

2022

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

ANNUAL REPORT



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

More than 150 years strong, Trinity Lutheran Church has been a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater. We continue to learn how to create the kind of authentic community that transforms. But what does that mean and what type of community does Trinity Lutheran Church want to be? For me, it's a community where we are intentional about nurturing personal transformation through the cultivation of spiritual imagination and moral courage. It's a community where we are intentional of our declaration of inclusiveness and acceptance of all people. One where our church continues to be intentional of living our shared core values of: Engaging Worship, Radical Hospitality, Authentic Community, Lifelong Faith Formation, and Compassionate Action.

To be intentional in all these ways, surely will involve some measure of discomfort at times. We as a church congregation will agree and sometimes disagree about the common good of our church and how to put our values into action. Yet, as our prior Council President, Mel Sullivan, so compassionately stated in last year's annual report, "We are a community through it all. The ups...the downs....and the all arounds. We are blessed." We are indeed, and I am so deeply proud to serve and worship at Trinity Lutheran Church. It's a faithful community where my spouse and I can proudly witness our two young children grow and learn on their own faith journeys. It's a faithful community where each one of us can intentionally

educate ourselves in becoming more effective advocates for all of God's people.

As Trinity Lutheran Church embarks on the next 150 years of being a faithful community in the heart of Stillwater, we must ask ourselves, how else can we actively seek new ways to do the good work that God has prepared for us? I believe a big part of this begins with the community of people it takes and the willingness of those to share their gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Please join me in extending a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our amazing staff at Trinity of our Pastors, Worship & Music Team, Faith Formation Team, Connections & Care Team, Office & Administrative Team, and Building & Maintenance Team. I also want to thank the numerous volunteers who passionately serve in so many ways and for all those who have joined us for worship both in person and online as well as for those who have shared their financial resources. The contributions you have made in your own way to our church are life giving and we owe a debt of gratitude to each one of you.

It is a privilege to serve alongside a wonderful team of individuals who care deeply about being responsible, caring and faithful stewards of our church community. I want to recognize those who comprise the Trinity Congregational Council of Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Bill Bjorum, Bob Eiselt, Krista Gossai, Tom Haugrud, Jill Longnecker, Carol Straka and Pastor Peter Weston Miller. After much prayerful discernment and

extensive due diligence this past year, the Council unanimously agreed to bring forth the recommendation for a comprehensive campaign to be voted upon by the congregation at our upcoming Annual Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 20. My hope is that everyone has been able to thoroughly review and ask questions regarding the case statement for the comprehensive capital campaign of "New and Renewing – the Next 150 Years" which involves a three-part plan including: Financial Accompaniment, Debt Reduction and Capital Improvements.

I, for one, am excited and hopeful for the comprehensive campaign to be put into action and for our faithful community to become even more intentional of living our shared core values through a more vibrant expression of faith in the God who first loved us.

Together we can proclaim that we embrace all, welcome all, and provide a safe and loving place to nurture our relationship with God and each other. We should feel deeply proud of this as it helps all people within our community to flourish in their faith. On behalf of the Council, we are grateful for you and our shared work together.

Andrew Thelander
President, Congregational Council
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LEAD PASTOR

Friends in Christ, Pastor Peter and I recently attended the annual fall Bishop's Theological Conference, where the presenter spoke about the difference between resurrection and resuscitation. To resuscitate is to bring something or someone back to life. Resurrection means new life on completely different terms.

We have talked before about the inclination of folks to want to go back to the way things were. Or resuscitation. When in truth, God promises and is always calling us forward into resurrection, new life on different terms.

That's what life at Trinity feels like right now. In many ways things are back to normal and in many ways things have permanently changed. There is longing to go back to what felt hopeful and vibrant "before." Yet renewed hope, new ideas, fresh energy, new possibilities are everywhere we look. While it would take far too long to list everything about this past year, here are some highlights that point to hope.

Staffing

We begin by giving thanks for nearly 70 years of combined service and experience. Carol Carver retired from her position as Traditional Worship Director and Choir Director and Phil Kadidlo stepped down as Contemporary Worship Director and Band Leader. It would be impossible to recreate the remarkable Carol/Phil dream team from scratch, so we took advantage of the opportunity to create a new Director of Worship and Music position. Offering full-time employment with benefits allowed us to attract the best possible talent to fill this new role. After reviewing many resumes and conducting multiple interviews, the search team was delighted to call Clark Weyrauch "back" to Trinity, where he grew up.

And in the realm of "the best of both worlds," Carol stayed on as organist and Phil assumed the part-time role of AV Director.

Staff is happy to be meeting again regularly in person, including weekly full staff, CYF, and Worship Team meetings, monthly Care Coordination and Program Staff Meetings, and quarterly Fifth Tuesday Fun Days.

Worship

Worship attendance is an evolving data point. As we reopened in April of 2021, folks were divided between "eager to return" and "unwilling to take the risk of COVID exposure." In 2022, the Drive In continued to provide respite for the more reluctant, with high engagement and attendance over the course of the summer. (I spoke with a member who worshipped frequently at the drive in but still is uncomfortable returning to in-person worship because of her exposures at work as she navigates aging parents and young grandchildren.)

We continue to offer livestream of both worship services, as well as sending a recording to Valley Access for playback. And we learned the great blessing of drive-through ash imposition for Ash Wednesday and drive-through communion on Maundy Thursday, so we will keep those sacred moments as part of our regular worship year.

We are thrilled to bring back coffee hour under the heartfelt and faithful leadership of Sara Dowling. Volunteers are always needed, so please sign up and meet other members of the Trinity family. Read more and sign up at: <https://trinitylc.org/worship-music/hospitality/volunteer/>

Pastor Peter says more about this in his report, but we are experimenting with a third worship

service. Dinner Church meets on Wednesday evenings. Food is served beginning at 5:45 p.m. with worship running from 6 to 6:30 p.m. We worship at tables in the Garden Room. Instead of a sermon, there is guided table conversation and sharing. Communion is shared at the dinner tables, which are often made up of multiple generations. The energy is high and engaging. Some of our regular Sunday worshippers are joining us on Wednesdays as well, for the blessing of eating together over holy conversation.

We are still pondering how to manage Dinner Church around holidays or when school is not in session. Please come try it. We would welcome your input on shaping this holy experiment.

We have also added additional Wednesday faith formation and learning opportunities for 4th and 5th graders as well as adults. These small groups meet at the same time as our Middle School Confirmation gatherings. As of this writing, I am leading the adult “confirmation” session and enjoying being back in a teaching/facilitating role!

Church financial well-being

In November 2021, the church council gathered in a meeting room at the Stillwater Library to share a meal and reflect on Trinity’s financial well-being and to vision for our financial future.

One outcome of our retreat was the realization that while we can service our debt and make our mortgage payments, we are spending \$200,000 per year in that effort—money that could be used for mission, staff enrichment, deferred maintenance, ministries, and building a capital reserve. After a thoughtful, prayerful, and respectful meeting, the council decided to pursue a possible capital campaign for

the purpose of liberating your generous gifts from debt service and into those other areas. We also intend to include mission giving/financial accompaniment and tending to several deferred maintenance projects.

The winter of 2022 was spent scouting, interviewing and selecting a campaign consultant to guide our efforts. I asked colleagues who had led their congregations through successful campaigns, resulting in four solid leads. I reached out to all four for initial coffee conversations to gauge their interest and capacity. Three responded. After initial conversations with me, the council interviewed each team/person by Zoom. We selected Steve Olson of Olson Advancement to lead us through a feasibility study, which was conducted over the summer, with the coordination of Linda Flood and Bob Eiselt.

Steve recommended moving ahead with a campaign recommendation based on his 31 interviews with 48 people, representing 30 households. (We offered an open invitation for people to sign up for an interview and sent targeted invitations to a representative sample of the congregation.) The council received the results of the feasibility study and voted to bring the possible campaign to a congregational vote at our annual meeting in November. (Results of the feasibility study were shared with the congregation in the September *Trinity Today* newsletter, available to view here: <https://trinitylc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2022/08/TT-Sep-2022.pdf>.)

The overall monetary goals of the campaign have not yet been determined but will be established between the council and campaign

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cabinet leadership. To date, the folks who have agreed to serve on the campaign cabinet if the vote passes are Chris and Marilyn Johnson, Mike Karlsrud, and Matt and Deb Simcik. Thank you all for leaning in!

Prior to 2022 Trinity enjoyed many years of a balanced budget. (We acknowledge the hard work and sometimes painful adjustments in staffing and expenditures that created this sound financial track record.) This fiscal year offers a slightly different story, which we will discuss at the annual meeting. We are aware that most of the deficit is pledged money that is yet unpaid. A wise man reminds me that while 2008 was a bad year nationally, it wasn't until 2009 that the church felt the financial impact of that abrupt downturn in the economy. Similarly, most churches were abundantly blessed in the first 18-24 months of the pandemic, and now the economic impact is hitting home. We remain optimistic about member engagement, generous stewardship, and well-funded ministries. And acknowledge that it will require all of us to lean in as we are able until things adjust for our families.

Life together in the Valley

Pastor Peter and I participate with the St. Croix Valley Ministerium (SCVMA), which I co-convene with Pastor Cader Howard of First Presbyterian, Stillwater. This group of pastors and leaders gathers monthly for conversation and collaboration.

