



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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**MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**





Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Musical score for the hymn "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart". The score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and includes the lyrics. The lyrics are: 1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies; 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King; 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love, wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move; no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay; all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind? one ho - ly pas - sion, fill - ing all my frame; stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part, no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies; I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling, the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove, and make me love you as I ought to love, but take the dim - ness of my soul to a - love, Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find! my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860  
Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897  
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Litany

- L Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.
- C And also with you.
- L Teach us, O Lord, to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- C Lord in your name we pray.
- L Descend on our hearts, O Lord, that we may love others in the way Jesus loves us.
- C Christ in your name we pray.
- L Empower us, O Lord, to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.
- C Lord in your name we pray.
- L Move us, O Lord, to engage issues in our community in Christ-like ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those we serve and partner.
- C Jesus in your name we pray.
- L Strengthen us, O Lord, to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others although we may not agree.
- C Lord in your name we pray.
- L Give us, O Lord, the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.
- C Christ in your name we pray.
- L Guide us, O Lord, to be a healthy congregation that learns from our failures as well as our successes and offers wisdom to others.
- C Lord in your name we pray.
- L Let us pray. As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, help us to grow leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Help us to take a fresh look at our baptism each day so we may discover vitality in our relationship with you, each other and those we serve in the world.
- C Amen.

2018



# Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church January 27, 2019

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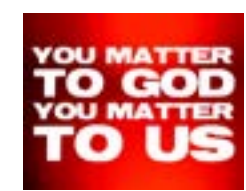
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# A message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear siblings in Christ,

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. As communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world, we are confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. Whether worshipping wherever two or more are gathered, engaging in lively conversations about faith, or rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, we strive to share God's grace and love in Christ for all people and creation. This reflects the vitality we find in Jesus Christ, our own spiritual life and our desire to participate in what God is doing today.



Within each community of Jesus there are leaders who strive to model an attitude of servanthood, trustworthiness, humility, patience and listening first while striving to work with others in healthy ways. These leaders teach all ages, motivate believers, build consensus, share a vision, discern direction and facilitate action. Their attention is focused on growing disciples who are sent into their daily life to love and serve others as friends, neighbors, parents, citizens and workers. Together we recognize the importance of growing disciples and multiplying leaders who serve inside your congregation and beyond your walls.

As our congregations plan their work for the coming year and how to use the resources God has entrusted to them, I invite you all to think about the relationships that bring you vitality and the leaders you nurture for God's mission in the world. While you make many decisions, remember you are not alone. We are all partners in sharing the gospel. Together, by God's grace, we can do what God is calling us to. May you go forth to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Serving together in Christ's name,

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

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

You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, and with all  
your soul, and with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.  
Mark 12:30

*I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. Ephesians 1:16-19*



In his letter to the early church community in Ephesus, you can hear Paul speak about gratitude, spiritual depth and hope as the hallmarks of faith in Jesus Christ. These themes shape my annual report.

## Gratitude

I give thanks for each of you and your God-given faith. It is a daily privilege to serve as your pastor here at Trinity Lutheran Church.

I give thanks for the staff, my colleagues here at Trinity. It is a joy to serve with these amazing, dedicated and gifted people.

I give thanks for your stewardship.

I give thanks for your gratitude and awareness of God's blessings and grace in your lives. I give thanks that you give to God through your worship, prayer, singing, time, and finances.

I give thanks for the leaders I have served with this year on Church Council, Preschool, Ministry Teams, Small Groups, Stephen Ministry, West County Interfaith Discussion Group, etc. It is also a great joy to be involved at our local pastors' text study.



## Spiritual Depth

Lifelong faith formation! From active and full Preschool, to several well attended Bible studies and Meramec Bluffs worship, it is our privilege to grow in faith throughout life. It has been a wonderful year for our two Sunday worship services, especially for the all-ages music ministry we have the privilege to participate and dwell in each week. The Sunday morning Adult Forum has been a blessing, alongside the understated blessings of relationships in fellowship between worship services—what a great double blessing for us!



I give thanks for the Thursday Biblical Conversations, Small Groups and the Wednesday night Lenten Worship Services. The Narrative Lectionary, with its engaging scripture, has been a blessing for me. Our inspiring and grace-filled worship music, which is on point and lifts up God's presence in our midst, has also been a blessing.

I give thanks for the deep listening together in one-on-ones, in large groups and in small groups. I give thanks for how scripture, the work of Jesus Christ, connects to our daily lives—it is one of the greatest ways to grow in faith.







I give thanks for the many who completed the Congregational Vitality Survey which will help lead us into God's preferred future for Trinity. I especially give thanks for the seven members of the congregation who have joined me in an intentional listening for God as we initiate our Congregational Vitality team. I am grateful they responded to the invitation to be a part of this group that is helping us discern what God is up to in our midst.

## Hope



We are Easter people, celebrating each day that God raises us from death to new life. Easter people are hopeful people, who know and trust that God is always at work, making all things new. I see the signs of hope within our life together. We can claim that God has brought healing and that it is a new day for us as Trinity Lutheran Church. Easter people live in the present, aware of God at work right now. We know the struggles of the past and we can carry many questions about the future.

Today we are here, together as the body of Christ. It's God's call for us to live hopefully into "You matter to God, You matter to US!" It is God's call for us to be the church, right now, in this hopeful moment in Trinity's history. It is a great time to be the church together, filled with "the hope to which we have all been called."

Serving Christ together,  
Pastor Christopher Naig



We have been pleased to serve Trinity this past year. It is a privilege to be able to work with our dedicated staff, ministry teams, committees and volunteers of the church. They are the ones who conduct God's work at Trinity. We encourage you to read their stories in this annual report to appreciate all they have done this past year to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

We want to highlight a few areas for your attention where we have tried to serve your needs better. First, we set a near-term focus at our February Council Retreat to re-establish the framework for the Operations Service Committee and related committees. This focus has been set under Mike Sharitz' leadership. Further changes to this framework and our related bylaws will be addressed in the future.



Second, Pastor Chris has done a marvelous job of leading Trinity, which was reflected in our appraisal of his performance. His focus on building relationships, we believe, has made Trinity a healthy church. As the Congregational Vitality (Planning) Committee performs its work and evaluates the congregation surveys you recently completed, we hope to discern how Trinity can become an even healthier church. Those survey results will be shared with you in early spring when the evaluation is completed.



Third, we have been delighted at how you have responded positively to the Music Ministry program at Trinity. Since Pastor Chris asked Brian Parrish to lead this ministry, you have told us often how the music ministry has enhanced your worship experience. Brian's leadership, along with the addition to the team of Jonathan Owen and Graeme Allen, has been a blessing to the worship at both services. We look forward to further enhancements (including the development of a children's choir) that will benefit our worship services.

Finally, another area of change that is still evolving is in the caring ministry (pastoral care) provided at Trinity. This change was described more fully in the September issue of the Trinitell. In brief, all members of Trinity should be a "care minister." Each one of us is responsible for ministering to the needs of our fellow members, and each of us should contact Becca Pecher, Office Manager, to let her know when we become aware of a need, or have reached out to someone in need. Becca is coordinating this information with Pastor Chris and the other staff to ensure that all of our members' needs are met. Pastor Chris is able to allocate his and others' time better to meet the caring needs of members. We especially want to thank Sandi Thorp, who previously led the staff position of congregational care leader. Over the years, Trinity's congregation care role has continually reformed, and Sandi's input into the reformation of this new caring ministry role was vital to this new approach.



