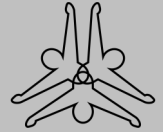


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

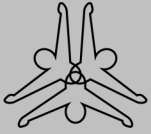


Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



2023 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

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2024 CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11:45 am

Call To Order

Opening Devotion

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Reports

- Pastor Tom
- Deacon Christie
- President's report
- Treasurer's Report
- Mission Fund Report

Elections

- Council Election
- SD Synod Assembly: May 31—June 1, 2024
 - Synod Assembly Voting Members
 - Synod Assembly Alternates
- Mission Fund Committee
- Nominating Committee

Old Business

- Faith Forward Goal Recap

New Business

- Mission Endowment Bylaws
- 2024 Budget

Closing Devotion/Prayer

Adjournment

Present Council Members

Richard Holland (2025)

Jeremy Brech (2025)

Maria Campbell (2025)

Ben Burrack (2026)

Margaret Larsen (2026)

Amanda McKnelly (2026)

Those elected to Council at the October 2023 semi-annual meeting are:

Corey Slykuis (2027)

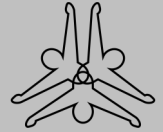
Kari Johnson (2027)

Sara Hilmoe (2027)

Kendra Oberle (1 year youth term - 2025)

From Nomination Committee for Election:

1 position still open



Voting Members Present: See Sign-in Sheets

Staff Present: Pastor Tom Opoien, Deacon Christie Meier

Attendance: Member total was 69 (60 in person & 9 online). A quorum was reached.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Brent Petersen.

Opening Devotion: An opening devotion and prayer was delivered by Deacon Christie.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

1. A motion to approve the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes was made by Dave Poppens, seconded by Tom Tosch. Motion passed.

Reports:

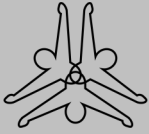
1. A year in review video was played.
2. Pastor Tom presented highlights from his written report.
3. Deacon Christie presented highlights from her written report.
4. Vice-President Brent Petersen presented highlights from President Maggie Saugstad's written report.
5. Treasurer Tommy Pollema provided a review of our 2022 finances and an overview of the 2023 proposed budget.
6. Wayne Larsen presented an update on the Mission Fund and the Mission Fund Committee's work.

Elections:

1. A motion to elect Ben Burrack to council was made by Margaret Larsen, seconded by Tommy Pollema. Motion passed.
2. A motion to elect Jesse Temme and Janet Hanson to the Mission Fund Committee was made by Wayne Larsen, seconded by Maria Campbell. Motion passed.
3. A motion to elect Wayne Larsen and Shelly Johnson to the Nominating Committee was made by Melissa Jelen, seconded by Phil Meier. Motion passed.
4. A motion to elect Kathy Otten and Sandy Chaney as Synod Assembly delegates and Becca Thim as Synod Assembly Alternate was made by Jen Lowery, seconded by Maria Campbell. Motion passed.
5. A motion to elect Dave Poppens and Pierce Temme as Synod Assembly delegates and one more male delegate as appointed by council was made by Margaret Larsen, seconded by Becca Thim. Motion passed.

Old Business:

1. Faith Forward Plan; Vice-President Brent Petersen recapped the 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year goals from the Faith Forward 5-year commitment plan.



2023 CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

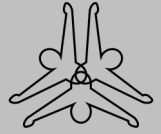
New Business:

1. Under This Roof; Vice-President Brent Petersen gave as update on the Under This Roof campaign. Against a goal of \$100,000 the current giving total is \$30,400.
2. Approval of 2023 Budget; a motion to approve the 2023 budget as presented was made by Maria Campbell, seconded by Cole Anderson. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Tom led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Vice-President Brent Petersen

Submitted By: Nikki Wilken

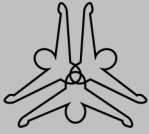


Baptisms

Arlo Gordon Schoellerman
Bostyn Ivy Boehrns
Rory Lee Gardner
Lewis Eric LeVan
Eila Mary Hovaldt
Esker Ray Gordon Gellings
Livia Josephine Tveidt
William Kevin Ames Tveidt
Emersyn McKenna-Lynn Cauwels
River Dale Peterson
Layla Lynn Ortmeier
Olivia Paige Parr
Cohen John Gors
Sydney Beth Stahlecker
Callen Henry Stahlecker
Elliott Tyler Pierson
Alaina Jean Hinrickson
Paislee Nicole Barthel
Knox Alan Handegard
Braxley Joe Schreier
Teagan Audrey Sikkink

Confirmations

Evan Atkins
Landen Bolte
Addison Brech
Samuel Bullis
Emersyn Cauwels
Tygan Fischer
Tyler Frank
Avery Franzen
Lauren Gearman
Avery Hangman
Torsten Haugen
Ben Heibult
Levi Hinman
Jaxon Johanneson
Brax Johnson
Wyatt Kleinschmit
Daylen McKnelly
Sophia McNaughton
Shayden Olean
Hudson Petersen
Ariana Poppens
Reyna Reisenweber
Brandt Smolik
Anna Somsen
Piper Stadtfeld
Sydney Stahlecker
Miah Thorstenson
Leah Walder
Allie Wallum



2023 NEW MEMBERS, TRANSFER OUTS, FUNERALS & WEDDINGS

New Members from New Members Class

Steve and Kim Baker

John and Jean Carlson

Ryan and Jennifer Deibert, Elijah, Ella,
Hadleigh, Hayden

Beverly and Dennis Dekam

Carolyn and Terry Ebright

Gene Fjerestad

Matt and Sarah Gaul, Janet, Katelyn

Taylor and Trevor Hovaldt, Elia

James and Patricia Koerner

Sandy and Eric Lingren, Emma, Jake, Libby

Cody Mielke

Carrie and Ryan Mitchell, Andy, Miles

Chad and Kristin Oletzke, Elijah, Ella

Tyler and Shae Pierson, Elliott

Trystan and Jacob Schreier, Braxley

Megan Schoellerman, Arlo

Darryl and Marla Walz

New Members by Transferred In

Amy Petersen, Griffin, Hudson

Steve and Wanda Franzen

Alyssa Beneke

Jennifer and Nathan Nielson, Carter, Kendra

Ty Schoellerman

Transfer Outs

Kirby and Carrie Quamen, Annika, Zachariah

Funerals

George Henry Blakey

Marlys Bergjord

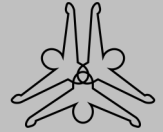
Ehme Brass, Jr

Gerard Muller

Weddings

Dereck and Kayla (Peterson) DeVries

Talon and Sheby (Irvine) Buie



Ministerial Acts

Baptisms	21
Confirmation	29
Weddings	2
Funerals	4

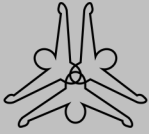
Services Conducted

52 Weeks of Worship	
Sunday Services	92
Christmas Eve	3
Lent	8
Mid-week Services	27
Average Weekly Worship	360

Membership Statistics

Family Units	429
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	Baptized	Confirmed
2023 Beginning Membership	1,365	1,009
Baptized Members Received	75	72
Baptized Members Removed	-4	-3
Moved to Inactive List	-206	-169
2023 Ending Membership	1,230	909



FAITH FORWARD PLAN



Faith Forward Plan

Core Values: Community, Faith, Family, Spirituality, Love

Vision: Trinity Lutheran Church is:

- A welcoming community
- A faith-filled community
- A community that values spirituality
- A community of love and hospitality
- A FAMILY

Mission: Encourage. Inspire. Serve.