In 2021 we recorded a Thanksgiving worship for families to use in their homes. Because many congregations are re-evaluating how to respond to the Thanksgiving holiday, most of this cohort decided to take a break this year and revisit our faith response to this civic holiday in the coming year. However, we had a glorious celebration of Palm Sunday

together at the Historic Lift Bridge plaza in downtown Stillwater! Six congregations and, according to one count, nearly 400 people gathered to sing, process with palms, pray, and share communion. We agreed that we will repeat the experience in 2023, with additional opportunities for those with mobility challenges.

The Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team (HSAT) has been working together on issues of homelessness in the Valley. (Trinity members Jeff Anderson, John Hodler and Roger Funk were instrumental in building this Stillwater team.) The most exciting opportunity to arise in the past year is the Washington County Emergency Housing project. You can learn more about it in the November issue of *Trinity Today*, read it here: <https://trinitylc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2022/10/TT-Nov-2022.pdf>.

Encouraged by HSAT, the SCVMA group gathered with Jenny Mason from Washington County to learn more about the project and how we can support it. We believe this project is living the gospel out loud and putting bricks and mortar to Jesus' command to love our neighbor. Because the project, if approved by the city, will be fully funded by the county—the most important thing our faith community can do is support the approval. The pastors of SCVMA are working to share communications and strategies to raise awareness in our congregations and work toward more unified support of this courageous and holy project. HSAT has good information about how to connect with your local legislators to voice your support!

Gleaning the Harvest Grant

Trinity's Racial Justice Ministry Team (RJMT) applied for and was awarded a Gleaning the Harvest Grant from the Saint Paul Area

Synod. Their proposal centered on education and engagement with the Indigenous history of our nation and our region. It is to be utilized in three parts: 1) Vance Blackfox, Indigenous theologian and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, was with us for four days this fall, preaching, teaching, and leading a workshop. 2) Discovering the Indigenous history of the St. Croix Valley. The grant allows us to compensate Indigenous historians to accompany this work. 3) Creating a permanent display of this history at a location in our community.

This powerful work is part of broader engagement in racial justice, allyship and education taking place across the congregation. From the RJMT to Sunday Forum to the ABIDE Readers book group, Sacred Sites tours, other book groups and ongoing learning opportunities, Trinity members and our neighbors are committed to God's call to love our neighbors and do justice on their behalf.

The Racial Justice Ministry Team invites us to Listen, Understand. And Connect.

Sabbatical

Thank you, thank you, and a thousand times thank you for the gift of a sabbatical.

In 2021 the council voted to offer a 10-week sabbatical to called pastors after five years of service. I applied for and was awarded a Clergy Renewal Grant by the Christian Theological Seminary (funded by Lilly) of nearly \$50,000. This money helped fund some rich travel and other experiences, as well as some costs incurred by Trinity. (No more than \$15,000 of these grants can be used by the congregation.)

My goal was to spend time with my primary relationships doing what feeds them spiritually. I traveled to Sedona with Maggie for

yoga, hiking, art classes, spiritual reflection and my first tattoo! Eliot and I explored Scotland's standing stones, scones, castles, hiking paths, shared tattoos, and the beautiful, stirring island of Iona. Iona is a contemplative community established in the 6th century first as a monastery. I also got to meet one of the bakers from the Great British Baking Show.

Eliot, Sam, and I took advantage of already being in Europe to visit a niece and family friends in Stockholm. Then Eliot flew home, and Sam and I continued to Belgium and France, exploring market squares, museums, cathedrals, historical sites and the full D-Day host of options.

I was able to spend an extra week at our favorite lake, part of it with Ted and my family of origin, part of it with the Pastor Posse, as Maggie calls them. The six of us went to seminary together and have been friends ever since.

While Ted and I were not able to take our dreamed of trip to the BWCA (two feet of ice on the lakes in May and Maggie's wedding in the fall), we hope to accomplish that next year. We took the opportunity to spend more time together while I was not working, including a great mini vacation, a stage play, a Twin's game, and some great food! Additionally, the grant covered our annual two-week sabbath at our favorite lake in August.

The sabbatical worked its holy magic and I returned to Trinity in July rested, refreshed, restored, and energized for the next years of ministry. It was truly a necessary and sacred gift.

And the rest...

To expedite this report, the balance will appear as a list!

Teams: Council, Stewardship, Mission, as well as Worship and Racial Justice with Pastor Peter.

Synod engagement: weekly pastors' text study, monthly East Central Conference gatherings, synod ministerium, Bishop's Theological Conference, second round as a First Act Mentor (Saint Paul Area Synod Lilly Grant to support pastoral development).

Luther Seminary: spring semester 2022 preaching lab teacher, fall semester 2022 preaching lab substitute.

Pastoral care: staff support, member support, funerals, baptism families, home visits, home blessings, hospital calls, occasional bible study substitute teacher.

Each year is full, challenging and graced in innumerable ways. This year was no different. The normal activities of daily pastoring are an immense privilege and often leave me in awe. Worshipping with you, hearing your stories, being invited to walk alongside you, and bearing witness to the powerful ways in which you are the body of Christ alive in the world all leave me breathless.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor.

Thank you to Pastor Peter for being the best pastoral colleague.

Thank you to the Trinity staff for being amazing partners in ministry and friends in shenanigans.

Thank you to the Trinity council for life-giving collaboration.

Thank you to Ted for everything.

Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, D.Min.

Lead Pastor
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PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

Grateful for You in 2022

I want to start out this report as I try to all of my days—in gratitude to God for you. As my prayer list goes, Trinity is always near the top of my daily praise and appreciation, just a tad below my spouse and growing girls and extended family.

It has been a joy to be on this staff since 2018 and the variety of seasons this time has encompassed. In this span too, Trinity has also become the longest church I have ever served (about four years at Atonement in New Brighton and it will be five years at Trinity in January). Wild right?! But I continue to give thanks for the ways Trinity is modeling a fresh, new and renewing legacy of faithfulness in the St. Croix Valley. God's collaborative work and mercy in this people is an inspiration.

Never Done That Before

As I look back, we have done ministry together I honestly would not have dreamed of, especially the variety of places that we have worshipped, built community, learned, and served together. I can't say enough about the vital infrastructure of the Drive In and how much technology helped us create hybrid online spaces. We have learned a great deal about how our worship can span both physical location and time of the week, even the invitation to the Lord's Table that feeds our home bound. That doesn't mean that we still don't experiment with in-person formats including a great start for Wednesday Night Dinner Church.

Trinity's Heart for Mission and Learning

This year also included and reminded me of the wide mission heart of Trinity. Trinity's Housing Strategy and Advocacy Team, Racial Justice, and Outreach Missions have all found ways to be

on the front lines of supporting the most vulnerable and our unhoused neighbors in the East Twin Cities Metro, assisting Afghan refugees, and building back the church with our High Schoolers all the way down to Puerto Rico after many stormy challenges. Even our VBS included an offering for ongoing clean water projects with our companions in Tanzania.

All of these formats and others have been integral to the re-building, re-engagement, and re-formation of learning across the ages. Our CYF Staff (Sarah Olson—Birth-Grade 5 and Monty Lysne—Grade 6-12) and our Sunday Forum volunteer planning team (especially Penny Catlin) have adapted and re-imagined learning options. Our Sunday Learning Hour and revamped Wednesday night schedule has offered opportunities for all ages and stages to connect to God's story in Jesus and relevant social justice issues for our community (Indigenous thought and theology, the History of the Separation of Church and State, and Christian Nationalism all in October!).

Forward, Onward, Upward, Hope-ward

As we move forward, onward, and upward into God's future, we do so jumping back into many of the things that Trinity has done well (listen, worship, experiment, learn and serve), while also remaining relevant and open-hearted. As we look ahead to all that God has in store for us, I continue to feel hopeful and excited because of your embodiment of God's resilience. I hope you do too. In abundant gratitude and peace!

Pastor Peter Weston Miller

Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
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GIFTS MANAGEMENT

This has been a year of transitioning and re-establishing what it looks and feels like to return to a “normal” presence and pattern to our work and worship life at Trinity.

For the staff at Trinity, it is more of what we call a “new normal,” still working from home some and returning to the building with a new schedule of consistent office and building “open” hours. The upgrades to technology that we began in 2020 and completed this year continue to pay dividends, improving our staff’s efficiency and ability to work many places. The latest technology upgrade to be completed was moving the balance of our network applications and storage to the “cloud,” and retiring our rented, in-house server. This upgrade improved our technology workflow and saved us \$5,000 per year in the process.

In FY 2021 Trinity’s aging desktop-based church management software was replaced with a new, web-based system called ShelbyNext. Our efforts in 2022 have been to learn and discover the myriad of additional financial tools, calendaring, and online registration and automated giving systems that are available to us. Stay tuned as we prepare to unveil the next steps we take to bring the congregation secure, confidential and convenient access to individual member directory and giving information, supporting our congregation in today’s digital environment.