We appreciate your input throughout the year in order that we can serve our role. We look forward to continuing to provide the leadership in the path that the Holy Spirit leads us.

Yours in Christ,  
Trinity Lutheran Church Council





The Trinity Church complex commanded much attention and maintenance throughout the year, mainly with roofing and lighting, but there were no significant costly surprises. We had a year close to budget and plan on making additional improvements as we move through 2019.

We discarded our dilapidated church van and have no plans to replace it. Though we are unable to provide this transportation service to our volunteers for their errands, the cost savings is appreciable. We were the beneficiaries of a nearby bank closing and received several pieces of quality office furniture that was incorporated in our offices or sold at the garage sale. Along with new carpet in the main office and room 131, our interior décor became more attractive and presentable. The theater lights in the Worship Center were updated and the lights near the upper skylight over the worship area were changed for the first time in 15 years by a daring crew. A new larger 75” screen was installed in the back of the Worship Center so those leading worship can also see the prompts on the screens. We improved our electronic contribution procedures by adding the service of on-line giving. In June, we started using a new waste disposal firm that provides re-cycling so we can continue to operate our facility in an eco-responsible manner.

One of the areas we addressed throughout the year was our roofing situation. There is a significant portion of our roof that is flat layered asphalt and is a continual concern due to age, leaking and ponding. We had some maintenance done through our warranty on the sloped portion over the Worship Center which remains in fair condition. But the flat surfaces are reaching a stage of repair/replace condition and prompted a thorough analysis. We had a thermal image study completed and this revealed areas of immediate concern. It also provided us with accurate information that allowed us to make several repairs. We were able to delay, for possibly 3-5 years, any major replacement projects that are estimated to be in excess of \$150,000. We repaired the metal entrance roof by adding gutters, new snow guards and removing the stain.

In August, we had the colored glass in the Parish Hall replaced with new frames and clear glass that allows much more natural light in the hall and raised the sill level for better drainage. The Audit Committee, appointed in April, began their work in September and completed their thorough analysis of our 2017 statements in December. Our sincere thanks are extended to Kathie Haferkamp. Mike Hower and Miguel Pico for their valuable service.

The lighting throughout our facility was reviewed when Mike Sharitz determined that the revised LED rebate program offered by Ameren was now applicable and more effective than the previous review. This program now included fluorescent bulbs and enabled us to replace our old bulbs and ballasts with energy and labor saving equipment. After rebate savings, the balance due was partially funded by a gift from the Endowment Committee and we look forward to many years of lower energy use and costs. As we move forward, we plan to incorporate this LED program in our outside lighting in the parking lot, our perimeter bollard lights and additional LED equipment in our recessed lighting.

2019 will also see improvements in our WiFi and LAN network, with better speed, capacity and security thanks to a new system installed by Mike Sharitz. This will provide valuable capabilities to our teachers, staff and visitors using our facility. Along with continued analysis of our roofing needs and possible application of more solar lighting in our lot, we will continue to address concerns as they arise in 2019.

Throughout 2018 Trinity was blessed with the near daily volunteers. They are here constantly doing minor repairs, setting up and putting away tables and chairs for innumerable events, blowing leaves away, tending shrubbery and flowers, changing light bulbs, fixing equipment and clearing snow from our sidewalks and stairs. We really appreciate this valuable assistance and are grateful for their consistent dedication.



The Worship Team met monthly through the year. This team consists of staff, representatives from areas of worship, representatives from Council and other interested members. The members are: Pastor Chris, Vicki Dohrmann (chair), Margie Belleville (Altar Guild), Pierre Belleville (Chalice Bearers), Nancy Buffum (Council), Bob Hick (Ushers), Cheryl Hick (Assisting Ministers), Brian Parrish (Music), KJ Sharitz, Mike Sharitz (Council), and Elisa Thelen (Council).

In 2018, we continued to have conversation about worship in an effort to brainstorm about past practices and ways in which we are going to move forward. We assisted Pastor Chris in making sure that everything was in place each week and at special services.

We discussed the needs of both Traditional and Contemporary worship, making sure that we are being moved by the spirit to provide meaningful worship experiences for both. This includes listening to each other, as well as members of Trinity. We always take time to reflect on how special services and seasons have been received, not only by us, but by the congregation.

Part of what we do is listen to the specific needs of the volunteers for each component of the worship service. Below is a description of what each area involves.



## Chalice Bearers

Chalice Bearers play an important role in worship. This team is comprised of 24 volunteers who are scheduled to serve the wine at communion. Schedules are completed for two months based upon the availability of the team members. Training is provided when a new member joins the group. This is one of the most convenient ministries in which to participate as members fulfill their responsibility while attending their preferred Sunday Worship Service. Chalice Bearers may also be asked to serve at a special service, such as a funeral or other services scheduled outside the normal Sunday times.

## Altar Guild

Members of the Altar Guild prepare the table for worship and participate at communion. Altar Guild members maintain all the vessels that are used for the sacrament. They are responsible for changing the paraments (the cloths on the table and lectern) based upon the color that is noted on the liturgical calendar. They launder the communion linens each week and prepare for Sunday services by vacuuming and dusting the table, piano and organ each Sunday. After worship services, they are responsible for the “dishes” after the meal. All vessels that are used at the service are washed and stored in the Sacristy. Members sign up each month for the days they are available and the tasks they wish to perform.

## Ushers

The Usher Team consists of two head ushers and six teams of ushers who each serve during two months of the year at the 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Sunday services. Men, women, teens and families are all welcome to join a team. The ushers serve at all Sunday services and at special services as needed. They guide the congregation to available seating, hand out bulletins, assist those in wheelchairs to their seats, and greet and assist visitors. They collect the offerings and bring them forward to the table during the service. They also collect the attendance sheets. The ushers guide the congregation to the communion table and assist the acolytes who hold the trays of cups.

## Assisting Ministers

The Assisting Ministers are lay members of the congregation who are trained to assist the pastor at 9:00 AM services on Sunday, and special services as needed. They serve as a representative of the congregation, bringing the congregation into the ministry of the worship service. They are scheduled for a three-month period based on their availability. There are currently teens and adults involved in this ministry. The Assisting Minister reads the lessons and leads the Apostles’ Creed and prayers during the service. They also lead the Prayers of Intercession and collect the offering from the usher. They set the table for communion and serve with the pastor and others at communion. This team is open to anyone who has an interest in assisting with the worship life of the congregation.



Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!

*“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*  
Colossians 3:16



I give thanks to God that I have been able to serve the Trinity congregation over the last eleven months. It has been a joy to see so many people connect deeply to God, the gospel message, and to each other through music.

We have made significant steps forward in our pursuit of a more effective Music Ministry. The Parish Choir has grown by seven members and they are singing more beautifully every week. We hired Jonathan Owen and Graeme Allen to share their musical gifts with us and our children. We restructured the layout of music for both Sunday services to improve flow and better connect with the message for the day. We recruited players for a praise band who help lead the congregation in worship once a month at the 11:15 AM service.



I am proud to work with Jonathan Owen, a fabulous musician who puts his full heart into his playing and leading each Sunday. We are surely blessed to have him as our Organist and Pianist. I am thrilled to have Graeme Allen join our Music Ministry on a permanent basis. His commitment to enriching the worship of our children and youth through music is matched only by his endless energy and smiles.

