

2024 Annual Congregational Meeting

Trinity Lutheran Church

February 9, 2025



Trinity Lutheran Church
2024 Annual Meeting
2/11/24

Peder Danielson (Council President), started the meeting at 10 a.m. and conducted the opening Prayer.

184 voting members represented in person or by absentee ballot, exceeding the quorum requirements of 58 (5% of confirmed members).

Kathy Allen motioned to accept the agenda as it stands, Sandy Avery second. Motion carried unanimously.

Pam Fagan motioned to accept the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. Donna Frawley second. Motion carried unanimously.

Peder provided a review of the past year's milestones, including:

- Happy 80th Birthday Trinity
- The reengagement of the congregation post COVID.
- Calling Pastor Jeff Gramza, our new Senior Pastor.
- Parking Lot Renovations Complete
- Extending a long-term lease to the Legacy Center to use the Abbott Road Building.
- Acquiring the property at 3701 Leonard Lane.
- Implementing IGNITE.

2024 Priorities Include:

- Continue building IGNITE
- Hire a Youth and Young Adult Director – Develop youth programming
- Congregational Committees
- Security and Access Upgrades
- Reestablish use of Wixom Lake property

On Proposal 1

182 voted to **APPROVE** the proposed 2024 Trinity Lutheran unified budget of \$930,000 Giving, \$1,010,000 Expenses and Excess of \$80,000 from Unified Funds. 2 voted no.

On Proposal 2

178 voted to **APPROVE** the proposed 2024 Slate of Nominees as presented. 2 voted no.

Meeting concluded at 10:49 a.m. Pastor Gramza closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes submitted by Michael Rogers, Council Secretary.

2025 Committee Nominees

Council

Election Slate	Thru	Returning	Thru
Pam Fagan	2027	Peder Danielsen	2025
Michael Rogers	2027	Eldon Enger	2025
Carrie Schaller	2027	Sandy Avery	2025
		Kathy Allen	2026
		Glen Mutscher	2026
		Dick Peterson	2026
		Pastor Gramza	ex-officio

Asset Management

Election Slate	Thru	Returning	Thru
Randy McGurk	2027	Gary Warren	2025
Joe Sova	2027	Lee Smith	2025
Emily Lyons	2027	Kevin Blaser	2025
		Ted Brown	2026
		Dan Pfreunder	2026
		Sid Allen	2026

Trust Fund

Election Slate	Thru	Returning	Thru
Tom Howe	2027	Henry Otto	2025
Dave Romeneski	2027	Eric Stangland	2025
		Helena Devore	2026
		Scot Putzig	2026

Memorial Gardens

Election Slate	Thru	Returning	Thru
Laurie Mault	2027	Nick Messing	2025
		Donna Frawley	2025
		Lee Smith	2026
		Krista Blaser	2026

Pre School

Election Slate	Thru	Returning	Thru
Aimee Smith	2026	Wendy Flory	2025
Rose Zank	2026	Melody Wilson	2025
		Holly Hellebuyck	2025
		Pastor Gramza	ex-officio
		Andrea Berchert	ex-officio

Nominating Committee

Election Slate	Thru
Kathryn Tate	2025
Jeri Pfruender	2025
Scott MacNellis	2025
Ryan Smith	2025
Amy Danielsen	2025
Connie Warren	2025

Dear Trinity Family,

It has been my privilege to serve as your Council President over the past year. I am immensely proud of our church staff and members for their collective efforts in extending Christ's mission through our active presence in the community. Over the past year, we have welcomed Pastor Jeff's leadership and his changes. These enhancements will become more apparent in the upcoming year, as his goal of fostering meaningful relationships between Trinity members and the community continues to flourish daily at the church.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Danielle as she embarks on her next chapter in ministry in North Carolina. Her significant contributions over the past eight years have greatly impacted Trinity, and we wish her and her family the best as they are guided by the Holy Spirit.

To address our desire to reconnect, we have introduced the new IGNITE Wednesday programming. This initiative, which includes a meal at 5:15 pm followed by an education hour starting at 6:00 pm, has provided our congregation with a new way to combine interaction with educational opportunities. This ministry is generating excitement and energy within the church and is open to everyone—members, guests, and people of all ages. We invite you to join us and extend this invitation to friends and family. Our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who have contributed to making this program a success.

In our commitment to reviving Children's Ministry, we have hired Angela, whose enthusiasm is contagious. This was evident in the high participation in the Christmas Pageant, and we foresee this ministry continuing to grow through 2025.

Additionally, we now have Vicar Tim, the first intern at Trinity in several decades. We aim to provide a valuable contribution to the ELCA synod and establish Trinity as a training ground for future pastors. This effort extends our mission beyond our city, helping others come to know the Lord.