Managing the building use in a facility the size of Trinity as we returned to occupancy while continuously gauging the ever-changing pandemic, re-opening in a safe fashion continued to be a whole different challenge. Thank you to our Re-Entry Team: Fred Anderson, Cindy Weckwerth, Matt Simcik, Mel Sullivan and Kim Dahlgren for

their assistance to Pastor Chris and myself as we continue to navigate these waters, and the support of our Custodial Team: Tom Hosek and Anne Mikesch.

Also see the report from the Facilities Maintenance Team on the next page. Thank you to the members of that team for their efforts to keep our facilities maintained and in good working order. One somewhat invisible step taken this year to do our best to maintain our facility this coming year is the addition of a formal HVAC maintenance program. As our past HVAC service tech retired and we looked for a replacement, it became apparent that a formal HVAC maintenance plan was needed to help extend the life of some of our aging HVAC components in our 11 furnaces. That cost, approximately \$5,000/year is built into the 2023 budget. That service is designed to manage our maintenance costs and minimize breakdowns from sudden equipment failures.

One of our more visible technology upgrade projects at Trinity this past year was the completion of a Worship Center technology project to improve our audio/visual, broadcast, and livestreaming capabilities for worship and other events held in our Worship Center. At a cost of just over a \$100,000 this much-needed upgrade to keep pace with technology and offer a quality worship experience both in-house and outside the building, was made possible by several anonymous gifts, donations and memorial bequests.

To that end, a great example of stewardship of time and talent in action is our Tuesday Guys Team! Back to meeting regularly on Tuesdays, they have responded to numerous “projects” and needs this year, particularly, the remodel of the Worship Center AV sound booth. Part of the investment in Worship Center technology begun in FY 2021, but the work largely done and

completed in fiscal 2022. Thanks to Dave Swager for his project leadership and the extra efforts of Chuck Newman, Dan Wilson, Paul Fristad, Tim Edman, Gene Kelm, Loren Carver, Clint Malwitz, Ron Hagen and a host of others, for their generous donation of time, equipment and expertise to help complete the sound booth remodel, without which we simply couldn’t make ministry happen in the same way!

Special thanks again to our indoor/outdoor landscape team under the leadership of Sandy Wendt; their efforts keep our greenery fresh and alive! Sandy’s weekly attention to the indoor gardens has paid dividends as they look wonderful.

And a special thank you to our new Stewardship Chair, Noah Schumacher, and all the members of our Stewardship Team. We are ever thankful for their work, attending to our needed focus on the link between our faith in God and an attitude of gratitude and generosity in appreciation for the financial gifts which richly bless us and this congregation.

We were blessed with a stable and exceptional staff again in FY 2022. We celebrated the exciting new addition of Clark Weyrauch as Director of Worship & Music, in tandem with honoring our long-time Co-Directors of Worship and Music, Carol Carver and Phil Kadidlo—both assuming different roles in our organization. We were thankful as well for the Interim Band Leader role filled by Kirby Smith as we transitioned to new worship leadership. We bid farewell to Visitation Pastor Don Fultz and later, grieved his passing. It is both gratifying and exciting to work with such a talented, dedicated staff giving life and energy to Trinity’s many ministries! God’s peace to you all.

Bob Eiselt, Parish Administrator
beiselt@trinitylc.org

Facilities Maintenance Team Report

Members of the team are Dave Swager, Brian Larson, Tom Hosek, Bob Eiselt and Mark Gieseke.

Projects Completed in 2022

In 2022 the following project was completed: technology upgrades, including remodeled sound booth, in the Worship Center.

Priority Projects for 2023

The projects in the chart below are the next priorities recommended by the Facilities Team. The first five have been included in the comprehensive funding appeal.

The Facilities Team would like to thank the volunteers who regularly take on many of these maintenance projects. Their service greatly reduces the cost of maintaining our facilities and allows us to make far more progress than would otherwise happen. The team also is grateful for the contributions of the Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) to projects that benefit both the church and the school.

Mark Gieseke, Team Member
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Item Description	Recommended Action	Estimated Cost
Drive-in facilities are in need of improvement.	Develop a long-term facility repair/demo/upgrade plan for the screen, stage, and buildings. Complete the plan in phases over more than one year.	\$50,000 – 150,000
Historic east side of the church needs masonry repairs.	Continue to make critical repairs as the needs emerge.	\$100,000 – 250,000
Lower level restrooms need upgrades.	Upgrade the fixtures, modify the shower designs, and consider space for a single occupant restroom.	\$150,000
Complete refinishing of the Worship Center floor.	Remove the remaining tile and polish the concrete surface below.	\$60,000
Carpeting and paint in the main offices are 20 years old.	Replace the carpet. Repaint the walls. Reconfigure existing modular furniture.	\$30,000 – 40,000
4th Street sidewalk is settling and needs repair.	The city has approved a project, but due to contract scheduling and labor and materials shortage, project will be completed in Spring of 2023.	TBD
The playground is located across the street from the church and school.	Move the playground to the south lawn.	Shared cost with LADC TBD

Stewardship Team Report

Greetings friends, what a great time to be part of the faith community at Trinity! After more than 150 years, Trinity is “Still On Our Way” welcoming new members, sending future leaders on mission trips, providing community outreach, global outreach, lifelong learning experiences, and many other opportunities to serve. It is not by chance that Trinity has such a strong collaborative faith. Trinity is blessed with stewards like you, who live and give faithfully of time, talents and treasures.

I would also like to thank your Stewardship Team. Melissa Haase, Ted Olson, Mark Nelson, and Claudia Swendseid have given their time and talents helping plan this year’s giving campaign, passing out pledge packets, and recruiting members of the congregation to contribute Temple Talks, Stewardship Stories, and articles for the *Trinity Today* newsletter. Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Bob Eiselt, and Eric Trosdahl round out the team as staff members who provide insight, organization, and a vision of how we can support the future of Trinity.

This year’s campaign centered around the slogan: Still On Our Way. Our goals this year were threefold. One, to raise \$1.1 million or more in pledged contributions. Two, ask for pledges from 350 families, an increase of 25 families from last year. And three, increase automated giving participants by 20 new families. Reaching these goals will allow Trinity to continue to do the ministry that is needed. As we move through this giving cycle, final results of the campaign will be shared as they become available.

Our team is dedicated to providing opportunities for Trinity members to grow through personal stewardship, understand financial stewardship, inspire unique ministry opportunities, and expand our generous giving community. We believe that all we have is a gift from God, belongs to God, and is to be used to serve God and share God’s love with the world.

We appreciate all of you who graciously give your time, talents, and treasures to Trinity. It is because of you that Trinity has the capacity to serve others and address social issues that affect the common good, allowing us to live out our faith.

Thanks for all you do for Trinity and each other!

“As good stewards of the manifold grace of God, each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve one another.”

– 1 Peter 4:10

Noah Schumacher

Stewardship Team Chair
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WORSHIP & MUSIC

The year of 2022 was certainly one of the biggest shake-up years for worship and music at Trinity. Wouldn't you say? After more than 30 years of faithfully serving, worship gurus Carol Carver and Phil Kadidlo have officially sunset their previous roles at Trinity. We are so lucky that they are continuing to serve as organist/pianist (Carol) and Director of AV (Phil). I certainly have continued to call on their years of experience and institutional knowledge as I have taken over the reins this year.

When I got the call from Pastor Chris that the search team had decided to hire me as Trinity's new Director of Worship and Music, my first reaction was overwhelming joy and excitement. That feeling quickly dissolved into a bit of terror and anxiety. Many of you know, but some don't, that I grew up at Trinity. I had been a youth leader on Mexico Mission trips, regularly participated in worship as a singer and worship assistant, and yes, I had even worked at Trinity before as a youth intern for two summers. The fact that many knew me, meant the pressure was on to not screw this up!

Since I started in March, there have been so many highlights in worship:

- The presentation of Seven Last Words by John Michael Trotta as a part of Good Friday worship.
- An incredible worship celebrating Carol Carver where we surprised her with a commissioned arrangement of "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling."

- The "Prayer of the Children" piece with members of Trinity, Croix Chordsmen, and the Stillwater High School Concert Choir.
- Summer worship at the Drive In including Dixieland Band Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, and topping it all off with Joe Davis at TrinityFEST!
- Guest Indigenous theologian Vance Blackfox, citizen of the Cherokee nation, for a week at Trinity.
- And so many wonderful Sundays this fall at both the 8:45 and 11 a.m. services with the Trinity Choir, Praise Band, and guest musicians. (I'm sure I am missing things!)

As we're all still wrestling with what life will be like coming out of the pandemic, I invite you and encourage you to get involved in some way at Trinity. Nothing happens within these walls without folks like you! Whether it's singing in the choir (which I highly recommend), playing in the band, helping serve coffee, greeting, ushering, serving communion, preaching a sermon (joking!)—please know that serving your church is an awesome way to build and strengthen community.

This first program year will continue to feel like a transition. I am still learning the ins and outs of Trinity as a staff person and give thanks as you all experience the "firsts" with me. The first TrinityFEST, the first Advent and Christmas, the first Christmas Concert, etc. There is so much to look forward to! God's Peace!