It is with gratefulness and appreciation that I reflect on 2018 at Trinity. If there are any congregation members who are harboring musical gifts that would like to lend their time and talents to our ministry at Trinity, please feel free to contact me. All children of God are called to lift up their voices in praise.

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.”* Psalm 100:1-2

Brian Parrish  
Director of Music Ministry



On behalf of the Trinity family, the Mission Team works to fulfill Trinity’s vision:

“You Matter to God: You Matter to Us”

The Mission Team works to show the love of Christ through service to the church, the world and those in need by being the hands and feet of Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to support this vision through both hands-on and financial support and look forward to continuing this work.

If you have any questions, would like to join this team or sponsor a mission, please contact any member of the Mission Team (Norma Anderson, Rob Harper, Linda Lemke, Peggy Schaefer, Leslie Steinmeyer, Christie Tietjen, Kathy Gaal).

Trinity Preschool

2018 saw continued relational support of Trinity’s Preschool. The Mission Team partnered with members of the Trinity family to provide Bibles for children entering the age three classes. This ongoing program allows all Trinity Preschool students, beginning with age three, to have access to a Bible to support their spiritual growth. Missional funds were also allocated to be used to provide financial support for tuition for families in need.

ELCA World Hunger

More than 800 million people—that’s 11 percent of people in our world today—are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. And the Trinity family did by financially supporting this mission.

Working with and through congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Lutheran Disaster Response

On behalf of the Trinity family, the Mission Team provided financial support to Lutheran Disaster Response. Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, this organization stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. In 2018, Lutheran Disaster Response provided support for those impacted by U.S. wildfires and hurricanes, Indonesian earthquake and tsunami, Gaza humanitarian crisis, South Sudan crisis, African drought, West Virginia flooding, Middle East and Europe refugee crisis, and protection for migrant minors.







Lutheran Campus Ministry

On behalf of Trinity and the congregation, the mission team provided financial support to Lutheran Campus Ministry and Washington University/ St. Louis University. LCM continues to provide spiritual guidance, fellowship and an occasional meal for any college students who desire to take part. Pastor Rebecca Boardman visited Trinity in August and October. Her Adult Forum presentation in October was well received.

The Ones Who Serve (TOWS)



Denise Jadali, along with a small group of volunteers, (typically three to five other people) go down to the New Life Evangelistic Center on the last Saturday of the month to serve breakfast to at least 200 people. We have been instructed to bring only prepackaged food and not to cook anything. Therefore, we typically bring pastries from Starbucks, if they are available, Nutri-Grain bars, trail mix, juice, bottled water, fruit cups and/or fresh fruit. There is a collection basket in the Missions Room if you wish to donate prepackaged items for TOWS' monthly outreach at NLEC.



TOWS has been serving breakfast once a month since October 2018. During Trinity's God's Work. Our hands. Service Sunday, volunteers put together over 100 hygiene kits to hand out at NLEC. Several of the members of TOWS have requested Thrivent cards to help pay for the food we hand out each month.

Women's Care Center  
(a Program of All Among Us)



The Women's Care Center (WCC), a project of All Among Us (AAU), a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, experienced significant growth in 2018. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised to renovate what has become a transitional home for up to two years for sixteen homeless women. Currently, four women call it home. The length of stay will depend on each woman's specific needs to become self-sufficient. A highly proficient board is in place, top quality staff is on board, and important partnerships haven been forged to help support the Center residents.



AAU will not accept government funds of any sort so that services can be tailored to meet each individual's needs, lifting them out of generational poverty. AAU's mission is to provide opportunities for individuals with a desire to transition from generational poverty toward self-sufficiency. It has been serving the homeless in downtown St. Louis for more than twelve years, providing food, clothing, personal care items, hugs, and a listening ear. AAU has learned how to develop meaningful relationships with the homeless. And yes, volunteer opportunities exist for Trinity!

Fun Fact: The facility now occupied by the WCC is the original Zion Lutheran Church in Ferguson where the Rev. Sam Roth served for many years. The "little church," as the Zion family lovingly refers to it, is being rented by AAU for \$1 per year. The initiative to use the "little church" for this purpose was shepherded by our own Larry Lemke, who is serving as Zion's Interim Pastor.

Lantern Hill

It was another busy year for Trinity and Lantern Hill as we continued our partnership. Trinity members made two trips to Lantern Hill this year. The first was a multigenerational trip in July, while the second was an adult trip in November.

During Trinity's multigenerational trip, God's work was done in a variety of ways. Teaching and learning, repairing and construction, and sprucing up the community, as Trinity members served alongside the Lantern Hill community for the 7<sup>th</sup> time since 2010. The best part of this trip was that friendships were renewed and new friendships were made. Also during the trip, Trinity continued its tradition of providing food baskets for families in the community. Because of the generosity of the Trinity congregation, approximately 40 families received enough food to feed them for a week. The 21 people on this trip had a week that they will never forget.

In November, seven Trinity adults traveled to Lantern Hill for a week of service, fellowship and a little fun. Although most the children of Lantern Hill were not in school due to a teacher strike, they still came to the program for extra learning, some fun and to hang out with the members of Trinity. The week started with a birthday party for Alma, the local director of Lantern Hill, and the fun continued for the entire week.



Two major changes occurred while the adult group was at Lantern Hill. On Monday, November 5, paperwork was finalized in Mexico to officially recognize Linterna Del Camino (Lantern Hill) as a Mexican non-profit. Then, on Tuesday, the IRS officially approved the application to grant 501(c)(3) non-profit status to Friends of Lantern Hill. This new partnership should help Lantern Hill grow and thrive.

There is a possibility of a trip in the summer of 2019 by a few Trinity members, along with some other area residents that have expressed an interest in going to Lantern Hill. If you would like more information on this trip, or would like to discuss other options for supporting or visiting Lantern Hill, please contact Rob Harper or Amy Jones.







### Bread Doughnation

In cooperation with Panera Inc., Trinity has been participating in their project Bread Doughnation. For over 12 years, Trinity volunteers have been picking up the leftover inventory of bread, bagels and pastries every Friday night at the St Louis Bread Co. on Clarkson Road. We have been taking it to churches and a women's shelter that distribute this food to those in need for immediate consumption. This allows Panera to make a donation of their products and keep it out of the garbage bin. Many Trinity members have participated in this food transition through the years and remarked how fulfilling and rewarding this effort is for them and their children. So much of hunger in our country is a result of misplaced food that is wasted because it is not available to those who can use it. Trinity's service is a small contribution to improving this problem and truly responds to the challenge of Christian outreach. If you would like to be part of this helpful ministry, please contact Morris Larson.



### God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sunday

On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Mission Team sponsored Trinity's Second Annual God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sunday. With over 100 volunteers helping out, we made:

- 102 Hygiene Bags for the homeless at New Life Evangelistic Center
- 4 picnic tables for Trinity Preschool
- 45 pillows for hospital patients undergoing surgery
- 58 blankets for children with cancer
- 165 Soups in a Jar (3 different recipes) for Lutheran Senior Services



The service projects went smoothly thanks to our wonderful Trinity family who stepped up to oversee the different stations. We celebrated the completion of our work with a potluck lunch and fellowship.