Financially, our congregation is in a strong position, thanks to your continued donations. Although giving was slightly below estimates and expenses were higher than anticipated, your generous support sustains our mission. Due to successful investments, we end the year with a substantial Unified Fund surplus. I wish to thank Trinity's dedicated staff members: Lee Smith, Gary Warren, Stacy Thurston, Cathy Bloomfield, Jeri Lynne Koenig, Darren Wells, Marijean Fitzgerald, Charlie Sly, Jonathan Lonsway, Pastor Danielle Shealy, and Pastor Jeffery Gramza. Please also welcome Angela McHugh as Children's Ministry Leader, Katie Putzig as Finance Leader, Sandy Schlezinger as Parish Administrator, Nick Stark as Facility Coordinator, and Vicar Tim when you see them around Trinity in 2025!

Looking ahead to 2025, our goals and projects include:

- Continuing to embrace and expand IGNITE Wednesday evenings programming.
- Hiring a Youth Director to reengage this ministry and refurbish Wixom Camp for children/youth activities.
- Completing the second phase of replacing the roof over the new sections of the church.

These examples represent only a portion of the strategic efforts and improvements planned for 2025. Much happens behind the scenes with the help of our many volunteers, making Trinity a special place. Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, talent, or donations to Trinity.

Blessings,

Peder E. Danielsen
Trinity Council President

Pastor's Note 2025
Rev. Dr. Jeffery Gramza

In the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, we have a rich history of celebrating the Word made flesh—Christ alive in our church, our families, and our hearts. Together, we celebrate Christ's incarnation in the world. We fellowship, worship, sing, pray, eat, work, study, and engage the world with the love of Christ because Christ's life, death, and resurrection have **meaning in our lives today**. We pray that our courageous witness to the world reflects the love that has enveloped and permeated our lives.

Just as God's creation of the world was borne out of love, so too must our mission to the world be borne out of love. The mission of the Trinity congregation is the business of Jesus Christ—welcome, forgiveness, healing, and love.

My wife, Liz, and I feel privileged to have been called to Trinity. We are thrilled to be a part of this great community, and slowly and most assuredly, we are falling in love with the good people of Trinity Lutheran Church. We look forward to many years of living amongst and serving alongside you.

As I reflect on this past year:

- I give thanks for Angela McHugh's arrival as our Director of Children's Ministry and for the beginning of the renewal of our children's ministry here at Trinity.
- I am thankful for Vicar Tim Jordan's arrival from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Our congregation has not had an intern in many years (decades), but Tim is our 14th intern. Interns help us think outside the box. They ask lots of questions and help us discover new possibilities.
- I am thankful for Katie Putzig and Sandy Schlesinger's arrival in the church office. Katie joined our part-time staff to work with finances. Sandy is serving us as a volunteer. Sandy brings incredible wisdom, experience, and many daily hours to our ministry. Together, their expertise and attention to detail have been invaluable.
- I am thankful for Nick Stark's arrival. Gary Warren has faithfully overseen the care of our physical structures as a volunteer for many years. Thank you, Gary. Nick is bringing his expertise to the position as a part-time staff member.
- We have so many faithful volunteers at Trinity. Trinity is the congregation it is because of the people's generosity of time. Some volunteers give an hour or two a month; some give several more hours. I'm reluctant to single out any particular volunteer, but Lee Smith provides this ministry with many hours of volunteer service daily. His watchful eyes and loving touch are on almost everything that happens around here. Thank you, Lee!

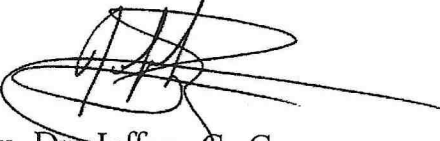
- Every day, I thank God for the marvelous group of people who serve you as the staff of Trinity Lutheran Church. Their faithfulness, work ethic, and willingness to take care of you and each other is amazing. Each person's talent and expertise bless this congregation daily. Going the 'extra mile' is normal around here. They have made working here a joy, and I value them and thank God for them.
- Trinity has been blessed by excellent councils, council presidents, and committees. Believe it or not, council meetings here are a joy! We celebrate what God is doing in our midst, work hard to guide and equip the church's ongoing ministries, and discern how God is leading us into the future. I am thankful for their vision and dedication.
- Finally, we give thanks and praise to God for calling Pastor Danielle to Trinity. She is the 17th pastor to be called to Trinity. She has shepherded and loved this congregation for almost nine years. While she looks forward to the new future God is opening for her and her family, we, as a congregation, look forward to the new beginnings God has in store for us.