Clark Weyrauch
Director of Worship & Music
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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Children & Family Faith Formation

When I recall the expanse of life happenings over the past year, I can't help but pause and give thanks for all the ways the Trinity community has been generous and faithful. My husband Erik and I, along with our children Silja (3) and Otto (1), were so blessed by the gift of time we had together following Otto's birth in September of 2021. Pastor Peter, Monty, Pastor Chris, and many incredible volunteers stepped into big roles to help steer and keep the Children & Family Faith Formation ship afloat while I was on maternity leave. It was a welcomed joy to return to work again and to the families my ministry serves. Since my return in January of 2022, it's been "hit the ground running!"

As we've moved toward being in person more and more, it became apparent over the past several months that some of the ways of doing in-person ministry pre-pandemic needed to shift and grow. Step Out and Milestone Ministry were two of those ministries that underwent transformations over the summer months, and FAFA (Fourth And Fifth grade Affinity) Groups developed as a compliment to Wednesday night Dinner Church.

Sunday Family Faith Formation is an extension of worship, like Step Out, but more robust to encourage a sense of community that had been missing over the past few years on Sunday mornings. The format presumes, but doesn't expect, that families attend together before or after worship.

Everyone hears the same story in large group, then processes and internalizes it in age-appropriate ways during breakout sessions. The hope is that parents meeting together, while their children are doing an activity related to the day's story, makes space for deeper connection and an opportunity for personal reflection.

With an understanding that not all parents have the capacity to attend Sunday Family Faith Formation with their children for whatever reason, and to be sensitive to all family situations, the format still works for children to participate seamlessly even if their parents are not there.

Children's Bulletins used to frame Sunday Family Faith Formation continue to be available weekly either by download for families worshipping remotely and in hard copy for in-person worship.

Milestone Ministry continues to honor significant moments that help us practice and affirm faith throughout the entire scope of life. In addition to offering take-home kits, and in-person Milestone Events, we are also introducing a Milestone Retreat over President's Day weekend this February. Children and their families will participate in an overnight experience at Camp Wapo that immerses them in caring conversation, scripture, devotion, ritual, and blessing. Oh, and let's not forget the fun!

With the addition of Dinner Church on Wednesday nights, affinity groups for upper elementary (FAFA) and open gym for younger children were added to the Wednesday menu. FAFA groups combine a spark of learning something new with fellowship and connection. Groups meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Every five weeks of the program year, a new menu of options is available

for these youth to choose from. Youth have enjoyed a book club option so far and look forward to a woodworking option late this fall and early winter. If you have a gift or passion to share with the young people of our congregation, let's talk!

A tried-and-true favorite, Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a splashing success this past summer. The VBS crew of Puerto Rico participants, youth and adult volunteers helped make the theme, Splash in God's Living Water come to life for our age four to grade five participants. The Green Space served as a wonderful setting for evenings of laughing, singing, creating, and growing with God and one another. Before you know it, we'll be getting children registered for summer 2023!

There's been so much to celebrate and look forward to over the last year, and perhaps the most exciting re-introduction is the Children's Christmas Program. This December, children will present "The Holy Family is Here," a production that follows the Holly Family playing the Holy Family in their church's Christmas pageant.

The refrain that replays in my head daily is "Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me." What a year it's been!

Sarah Olson
Children & Family
Faith Formation Coordinator
solson@trinitylc.org

Youth Faith Formation

The past twelve months have seen us creep a little closer back to standard activities which has been a blessing!

Our Middle Schoolers in Confirmation met masked and in person throughout winter and spring 2022. Attendance was steady, as we all enjoyed being back together again. During Lent, each child was once again asked to find an adult mentor to meet with one-on-one. Discussion starters around the Lenten themes were distributed, and kids and mentors enjoyed unpacking these themes and checking in about life and faith together.

Summer found us back to a regular rotation of Middle School programming, as we were able to offer our Middle School Summer Stretch service program in July. However (after having 30 kids from various area churches meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July 2021), our attendance across St. Croix Valley churches for Summer Stretch was not high enough for us to run the program in 2022. We are all a bit puzzled as to why, but as we move in and out of a COVID-19 mindset, it seems patterns are being redrawn. We plan to offer Summer Stretch again in June of 2023.

Thirty middle school kids attended Camp Wapo near Amery, Wisconsin in mid-August for a week of sun, swimming, faith and fun. These numbers are up, which is great to see.

Our main ministry for High Schoolers in 2021-2022 was our Puerto Rico Mission trip. Sixteen high school students and six adult leaders prepared for months and finally spent a hard-working, faithful, and successful week in and around the San Juan, Puerto Rico area in late June. After being shut down in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, it seemed like this

trip would never take place. But we finally made it. The kids were spectacular, and everything went off without a hitch.

This trip was a departure from past Trinity mission trips with a summer time frame, a brand-new destination of Puerto Rico, and new trip partner in Minneapolis-based Praying Pelican Missions (PPM). They handled all the on-the-ground transportation, lodging and work details, leaving Trinity missionaries to focus their time and energy on making an impact with their hands and hearts on work projects and other ministries.

The large group was divided into two with half doing painting and clean up, and the other half leading Vacation Bible School and painting the home of a member of a local congregation. Both groups worked during the day, then gathered back together each afternoon at our home base of Iglesia Metodista church for dinner, small group time and special events. Those special events included multiple evening trips to the nearby ocean, outings for ice cream, and a special night of salsa dancing instruction.

We are in the beginning stages of PR Mission Trip 2023, to take place in late June next summer. Planning begins in late 2022 and will once again be our focus for high school ministry in 2022-2023. We will take a year off from mission trips in summer 2024 to focus on the ELCA Youth Gathering and return to a mission trip again in summer 2025, a two-on, one-off schedule.

We have begun another year of grades 6, 7 and 8 Confirmation back together in person, and it has been great to be with the kids and leaders once again. The energy and excitement of gathering and learning is going strong. I am looking forward to regular

gatherings and service opportunities for these kids!

Our 9th graders gathered for an overnight retreat Oct. 14-15 at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin in preparation for their Confirmation Day on Sunday, Oct. 30. Twenty-three Confirmands affirmed their baptism on that day.

As I begin my eighth year of ministry at Trinity, I remain very grateful for the support of Youth Ministry by the congregation and community and look forward to what God has in store for us in the coming year!

Monty Lysne

Youth Faith Formation Coordinator
mllysne@trinitylc.org

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CARE

Friends, as I think about my fancy title here at Trinity—Connections Coordinator—and the myriad ways connections here are made, below is a list of some of those ministries, in no particular order!

Circles: Anna, Dorcas, Leah, Marion, Martha and Rebekah—so many beloved Trinity women joining together monthly for prayer, fellowship and learning.

Talk & Tea: Held online again (hello Omicron virus) in 2022 with guest author Meta Herrick Carlson, on her book *Ordinary Blessings* with beautiful and delicious treats by Milly Bakes, picked up curbside at Trinity the morning of the virtual event to be enjoyed at home while attending on Zoom.

Women's Retreats: In November of 2021, 35 Trinity women gathered at Bethel Highlands campus in Hudson to participate in a retreat led by Pastor Chris and me. The theme was "Invitation to Renewal" with a focus on contemplation, connection and creativity.

Group Spiritual Direction: Many brave folks experienced this six-session series. "Spiritual direction is like a lazy river...slow moving, unexpected and fluid, while still boundaried. It is a safe place to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit through guided centering prayer, scripture, silence and the sharing of others."

Solo 55 Plus: Now in shared leadership with First Presbyterian here in Stillwater—this group is more than 60 members strong!

Caring Friends: This beloved program helps us stay in touch with Trinity members 80 years and older through intentional, caring relationships with Caring Friends—32 people who extend love to those on their list. They also host the Celebrating Seniors events, consisting of worship and a luncheon with entertainment.

Sunshine Ministry: Big thanks to Carolyn Minor for coordinating this ministry of selling embroidered dish towels. Proceeds are used to send roses through Rose Floral to all our seniors on their 80th, 85th, and every year from their 90th birthday. Celebrating the gift of life!

Make a Meal Ministry: A special food ministry coordinated by Lucinda White and providing meals to our members who are bereaved or new parents.

New Comers/New Members: Along with partner Sharon Longnecker, our goal is to make all visitors to Trinity feel warmly welcomed with a personal greeting. This includes swag bags prepared by Sharon, a follow-up email from me and a hand-written note from Pastor Chris. We welcomed 33 members into our congregation this fiscal year!

It's such a joy to work here at Trinity and spread God's love.

Zanny Johnson
Connections Coordinator
zjohnson@trinitylc.org

Greetings! As your Faith Community Nurse at Trinity, I enjoyed working with 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 currently have a wonderful team of six visitors, that make up the Volunteer Visitation Team. 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 continue to use masks and apply general safe guards 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. We are back in person, but always have the option of Zoom. Knitters continue to make prayer shawls and baptismal shawls as special gifts to members during both difficult and celebratory times in life.

I receive prayer requests and have continued to send out weekly prayer request lists. Lists are updated more frequently 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
kdahlgren@trinitylc.org

OUTREACH MISSIONS

The Outreach Mission 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.

- The Tiny Home (through Settled, Inc.) that we financed has been built and is ready to be given as a home to a person in need of housing.
- We have members involved in 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, MICAHA (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing), Operation Bootstrap Africa, Our Community Kitchen, Solid Ground, Valley Outreach, to name just a few.
- We have supported St. Paul Partners through participation as well as financial support to help our neighbors in Tanzania get clean water.