### Lutheran Senior Services (LSS)

In February, the Mission Team used money from the Trinity Endowment Fund to purchase \$1,500 in Walmart gift cards. The Mission Team put \$10 gift cards in Valentine's Day cards which were colored by the Trinity Preschool. LSS delivered 150 Valentine's Day cards to residents living in affordable housing.

The 165 Soups in a Jar made during God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sunday were also given to LSS affordable housing residents.

Mission Team funds were used to purchase 120 \$10 Walmart gift cards for LSS affordable housing residents. These gift cards were given to the residents, along with Christmas cards made by Trinity Preschool.

Lastly, our Trinity family donated an entire bin of personal care items for LSS affordable housing residents during December in response to the Mission Team's Mission of the Month.



### Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS)

The Mission Team provided financial support to Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS) in 2018. We also collected gift cards through our annual Season of Sharing program. Our Trinity family donated over \$2,500 in cash and gift cards. These donations were used to provide Christmas presents for the children served by LFCS.

### Mission of the Month

For the second year, the Mission Team sponsored a Mission of the Month collection. Items are collected in the yellow "Mission of the Month" bin, located in the Missions Room. This year we collected the following items:

- January—\$10 Walmart gift cards for Lutheran Senior Services
- February—Cans of soup for Circle of Concern
- March—Diapers and wipes for Nurses for Newborns
- April—Snacks for Lutheran Campus Ministry
- May—Monetary donations for school uniforms for students served by Lantern Hill
- June—Donations for Vacation Bible School
- July—School Supplies for Circle of Concern
- August—Donations for God's Work. Our Hands. Service Sunday.
- September—Breakfast items for The Ones Who Serve (TOWS)
- October—Cans of yams for the West County Interfaith Alliance
- November—Gift cards for Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri
- December—Personal care items for Lutheran Senior Services

Thanks to the support of our Trinity family, we were able to fill our Mission of the Month bin each month. We are always looking for suggestions for our next Mission of the Month. If you have ideas, feel free to contact any member of the Mission Team.

### Circle of Concern

In the Missions Room, there is a dedicated bin for donations for Circle of Concern. Each month, Circle lets the Mission Team know which pantry and personal care items are most needed. Almost every month, our Circle of Concern bin is overflowing thanks to the generosity of our Trinity family. Circle picks up items from the bin on the last Friday of the month. In 2018, we had to call Circle to pick up early due to the overwhelmingly generous response to our request for items.







Meals Do Matter is a ministry of preparing and providing meals to those in need; blessing friends, family, and total strangers with meals in their temporary times of need.

MDM makes home-cooked meals, packages them and freezes them, for our church's members to deliver to people in their communities who need extra comfort, compassion, consolation and care. The MDM

team offers a way for our church members to offer hospitality, fellowship and service to members and non-members. It is a great tool to teach young and old how to serve others. Our meals are given to folks who are grieving, healing, hurting, struggling or stressed.

Meals Do Matter is a natural extension of our church's mission:

## **“You Matter to God. You Matter to Us.”**

MDM lives out the mission from God for us to be the hands & feet of Christ. The words that make up our name demonstrate “action” along with empowering people to serve. The gift of a delicious meal really does matter to people in this world who are hurting and/or struggling.

In 2018, MDM held five cooking sessions where meals from 20 to 65, four and two-person servings, were made. Over 800 total servings were prepared and shared in 2018 with a total of over 6,400 servings having been made since we began in 2010! This year again, at least 95% of our meals went to non-members!

We have been honored for a second year by being chosen for “The Schnucks—Bags 4 My Cause Program.” This program provided MDM \$1 for each Giving Bag that was sold during the month.

Our website was launched in 2015, ([www.mealsdomatter.org](http://www.mealsdomatter.org)) and continues to be improved. This website allows for a national presence of this ministry as well as encourages and supports other organizations by sharing in detail how we do this ministry and how others can be the hands and feet of Christ in their world.

Cooking sessions are now being planned for 2019. We plan to team up again with the Confirmation students as well as any other small groups interested in working with us. Small groups who wish to cook meals on their own as a group will be encouraged and supported by the team.

Thank you to all those who helped to fund this ministry: Trinity's Mission Team budget, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (and those who applied for Action Team cards), individual donors of dollars, food, and supplies, and all the hands that have helped—the shoppers, the organizers, the label makers, the article writers, the food preppers, the meal assemblers, the bakers, the website managers and those who take the meals to those in need!



2018 marked the eleventh year of Trinity's relationship with Gateway180. Through the continued support of Trinity family and friends, Trinity is able to be the hands and feet of Christ by serving this organization and its clients and positively impacting the lives of some of the struggling families in the St. Louis area.

Gateway180 remains Missouri's largest 24-hour emergency housing organization for women, children and families, providing services to empower clients to move their families beyond homelessness into stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible. Trinity's family and friends have continued to provide generous support in many ways. In addition to the funds budgeted for this mission, funding available through the Thrivent Action Teams program assisted in supporting Gateway180's needs. On your behalf, the Gateway Action Team gave thoughtful consideration to the use of this funding, targeting both ongoing and special needs. Gateway180 and the Gateway Action Team express sincere gratitude to all who have supported this mission spiritually, financially, in-kind and hands-on.

Throughout 2018, Trinity has been the hands and feet of Christ for Gateway180 in many ways, including:

- Ongoing prayer for Gateway180 residents and staff.
- Continued communication with Gateway180 in order to support special needs.
- Providing 1,800 Brown Bag Lunches for distribution to those who are homeless in Gateway180's neighborhood.
- Hosting 12 Saturday Night dinners and activities for adults and children.
- Partnering with Todd Maloy's work team to provide Christmas gifts to Gateway180 staff to show appreciation for their dedication.
- Providing personal care items, clothing, layette items, Fresh Start Bags and other needed items.
- Providing bus passes for use by residents to travel to appointments, interviews, etc. needed to support their ability to move to permanent housing.
- Providing funds for transportation assistance when transportation by bus is not feasible.
- Support of the annual Gateway180 Gala through hosting tables.
- Providing financial support for Gateway180 staff for continued training to enhance their ability to support clients and their families.
- Providing incentives to Gateway180 clients to encourage participation in workshops.
- Purchase of flooring to replace damaged flooring in Gateway180's conference room.

We look forward to continued support of Trinity's mission to be the hands and feet of Christ by partnering with Gateway180. We value and appreciate the support of the Trinity family in this endeavor. Please contact any member of the Gateway Action team for more information about how you can be involved. The current Gateway Action Team members are Ken Hardebeck, Linda Lemke, Jon and Barb Trettel, Dick Wegner and Kathy Gaal. More members and volunteers are always welcome.







Garage Sale week is a week of work, which includes dirty hands, sore backs, long hours and grumpy husband, but all that is more than offset by time with friends, making new friends, associating with dedicated week-long workers, enjoying delicious lunches and seeing all the smiling faces. Those are the rewards when you volunteer for the Garage Sale. The good times far out number the not-so-good!

Besides contributing to the Trinity budget to help with the mission of Trinity, the Garage Sale is a wonderful time of fellowship and camaraderie for all who pitch in and help. It also extends a welcoming open door to the community who come to shop. Nurses and teachers enjoy our sale as it provides them with the opportunity to purchase items at a reasonable price to share with patients and students.

Donated items are also given to such entities as St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wildwood to use with international students studying in the seminary, Charity Sharity for use in their outreach, the Assistance League, Harris House, and even our own Trinity Preschool.

