the years through individual gifts and bequests in their wills, Trinity is blessed with an Endowment Fund to support our ministries. Our Endowment Fund is an example of the result of sacrifices made by current and past parishioners that benefit our parish now and in the future. These gifts are invested with the ELCA Endowment Fund and earnings from these gifts are distributed back to Trinity for use in the areas designated by the donors. As of Aug. 31, 2023, the market value of Trinity's Endowment Fund stood at \$1,176,248. Earnings from the fund, distributed back to Trinity in FY 2023, amounted to \$45,400 and were used to fund activities and programs in the following areas: General, Care, Worship & Music, and Children & Youth ministries as designated by the donor. Thank you for the generosity of all who have contributed to Trinity's Endowment Fund.

Jeff Anderson

Treasurer

jeffa409@gmail.com

Sarah Kinsman

Parish Administrator

skinsman@trinitylc.org

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

During the past year Trinity launched a three-year Comprehensive Campaign to challenge members to contribute toward three specific areas: Mortgage Debt Reduction, Deferred Facility Maintenance and Mission Accompaniment.

Pledges totaling over \$1,925,000 were received. Contributions received through 8/31/23 were \$739,558.

Please see the pie chart at right.

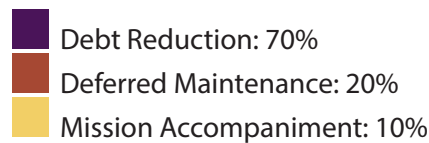
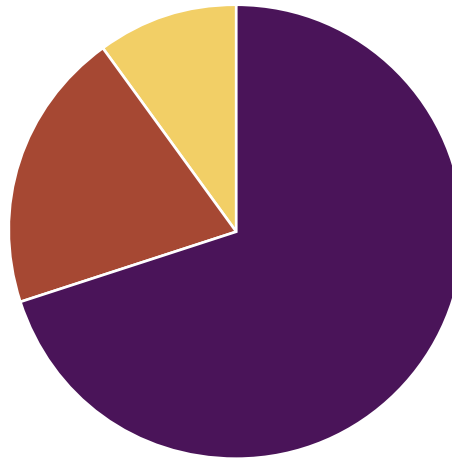
Note that the debt reduction contributions are applied monthly to reduce mortgage principal. Other contributions are paid out as authorized expenses occur. (i.e., Drive-in project) Other funds, following the 70/20/10 formula, are isolated from operating funds until authorized and kept in a money market account.

The most dramatic impact of the campaign funds has been the reduction in Trinity's mortgage principal. Combining funds from both regular and campaign contributions, our mortgage principal has been reduced by \$479,924 in fiscal year 2023. That's 15.3% in one year! (Prior year = only 3.6%)

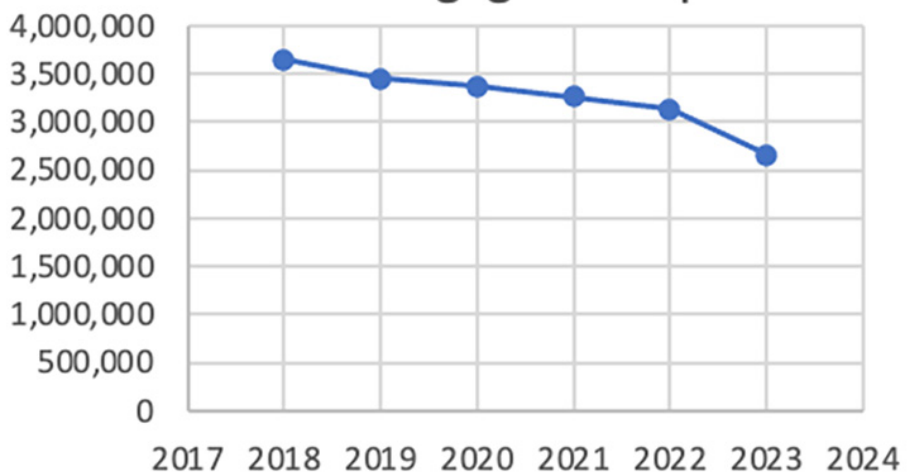
Please see the line graph at right.

Thank you for your continued support of Trinity's Comprehensive Campaign.

Comprehensive Campaign Contributions Allocation



TLC Mortgage Principal



Jeff Anderson
Comprehensive Campaign
Resource Manager
jeffa409@gmail.com

FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROPOSED MINISTRY BUDGET

INCOME

Amount

CONTRIBUTION INCOME:

Contributions - All Unrestricted	1,299,000
Contributions - Released from Restricted	30,000

ALL OTHER INCOME:

Capital Funds Released	37,000
Council Designated Reserves Released	60,000
Endowment Earnings Released	47,000
Fees and Payments	67,000
Mission Revenue	60,000
Rental Income - Croix Center & Facility Use	152,000

TOTAL INCOME **1,752,000**

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION:

All Personnel Expense	1,016,000
Finance, Facilities, Operations	300,000
Building Improvements	37,000

DEBT SERVICE:

Mortgage Principal	81,000
Interest: Mortgage & Line of Credit	123,000

MINISTRY AREAS:

Benevolence: ELCA Mission	30,000
Benevolence: Other	9,000
Children / Youth / Family	25,000
Communications	5,000
Groups and Teams	14,000
Lifelong Faith Formation	11,000
Missions	60,000
Worship and Music	34,000

TOTAL EXPENSES **1,745,000**

PROJECTED SURPLUS

7,000

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
November 19, 2023

Carol Straka
Mel Sullivan
Erica Kanewischer

The Nominating Committee sought input from Council leadership and the Pastors regarding two Congregational Council seats.