Background

Trinity Lutheran Church Council set a 2022 goal to create a 5-year ministry plan. To achieve this goal the Council created a special Faith Forward Committee. This committee generated a report of potential actions based on feedback and ideas from the congregation. The Council and associated boards reviewed the committee's report and prioritized actions.

The Council and associated boards are committing to this Faith Forward Plan and its actions.

1 Year Commitments

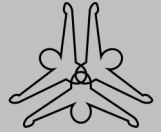
- Help people realize their gifts and intentionally ask them to volunteer
- Create activities, Bible studies and/or community groups for young adults
- Hold quarterly events to promote small groups and connections
- With other Tea religious communities erect directory sign at Heritage Pkwy & Gateway Blvd
- Create a space utilization and flooring plan; begin replacing flooring
- Refresh the high school loft
- Update sanctuary sound system needs
- Improve online streaming

3 Years Commitments

- Communicate the many Trinity Lutheran services and opportunities to the community at large
- Expand quarterly small group connection events to include service
- Remodel and update the church kitchen and appliances
- Update and improve church landscaping
- Evaluate ministry staffing needs, expanding if necessary
- Replace remaining flooring
- Update sanctuary lighting, video and speakers

5+ Years Commitments

- Collaborate with the Community Food Pantry Board in responding to growth and needs within the community
- Train and support volunteers to lead small groups
- Pay off the mortgage
- Pave the south parking lot



“¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”
- 1 Corinthians 12: 12,13

Dear friends in Christ,

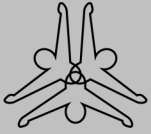
The phrase “body of Christ” is used in several different ways in the church. Jesus Christ walked among his people in a physical body, and his body rose from the dead on the first Easter. When we gather to receive Holy Communion, it is the body of Christ that we receive. In this letter, I’d like to emphasize a third use. The church is the body of Christ. The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that the church community is the way that Jesus is physically present to the world today.

In 2023 Trinity Lutheran Church functioned as the physical presence of Jesus to thousands of people by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed. I encourage you to spend time reading through this full report. You will see the names of those who were baptized, confirmed, or died, as well as the many who joined this community of faith. You will see the important ministry generated through the ministry boards, whether that work was feeding the hungry, studying scripture together in large and small groups, providing ways to support one another in times of sadness, building connections with neighbors next door and with ministry partners around the world, or giving people opportunities to be good stewards of God’s gifts. Many people grew in their personal faith and in their service toward others because of Trinity’s work this year.

I am deeply grateful for the faithful work of the many leaders of the congregation and for the hundreds of volunteers. We are fortunate as a congregation to have a talented and dedicated staff as well. Several areas of ministry that I will particularly remember from 2023 include the deep generosity of the congregation in response to the “Under this Roof” campaign in the winter and the “Trinity: In It Together” campaign in the fall. My personal faith and knowledge of scripture was deepened by a study trip to the Holy Land in January. As we have all been praying for peace in the middle east, I have been remembering individuals I met there in prayer as well. It was a privilege to serve along with our high school youth at their work camp experience in Wausau, Wisconsin and to accompany confirmation students to summer camp. I also have valued the important individual pastoral conversations that have taken place in hospital rooms, homes and throughout the community.

Trinity Lutheran Church continues to be a healthy congregation that is known in the community for its spirit of service to others. It is good to serve as the body of Christ together.

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien



2023 DEACON CHRISTIE'S REPORT

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Dear Beloved of Trinity,

Does anyone else find themselves in a juxtaposition? At times, this past year has seemed to have gone by so quickly and other times this past year trudged on like a turtle. No matter which side you fall on, one thing is true, we give God thanks. Just like the bible verse above, whatever we do, we do it in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

As I look at the past year, there are many reasons to give thanks as we acknowledge our mutual achievements and highlight our progress into the future.

As one of your ministers, I have the distinct pleasure of working alongside of you in serving our Lord. As a Minister of Word and Service, the “word” part involves planning and leading worship and preaching. It is a privilege to be able to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

The “service” part allows me to provide opportunities for us to strengthen our faith by living out Matthew 25:35-40. “when I was hungry, you gave me food, When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink, etc.” But the people ask, “when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you a drink, etc.? And Jesus says, “when you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.” My friends, we do acts of service, not because it gains our entrance into heaven but because we are living out our faith. Some areas that we teamed up on were: Giving Tree, school supplies and backpacks, God’s Work Our Hands and Church on the Street.

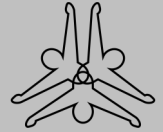
Helping others discover their gifts for leading worship has been an enjoyable part of my call. With Casey Bullis, I helped prepare 5th and 6th graders to lead a worship last spring. I meet with our High Schoolers each spring as they prepare to lead all our Easter services and play in the brass band, a tradition set many years ago. A shared ministry, a shared service, helps foster a sense of unity and encourages positive outlook. It is not uncommon to get a text from one of the schools in need of coats, hats, mitts, underwear, etc., and we are able to fill those requests. There are also individual requests from food pantry clients and we’ve filled those also. I am proud of the positive impact Trinity has made in the community.

One of the best times this past year was creating and implementing the Bible Crash Course. The idea came from my sabbatical in 2021. I had created a 15 week sermon series called, Tell the Story, Be the Story so this Bible Study was a spin-off of that. Fifty-nine of you signed up as we met for 4 weeks to walk through the entire Bible. Well, done, friends!

I am so grateful for my colleagues in Christ; Pastor Tom, Janita, Laurie, Carrie, Clarissa, Zach, Molly, Dave and Cole. We are a good team.

I look forward to another year of mutual ministry with you . May the coming year be filled with continued growth, deepened connections and an unwavering spirit of service. I thank God for you.

Blessings,
Deacon Christie



It's been an eye opening 3 years on Church Council. First year serving as chair of our Board of Worship and Music and then the last 2 years serving on Executive Council including Vice President and now President. For the longest time, my church experience consisted primarily of attending church with some sporadic volunteer work. Having the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity on Council, I've gained a visibility and understanding of what it truly takes to run a church of our size. The dedicated staff, the numerous boards and their roles, the countless volunteers we have and the number of hours they so willingly give, all the ways our Mission impacts the needs of the congregation and community we serve, and Yes; the \$'s it takes to operate Tea Trinity. I have an appreciation, a connection, a genuine care for this church, and ultimately; a deepened faith that doesn't come to be without serving.