## Save the date(s) for the 2019 Annual Garage Sale June 14 & 15, 2019

The 2019 Garage Sale dates are Friday, June 14, 2019 and Saturday, June 15, 2019. Don't plan your vacation or cruise around this time—you will have more fun working at the Garage Sale (we promise!).

Thank you to the many hands, whether you work all week or dedicate a few hours when you can, to helping at the Garage Sale.

Sincerely,  
Susan Meyland-Smith, Coordinator



## Mothers of Preschools (MOPS)

Did you know that there is a MOPS group here at Trinity? We have about 25 members!

Almost 18 years ago my Dad called me—"Amy [Jones] the parking lot at church is filled with mini vans, you should check it out." That simple phone call led me to start attending MOPS, then Chairing the group for two years, to now being the Mentor for the group.

Here at MOPS, we gather and support moms. We believe in the simple, but revolutionary idea that remarkable things happen when moms come together, face-to-face. That is why we rally women to come together in their own neighborhoods and help each other through this thing called "Motherhood," one gathering at a time.

Our acronym stands for "Mothers of Preschoolers" because we began in 1973 when a group of moms of young children banded together to share their lives and parenting journeys. Over the past 45 years, MOPS has expanded its reach to include moms with older kids, partnering with churches and organizations worldwide to equip and encourage moms in more than 60 countries.



This is Motherhood!

## Trinity Book Group

Trinity Book Group is a group of avid book readers. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 11:30 AM. We bring our own lunch and share some fellowship before we jump into our discussions, which are led by different members of the group. We read a wide variety of books, suggested by members, and usually have 12 to 15 people. In December, we have a potluck lunch and watch a movie together. We would love to have anyone join us!







## Itch to Stitch

The Trinity prayer shawl group, better known as “Itch to Stitch,” has been busy over the past year, knitting and crocheting items to benefit those who are less fortunate. Since January of 2018, we have made baby hats and baby blankets for Nurses for Newborns. In addition, we have made scarves and adult/youth hats for Gateway180, as well as baptism blankets. We are a small but dedicated group who have a good time connecting, laughing and sharing our joys and sorrows. We would love to welcome you to our group. If you have always wanted to learn to knit or crochet, we have an excellent teacher in our midst. We meet on the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room. Please contact Sandi Thorp for more information.



## National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family Support Group

It is estimated that one out of every four persons in the U.S. has a mental illness such as Schizophrenia, Bi-polar, Depression, Anxiety, etc. The purpose of the NAMI Family Support Group is to provide a place for family members caring for a person with a mental illness to share their concerns, benefit from other's experiences and learn to identify local resources and how to use them. The group meets on the third Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and is facilitated by Jerry Spector and Gail Kruse.



## Stephen Ministry

This year we are happy to report that we have three newly trained Stephen Ministers and one Stephen Leader who has returned after a sabbatical. That brings us to a total of ten Stephen Ministers and Leaders. We are currently connecting with six care receivers. We are hoping to train another Leader in 2019. Our group meets on the first Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm for check-ins and continuing education. We are always looking for people to serve and for new Stephen Ministers. If you know of someone who could use a one-to-one listening, supportive and confidential relationship, please contact Betty Forde, Lou Ann Ditchfield or Rob Harper. We will act quickly to provide a brief intake interview and then assign an appropriate Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers generally meet with their care receivers one hour every week at a place that is mutually agreed upon. On February 9, 2019, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Trinity will be hosting an area-wide Stephen Ministry event for any congregation that is interested in finding out more about the program.

## Helping Hands

Trinity's longstanding tradition of hosting luncheons on site following the funerals at our church continues. The congregation responds generously when called on to contribute food and gladly pitches in for set up and clean-up. Each event requires contributions of food and time from approximately 25 volunteers. In 2018, three funeral luncheons were held—two in February and one in June. Average attendance at the lunches is 85 to 100 people.



*The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Preschool is to make Christ known to preschoolers and their parents and to provide a developmentally appropriate educational experience that recognizes the spiritual, mental, emotional, social and physical needs of the child.*  
*“To make Christ known...To help them grow.”*

2018 has been a great year at Trinity Preschool! We continue to have high enrollment with a waiting list for a few of our classes. Our program has developed an excellent reputation in the community as a quality preschool. While the school provides a Christian education to the preschoolers of our member families, it is a valuable outreach into the community as well.

Our Christ-centered philosophy, developmental programming, and most of all our dedicated staff are some of the reasons why our preschool is recommended by parents and professionals. Our experienced and talented teachers implement a developmentally appropriate Christian curriculum (through our STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math) and Handwriting Without Tears programs). We have been blessed with a group of dedicated staff members who truly love working with children.

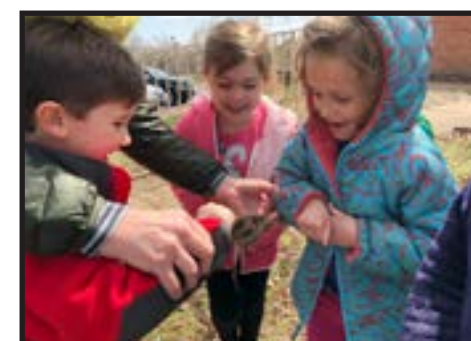
Our enrollment each year comes primarily through word of mouth. Many families share with their neighbors and friends the positive impact that the programs of Trinity have had on their lives. Through the preschool, Trinity students learn of Jesus' love for them and experience this love on a daily basis. It is our hope that our ministry to these children may help lead them and their families towards a relationship with Christ. This is the mission and ministry of Trinity Preschool.

Improvements and additions to our program are made yearly. This year we added an additional two-year-old classroom. After filling up our three current rooms early, the need came to open one more. We have also made improvements to the facility. The windows in the Parish Hall were changed to clear glass which provides a much brighter setting. Also, light bulbs were changed to LED to provide more light and less need to change bulbs.

It has been a great joy to work with such a dedicated staff of teachers, as well as a supportive and inspirational church staff.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our staff and families. It is my daily privilege and joy to share in ministry with you.

Carol Bentley  
 Trinity Preschool Director







## 2018 WAS AWESOME!

The Lord is the one who travels every mile of the wilderness way as our leader, cheering us, supporting and supplying and fortifying us (Elisabeth Elliot) and that was what was happening here this past year!

February was a social month. “GNO” (ADULT Girls Night Out) painting evening, a trip to the City Museum with the Youth and a Lantern Hill Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.



The Confirmation Class (Grades 6, 7, & 8) attended Wednesday evening Lenten Services as part of their Affirmation of Baptism. On Maundy Thursday, some of our younger ones celebrated their First Communion.



April came with a Youth Lock-In . . . a night of hide and seek, conversation, friendship EATING, volleyball and NO sleep! It was super!

May was a celebration for our Confirmands and their Affirmation of Baptism.



Another fabulous Sunday School “year” filled with Bible stories learned through art, drama and games was celebrated with a church wide picnic and slip ‘n slide baseball! A summer of fun—VBS (Rolling River Rampage) and the Lantern Hill Mission trip.



A fall adult social event . . . Axe Throwing! The Christmas Worship in December was filled with joy and wonder!



“It takes a village to raise a child” is an African proverb which means that it takes an entire community of different people interacting with children in order for a child to experience and grow in a safe environment. We are blessed with Trinity’s Village!