- Our prison ministry continues through Angel Tree, providing Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents and gift cards for their caregivers.
- The Quilting Ministry made and delivered five quilts to our Afghan refugee family, 11 quilts (plus two knitted hats and a sweater) to Bundles of Love, and 55 quilts for distribution through Lutheran World Relief.
- Through Community Thread, Trinity members donated 251 backpacks filled with school supplies and 92 lunch bags (\$6,041.83 in-kind donations) as well as \$825 donated directly.
- We have fed members of the Anuak Family, originally from southern Sudan, who have come to Minnesota as refugees from Kenya.
- During our annual Undie Sunday in March, we donated 1,533 pairs of new socks and undies. With financial contributions we were able to also donate \$7,567 to Valley Outreach, some of that donated directly to them.
- 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. Through your donations we furnished an apartment, provided warm clothes, and provided assistance in enrolling their children in school, driving lessons, English lessons, job interviews, dental and doctor appointments—loving them as members of our family. Thanks to all members who gave so many hours to this amazing and rewarding effort.

Nationally, the mission board and members of Trinity are involved in LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) and LWR (Lutheran World Relief).

- We have given funds to LWR to help with the tornado disaster in five states and hurricane relief on the East Coast.
- Trinity members are involved with Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.
- We support the work of the Racial Justice 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 25 students.
- We continue to work with our partners in Tanzania, Mwatasi to help residents have clean and running water.
- Through generous donations we have purchased a new motorbike for Pastor Chahula in Mwatasi, to use daily as he meets his congregants at his ten parish points.
- Our Trinity 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 \$7,945 to Stillwater agencies, \$12,610 to Minnesota agencies, \$1,400 to U.S. Tornado Disaster Relief, and \$3,110 to Easter European Crisis Relief, \$1,000 to Lutheran World Relief, and \$23,812 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 Outreach Mission are raised through fund raisers and donations from you. 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

Trinity Outreach Missions Distributions - Fiscal Year 2022

DISASTER RELIEF		TANZANIA	
ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief:		St. Paul Area Synod - BKB:	
US Tornado Disaster	1,400	Scholarships	14,175
Eastern Europe Crisis	3,110	Mwatasi Motorbike	1,437
 Lutheran World Relief	 1,000	 St. Paul Partners:	 3,200
	\$ 5,510	Mwatasi Water Repair	
HOMELESSNESS		Operation Bootstrap Africa:	
Settled Inc.:		Nursing Scholarships	2,500
Tiny Homes	6,385	 Global Health Ministries:	
 Trinity Community Drop In Center	 415	Selian Hospice in Arusha	2,500
	\$ 6,800		\$ 23,812
REFUGEE SUPPORT		LOCAL SUPPORT	
Ascension Episcopal Church:		Valley Outreach:	
Afghan Refugee Family	6,225	March Food & Undie Drive	4,180
 First Presbyterian Church:		 Family Means:	
Anuak Food Program	450	Cimarron Library	2,000
	\$ 6,675	 Community Thread	900
 PUERTO RICO YOUTH MISSION TRIP	 \$ 16,369		\$ 7,080
		TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 66,247

NOTES: Two gifts of \$2,500 each were given in memory of Dr. Mark Jacobson to Operation Bootstrap Africa and to Global Health Ministries for nursing scholarships in Tanzania and for the Selian Hospice program in Arusha, TZ.

The 2021 Thanksgiving Offering was dispersed to Valley Outreach (\$2,250), Community Thread (\$900), Anuak Food Programs (\$450) and Afghan Refugee Family (\$900).

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

152nd ANNUAL MEETING OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stillwater, Minnesota

November 20, 2022, 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 21, 2021 Annual Meeting
9. Election of 2023 Council Nominating Committee
10. Report of the 2022 Council Nominating Committee
11. Election of one (1) Congregational Council position
12. Recommended motion – nomination of Delegates for Synod Assembly
– May 12-13, 2023
13. Reports from the Congregational Council, Staff and Ministry Teams
14. Report of the Church Treasurer for FY 2022
15. Presentation of Proposed Budget for FY 2023
16. Approval of Proposed Budget for FY 2023
17. Presentation of Proposed Comprehensive Campaign
18. Approval of Proposed Comprehensive Campaign
19. Other Business
20. Closing Prayer – Adjournment

MINUTES

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes

151st Annual Meeting

Held Sunday, November 21, 2021

Location: In person at Sanctuary and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Attendance: 40 in person and 26 registered for virtual

1. Meeting Called to Order.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was called to order by Congregational President Melanie (Mel) Sullivan at noon.

2. Opening Prayer.

Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille provided the opening prayer.

3. Sharing of the Peace. Omitted.

4. Approval of Agenda.

M/S/P to approve the agenda as presented.

5. Introduction and recognition of Congregational Council Members.

Mel Sullivan introduced and recognized the following current members of the Congregational Council:

1. Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille;
2. William Bjorum – Treasurer;
3. Krista Gossa - Vice-President;
4. Thomas Haugrud – Secretary;
5. David Martin;
6. Mel Sullivan – President;
7. Andrew Thelander;
8. Robert Eiselt -- Parish Administrator (non-voting member); and,
9. Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation, Peter Weston Miller (non-voting member).

6. Introduction of Parliamentarian.

Mel Sullivan introduced Gail Olson as the Parliamentarian for the meeting.

7. Approval of Procedures.

Gail Olson summarized the following procedures for the 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. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2020 Annual Meeting.
M/S/P to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2020 Annual Meeting as submitted.
9. Election of 2022 Council Nominating Committee.
The 2021 Council Nominating Committee consisted of Erica Kanewischer, Tom Olsen, and Doug Johnson. The 2021 Council Nominating Committee recommended the following to serve as the 2022 Council Nominating Committee:
 1. Erica Kanewischer;
 2. Mel Sullivan; and,
 3. Doug Johnson.
M/S/P to approve the recommended candidates and appoint them as the 2022 Council Nominating Committee.
10. Report of the 2021 Council Nominating Committee.
The 2021 Council Nominating Committee selected the following two candidates as the nominees for the Congregational Council:
 1. Jill Longnecker, to serve a three-year term to fill the seat presently held by Mel Sullivan, who has completed her second three-year term.
 2. Andrew Thelander, to serve a second three-year term.
11. Election of Two Congregational Council positions.
The Nominating Committee presented Jill Longnecker and Andrew Thelander as the nominees 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. Mel Sullivan made inquiry on three occasions whether there were any nominations to Council from the floor, and there were none.
M/S/P to suspend voting by ballot for Council members and proceed with voice vote.
M/S/P to appoint Jill Longnecker to a three-year term on Council and to appoint Andrew Thelander to a second three-year term on Council.
12. Recommended motion – Nomination of Delegates for Synod Assembly – May 2022.
M/S/P to authorize the Congregational Council to elect nine members of Trinity Lutheran Church to attend the 2022 St. Paul Area Synod Assembly to be held in May 2022.
13. Reports from the Congregational Council, Staff and Ministry Teams.
The reports from the Congregational Council, Staff and Ministry Teams were included in the 2021 Annual Report. Mel Sullivan made inquiry whether there were any questions about the reports and there were none.
14. Report of the Church Treasurer for Fiscal year 2021.
Recently elected Treasurer William Bjorum made a brief introduction and then Finance Committee Chair Andrew Thelander presented the report of the Church Treasurer for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2021.
The 2021 Annual Report included a 2021 fiscal year-end summary comparing the 2021 actual to the 2021 budget, and also the 2022 proposed budget. For easier reference, the 2021 fiscal year-end summary and the 2022 proposed budget were re-formatted on one page, which was handed out at the meeting and also available online.

For fiscal year 2021, Trinity Lutheran Church again experienced a slight surplus, marking the sixth straight year that the Church has ended with a surplus.

15. Presentation of Proposed Budget for Fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Chair Andrew Thelander reviewed the proposed budget for the 2022 fiscal year.

An inquiry was made regarding the restricted contributions totaling \$77,500. Andrew advised that the restricted contributions appear in operating income for the 2022 budget, and that the proposed capital expenditures for the 2022 budget, under worship technology upgrade and other, include the entire \$77,500 of restricted contributions.

An inquiry was made about the mission trip contributions made for the 2019 mission trip that was cancelled. Parish Administrator Robert Eiselt advised that those funds remain on deposit with the Church except for certain non-refundable deposits, and that correspondence will be sent shortly to the contributors with options on what to do with those contributions.

16. Approval of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Upon the conclusion of the Treasurer Report and the presentation of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022, President Mel Sullivan then sought congregational approval of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022.

M/S/P that the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 be adopted and approved as submitted.

17. Other Business.

Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille expressed her thanks and gratitude for the work and commitment of the entire staff of Trinity Lutheran Church. She also further expressed her thanks and gratitude for the work and commitment of the entire Congregational Council, and in particular to Mel Sullivan for her leadership as Congregational President for the past year.

18. Closing Prayer – Adjournment.

Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille provided the closing prayer.