As this congregation keeps an eye on the future, God presents us with many opportunities. Priorities for me in the coming year:

- We need to develop a Youth and Young Adult Ministry. I have a bold vision for this ministry that includes spiritual growth, discipleship, fellowship, and fun.
- We need to develop more fellowship and play opportunities for the congregation. We worship well as a congregation and have many opportunities for Bible study and education. However, we need more opportunities to be present and connect with one another. As I frequently say, the congregation that plays together stays together.
- We need a renewed look at our branding. Who are we? What do we believe? Who is truly welcome in this place? Can you answer these questions? Just as importantly, how would the community answer these questions about Trinity?

Our relationship with God is glorious and dynamic, full of surprises, wonders, and revelations. We must keep wrestling with the scriptures and our faith, keeping the way we live our lives in line with our theology. Our relationship with Christ should always be in the process of growing and developing. The moment Trinity or any other congregation becomes content with its faith or how it practices its faith, it begins to die. Thanks be to God, the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in the congregation of Trinity today.

Thank You for the privilege of serving you!



Rev. Dr. Jeffery G. Gramza

My beautiful Trinity family,

2024 was a great year in the life of Trinity. So many beautiful things to celebrate and to constantly be reminded that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As we look at the highlights from 2024 together, I invite you to reflect on where we been and celebrate the promise of where Trinity is going. In addition to our 3 service every weekend, we continue to encourage people in a multitude of ways by creating community and nurturing small groups. I am beyond thrilled at how more groups have come together and support one another.

Highlights from this year of praising God in word and in action in addition to 3 weekly worship services include:

January kicked off our year with a beautiful Epiphany service and tree burning. We had numerous people participate in our Epiphany program including proclaiming the Good News in word and deed. . . searching for the child Jesus and celebrating the star that revealed Him. Adults and children together joined in an impromptu celebration.

Being part of the Ministry of confirmation has always been a passion of mine. I love conversations and questions. Thanks to a great recommendation from council, we gifted our confirmation students with beautiful Trinity spirit wear. We celebrated our young adults as they affirmed their baptisms.

I love being part of the outreach this community does. One of my favorite events is God's Work Our Hands. I enjoyed supporting different ministries in our area, many with Trinity members as key players in the organization. A huge lightbulb came on as we visited the Arnold Center that day. And from that grew a small group that meets there for lunch to support the amazing ministry done by the Arnold Center.

Our small groups continue to grow and thrive! The Monday and Tuesday coffee group have a good core of regulars and many more occasional people dropping in. It is a great way to meet people and form relationships. Thursday morning preschool playgroup enjoys quiet low days and high volume energetic days. The moms added occasional Friday evening gatherings this fall as a time to connect without children. Thursday ladies Bible study engages great conversation as well as prayerful support. Our Safe Space group meets the first Sunday of the month. Thankful for the way these small groups support one another on our faith journey!

Bringing joy to our building is our Preschool. I love greeting our students each morning. Being able to spend time with them in chapel is a gift! Leading our 2's and you program also has been a fun part of my week.

The gift of our youth! I love spending time with middle school students and high school students. Middle school students met monthly for fun and fellowship. We regularly had 10-15 youth coming together. Our high school group varied more in turn out, but we did many service projects, like making apple pies for thanksgiving baskets. We also had fun outings like our annual Top Golf trip. In Addition, we had a MARVELOUS trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering.

I could write pages of wonderful memories and people from the year, but am limiting it to a snippet. As you all journey forward I am excited for this congregation. I tried to model being in community and caring for one another. I hope that this continues at the forefront of all you do. I invite you to pray for our council members as they continue to vision and dream all that Trinity can be!

Thank you for almost 9 years of kindness, love, fellowship and rejoicing in the glory of God!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

Romans 15:13

Always together in the gift of the Spirit!

Pastor Danielle

Grace and peace to you, beloved siblings in Christ!

In the next few weeks, we'll reach the six-month point since I joined all of you in Midland. It has been a wonderful and beautiful start to my two-year internship with you. I am humbled to be in a position to see so many of the ways that God is working through Trinity.

God also continues to shape me through this congregation. My activities for these first six months with you have included participating in a variety of ways in worship: assisting with services each weekend, preaching once a month and as part of the Advent services, and singing with the choirs. I have also joined you in your study of scripture through the Wednesday morning Bible study of the lectionary readings and through confirmation on Wednesday evenings during Ignite. My time with the confirmands has included examining the overarching narrative of the Old Testament and working through Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Finally, it has been good to have time with all of you, whether through home visits, at fellowship meals, or simply between services.

Looking ahead to the 2025 calendar year, I am eager to continue to participate in Trinity's worship, both through our weekend services and during the Lenten series we will begin in March. As confirmation resumes, we will begin a survey of how the New Testament formed and the types of books and letters included within it. Additionally, the students will have the opportunity to hear travelogues from several members of the congregation and to think about different ways of exercising spirituality. In the upcoming months, I also plan to join more of Trinity's adult groups in their adult Christian education discussions.

I thank you for your trust in all of these things. God's blessings upon all of you as we begin another year of shared life together.