Some interesting stats:

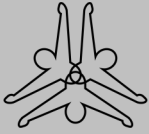
- Percentage of people belonging to some form of Christianity decreased from 52.2% to 43.9% in 2021
- Those declaring they had no religion increased from 30% in 2016 to 38.9% in 2021
- Nearly 1/3 of Americans now say they seldom (28%) or never (29%) attend religious services

Despite all of these downward trends in religion, Tea Trinity numbers remain stable if not growing:

- Our congregation numbers just shy of 1,500 people.
- We added 52 new members in 2023 / 19 families.
- Our youth participation #'s remain strong:
 - Sunday School - 118
 - KFC – 42
 - 7th/8th grade confirmation – 64
 - Confirmands - 28

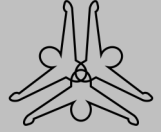
Our Church has shown great resiliency and perseverance thru COVID, record inflation and a challenging economy, social distractions, and facility issues. Our Church has staying power. So what is it about Tea Trinity that makes this continue to work, continue to stick? There isn't one answer, but many:

- The first is leadership.
 - We are fortunate to have 2 Senior leaders with close to 60 years of combined ministry experience. They are committed, servant leaders, whose dedication to this Church has been the foundation of our continued progress.



2023 COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Church boards. Tea Trinity is comprised of numerous boards all made up of dedicated volunteers with an array of skill sets that our Church benefits from. The leadership and direction that comes out of these boards drive the accountability and structure our Church needs.
- Dedicated staff. We have a small staff of individuals that run lean and hard, motivated by the impact their work makes. A sincere Thank You to Janita Holman, Zach and Molly Gors, Dave and Cole Anderson, Carrie Corner, Laurie Parsons, and Clarissa Roemen!
- Our Church, Our Congregation lives our Mission to Encourage, Inspire, Serve. It's infectious.
 - We are a constant presence in our community:
 - Serving at the Banquet West
 - CommuniTEA Area Picnic at Tea Pot Days
 - TeaPot Days Parade clean up and booth.
 - Winter gear donations
 - Tea Community Food Distribution
 - Food pantry donations including a Giving Tree that supports food pantry clients
 - Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class
 - Community Outreach Group - tLINK
 - We offer numerous educational opportunities including WELCA Bible Study, Bible Crash Courses, Adult Bible Studies, Over 55 Group, Wednesday's Men Group.
 - A strong commitment to the Benevolences we support
 - We've updated our church Photo Directory
- We are vested in our Youth:
 - Preschool Chapels
 - Milestone ministry
 - Strong participation in our WV national youth gatherings
 - KFC
 - A growing Sunday School program
 - A faith based Preschool



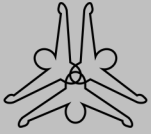
- We are a fiscally responsible Church with a Congregation that continually answers the call when asked:
 - Our spring auction had a goal to raise over \$10k and we crushed it, raising \$16k plus!
 - Our “Under this Roof” campaign raised over \$100,000 allowing us to replace heat air exchangers, the roof, and the bell tower. Large and necessary improvements to our facility.
 - We continue to move closer to having our mortgage paid for. Roughly 3 years left.

For the sake of trying to keep this report somewhat short, I will stop with the above but there are many more activities, accomplishments, initiatives that are happening that are moving our Church and our Mission forward. In short, Our People, are our biggest differentiator. We are simply made up of a Congregation that cares more than it doesn't.

I am so very thankful for this opportunity to serve as it deepened existing relationships and was the catalyst for numerous new friendships. I'm proud to call Tea Trinity my church and feel fortunate to be part of this body of Christ that positively supports and impacts so many.

GOD IS GOOD!

Brent Petersen
Church Council President



2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for financially supporting the important mission here at Trinity Lutheran Church. With your continued offerings we have been able to serve each other and the community with caring ministry.

There are four main funds used for the operation of Trinity. Year end balances are as follows:

General Fund: \$46,900
Improvement Fund: \$115,497
Rental House Fund: \$13,236
Central Bank Mortgage: \$18,255

Money given to the general fund is used to support the church and its ministries. Throughout the year, this fund ran short, so a \$20,000 line of credit was taken out. In the last two months of 2023 several very generous offerings were made one of which was a \$25,000 matching gift challenge. The congregational members exceeded this challenge and the general fund ended the year on a very positive note.

The improvement fund received most of its balance through the "Under This Roof" campaign which ran through the first part of the year. It was originally estimated that the roof repair and replacement/repair of heat exchangers would cost approximately \$100,000. The roof repairs were less than expected and one heat exchanger was just recently installed. Again the congregational giving far exceeded the ask.

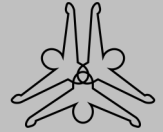
The house to the west of the church building is owned by Trinity. The rental income is placed in the rental house fund to cover any costs incurred to maintain the house. If an excess is realized, the money is moved to the general fund.

The Central Bank mortgage fund is used to hold offerings given specifically for the monthly mortgage payment of \$7,181. The payments are taken from this account.

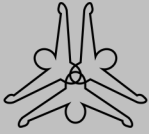
Three grants were applied for and received also. One grant was for the flat roof repair, one for sound equipment in the sanctuary and one for the monthly food distribution. We also use Thrivent Action Team money to help offset a portion of fund raising, service or educational projects. May we continue to gather and serve while building a bigger and better Christian congregation in Tea.

God Bless,
Margaret Larsen

2023 TREASURER'S REPORT



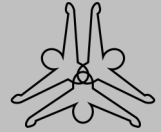
Account Shortcut and Description	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Next Year Annual Budget
Income			
OFFERING			
1001 Offering-General	344,318.10	231,000.00	289,183.00
1004 Thrivent Choice	5,977.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
OFFERING Totals:	350,295.10	234,000.00	292,183.00
SIMPLY GIVING			
1020 Online Giving Deposit - General	254,762.79	302,500.00	261,000.00
MISC. REVENUE			
1041 Coffee Revenue	466.21	500.00	500.00
1043 Auction Revenue	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
1045 Facilities Use Revenue	1,055.50	1,500.00	1,500.00
1047 Wedding/Funeral Revenue	0.00	500.00	0.00
1050 Offering-Globe Offering	6,842.26	7,500.00	11,617.00
1051 Preschool Tuition	11,398.75	16,000.00	18,570.00
1052 Preschool Misc Income	1,815.56	1,500.00	0.00
MISC. REVENUE Totals:	21,578.28	37,500.00	32,187.00
REVENUE and FEES			
1065 Food Distribution	36,650.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
1100 Vacation Bible School Revenue	968.06	1,000.00	1,000.00
1101 Sunday School Revenue	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
1102 Adult Education Revenue	0.00	250.00	0.00
1170 Misc. Dedicated Revenue	1,878.66	5,000.00	5,000.00
REVENUE and FEES Totals:	39,496.72	27,250.00	26,000.00
Income Totals:	666,132.89	601,250.00	611,370.00
Expense			
BENEVOLENCES			
2001 World Hunger	7,555.76	6,706.25	6,915.00
2002 ELCA-SD Synod	37,778.85	33,531.20	34,574.00
2004 Lutheran Outdoors	667.20	894.17	968.00
2005 Lutheran Social Services	601.61	894.17	968.00
2007 Lutheran Campus Ministries	672.38	894.17	968.00
2009 The Banquet	739.52	894.17	968.00
2010 Compassion Children	486.00	456.00	456.00
2011 Compass Center	7,555.76	6,706.25	6,915.00
2014 St. Dysmas Benevolence	600.98	894.17	968.00
2017 Bishop Dudley House	2,518.57	2,235.42	2,305.00
2019 Pastoral Care	47.61	2,226.50	500.00
2021 Church on the Street	2,518.57	2,235.42	2,305.00