Amy Jones  
Children, Youth and Family Ministry Director



Our Adult Forum had another strong year in 2018. Thank you to all the many speakers and participants. Please come and join this exciting and informative hour of adult education.

The Adult Forum Committee members of Kathy Gaal, Jeff Haferkamp, Mary Hepperly and Chuck Parrott continued to fill up the 2018 “Winter/Spring” and then the “Fall” semesters with high quality speakers and topics. We want to give a special thanks to Leslie Steinmeyer, our Communications Director, for assisting the overall effort by creating and maintaining a record of speakers and programming activity. With Leslie’s help, we developed and distributed a booklet of all the upcoming speakers for each new semester. We plan to create a booklet each semester in the future.

The Adult Forum Committee continued to follow our adopted Mission Statement:

- Support Trinity’s overall educational program by providing Christian-based, thought-provoking sessions for our adult members;
- Hold sessions that complement events occurring throughout the church year, highlight our work in missions, and provide current & historical subjects of faith-based interest;
- Coordinate efforts with our pastor’s guidance to enhance our already strong, all-around educational program;
- Provide best-in-class outside and inside speakers/lecturers; and
- Deploy state-of-the-art educational techniques to accomplish this mission.

A special word of thanks to Chuck Parrot. As much as we hate to say it, Chuck is officially moving into “retirement” from our committee. We want to thank Chuck (and Joyce) for all his tireless work over the many years, and all his efforts to keep the Adult Forum going as a hallmark of educational excellence for our Church. Thank you, Chuck—job very well done!

The 2019 Winter/Spring Semester is already planned with many exciting speakers and topics—please plan to join us.

We are currently looking for additional volunteers to join the Adult Forum Committee. Please contact any committee member or the church office if you have an interest. In addition, if you have any ideas of topics and/or know of an excellent Christian-based speaker, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support.



**Purpose:** The Trinity Endowment Fund will be used to enhance the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, Missouri (the “Congregation”) and/or to assist in capital improvements over and above the general operation of the congregation as customarily provided for in its annual operating budget. We want to encourage all Trinity members to consider:

## PAYING GOD’S BLESSINGS FORWARD

**Fund Status:** In accordance with the Founding Document, we hereby provide the status of the Trinity Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2018. The summary status of the fund is as follows:

Fund Balance as of 12/31/2017	\$ 214,141
2018 Donations	\$ 65,817
2018 Distributions	(\$ 7,000)
Market Changes	(\$ 5,176)
Fund Balance as of 12/31/2018	\$ 267,782

## 2018 Goals and Accomplishments:

- 1. Increase Fund’s Balance to \$300,000 by year end:**
  - While we did not achieve the Goal, we made significant progress—**THANKS TO ALL!**
  - We also had a few more people declare a legacy gift to the TLC Endowment Fund
- 2. Provide Congregation Educational Events:**
  - Very successful Bellerive Reception hosted by the Muellers in May (thanks again to Harry & Genie)
  - Well attended Tax Planning Session at Adult Forum in November
  - A successful off-site Endowment discussion with TLC members at Meramec Bluffs in December
- 3. Continual Communication to Congregation:**
  - Updated Endowment Fund brochures, pamphlets, and flyers (a big thank you to Paul Ogier, and the Lutheran Senior Services’ marketing department for their assistance)
  - Provided updates in the Trinitell, Website, Emails and Educational Events
- 4. Distribute Funds to Missions and/or Capital Improvements**
  - Donated \$7,000 from fund in 2018 to the following: Lutheran School of Theology (\$2,000), Lutheran Senior Services (\$1,500), Russian Companion Synod (\$1,000), Lutheran Campus Ministry (\$500), and flooring for the church offices (\$2,000)
  - The following \$8,000 in donations have been approved by the Church Council for 2019:
    - Lutheran School of Theology Chicago for scholarships—\$2,000
    - Lutheran Senior Services for gift cards—\$1,500
    - Companion Synod programs, pastor support in Russia and Papau, New Guinea—\$1000
    - Lutheran Family & Children Services—\$1,000
    - Lutheran Campus Ministries for snacks—\$500
    - LED lighting for the church facilities—\$2,000

Respectfully submitted by Committee Members: Jeff Haferkamp, Carl Kontak, Bob LePoire, Lorin Lofgren, Paul Ogier, Emily Williams, Steve Paquette (council representative)





Stewardship Committee members: Pastor Chris, Mike Hobgood, Claudia Pico and Dave Luethy

This year, when the Stewardship Team met to plan the Stewardship program, it was decided that there was a need to redefine how each Trinity member thinks about Stewardship. A little internet research uncovered a discussion with A.J. Thomas, a church giving expert in North Carolina. The philosophy that his company (the "Joyful Giving Group") uses includes the following:

- Giving to God should not be related to the financial needs of the Church.
- Giving is a spiritual discipline and an aspect of our relationship with God. We do not give to the Church, but rather we give to God through the Church.
- A church that cannot meet budget and guilts its members into giving is an unhealthy church.
- An individual or family who chooses not to give because the church doesn't need their gift has a skewed understanding of the purpose behind giving.

Pastor Chris strongly felt the need to refocus the giving of Trinity members around gratitude to God, rather than need. In that spirit, the Stewardship process was tweaked a little in line with what the Joyful Giving Group suggested, versus what had been done in prior years at Trinity:

- Starting in May 2018, each Sunday includes a "Gratitude" statement on the screens, reminding us that all we have is a gift from God, for which we can't help but be grateful.
- In October 2018, pledge cards were mailed to members, asking that they commit a percentage of their income to Trinity in 2019, rather than a specific dollar amount. The member's names were printed on the outside of the return envelope, in which they were to insert their pledge card.
- Pledge cards were to be returned to the church over the three successive Sundays in November prior to Thanksgiving.
- After Thanksgiving, the pledge envelopes were returned to the members unopened, with a thank-you note acknowledging that it had been received, and reminding them that their commitment is between themselves and God.

Going forward, the "Gratitude" statements on the screens will continue. Additionally, it is hoped that in the future, the phrase "Stewardship Drive" will be replaced by "Gratitude Drive," or something similar. The "Stewardship Committee" may be replaced by the "Gratitude Committee."

Dave Luethy  
Stewardship Committee Chair



## Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 28, 2018

Welcome: (6:30 pm)

Pastor Chris Naig led with a prayer and thanked the congregation for allowing him to serve at Trinity.

### 1. Call to Order

- Todd Maloy called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

### 2. Quorum

- A minimum of 10% of the voting membership must be present to form a Quorum. This annual meeting met that requirement with approximately 80 people in attendance.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

- Todd called for the first order of business being the approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. The minutes were available to all members in the TLC Annual report packet distributed by email and available in print.
- The minutes were approved by general consent of the members present.

### 4. Reports

- Todd reviewed the agenda and discussed the priorities for the past year.
- Budget Presentation (see the below addendum)
  - Steve Paquette
    - Presented the 2017 Financial Report
    - Presented Summary of 2018 Budget.
  - After the budget presentation, Steve moved for the approval of the proposed 2018 Budget.
    - ["Second" is not required for a Committee motion.]
    - There was no additional discussion
    - The congregation unanimously approved the motion.

### 5. Election of Officers, Council Members, Nominating Committee Members and Synod Assembly Delegates

- Gene Kerr, the chairperson of the Nominating Committee, presented the slates of candidates. At the end of each presentation, the congregations voted on each of the slates of candidates individually. Since there were no contested positions, voice votes were used.