Upon conclusion of the closing prayer, M/S/P that the Annual Congregational meeting be adjourned. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Haugrud
Congregational/Council Secretary

FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

2021 Christmas Eve:

IN PERSON

11 a.m.	95
2 p.m.	190
4 p.m.	228
7 p.m.	110
9 p.m.	98
TOTAL	721

ONLINE VIEWS

2 p.m.	84
4 p.m.	153
TOTAL	237

2022 Easter:

Ash Wednesday (7 p.m.)

IN PERSON	112
ONLINE VIEWS	55

Total of All Five Wednesday Lenten Services (7 p.m.)

IN PERSON	162
ONLINE VIEWS	255

Maundy Thursday (7 p.m.)

IN PERSON	57
ONLINE VIEWS	92

Good Friday

11 a.m. (in person only)	NA
7 p.m. IN PERSON	222
7 p.m. ONLINE VIEWS	223

Easter Sunday

IN PERSON	
7 a.m.	132
9 a.m.	460
11 a.m.	300
TOTAL	892

ONLINE VIEWS

9 a.m.	354
11 a.m.	102
TOTAL	456

Special Services:

TrinityFEST (one in-person service only – Sept. 19, 2021)	380
2021 Christmas Day (10 a.m. in-person worship)	38
Lessons & Carols (online only – Dec. 26, 2021)	217 views
Jan. 2, 2022 (one service only at 10 a.m.)	

IN PERSON	68
ONLINE VIEWS	184

Palm Sunday (one in-person community service – 10 a.m.) NA

Average Sunday Worship Attendance:

In person at Trinity	153
Online views	201
Drive-in	176

NOTES: All online views are views in one week. (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), does not include Christmas Eve.

Drive-in worship was open through October 2021 (reopening May 2022) for a total of 34 Sundays in fiscal year 2022.

NA = Not Available

Fiscal Year 2022 Statistics

Total number of baptized members on

September 1, 2021 _____ 2,780

Number of members received through baptism _____ 26

Number of members received through confirmation _____ 5

Number of members received through transfer/affirmation of faith _____ 33

Number of members removed through death _____ 22

Number of members removed through transfer, request, etc. _____ 238

Total adjusted number of baptized members

on August 31, 2022 _____ 2,584

Non-member funeral services conducted by

Trinity pastors _____ 5

Weddings conducted by Trinity pastors _____ 3

2022 Trinity Congregational Council

Andrew Thelander _____ Council President

Krista Gossai _____ Vice President

Tom Haugrud _____ Secretary

Bill Bjorum _____ Treasurer

Jill Longnecker _____ Council Member

Carol Straka _____ Council Member

Trinity Staff as of August 31, 2022

Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, D.Min. _____ Lead Pastor

Carol Carver _____ Organist

Kim Dahlgren, R.N. _____ Faith Community Nurse

Bob Eiselt _____ Parish Administrator

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

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

Phoebe Joy Ehlenz
James Edward Adamson
Caleb James Ledman
Lydia Zehr White
Evelyn Dorothea White
Otto David Allen Olson
Krew Michael Madline
Robert Rowan Anderson
Aria Kay Anderson
Brooks Judd Colstad
Hannah Meree Borowske
Emma Claire Monroe
Everly Jane Dolney
Aubrey Louise Barta
Arrik Edward Barta
Elliott Lauren Moore
Levi Donald Lehmann
Zoey Florence Raye Dixon
Anderson John Jablonski
Blake Gasman (adult)
Baylor Dylan Thomas
Quinn Stormont Cannon
Landon Thomas Carlson
James Walter Flesch
Jordan Ohn Birkeland (adult)
James Jeffrey McLaughlin

TOTAL = 26
ADULTS = 2
CHILDREN = 24

CONFIRMED

Jaxon Charles Joseph Benson
Elsa Ann Eckman
Luella Lucia Fresonke
Anabel Mary Gonnion
Carter Allen Jensrud
Riley Ana Johnson
Brynne Anne Klancher
Ethan Peterson Kutzer
Madylyn Elizabeth Richert
Emma Louise Olson
Mackenzie Ann Slachta
Andrew William Stinson
Addison Kay Teply
June Catherine Thury
Linnea May Topper
Zander Grae Wilichowski
Camille Christine Wilk

TOTAL = 17
NEW MEMBERS = 5 (bold text)



MARRIED

Katelyn Sonnee & Jordan LeClair
Angela Gorman & Michael Boman
Sarah Marsnik & Andrew Sellner

TOTAL = 3

DEATHS

Eugene Alvin Hawkinson
James French
Florence (Flo) Marie Claus
William (Bill) Bernard Quinn Jr.
Anthony (Tony) Charles Smith
Jane Margaret Backe
Ronald Alden Berglund
Donald Earl Norell
Jacob Daniel Masterman
Colleen L. Weiss
Dorothy Elaine Lelle
Harold David Koehn
Carol Ann Nyenhuis
Lynnette Marie Gillstrom
Victoria Lynn Cartony
Hudson Ohn Birkeland
Patricia Ann Bloomgren
Marilyn Rose Schmoeckel
Karl Steven (Steve) Schmoeckel
Marguerite (Marge) Loss Nelson
Georgeane Mary Karnuth
Wilbert Gene Kern
Marlene Ruth Harty
Lois Mae Lash
Kristen Rose Gulsvig
Loretta (Laurie) Marie Swanson
Susan Renee Honsvall

TOTAL = 27
MEMBERS = 22 (bold text)

CPA REPORT



FOLEY
KALSEIM
& COMPANY, LTD.

Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

To Church Council
Trinity Lutheran Church
Stillwater, MN

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Trinity Lutheran Church (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis as of August 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets and cash flows – all on the modified cash basis, for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of Church management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of 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.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

We are required to be independent of Trinity Lutheran Church and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our review.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

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.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the issue noted in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

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Lake Elmo, MN 55042
P: 651.430.3635

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note B of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with 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 conclusion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Foley Kalsein & Company, Ltd.

Lake Elmo, MN
November 2, 2022

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
August 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 331,198	\$ 369,649
Investments	1,147,105	1,336,762
Prepaid expenses	5,179	2,116
Deposit	451	525
Master plan design fees	336,085	336,085
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>3,629,046</u>	<u>3,754,410</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 5,449,064</u>	<u>\$ 5,799,547</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Payroll liabilities	\$ 11,590	\$ 8,657
Program deposits	3,300	-
Drive-in escrow	8,600	8,600
Security deposits	1,288	1,288
Designated mission funds	118,546	125,568
Line of credit	78,000	-
Long-term debt	3,136,019	3,255,388
Less debt issuance costs, net	<u>(5,805)</u>	<u>(6,085)</u>
Total liabilities	<u>3,351,538</u>	<u>3,393,416</u>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	827,649	904,081
With donor restrictions	<u>1,269,877</u>	<u>1,502,050</u>
Total net assets	<u>2,097,526</u>	<u>2,406,131</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 5,449,064</u>	<u>\$ 5,799,547</u>

See independent accountant's review 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, 2022 and 2021

	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
Gain on extinguishment of debt	-	-	-
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
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

	2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:			
Contributions	\$ 1,324,771	\$ 116,536	\$ 1,441,307
Rental income - church property	39,161	-	39,161
Rental income - post office building	24,000	-	24,000
Rental income - Croix Center	55,474	-	55,474
Fees and other payments for program activities	33,485	-	33,485
Interest income	-	43,660	43,660
Gain on extinguishment of debt	170,000	-	170,000
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of property and equipment (loss)	-	-	-
Unrealized gain on investment (loss)	-	187,585	187,585
Net assets released from donor restrictions upon expiration of proposed restrictions	100,931	(100,931)	-
Total revenue and support	1,747,822	246,850	1,994,672
EXPENSES:			
Staff salaries and benefits	921,902	-	921,902
General operating expense	201,679	-	201,679
Building maintenance expense	33,143	-	33,143
Interest expenses and other borrowing costs	134,728	-	134,728
Missions and benevolence	89,961	-	89,961
Children, youth & family ministries	10,102	-	10,102
Communications	3,341	-	3,341
Lifelong learning ministries	5,703	-	5,703
Worship and music	14,692	-	14,692
Mutual care/small groups	19,302	-	19,302
Depreciation expense	253,018	-	253,018
Total expenses	1,687,571	-	1,687,571
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	60,251	246,850	307,101
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	843,830	1,255,200	2,099,030
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 904,081	\$ 1,502,050	\$ 2,406,131

See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Statements of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis
For the Years Ended August 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ (308,605)	\$ 307,101
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation	223,176	253,018
Non-cash interest expense	280	280
Loss (gain) on disposal of property and equipment	7,447	-
Gain on extinguishment of debt	-	(170,000)
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	204,557	(187,585)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	(3,063)	(2,116)
Deposits	74	-
Payroll liabilities	2,933	1,769
Program deposits	3,300	-
Designated mission funds	(7,022)	(33,937)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>123,077</u>	<u>168,530</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of endowment fund, net	(14,900)	(4,097)
Purchases of property and equipment	<u>(105,259)</u>	<u>(27,356)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>(120,159)</u>	<u>(31,453)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Borrowings on line of credit	187,000	40,000
Payments on line of credit	(109,000)	(40,000)
Payments of debt	<u>(119,369)</u>	<u>(113,059)</u>
Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>(41,369)</u>	<u>(113,059)</u>
Net change in cash	(38,451)	24,018
CASH		
Balance at beginning of year	<u>369,649</u>	<u>345,631</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 331,198</u>	<u>\$ 369,649</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 115,276	\$ 134,448
NONCASH FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Total principal reduction of debt	\$ 119,369	\$ 283,059
Non-cash payments from extinguishment of debt	-	(170,000)
Cash payments on principal debt	<u>\$ 119,369</u>	<u>\$ 113,059</u>

See independent accountant's review report and notes to financial statements.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Years Ended August 31, 2022 and 2021

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 affect 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 \$130,781 and \$145,589 as of August 31, 2022 and 2021, 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, 2022 and 2021

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, 2022. 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 2, 2022, 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 \$78,000 and \$0 for the years ending August 31, 2022 and 2021, 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, 2022 and 2021

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 years ending August 31, 2022 and 2021, there is no impairment deemed necessary.