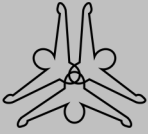
2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Shortcut and Description	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Next Year Annual Budget
2022 Good Gifts/Global Barnyard	1,695.00	894.17	968.00
2024 Union Gospel Mission	2,518.57	2,235.42	2,305.00
2025 Food to You Mobile Food Pantry	650.88	894.17	968.00
2026 East River Foster Parents	418.96	894.17	0.00
2027 Reach Literacy	488.70	894.17	968.00
2028 Call to Freedom - Human Trafficking	7,555.76	6,706.25	6,915.00
2029 Berakhah - Homeless Veterans	470.86	894.17	968.00
2030 Children's Home Shelter for FamilySafety	7,555.76	6,706.25	6,915.00
2031 CASA	0.00	0.00	968.00
2032 Feeding South Dakota	433.56	894.17	968.00
2037 Missionaries	1,000.00	894.17	968.00
BENEVOLENCES Totals:	84,530.86	80,475.00	81,721.00
PASTORAL MINISTRY/STAFF			
2148 Staff Development	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2149 Wednesday Night Coordinator	8,825.04	8,825.00	9,178.00
2151 Custodial - Part time	15,849.00	13,000.00	27,256.00
2152 Communications Coordinator	8,825.04	8,825.00	9,178.00
2155 Deacon Christie Salary	61,638.96	61,639.00	63,329.00
2156 Deacon Christie Housing	29,320.08	29,320.00	30,163.00
2157 Deacon Christie Pension	10,749.27	10,771.00	11,070.00
2158 Deacon Christie Disability Ins.	1,672.98	1,250.00	1,710.00
2159 Deacon Christie Auto	933.37	1,250.00	1,250.00
2160 Deacon Christie Prof. Expenses	370.47	250.00	250.00
2161 Deacon Christie Cont. Ed.	31.94	250.00	800.00
2165 Sunday School Coordinator	8,649.96	8,650.00	8,996.00
2167 Preschool Teacher Salary	17,204.46	16,600.00	17,264.00
2168 Deacon Christie Health Insurance Benefit	15,743.04	15,743.00	15,243.00
2169 Deacon Christie FICA	6,958.08	6,958.00	7,152.00
2170 Videographer	2,750.04	2,750.00	2,860.00
2175 Technical Support	5,900.04	5,900.00	6,136.00
2185 FICA Expense	9,141.72	8,250.00	9,767.00
2190 Pastor Tom Salary	45,098.07	54,123.00	41,587.00
2191 Pastor Tom Housing/Utilities	44,024.97	35,000.00	50,000.00
2192 Pastor Tom FICA	6,817.92	6,818.00	7,006.00
2193 Pastor Tom Pension	11,013.96	10,554.00	10,845.00
2194 Pastor Tom Disability Ins.	1,795.92	1,250.00	1,675.00
2195 Pastor Tom Auto	888.18	1,250.00	1,250.00
2196 Pastor Tom Continuing Ed	488.54	500.00	500.00
2197 Pastor Tom Professional Exp.	163.22	250.00	250.00
2198 Pastor Tom Health Insurance Benefit	19,968.96	19,969.00	21,175.00
2200 Office Manager Salary -2	45,000.00	45,000.00	46,800.00
2201 Office Manager Pension -2	3,932.16	4,500.00	4,680.00
2202 Office Manager Disability Ins.-2	690.35	625.00	796.00
2203 Office Manager Health Ins. Benefit -2	6,499.92	6,500.00	6,500.00
PASTORAL MINISTRY/STAFF Totals:	390,945.66	387,570.00	415,666.00
OFFICE			
2500 Office Supplies	1,557.05	1,300.00	1,400.00

2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

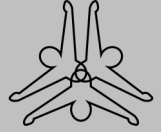


Account Shortcut and Description	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Next Year Annual Budget
2501 Postage	2,709.50	2,000.00	2,400.00
2502 Telephone	2,560.52	2,500.00	2,500.00
2503 Copier Maintenance Contract	4,644.24	4,000.00	4,000.00
2505 Computer Expenses	4,189.62	4,000.00	4,000.00
2507 Advertising	1,810.00	2,500.00	2,200.00
2508 Office Equipment	63.70	250.00	250.00
OFFICE Totals:	17,534.63	16,550.00	16,750.00
CONFERENCES			
2520 Conferences & Conventions	1,527.67	1,500.00	1,500.00
PROPERTY -			
2530 Grounds Maintenance	10,738.65	8,000.00	8,000.00
2531 Electricity	14,039.69	9,200.00	10,000.00
2532 Water & Garbage Bill	1,617.93	2,000.00	2,000.00
2534 Custodial Supplies	1,477.37	1,750.00	1,750.00
2535 Property Taxes	883.53	1,850.00	900.00
2536 Snow Removal	20,208.38	10,000.00	12,000.00
2537 Natural Gas	9,320.70	10,000.00	9,000.00
2538 Insurance	16,285.50	12,200.00	12,200.00
2539 Facility Maintenance	3,667.28	5,000.00	5,000.00
PROPERTY - Totals:	78,239.03	60,000.00	60,850.00
EDUCATION			
2600 Sunday School	3,106.60	2,000.00	2,000.00
2601 Vacation Bible School	2,006.99	1,700.00	1,700.00
2602 Adult Education	325.68	500.00	500.00
2603 Confirmation	1,283.31	1,500.00	1,500.00
2605 Special Events/Speakers	0.00	500.00	500.00
2606 Background Checks	1,014.00	500.00	500.00
2607 Sunday School Space Improvement	0.00	500.00	500.00
3001 Preschool Expenses	2,511.82	1,000.00	1,000.00
EDUCATION Totals:	10,248.40	8,200.00	8,200.00
MUSIC AND WORSHIP SERVICES			
2610 Worship Arts	17.48	250.00	50.00
2613 Music Honorariums	300.00	300.00	300.00
2616 Worship and Music Appreciation	0.00	500.00	500.00
2617 Organists	4,250.00	4,550.00	4,550.00
2618 Music Ministry	1,639.20	1,500.00	1,500.00
2620 Media System	1,703.76	3,000.00	1,000.00
2621 Worship Supplies	2,890.40	1,900.00	2,300.00
2622 Guest Pastor/Presenter	0.00	500.00	0.00
2623 Coffee Supplies	390.96	350.00	350.00
MUSIC AND WORSHIP SERVICES Totals:	11,191.80	12,850.00	10,550.00
YOUTH & FAMILY			
2628 Small Group Events	3.83	300.00	300.00
2629 KFC Youth Group	637.49	500.00	500.00
2631 Milestone Ministry	959.31	2,200.00	2,200.00
2633 Camper Scholarships	700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00