The duties of the Council as stated in the Constitution are:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered ministers and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel. In addition, the council stresses the following roles of a council member:
 - To be a spiritual leader of Trinity.
 - To oversee the life and activities of Trinity.
 - To oversee the administration of Trinity.

NOMINATIONS

For the seats currently held by Krista Gossai and Tom Haugrud, the committee nominates Bill Bjorum and Tina Swanson. Both are eligible to serve two complete terms.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

In addition, the committee recommends the following names as the 2024 Nominating Committee: Names will be announced at the annual meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTION PROCEDURES:

1. Nominees, whether by the committee or from the floor, are expected to be in attendance at the Annual Meeting.
2. Each nominee will be given up to one minute to introduce him/herself, tell why he/she would like to serve on the Council, and give other information including areas of interest, in order to help the voters choose Council members.
3. Nominees, whether by the committee or from the floor, will be expected to have completed the requested information forms ahead of time or, in the case of nominees from the floor, at the meeting.
4. Endorsement speeches or questions of the candidates will not be a part of the Annual Meeting agenda.
5. After all nominated candidates have been identified, a sample ballot will be projected onto a large screen at the front of the sanctuary. The names of all candidates, whether nominated by the committee or from the floor, will be listed alphabetically.
6. A motion to approve the ballot will be made, seconded, and approved.
7. Ballots will be handed out by authorized tellers. The ballots will include pre-printed names of the candidates placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee and blank lines available to write-in names of the candidates nominated from the floor, using the names projected onto the screen as a reference.
8. Voting will be by written ballot.
9. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority vote of the number of valid ballots cast.
10. In the event a run-off election is required, all candidates not receiving a majority of the votes will be entered on a second and succeeding (if required) ballots. Voting will continue until all council vacancies are filled by candidates elected by a majority (as described in #9)

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL NOMINEES



Bill Bjorum

While I'm not native to Stillwater, I have a long history living, working, and worshipping here. Following enlistment in the Navy, I completed my elementary teaching program at the U of MN, Duluth, and the fall of 1972, student taught at Oak Park Elementary. After graduating, I was

offered a full-time teaching position at Oak Park where I met Glenda, the music teacher. In December 1975 Glenda and I were married at Trinity.

While Glenda sang in the choir, I had many support roles and served on several committees. I regularly ushered, greeted and often was the lay reader. We even assisted at the children's summer church camp at Camp House.

In June 1980 I moved from the classroom to an administrative district office position and later that month, our son Erik was born and was baptized at Trinity. I continued to usher, greet, collect offering, serve communion, and many activities around TLC. Our daughter, Maren, was born and baptized in October 1981. I worked on the capital drive and construction team for our current sanctuary, offices, and fellowship areas where I lifted beams and hammered nails. As our kids grew, I supported children's and youth education. I taught and mentored small groups. I served on the Council for two terms, as superintendent of Children's Education and served a lot of lutefisk! Recently I was the church treasurer, and I left about a year ago. I have served in many roles through the five decades that Glenda and I have been active members of Trinity.

I earned my doctoral degree and became a building principal in schools outside ISD 834. I then headed the principal licensure program at a university where I directed a very diverse faculty and over 300 students in multiple locations. Then I was hired by MDE to assist administrators from other states earn their Minnesota administrative license. I am finally fully retired!

Glenda and I remain committed to Stillwater and active at Trinity. I feel called to serve and if elected, will strive to provide effective leadership to our church.



Tina Swanson

My husband Brett and I and our three now young adult children (Jack 23, Will 20 and Haley 17) moved to Stillwater in 2012. Trinity quickly became our home church, where both Brett and I volunteered through our kids' confirmation years. I had also served on the 2020 Vision Team.

I grew up Catholic but it wasn't until I attended our then home church in Fergus Falls, First Lutheran, that I learned the depth of God's love for us. While we lived in Fergus, I was the church bookkeeper and really enjoyed my interactions with the congregation and learning and supporting the church's outreach, both near and far. I am part of a six women faith circle and have enjoyed watching my kids' faith evolve.

Our daughter, Haley, helps with confirmation and has gone to Puerto Rico twice with plans to return with the next mission trip.

I would be honored to serve at Trinity where ALL are welcome. In my professional life, I am the Resident Director, Wealth Management Advisor and a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ with Merrill in Stillwater. Now that I am nearly an empty nester, I am looking to serve my church community, something I feel called to do.

Sample Ballot – Council

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Stillwater, Minnesota
November 19, 2023

NOMINEES FOR CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

BALLOT

VOTE FOR TWO (2) – 3-year terms

☐ Bill Bjorum

☐ Tina Swanson

Nominated from the floor:

☐ _____

SAMPLE



TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

115 4th St. N
Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7400
www.trinitylc.org