NOTE E - INVESTMENTS

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

	2022		2021	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Endowment Fund				
Pooled Trust - ELCA	<u>\$ 1,076,014</u>	<u>\$ 1,147,105</u>	<u>\$ 1,061,114</u>	<u>\$ 1,336,762</u>

NOTE F - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	2022	2021	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	1,880,555	1,883,774	5-25 years
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	1,073,097	1,139,673	2-25 years
Computers	163,137	97,304	5 years
Website	7,000	7,000	5 years
Music equipment	519,239	522,243	5-25 years
Vehicles	26,672	26,672	5 years
	<u>9,319,579</u>	<u>9,326,545</u>	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(5,690,533)</u>	<u>(5,572,135)</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 3,629,046</u>	<u>\$ 3,754,410</u>	

NOTE G - LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	2022	2021
Mortgage bearing interest at 3.50%, payable in monthly principal and interest installments of \$17,838. Matures May 1, 2043. Secured by Church building and land.	\$ 3,136,019	\$ 3,252,465
Note payable bearing interest at 4.75%, payable in monthly principal and interest installments of \$1,495. Matures October 15, 2021. Unsecured.	-	2,923
	<u>\$ 3,136,019</u>	<u>\$ 3,255,388</u>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2022 and 2021

NOTE G - LONG-TERM DEBT (continued)

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

2023	\$ 105,465
2024	109,216
2025	113,101
2026	117,124
2027	121,289
Thereafter	<u>2,569,824</u>
	<u>\$ 3,136,019</u>

Amortization of debt issuance costs (\$280 in 2022 and 2021) 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, 2021</u>
Principal amount, less current maturities	\$ 3,136,019	\$ 3,255,388
Less unamortized debt issuance costs	(5,805)	(6,085)
Total long-term debt less unamortized debt issuance costs	<u>\$ 3,130,214</u>	<u>\$ 3,249,303</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 \$46,036 and \$43,660 in the year ended August 31, 2022 and 2021, 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, 2022, retirement contributions for 12 eligible employees were funded at a cost of \$39,614. During the year ended August 31, 2021, retirement contributions for 11 eligible employees were funded at a cost of \$39,373.

NOTE J - PROGRAM SERVICES AND SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Program services and supporting activities are summarized below:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Program services	\$ 1,428,174	\$ 1,350,057
Management and general	<u>357,044</u>	<u>337,514</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 1,785,218</u>	<u>\$ 1,687,571</u>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2022 and 2021

NOTE K – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions at August 31, 2022 and 2021 are available for the following purposes or periods:

	2022	2021
Debt Reduction	\$ 26,374	\$ 23,710
Building Improvements	28,980	22,863
Other Designated	17,291	996
Memorials to be Designated	19,980	24,466
Worship Center	-	63,386
Hymnal Fund	280	-
Organ Fund	641	641
Endowment Funds	1,147,105	1,336,762
Scholarship Fund	8,819	8,819
Roof	7,671	7,671
Fund Raising	7,377	7,377
Capital Funds	5,359	5,359
	<u>\$ 1,269,877</u>	<u>\$ 1,502,050</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, 2022 and 2021.

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 \$2,462 and increases 3% each year. Rent collected under this lease was \$29,544 and \$29,042 for the years ended August 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Reclaiming Beautiful – The Church owns and leases to Reclaiming Beautiful, LLC. The lease was renewed for 3 years and will expire April 30, 2023. The lease calls for monthly payments of \$1,778 for the 1st year, and increases to \$1,831 for the 2nd year and \$1,886 for the 3rd year. Rent collected under this lease was \$26,432 for the years ended August 31, 2022 and 2021.

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

2023	\$ 68,012
2024	55,735
2025	42,832
2026	24,000
2027	8,000
Total	<u>\$ 198,579</u>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For the Years Ended August 31, 2022 and 2021

NOTE M - LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Church leases copiers. Rental expenses under these leases totaled \$24,038 and \$23,988 for the years ended August 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The copier lease expires in January 2024.

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

2023	\$ 23,988
2024	9,995
Total	<u>\$ 33,983</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, 2022.

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, 2022 and 2021

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, 2022 and 2021 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, 2022</u>	<u>Fair Value</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>
<u>August 31, 2021</u>			
ELCA Fund A	\$ 1,336,762	\$ -	\$ 1,336,762
Long-term debt	3,255,388	3,255,388	-
Total	<u>\$ 4,592,150</u>	<u>\$ 3,255,388</u>	<u>\$ 1,336,762</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, 2022 and 2021

NOTE O – ENDOWMENT (continued)

		<u>Donor Restricted</u>
September 1, 2020	Donor-Restricted	
	Endowment Funds	\$ 1,145,080
	Contributions	4,097
	Unrealized Gain	<u>187,585</u>
August 31, 2021	Endowment Net Assets	\$ <u>1,336,762</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>

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, 2022 and 2021

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>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Financial assets at year-end	\$ 1,478,303	\$ 1,706,411
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to:		
Donor-restricted for endowment funds	<u>1,147,105</u>	<u>1,336,762</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 331,198</u>	<u>\$ 369,649</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, 2022 and 2021.

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FINANCIAL REPORT OVERVIEW

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stillwater, Minnesota

The following pages include various reports related to the financial operations of Trinity Lutheran Church for the fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

Trinity ended its fiscal year on August 31, 2022.

A “Balance Sheet Summary” on Page 44 compares assets, liabilities and equity for the fiscal years ending 8/31/2021 and 8/31/2022. This presents more detail than the CPA’s Balance Sheet included on page 29.

The “Fiscal Year-End Summary of Income & Expense,” on page 45, shows the budgeted and actual amounts for income and expenses for Fiscal Year 2022. The Change in Net Assets matches the amount shown as Unrestricted Change in Net Assets on page 30.

Included for your information is a report from the Treasurer on page 46.

The “Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Ministry Budget” is presented on page 47. The budgets are prepared by our staff and reviewed by the Finance Team and the Congregational Council.

The Finance Team and the Trinity Congregational Council have approved the proposed budget to be submitted to the congregation for adoption at the Annual Meeting.

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

Balance Sheet Summary	Aug 31, 2022	Aug 31, 2021
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current Assets		
Cash Accounts		
Checking, Money Market & Savings Accounts - General	259,448	302,878
Savings Account - Current Year Endowment	45,400	43,160
Debt Reduction Funds	26,349	23,610
Investment Account-Trinity Endowment (ELCA Fund)	1,147,105	1,336,762
Accounts Receivable/Prepaid Expenses	2,689	2,641
Total Current Assets	1,480,992	1,709,051
Fixed Assets		
Land	1,130,528	1,130,528
Buildings	4,557,755	4,557,755
Work in Progress	0	0
Furniture & Fixtures	3,610,429	3,617,675
Passenger Van	26,672	26,672
Accumulated Depreciation	-5,690,533	-5,572,135
Total Fixed Assets	3,634,851	3,760,495
Other Assets		
Master Plan Design Fees	336,085	336,085
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	5,451,928	5,805,631
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current Liabilities		
General Funds Held For Future Disbursement		
Designated Gift Funds	103,172	141,069
Memorial Funds (Not Yet Designated)	21,261	25,245
Temporary Funds	4,813	0
Misc donations for mission trips & outreach	118,546	125,568
Payables (including payroll liabilities)	21,838	18,544
Operations Cash Flow Line of Credit	78,000	0
Endowment Earnings Available: Current Yr & Next Yr	45,400	43,160
Board Restricted Reserves	120,000	120,000
Total Current Liabilities	513,031	473,586
Long Term Liabilities		
Mortgage - Thrivent Financial	3,136,019	3,252,465
Bank Loan - Lighting	0	2,923
Total Long Term Liabilities	3,136,019	3,255,388
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Investments - Endowment Fund	1,132,205	1,336,762
Net Assets	739,896	851,834
Current Year Change in Net Assets	-69,222	-111,939
Total Equity	1,802,879	2,076,657
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	5,451,928	5,805,631