## Slate 1 – Council Officers and At-Large Council Members (as read to the Congregation):

- President Ron Jones will serve a one-year term.
- VP/President-Elect Christie Tietjen has agreed to stand for election.
- Secretary Richard Leimgruber has agreed to stand for election for a second two-year term.
- Treasurer Steve Paquette will serve the second year of his 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.



## At-Large Council Members:

- Paul Bauermeister will serve the second year of his 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.
- Nancy Buffum will serve the second year of her 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term.
- Becky Luethy has agreed to stand for election for a 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term.
- Claudia Pico will serve the second year of her 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.
- Mike Sharitz will serve the second year of his 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.
- Andrew Sobey will serve the second year of his 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.
- Kim Stewart will serve the second year of her 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term.
- Elisa Thelen has agreed to stand for election for a 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.

- Todd asked for a vote based on the motion for the slate of candidates to be approved. No additional discussion was asked for by the congregation. The motion was approved by general consent of the members present.



## Slate 2 – Nominating Committee:

- Dale Henselmeier has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term.
- Mary Hepperly has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term.
- Bob Hick has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term.
- Mike Hope will serve the second year of a two-year term.
- Karen Johnson will serve the second year of a two-year term.
- Peggy Schaefer will serve the second year of a two-year term.

- Todd asked for a vote based on the motion for the slate of candidates to be approved. No additional discussion was asked for by the congregation. The motion was approved by general consent of the members present.



## Slate 3 – Endowment Committee:

- Jeff Haferkamp will serve the second year of a three-year term.
- Carl Kontak will serve the second year of a three-year term.
- Bob LePoire has agreed to stand for election for a three-year term.
- Lorin Lofgren will serve the second year of a two-year term.
- Paul Ogier has agreed to stand for election for a three-year term.
- Emily Williams will serve the second year of a three-year term.

- Todd asked for a vote based on the motion for the slate of candidates to be approved. No additional discussion was asked for by the congregation. The motion was approved by general consent of the members present.



## Slate 4 – Synod Assembly Delegates:

- Margie and Pierre Belleville, Ann Eissfeldt and Judy Fee have agreed to serve as Trinity's delegates to the Central States Synod Assembly in 2018.
- Todd asked for a vote based on the motion for the slate of candidates to be approved. No additional discussion was asked for by the congregation. The motion was approved by general consent of the members present.

## 6. Unfinished Business

- Larry Tietjen—Commented that the Council, the leadership, and staff should be commended for their hard work throughout 2017.

## 7. Announcements

- Ron Jones—
  - Thanked the outgoing Council members for their years of service.
  - Welcomed the newly elected Council members and mentioned a Council Retreat would be held in February.
  - Recognized the special contribution of the Call Committee members for their diligent work in bringing Pastor Chris to Trinity.

## 9. Adjournment

Adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm





## Compare 2019 Budget vs. 2018 Budget

	2019	2018	Variance
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,125,605</b>	<b>1,118,555</b>	<b>7,050</b>
Member Giving	668,000	680,000	(12,000)
Fund Raisers and Loose Basket	20,000	20,000	-
Total Preschool	389,655	369,255	20,400
Rental and Other Income	47,950	49,300	(1,350)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,125,605</b>	<b>1,118,555</b>	<b>7,050</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,082,323</b>	<b>1,076,476</b>	<b>(5,847)</b>
Total Community Outreach (1)	1,400	1,400	-
Total Administration (2)	258,363	245,253	(13,110)
Total Adult Spiritual Growth (3)	134,123	150,201	16,077
Total Children's Spiritual Growth (4)	47,177	49,432	2,255
Total Facility (5)	150,280	140,180	(10,100)
Total Mission - ALL (6)	82,900	82,900	-
Total Preschool (Carol Bentley) (7)	294,608	296,625	2,017
Total Music Accounts (8)	63,000	59,000	(4,000)
Total Worship/Accounts (9)	3,400	3,400	-
Total Youth Spiritual Growth (10)	18,473	17,867	(606)
Total Interest Expense (11)	27,599	29,218	1,619
Total Fund Raising Events Expense	1,000	1,000	-
Total Expenses	1,082,323	1,076,476	(5,847)
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>43,282</b>	<b>42,079</b>	<b>1,203</b>
Total Debt Service	42,051	40,432	(1,619)
<b>Net Income after debt</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>(416)</b>

## Compare 2018 Actuals to 2018 Budget

	Budget 2018	Actuals 12/31/2018	Variance
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,118,555</b>	<b>1,093,441</b>	<b>(25,114)</b>
Member Giving	680,000	630,600	(49,400)
Fund Raisers and Loose Basket	20,000	22,183	2,183
Total Preschool	369,255	391,459	22,204
Rental and Other Income	49,300	49,199	(101)
Total Receipts	1,118,555	1,093,441	(25,114)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,076,476</b>	<b>1,041,375</b>	<b>35,101</b>
Total Community Outreach	1,400	560	840
Total Administration	245,253	245,631	(378)
Total Adult Spiritual Growth	150,201	153,102	(2,902)
Total Children's Spiritual Growth	49,432	46,981	2,451
Total Facility	140,180	152,129	(11,949)
Total Mission - ALL	82,900	76,668	6,232
Total Preschool (Carol Bentley)	296,625	269,988	26,637
Total Music Accounts	59,000	47,280	11,720
Total Worship/Accounts	3,400	4,382	(982)
Total Youth Spiritual Growth	17,867	14,240	3,627
Total Interest Expense	29,218	27,229	1,989
Miscellaneous		2,179	(2,179)
Total Fund Raising Events Expense	1,000	1,004	(4)
Total Expenses	1,076,476	1,041,375	35,102
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>42,079</b>	<b>52,066</b>	<b>9,987</b>
Total Debt Service	40,432	42,421	(1,989)
<b>Net Income after debt</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>7,998</b>