2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Shortcut and Description	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Next Year Annual Budget
2634 Sr. High	322.01	700.00	700.00
YOUTH & FAMILY Totals:	2,622.64	6,400.00	6,400.00
STEWARDSHIP			
2640 Stewardship materials	372.42	250.00	500.00
OUTREACH			
2650 Hospitality	345.02	1,000.00	800.00
2652 Group Programing Expenses	12.35	1,500.00	800.00
2653 Community Visibility	275.00	2,000.00	400.00
2654 College Snack Packs	0.00	0.00	600.00
2655 Misc Outreach	0.00	0.00	400.00
OUTREACH Totals:	632.37	4,500.00	3,000.00
MISC EXPENSES			
2661 Bank/Accounting Fees	696.67	0.00	0.00
2662 Wedding/Funeral Expenses	0.00	200.00	0.00
2663 Misc. Dedicated Expenses	1,742.67	2,000.00	2,000.00
2665 Food Distribution	34,586.60	20,000.00	20,000.00
MISC EXPENSES Totals:	37,025.94	22,200.00	22,000.00
Expense Totals:	634,871.42	600,495.00	627,137.00
Income - Expense:	31,261.47	755.00	(15,767.00)



2023 Tea Area Food Pantry

January 1, 2023 Balance		\$6,060
Donations	\$13,478	
Expenses		\$8,530
December 31, 2023 Balance		\$11,008

2023 WELCA

January 1, 2023 Balance		\$15,770
Deposits	\$13,186	
Expenses		\$14,086
December 31, 2023 Balance		\$14,870

2023 Tea Trinity Cemetery

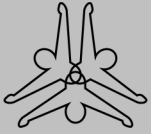
January 1, 2023 Balance		\$9,382
Deposits		
Lot Sales	\$3,325	
Interest	\$ 387	
Expenses		\$3,746
December 31, 2023 Balance		\$9,348

2023 Over 55

January 1, 2023 Balance		\$1,522
Deposits	\$928	
Expenses		\$1,640
December 31, 2023 Balance		\$810

2023 Faith In Action

January 1, 2023 Balance		\$650
Deposits	\$846	
Expenses		\$198
December 31, 2023 Balance		\$1,298



2023 YOUTH AND FAMILY BOARD REPORT

The Youth and Family Board continued our mission providing of Faith Milestone opportunities for each age level K-12. These are a celebration of the faith journey, and wonderful ways to promote growing faith in ways that will be carried on to our children's children. We were able to provide bibles to our youngest members all the way to our over 85 celebration with our senior members. Thank you to the parents and congregation who believe in our mission and continue to attend these important milestones with our children.

Fundraising is an important part of our board. A goal is to provide fundraising opportunities that the youth can choose to participate for financial assistance to attend camps, mission trips and youth gatherings. We know the financial impact the cost to attend these events can have on a family, and we strongly believe in children attending these events, so we strive to provide ample opportunities to raise funds to cover those costs.

Holiday evergreen sales was another huge hit this year. 19 kids sold 124 pieces and raised over \$629 for their camp accounts.

The annual Chili Bingo was held in February and raised over \$600. This event is always a big hit with members of all ages.

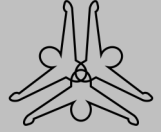
We hope to continue the momentum with fundraising opportunities in 2024, providing opportunities for our youth to participate in attending camp or the 2024 National Youth Gathering.

With the Faith Forward study that was done at Trinity in 2022, we learned there was a want for small group ministries. From that study, our board set 1, 3 and 5 year goals. We exceeded our 1st year goals with a current event prayer night/candlelight vigil; a movie night; chili bingo; and a Filipino cooking class. We look forward to plan additional events in 2024.

Current active members of the Youth and Family Board include Deonne Portner, Deb Svanda, Kristi McKinney, Deacon Christie Meier, Zach Gors and myself. If you have any interest in joining our group, we meet for approximately one hour, typically the first Monday or Tuesday of every month. We would love to have you join us!

Thank, you,

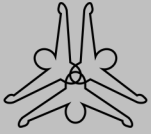
Laura Stewart, Chair
Youth and Family Board



I'm hopeful that this report finds you all healthy and well. Wow 2023 flew by. This is my third and final year as the chairperson for the board of property. I would like to thank everyone for all your help, if you have chosen to either donate money or time to complete projects. I am very blessed to part of our church that is full of such giving people.

This year we have had our challenges dealing with roof top units not working to heat our sanctuary and the normal challenges of dealing with a building that most of the mechanical systems are past its useful life, however I'm very grateful for where we are. We got the roof replaced and the storm damage repaired from the storms. We also replaced one (1) of the roof top units that feeds the sanctuary. This also included adding a direct digital control system to the new roof top unit that will allow us to monitor and schedule occupancy for that unit. This system is set up to be added on to whenever we decide to start replacing other mechanical equipment. I would like to thank my board members for everything they do and please let them know too. The board members are Galen Smidt, Josh Kanz, Dick Gors, Steven Oberle, Kelly Wilken, and Corey Slykhuis.

Thank You and GOD Bless Trinity
Dave Heibult



2023 EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

Congregation Members: Brooke Boots and Angela Curtis

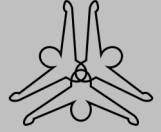
Staff Members: Deacon Christie Meier and Molly Gors. The Board of Education had a wonderful year with many events hosted, groups meeting together, and classes that were taught. We would like to thank the congregation for all your support throughout the year.

Sunday School

We have 108 registered for Sunday School split between 8 classes. We have 17 adult teachers and 15 junior teachers, all of which are awesome. We have had great attendance this year and plan to do a service project this spring. Other than that, Sunday School is pretty run of the mill this year!! We are settling into a routine which is great.

Vacation Bible School

This year we hosted Vacation Bible School in June. We continue to have increased numbers each year. We created a VBS committee that helped organize the planning. We are so grateful for all of the volunteers that helped make this possible!



Another year has flown by and the Stewardship Committee can't say thank you enough to the members of Trinity for the astounding show of Stewardship to our church. We tend to forget at times what Stewardship all means and its importance to the church. It takes not only monetary donations to keep things running and up-to-speed, but also a large number of volunteers needed and willing to put their time and energy into making a place as special as Trinity is. With a continuing growing congregation there's not a better time than now to think about what you can do to serve and volunteer to make our Stewardship stronger than ever.

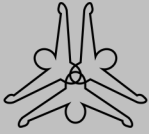
2023 started with the overwhelming support of the "Under This Roof" campaign. Your monetary donations made this major fundraising effort a huge success to repair the church roof, replace a sanctuary heating unit, and restore our historic bell tower.

At the end of May the Stewardship board hosted an ice cream "Sunday" social to help celebrate our achievement for the campaign. This was a just a small token of our appreciation and a way we could say "Thank you!" to all who contributed.