FISCAL YEAR-END SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENSES

	FY 2022 Actual	% of Budget	FY 2022 Budget
	Sep '21 - Aug '22		Sep '21 - Aug '22
Operating Summary			
OPERATING INCOME:			
Contributions - General	\$ 1,276,252	94%	\$ 1,354,800
Contributions - Restricted	115,628	149%	77,500
Mission Revenue	66,247	110%	60,000
Released from Endowment	43,160	102%	42,160
Croix Center Rent	55,976	100%	55,976
Rental Income	53,331	97%	55,100
USPS Facility Rent	24,000	100%	24,000
Fees and Payments	54,088	104%	51,950
Misc. Income	200		-
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	<u>\$ 1,688,882</u>	98%	<u>\$ 1,721,486</u>
OPERATING EXPENSE:			
All Personnel Expenses	991,012	98%	\$ 1,008,000
Finance, Facilities, Operations	278,883	112%	249,750
Loan Interest	115,303	101%	113,683
Communications	3,505	58%	6,000
ELCA Mission Support	30,000	100%	30,000
Other Benevolence	9,000	90%	10,000
Missions	66,247	110%	60,000
Children / Youth / Family	10,268	62%	16,575
Lifelong Faith Formation	3,695	77%	4,775
Groups and Teams	29,002	109%	26,550
Worship	27,795	116%	23,900
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$ 1,564,711</u>	101%	<u>\$ 1,549,233</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 124,171		\$ 172,253
Capital Summary			
CAPITAL FUNDS:			
Capital Funds	19,660		21,900
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u>19,660</u>		<u>\$ 21,900</u>
CAPITAL EXPENSES:			
Mortgage Principal	\$ 116,419	101%	\$ 115,273
Staff Technology Upgrade	-		-
Worship Technology Upgrade	97,300		70,000
Other	7,960		7,500
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 221,679</u>	115%	<u>\$ 192,773</u>
Capital Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (202,019)</u>	118%	<u>\$ (170,873)</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 124,171		\$ 172,253
Less: Capital Surplus (Deficit)	(202,019)	118%	(170,873)
Total Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (77,848)	-5641%	\$ 1,380
Adjustment to tie to CPA Report: Page			
OPERATING INCOME (from above)	\$ 1,688,882		
CAPITAL FUNDS (from above)	19,660		
TOTAL INCOME	1,708,542		
add: Deferred Endowment Earnings - Net	2,876		
Deferred Sabatical Grant Income	4,814		
deduct: Loss on Disposal of Fixed Asset	(7,447)		
Adjusted Income	1,708,785		
Total Operating Expenses (from above)	1,564,711		
add: Depreciation Expense Annual allocation	223,176		
deduct: CPA's reclass of Operating Expenses	(2,670)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,785,217		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$ (76,432)</u>		

TREASURER'S REPORT

We ended fiscal year 2022 in a deficit position of (\$77,848) which is \$79,228 under budget, compared to a surplus of \$946 last fiscal year end. Not coincidentally, Total Contribution income for the fiscal year is \$78,500 less than budgeted and \$49,000 less than last year. Whether due to economic concerns or delayed return in participation, 50 of our pledging families were approximately \$50,000 short of current on their 2022 pledge as of 8/31/22. Total income for the year is only \$33,000 under budget, \$113,000 ahead of last year, due to \$97,000 of Restricted Income applied to the Worship Center Technology project. We did realize an increase of \$35,000 over FY2021 in Fees and Payments and Facilities Rental income, reflective of increasing in-person participation in activities and events.

On the expense side of the ledger, Operating expenses are \$16,000 over budget and \$111,000 more than fiscal year 2021. Personnel expenses are \$17,000 under budget due to partial year staffing vacancies but, \$69,000 more than last year. That increase is driven by 1 additional full-time, benefits-eligible position and increases in overall benefits costs. Missions expense was \$16,000 higher than FY2021, that increase includes the expenses of the Youth mission trip to Puerto Rico. Operational expenses are \$29,000 over budget, \$25,000 more than last year, driven by increased costs in insurance, snow removal, utilities and misc. operating expense.

The balance on our operating Line of Credit with First State Bank and Trust of Bayport stands at \$78,000 as of 8/31/2022, no coincidence that the balance equals our fiscal year-end deficit!

The Board Restricted Reserves of \$120,000, established by Council action last year have not been used as of 8/31/22.

In FY 2022, Trinity completed an investment of over \$100,000 to complete an update to the technology in the worship center to expand and improve our worship experience for both our in-house and on-line, at-home worship participants. Improvements include larger video screens, new digital projectors, multiple digital cameras, new mixing equipment and in-booth computers to deliver a quality worship product. The investment was funded through a series of anonymous gifts, memorials and bequests designated for this purpose.

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to Trinity's Finance Staff of Bob Eiselt, Ellen Neseth, and Eric Trosdahl for their tireless efforts and continued time and diligence this past year in managing the church's finances. We also want to give special thanks to the members of the Finance Team and Stewardship Team for all their time and hard work over this past year.

Lastly, Trinity is always thankful for the continued generosity of our congregation members and the unexpected gifts from friends of the church. Thank you!

Bill Bjorum

Treasurer

bbjorum@trinitylc.org

Bob Eiselt

Parish Administrator

beiselt@trinitylc.org

Endowment Fund

Since its inception in 1997, Trinity's Endowment Fund has been a very useful addition to the financial resources that make it possible for the many and varied ministries of Trinity to happen.

The Endowment Fund is made up of endearing and enduring gifts from dear, departed and living people supporting Trinity. 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, 2022, the market value of Trinity's Endowment Fund stood at \$1,147,105. Earnings from the fund, distributed back to Trinity in FY 2022, amounted to \$45,400, which will be released to earnings in FY2023. Earnings of \$43,160, received in FY2021 were released into earnings in FY2022 and were used to fund ministry activities and programs in the areas of: General Ministry, Mutual Care, Worship & Music, and Children & Youth as designated by donors.

Thank you to those whose many and generous gifts have made this financial tool a valuable asset for Trinity.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED MINISTRY BUDGET

		Proposed FY 2023 Budget Amounts
OPERATING	OPERATING INCOME:	
	Contributions - General	1,361,300
	Contributions - Restricted	37,500
	Mission Revenue	80,000
	Released from Endowment	45,400
	Croix Center Rent	60,700
	Rental Income	66,500
	USPS Facility Rent	24,000
	Fees and Payments	69,500
	Misc. Income	-
	TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	<u>\$ 1,744,900</u>
	OPERATING EXPENSES:	
	All Personnel Expenses	1,038,000
	Admin (Finance, Facilities, Operations)	277,600
	Loan Interest	110,400
	Communications	6,000
	ELCA Mission Support	30,000
	Other Benevolence	9,000
	Missions	80,000
	Children/Youth/Family Faith Formation	25,700
	Adult Lifelong Faith Formation	5,000
	Groups and Teams	27,500
	Worship and Music	30,300
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 1,639,500</u>
	Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>\$ 105,400</u>
CAPITAL	CAPITAL FUNDS:	
	Capital Funds - Other	23,200
	TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u>\$ 23,200</u>
	CAPITAL EXPENSES:	
	Mortgage Principal	120,570
	Other Capital Projects	7,500
	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 128,070</u>
	Capital Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>\$ (104,870)</u>
	Total Surplus or (Deficit)	<u>\$ 530</u>

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
November 20, 2022

Mel Sullivan
Erica Kanewischer
Doug Johnson

The Nominating Committee sought input from Council leadership and the Pastors regarding one Congregational Council seat.

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 seat currently held by Carol Straka, the committee nominates John Hodler. Mr. Hodler is eligible to serve two complete terms.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

In addition, the committee recommends the following names as the 2023 Nominating Committee: Carol Straka, Mel Sullivan and Erica Kanewisher.

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 NOMINEE



John Hodler

My wife Dellzie and I joined Trinity 20 years ago when we moved to Stillwater from Texas. During my working career, we moved numerous times and have always conducted a church search each time we moved. Upon our first Sunday worship at Trinity, we realized it was the church home we were searching for in Minnesota. Our three

sons, their significant others and two granddaughters now live on the East Coast.

I have enjoyed years of fellowship and faith building with groups and teams such as Food for Thought, Retired Men's Group, Men's Bible Study, Drive in and Sunday worship greeting/usher/communion server, Tanzania mission trips, the Emergency Winter Warming Space and Shelter Team, and the Homeless Strategy and Advocacy Team.

I was privileged to be on the Lead Pastor Call Committee which called Pastor Chris, and I served on the Outreach Missions Team as we successfully transitioned Trinity's outreach mission program to a team led by lay people.

I retired from a 42-year professional career where I worked in numerous management jobs in the agriculture industry. During the many moves related to my career, I encountered different cultures, local traditions, strong personalities, and dialects. At each stop, I quickly had to learn how to communicate differently and build trust to be effective. I found this to be an exciting and satisfying challenge.

I am honored to be a council nominee. If I am elected, I will strive to serve the congregation to the best of my ability.

Sample Ballot – Council

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stillwater, Minnesota

November 20, 2022

NOMINEE(S) FOR CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

BALLOT

VOTE FOR ONE (1) – 3-year term

☐ John Hodler

Nominated from the floor:

☐ _____

Sample Ballot – Comprehensive Campaign

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stillwater, Minnesota

November 20, 2022

PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

BALLOT

In casting this ballot, I certify that I am a Voting Member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Stillwater, MN (“Trinity”)

Should Trinity proceed with the Comprehensive Campaign as outlined in the Comprehensive Campaign Proposal dated November 7, 2022:

☐ YES

☐ NO

why trinity?

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

core values

Exceptional 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.



TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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