Trinity Lutheran Church - Balance Sheet Summary

	December 31 2018	December 31 2017	Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
ELCA Endowment Investment	\$ 265,782	\$ 214,141	\$ 51,641
Jefferson Bank - Checking	\$ 265,632	\$ 277,398	\$ (11,766)
Mission Investment Fund of ELCA	\$ 29,255	\$ 28,928	\$ 327
Trading Account	\$ -	\$ 1,142	
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 560,670	\$ 521,609	\$ 39,061
Buildings - 1999 ATN Expansion	\$ 2,786,585	\$ 2,786,585	\$ -
Buildings Fixed Asset	\$ 1,105,545	\$ 1,105,545	\$ -
Cemetery	\$ 5,661	\$ 5,661	\$ -
Furniture & Fixtures - 1999 ATN	\$ 69,323	\$ 69,323	\$ -
Furniture & Fixtures2000 SGifts	\$ 50,251	\$ 50,251	\$ -
Land Fixed Asset	\$ 640,637	\$ 640,637	\$ -
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 4,658,002	\$ 4,658,002	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,218,671	\$ 5,179,611	\$ 39,061
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable & Credit Cards	\$ 4,219	\$ 2,195	\$ 2,024
Total Dedicated - Capital Reserves	\$ 16,110	\$ 4,829	\$ 11,281
Total Dedicated Cemetery	\$ 30,371	\$ 28,360	\$ 2,011
Total Dedicated- Fellowship/Care Min	\$ 9,194	\$ 8,363	\$ 831
Total Dedicated Endowment Fund	\$ 265,782	\$ 214,141	\$ 51,641
Total Dedicated- Memorials	\$ 6,660	\$ 12,253	\$ (5,592)
Total Dedicated Mission	\$ 9,126	\$ 35,134	\$ (26,008)
Total Dedicated Discretionary	\$ 99,006	\$ 63,621	\$ 35,385
Total Dedicated Preschool	\$ 67,815	\$ 90,952	\$ (23,137)
Total Dedicated Office Operation	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 1,100
Total Payroll WH State Tax	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ (0)
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 505,225	\$ 457,713	\$ 47,512
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 509,444	\$ 459,908	\$ 49,536
Long Term Liabilities			
Church Addition & Renovation Loan	\$ 754,816	\$ 797,236	\$ (42,421)
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$ 754,816	\$ 797,236	\$ (42,421)
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,264,259	\$ 1,257,144	\$ 7,115
Equity			
Equity	\$ 1,582,776	\$ 1,582,776	\$ (0)
Opening Bal Equity	\$ 1,170,926	\$ 1,170,926	\$ 0
Retained Earnings	\$ 1,148,644	\$ 1,109,547	\$ 39,097
Net Income	\$ 52,066	\$ 59,218	\$ (7,152)
Total Equity	\$ 3,954,412	\$ 3,922,467	\$ 31,945
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 5,218,671	\$ 5,179,611	\$ 39,060

Members Received

Charles Hoppin  
Maureen Hoppin  
Paula Parkin  
Elaine Kotovsky  
Tenny Devadas  
Annie Jones  
Daniel Enoch  
Darren Jarius Enoch  
Sasi Jeyarajan  
Matthew Taylor  
Stanley Nadar  
Aruna Nadar  
Abrianna Nadar  
Kenneth LeMay  
Kathleen LeMay  
Leah LeMay  
Vinny LeMay  
Lacey LeMay

Confirmations

Paige Madison Halter  
Samuel Kenneth Herrmann  
Connor Gregory Jones  
Aamon Tate Naig  
Nicholas Michael Turner

Weddings

Philip Anthony Gomez and Lida  
Esperanza Gomez  
  
Thomas Christopher Nolan and  
Alexandra Michelle Forst

Baptisms

Elaine Constance Bear  
Clark Thomas Hall  
Norah Rey Maupin  
Jude Emerson Parrish  
Jade Elizabeth Hall



Deaths

John Gorman, Jr.	Trudy Mueller
Florence Artaserse	Jacob Dyar
Elizabeth “Buddy” Cason	Paul Blakeley
Jeanne Johnson	Hazel Makowski
Janice Zimmermann	Konnie Reiter
Lida Esperanza Gomez	Edward Holland, Jr.
Truman Loberg	Phoebe Dorn

2018 Membership Report

	Baptized	Voting	Households
1/01/2018	566	457	336
Members Received	18	12	7
Confirmation	1	5	1
Bapitized Members	5		1
Removed/Transferred	14	10	10
Deceased	10	10	9
*Adjustments	1		4
12/31/2018	567	454	330

Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 189

\*Statistical adjustment



**The four slates of nominees are as follows:**

Council Officers and At-Large members  
Nominating Committee  
Endowment Committee  
Synod Assembly Delegates

**The proposed nominees on whom you will vote on January 27, 2019, are in bold and underlined.**

**Slate 1 – Council Officers and At-Large Council Members:**

**Council Officers:**

President	Christie Tietjen will serve a one-year term.
VP/President Elect	<b><u>Mike Sharitz</u></b> has agreed to stand for election.
Secretary	Richard Leimgruber will serve the second year of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> two-year term.
Treasurer	<b><u>Steve Paquette</u></b> has agreed stand for election of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> two-year term.

**At-large Council Members:**

<b><u>Kathie Haferkamp</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a 1st two-year term.
<b><u>Jenny Larsen</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a 1st two-year term.
<b><u>Zack Henderson</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a 1st two-year term.
<b><u>Genie Mueller</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a 1st two-year term.
<b><u>Claudia Pico</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a 2nd two-year term.
<b><u>Andrew Sobey</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a 2nd two-year term.
Elisa Thelen	will serve the second year of a 1st two-year term.
Becky Luethy	will serve the second year of a 2nd two-year term.

**Slate 2 – Nominating Committee:**

<b><u>Betty Forde</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election of a two-year term.
<b><u>Fred Meyland-Smith</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term.
<b><u>Heidi Hope</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term.
Mary Hepperly	will serve the second year of a two-year term.
Bob Hick	will serve the second year of a two-year term.
Dale Henselmeier	will serve the second year of a two-year term.

**Slate 3 – Endowment Fund Committee:**

Jeff Haferkamp	will serve the third year of a three-year term.
Carl Kontak	will serve the third year of a three-year term.
<b><u>Peter Larsen</u></b>	has agreed to stand for election for a three-year term.
Bob LePoire	will serve the second year of a three-year term.
Paul Ogier	will serve the second year of a three-year term.
Emily Williams	will serve the third year of a three-year term.

**Slate 4 – Synod Assembly Delegates:**

**Skip and Sandi Thorp**, and **Lynn Sapp** have agreed to serve as Trinity's delegates to the Central States Synod Assembly in 2019.

## Reflections on understanding a living and vital faith

In Mark 12:28 Jesus is asked by a scribe: "Which commandment is first of all?" Jesus responded with "the Lord is one," and went on to say, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). These words are very similar to those that served as Israel's central confession of faith (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). Joshua (22:5) later reminded the people of Israel to observe these words. With this text as a guide, how do we begin to explore the ways we will nurture a living and vital faith in each person and the congregation?

Within the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, congregational vitality is defined as "communities of Jesus where there are life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world." These are three important dimensions of our work together. But it is the way in which we bring our heart, soul, mind and strength into our life and work that shows how the light of Christ shines in and through us. Our heart is the way we feel and sense God's presence in and through emotions. The soul is our mindful awareness of the presence of God within us and the world. This awareness encourages us to find meaning and purpose in life, both individually and as a community of faith. The mind is how we learn our beliefs, perspectives and practices that shape our understanding, knowledge and expressions of faith. And strength is the way we use our abilities, passions and skills to shape and live a life of faith.

The vitality of our faith as Christians, and as a church in the Lutheran tradition, finds meaning and purpose in Jesus' words from Mark 12:30. As we engage our strategic directions for the future, we find both power and insight by reflecting on what brings us vitality. Please consider the following:

### Heart

- When are the times you feel or sense God is present?
- How are these experiences different when you are with others rather than alone?
- How do these emotions bring vitality to your faith and relationship with God?

### Soul

- What Scripture passages give you an awareness of life or "living faith"?
- How does this awareness of a living faith help you find meaning and purpose in life?
- What about your life experiences brings a sense of vitality to your faith?

### Mind

- What motivates you to continue growing in your relationship with God?
- What have you found helps you learn more about God?
- Where do you find vitality through your learnings and spiritual practices?

### Strengths

- What God-given abilities, passions and skills have you discovered in your life?
- How does your faith guide you in using these?
- What about using these abilities, passions and gifts gives you vitality?

May your  
responses to  
these questions  
help you gain  
new insight and  
vitality into your  
relationship  
with God, each  
other and the  
world.