When we reached the last quarter of the year, we also identified an additional need to help generate funds for our total operating costs. With the donation of a generous \$25,000 matching gift challenge and an effort to help review contributions and new giving options, the congregation came together once again to help fulfill the funds needed for our year-end budget. What a great way to end the year of 2023!

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank each one of you for your continued support of our church. We look forward to a strong year again in 2024 and what it may bring! I'd like to thank the members of the committee including Eric Reisenweber, Margaret Larsen, Brett Somsen, Don McLeer, Maria Campbell, and Pastor Tom. If you are looking for a great group to connect with, we would gladly welcome you to join our board anytime!

Ben Burrack
Board of Stewardship



2023 WORSHIP AND MUSIC BOARD REPORT

We have made great steps in improving our audio system with needed microphone updates. The board of worship received a grant for \$3000 to upgrade our microphone system. Jeremy Brech purchased our microphone package for \$9,200 and donated these items to Trinity Lutheran Church of Tea. The original \$3,000 will be used to purchase a portable sound system for the fellowship hall in the next couple of months. (note from Deacon Christie – we appreciate the generosity of the gift from Jeremy)

We continue to upgrade the video system as we upgraded donated projectors thanks to the Holmans. The projectors were installed over the summer in the front sanctuary space. We will add a drop down screen and projector in the back of the sanctuary once electricians finish the installation.

Our next steps in improvements will be to our online experience. We will work together with the youth allowing assistance with power points so our audio mixing team can focus on the online and live mix.

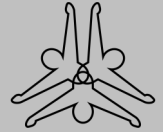
We are making great moves to improve some simple but well needed upgrades. Thanks you to everyone for their patience during this process.

Jeremy Brech, Chair

Al Graue

Nikki Wilken

Deacon Christie Meier



We were able to hold three new member orientations this past year which included one of those being held on a Wednesday evening to accommodate those new members that wish to participate in the Wednesday evening services of the church. The new member orientation for this year involved 19 new families that included 36 adults and 16 children. New Member orientation for 2024 is scheduled for this coming March with additional orientations to be held as necessary throughout the upcoming year.

In November, members of the Outreach Board and Faith in Action gathered to prepare approximately 60 Snack Pack Student care packages for Trinity family member who are attending colleges and universities throughout. This program is provided in showing these students that they are being thought of by the church as they prepare for midterm finals. A Thrivent grant was obtained and was used to assist in the cost of mailing these packages. We would like to thank all those who donated snack items or assisted in any way in this endeavor.

The annual winter gear program to include gently used or new coats, hats, gloves, mittens snow pants or winter boots is still in full swing. We have been blessed with a nice inventory again this year. This program is also assisted in part through the Living Hope Community Church and the Tea Chamber of Commerce. Five local Chamber businesses assisted in a collection drop off point and those businesses include, Fareway, Zooks Coffee Shop, Pizza Ranch, Ace Hardware and Squealers Smoke Shack. We also work in conjunction with the Tea School in providing winter gear needs of any child in school. A Thrivent grant was also received this year to assist with this program.

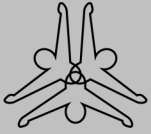
The Outreach Board also worked with Digital Tapestry in photographing members of the church in compiling a new church directory. Members have now received their purchased photos and the hard bound directory as well as the digital directory should become available within the coming weeks.

We are also involved in the Tea Area Community food distribution as well as the I Meals on Wheels programs within the community. To provide God's helping hand, we are always concerned as to the visibility and outreach within Trinity Lutheran Church, so please feel free to contact and share any concern or comment with any member of the Outreach Board.

Board members consist of Alma Gors, Anita Mohr, Joyce Klinghagen, Cari Klinghagen, Becca Thim, Pastor Tom Opoien and Richard Holland.

Again a very special thank you to the work of this board and also to all of those who donate or volunteer in any way to the workings of the Outreach Board.

Richard O. Holland
Board of Outreach



2023 MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

Members for the Trinity Mission Endowment Fund Committee are Casey Bullis, Janet Hansen, Amy Kleinschmit – Secretary, Jesse Temme – Treasurer and Wayne Larsen – President.

The Mission Endowment Fund is comprised of two parts. One part is the tracking spreadsheet that tracks designated gifts outside of the general fund, mortgage and improvement fund. The purpose of this spreadsheet is to ensure that designated gifts are used for the purpose they were intended. Please see the spreadsheet below for the 2023 year activity.

The second part is the endowed investment funds. To date there have been \$57,500 deposited in the endowment fund. These funds are currently invested with the ELCA in their Ministry Growth Fund. The current market value as of November 30, 2023 is \$67,118.54. The fund has distributed \$2004.90 back to the church through the first three quarters of 2023. This is typically an annual 4% return on investment on the average market value over the past five year ends. This distribution is typically dispersed by the committee to various areas of need after the fourth quarter distribution.

The committee is currently functioning off of the original by-laws that were approved when the Mission Endowment Fund was established in January 2001. This year the committee worked with the ELCA planned giving group and the church council to revise the current by-laws. These revisions were presented to the church council who voted to submit them to the congregation for approval at the January 28, 2024, annual meeting.

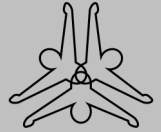
The committee also worked on developing a Trinity Lutheran Church Gift Policy to offer guidance on how to handle gifts of all types that may be donated to the church. The gift policy was presented to the church council and approved at their December 12, 2023, council meeting. The gift policy does not require approval by the congregation.

Terms for the existing members will terminate at the end of the year following their name. Casey Bullis (2023), Wayne Larsen (2023), Amy Kleinschmit (2024), Jesse Temme (2025) and Janet Hansen (2025). Committee members are eligible for two consecutive three year terms.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Larsen, President

2023 Trinity Evangelical Mission Fund Designated Account Summary

Music Program.....	\$2,673	Media.....	\$3,000
Preschool Money	\$3,932	Busy Blessings	\$1,000
Giving Tree	\$4,072	Library	\$273
Camp Scholarships.....	\$6,037	Endowment Distributions.....	\$6,354
Philanthropic	\$405	Bank Fees/Interest	\$48
Children & Youth Ministry/Scholarship ...	\$1,899		



Our monthly bible study is “Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith”. The Bible study group meets monthly, usually the third Thursday afternoon of the month at 1:30pm at the church. Check the newsletter. Feel free to join us. Our goal is to be a community of women created in God’s image, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to growth in faith, to affirm our gifts, to support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and in the world.

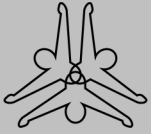
Committees help us serve our Lord, and our church community with cards, library, and Bibles. Our service groups are an important part of our organization. We appreciate your help on various committees in helping serve our Lord.

We take part in the Crossroads Conference of the SD Synod. We help host events such as new member, graduate and confirmation receptions. We also serve special events as anniversaries and funerals.

Lenten suppers were served and this offering goes to the campers. Our main fundraiser is the turkey supper, it was held this year. Thanks to all who helped to make it successful.

Thank you to all who help make our organization a way to serve our Lord in these missions. May we continue to serve Him in these areas. Serve the Lord with gladness! Bless his name.

Alma Gors,
Chairwoman



2023 TEA AREA FOOD PANTRY & OVER 55 REPORTS

Tea Area Food Pantry

The Tea Area Food Pantry is the cooperative effort of the churches in Tea. The location of the supplies is here in Trinity. The pantry is supplied through the generosity of various groups and individuals. It has been kept well supplied by the drives by the scouts, mail carriers, as well as the schools. Financial support has come from the bank in Tea, many organizations, and the churches. Approximately 25 families came and picked up their Thanksgiving boxes this year.

The churches represented are: Gloria Woodring with St. Nicholas Church, Ann Koosman with Risen Savior, Living Hope congregation and Ruth Anderson with Trinity. If you are aware of someone in need, please have them contact one of the representatives or Trinity Lutheran Church office, or check out Tea Area Food Pantry Facebook page.

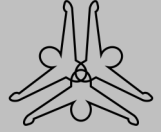
Ruth Anderson

Over 55

Over 55 meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, At 9:30 each member can have their blood pressure taken by a medical person. At 10:00 there will be a business meeting. From 10:15 to 10:30 there is a Bible Study given by Pastor Tom or Deacon Christie About 10:30 there will be a speaker, an activity or going on a tour:

In 2023 our group watched two DVDs. One was on relationships and the other one was on the Holy Land. Ours tours were at the Sioux Falls Courthouse Museum, a tour of Tea seeing new home developments, schools, and the new Industrial area. We also went to the Nora Store during the Christmas season to sing hymns and enjoying Mike Petersen's stories of his interesting life. During the Church Turkey Supper we have a Country Store set up with crafts and goodies including lefsa. Our December meeting we have Christmas games and white elephant gift exchange. Members bring Christmas goodies.

Our speakers have been from AARP, Active Generations, State Prison & the Tea Schools System. We all enjoy a pot luck after our meetings. You are welcome to join us.

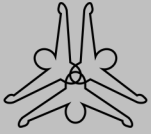


On October 27, 1889, it was decided that a cemetery was needed. Meinhard Heeren, Sr. donated one acre of land south of the church at that time. The cemetery is presently at that location. Two acres of land were purchased in 1993 north of this location. The church was moved into Tea at 235 S. Mary Ave in 1897. Until January 12, 1949, the cemetery was operated in conjunction with the church council. On this date it was decided to form a cemetery board. The objective was to resolve that our cemetery should no longer be a neglected wilderness of weeds, but a neat, beautiful church cemetery. The cemetery, which is church property, would have to be kept up by finances from the general fund. That created further expenses for the church. The Cemetery Board set up a trust fund after receiving a \$1000 memorial from the members of the Hatie Heeren family. A meeting was held with the church council and the cemetery board. It was decided to form a Cemetery Trust Board. The trust board has their accounts with American Bank and Trust of Tea in the form of CD's. The sale of lots goes into the trust fund. All interest money from the trust goes into the cemetery fund. The two-acre addition to the cemetery was purchased from Iva Haan in 1993 with a private loan and was fully paid off in 1997. The graves are \$600 for non-members and \$400 for members of Trinity. We do not do "Green" burials.

New graves in the north section will be sold in order to keep the cemetery uniform. A cemetery directory has been finished and was dedicated in the fall of 2017.

Dick Gors, Chair
Kristen Daggett, Treasurer
Doug Mette, Secretary

Gary Miller, Board Member
Jack Lamb, Board Member
Matt Garner, Board Member



2023 FAITH IN ACTION REPORT

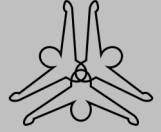
A group of people from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church willing to help people in need...Serving members and non-members alike...Our goal is to tie people in need with people that have time and talents who are willing to serve and assist throughout the community in Jesus' name.

The Faith in Action Committee serves under the Board of Outreach. We served at Food to You Mobile Food Pantry and The Banquet using Globe offerings as our monetary donations to be able to participate. About half of those serving at The Banquet had never served before! There were also three blood drives, coordination of the 84-plot community garden and the trash pick-up parade entry for Teapot Days as activities. We wore our blue Trinity T-shirts at these events when serving.

Following along with the Faith Forward survey goals, we tried to be more visible in the community with two new events. One was a workshop teaching participants how to plant a large outdoor flower pot for a sunny spot. "Trinity" signs were pot decorations, to get the name of Trinity in the community. You may have seen the flower pot by the outside entrance near the church office. This was the service project by the group. Our committee also organized and solicited members to man a Teapot Days booth in the park featuring a scene from Noah's Ark where community members could put their faces through openings and take pictures. In addition (and the big hit) were several stations where people could make huge bubbles. Young and old alike enjoyed this activity.

Daniel and his lion represented Trinity at the annual Trunk or Treat event hosted by St. Nicholas Catholic Church. Stories about Daniel and the lion's den were giving out with Lifesavers claiming God be to a life saver. About 450 stories with treats were handed out. Thrivent Action Team grants were used to help cover the expense of all events.

We would like to thank the congregation and all the individuals who served in any way to support the mission of our church beyond its walls. Remember – you may be the only Jesus some people see.



Trinity Lutheran Preschool is a children's ministry that was incorporated as part of Trinity in 2018 and has brought laughter, smiles, and excitement to Trinity over the last six years.

Trinity Preschool offers two classes:

- Pre-kindergarten ages 4/5 years is offered Monday Wednesday and Friday 8:30-11:30 A.M.
- 3/4-year-old class is offered Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-11:30 AM.

With both classes, we offer an age-appropriate curriculum.

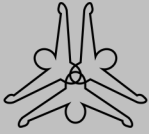
We prepare children to be developmentally ready to enter Kindergarten focusing on academics, social and motor skills, faith-based morals and values, and independence. I am sure a few staff members have heard me say in the hallway when the children are packing up to go home and attempting to zip their coats, "Mrs. Corner's rule is to try three times by yourself!" The children are engaged biweekly with Pastor Tom and Deacon Christie introducing bible stories, Christian songs, and dancing. In the classroom setting, we incorporate prayer, reading, songs, and crafts.

One of my favorite things about preschool is having our holiday parties! First is our annual field trip during October when we walk to Rogers Pumpkins and pick out pumpkins to decorate. In November we show our act of kindness when we feed our pet Sandy the Squirrel corn so we can make sure she is full for the winter. We also love making crafts for the annual Turkey dinner and then comes Christmas. Deacon Christie and I loved to show the children our (pretend) baby Jesus in the manger. Our last day of school before Christmas break is the Christmas concert and party with a visit from Santa Claus. (Thank you, Dick & Alma Gors, and Richard Holland for volunteering to be Kris Kringle).

Next, we celebrate Valentine's Day and eat too much candy of course, and then on to Easter celebrations with singing at our Palm Sunday service, Easter crafts, and our annual Easter egg hunt. Mother's Day is the time for Muffins with Mom, as it's a wonderful bonding time for the child and mom to eat muffins and plant sunflowers together. Lastly, we end our year with a Graduation for both classes as there are lots of laughs but also tears.

During the year I have two fundraisers, The Easter Bake Sale and the Annual Preschool rummage which raise money for the kids. Every year, I set a goal of outdoing my last year's fundraiser and I was excited to know this year I went way over my goal for both fundraisers thanks to the community! Thank you to those who helped make the fundraisers a major success as the money is used to buy Preschool educational items throughout the year.

We have preschoolers that have attended from our congregation as well as the Tea and Sioux Falls community. I have welcomed several families to become new members of the congregation by having their children enrolled in our preschool. Our enrollment has been growing and this year we have 13 children attending. I would love your support by enrolling your child in our preschool so we can continue to grow.



2023 TRINITY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL REPORT

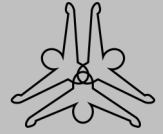
Thank you to the Preschool board members.

Carrie Corner
Deacon Christie Meier
Amy Schmolik
Joy Schreurs
Jessica Robinson
Emily Seeman
Sei anna Ekthanitphong

I want to thank Laurie Parsons and Joy Schreurs for helping me in the classroom, filling in as a substitute, reading to the children, and helping with parties and bathroom breaks. Thank you to Bill Payfer and Orville Groeneveld for your support. The children sure do look up to your great wisdom. Jen Peterson, thank you for being my baker!

Thank you for supporting this wonderful Children's Ministry.

Carrie Corner
Trinity Lutheran Preschool Director and Teacher



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP
ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God’s love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God’s Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God’s love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God’s love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God’s promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

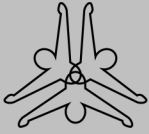
God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God’s love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God’s love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You’ve shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You’ve shared the gifts of your voices as we’ve tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God’s love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God’s love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5



2023 LETTER FROM BISHOP CONSTANZE HAGMAIER



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Triune God!

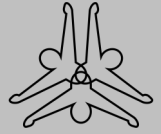
On behalf of your close to 200 partners across the South Dakota Synod I come to you to say *thank you*. *Thank you* for your generosity! Your benevolence to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod doesn't just keep the lights on and pays salaries, but mainly supports ministry on the ground. Please take a look at the "2023 South Dakota Synod Ministry Celebrations" insert included in this annual report. You will notice that YOU showed up in many and various spaces. Sometimes your presence was felt close to home through a grant you may have received or a synod staff that came to visit. At other times your presence impacted ministry in other parts of the world, such as our companion partners in the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon. *Thank you* also for your generosity above and beyond your benevolence. Our partners in Cameroon appreciated the synod's \$52,000 gift to support putting roofs on churches. The generosity of the congregations in the synod never ceases to amaze me, and I give thanks for your continued generosity as we journey together in Christ!



While many places celebrated an abundant year of ministry, I also want to acknowledge that for other ministry sites 2023 has not been as hoped for. Our mission statement commits us to "Journeying Together in Christ" and is based on Luke 24:13-34. Two disciples are on the road post resurrection and ponder in disbelief all the things that have happened before their eyes. They were overwhelmed and didn't know what to make of it all. I have heard from many ministry sites a similar account about 2023. "Bishop, things in 2023 were not as we had expected and hoped for. What do we do now?" In Luke's story Jesus, unrecognized by them, joins them and walks alongside to listen and remind them of the promises in scripture. But it isn't until they sit down at the table, and Jesus breaks bread that their eyes are opened. They recognize who he is and that the 'holy heartburn' they had experienced along the way was a sign that their love for Jesus and the way he calls them to live has changed them forever.

How about your community of faith? Where do you hear the promises of scripture assure you that God's got a plan for you and your ministry? Where are you called to follow the 'holy heartburn' God's Spirit ignites in you as you are fed at the table of love? I pray that your annual meeting will be an experience where you can voice what you had wished for as well as lament the unmaterialized hopes. And at the same time, you can hear where God promises new life and renewed faith in your very own midst.

Your South Dakota Synod staff and partners across the church are committed to accompany you in your ministry ventures, whether it means to take small courageous steps or giant leaps of faith. We are here to journey with you in Christ. Therefore, it is with great joy and delight that I am announcing to you that we, the South Dakota Synod, are a recipient of a \$1,137,384 grant Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. Details about the grant can be accessed through the synod's website www.sdsynod.org as well as through the synod office. The STAR (Small Town and Rural) Table also offers two types of grants, which are only possible



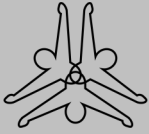
through the generosity of the people and congregations of the SD Synod when we gather for rural ministry fundraisers. Again, details about the grant opportunities, and how you can apply for a grant are found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org.

Last but not least, I would like to invite you to the 2024 Synod Assembly on May 31st and June 1st at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather under the theme of "(Re)Connect." It will be a celebration of the partnerships we share across the synod and the wider ELCA. Stay tuned for more information about the business coming before the assembly and the fun opportunities. I hope to be able to welcome you to the assembly in person, be in conversation with you and hear about ministry in your world and how you might best be accompanied as well as accompany your fellow members of the SD Synod and the ELCA.

Journeying with you in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Hagmaier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



2023 MINISTRY CELEBRATION

2023 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to focus our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2023. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2023 we:**

- Applied for and received a grant of **\$1,137,384** from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative for new initiatives that are not included in the Synod's Mission Plan. Please reach out to Synod Staff for **more information!**
- Completed explorations for two new potential church plants, with plans to start a worshipping community in **Box Elder** and **Shepherd's Table in Sioux Falls**.
- Walked with the **40** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and have **4** new entrance interviews scheduled in 2024!
- Received **3 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **23 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **28 calls!**
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!).
- Distributed **\$77,137** to date through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.
- Granted **\$123,000** in scholarship funds to seminary students, **\$11,400** in internship site assistance, and **\$82,990** to Luther and Wartburg Seminaries, for a total of **\$217,390** in support of seminary education.
- Created a **pilot rural J-term** program with Wartburg Theological Seminary, which will begin in January 2024.
- Received **\$113,635** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered again as a community to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring and Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the synod through **visits** by synod staff, both **digital** and in-person.
- Hosted a "**Lay Leader Night**" to support congregational lay leaders and supported rostered leaders with regular **in-person and virtual meetings**, such as monthly rostered minister virtual check-ins, Synodically Authorized Minister, Senior Pastor, and Interim Pastor check-ins, and a First Call and Senior Pastor Retreat.
- Pr. Alan Blankenfeld, Synod **Rural Ministry Liaison** continued to journey with our rural ministry sites. In the past year, Pr. Alan has worked directly with **34 communities and congregations in transition**.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, which is currently working on **Small Town and Rural (STAR) grants**, grants funded by the generous donations to rural ministry in the Synod.
- Partnered with **Bergen Lutheran** to hold a **Threshing Bee** which resulted in gifts of **\$51,324** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota Synod this past year! God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body. We look forward to continuing our journey with you in 2024 and beyond!

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America