Vicar Tim Jordan

Music Ministry 2024 Annual Report

Submitted by Jonathan Lonsway, Director of Music Ministries

Has it been another year already? And what a year it has been for the music ministries of Trinity! We have experienced a few milestones. Firstly, it has been just over a year since Pastor Jeff joined the pastoral staff, and in that time we've all gotten to know him and his ministry style. Planning worship is a collaborative process, and I have appreciated working with both Pastor Jeff and Pastor Danielle as we seek to facilitate meaningful worship encounters with our savior. In addition, we had the pleasure to welcome Vicar Tim to the creative process. He brings thoughtful perspectives to the planning process, no doubt developed from his academic background and also his experience as a musician. Welcome, Vicar Tim!

We celebrate another milestone as Charly Sly marks a full year as organist. As I write this just after our Christmas Eve services, I can't help but think back to last year and marvel at how Charly has grown in his ability, artistry and confidence as an organist. I hope he is proud of his accomplishments, because I certainly am. A big thank you to Patty Bowen, who has continued to work with him, and to his teacher Dr. Steve Egler. Incidentally, Dr. Egler is also my organ teacher, and we will both continue to learn from him throughout the coming year.

Our ensembles have been busy enhancing worship services on a regular basis with exciting and memorable music. The Chancel Choir continues to serve the 8:45 am service primarily, and in 2025 will seek opportunities to share music with the Saturday and 11:00 am Sunday services as well. In addition, the Chancel Choir visits nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the year, presenting a brief program of choral music and sing-alongs of beloved hymns. The next outing will be in February. JuBELLation was honored to be invited to play a short program of songs in a Christmas Concert presented by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. All of our ensembles, including the True Spirit Singers, are accepting new members!

We are privileged to welcome Angela McHugh to work with our young worshipers this past year. With her leadership the children practiced and presented the Christmas musical "Star of Wonder." Angela brings musical skills along with her experience working with children, and she plans to include music in her ministry to our children, doing some choral singing with them in the coming year. I look forward to supporting her in this endeavor. Julie Hyatt was excited to work with some middle school youth playing chimes and handbells during

Advent. She looks forward to working with them again in the near future with an opportunity to perform in worship. They are all so talented!

This last year we have also been working to improve and enhance worship at the 11:00 am service. We acquired new instruments, a digital keyboard and digital drum set, which have enhanced the music of the praise team and made it possible to livestream the worship service. Now the ministry of this service can expand beyond the walls of our sanctuary to touch those gathered with us online. Early this year we will be adding personal monitor technology which will help each musician play or sing their best while reducing volume from the stage and bringing clarity to the sound in the pews. It is a joy to work with all the members of our worship team, including our new technology leader, Zach Wiggins and the members of the tech team, who have stepped up in the absence of Peyton Durfee. A big thank you to all of you! If you have thought of singing or playing with the band, please reach out. And if you are looking for a "behind-the-scenes" way to serve our church, please consider sound or projection, especially if you have an aptitude for audio or video technology.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as the Director of Music Ministries this past year, and I am honored and privileged to serve this congregation each and every week. I look forward to what 2025 will bring, for our ensembles, for our worship services, for our children, and for all of us. Small spoiler: we are working on something special for Palm & Passion Sunday. You won't want to miss it!

God bless you all,

Jonathan Lonsway

December 28, 2024

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for hiring me as the part time Children's ministry director. Growing the children's ministry has affected the overall health and growth of the church, pulling in families and parents that haven't been coming.

We started a Kid's praise on Sunday mornings for both Sunday services. Basically, we have a Kid's Bible time, where they look up a verse in the Bible and recite it, participate in prayer and 2 worship songs with motions and words for kids to follow. We also have a time of rewards with games and prizes that keeps kids coming back and also rewards them for bringing their Bible and friends. I have recruited about 15 adults in the church to help with the Kid's praise, although it has been a task to get them to follow through with helping and consistency.

We had a Christmas play that brought in a lot of kids and families. We had 2 months of practices and was amazed that in the middle of an ice storm, all the kids and families showed up for the play and packed the church out!! We realized that a program that kids can be involved with is what keeps them coming, rather than just random activities or programs.

We planned a few activities with the Church preschool, to help bridge the gap between the church and preschool. We started out with a back to school event, then Halloween lunches and family event. Our relationship has improved with the preschool and teachers this last year, and we are so grateful for that. We really appreciate their ministry in our building.

For the new Year, I have planned a weekly Music night and puppet team, and am looking forward to starting back up a children's music ministry in the church.

Also, I have enjoyed starting up a prayer ministry again here at Trinity. We have a weekly prayer group of 5 ladies that meet together and pray for the church. I send out weekly prayer requests to about 30 ladies that have signed up to be a part of the prayer chain. This has been a good way to get people involved that are homebound. I have heard the church didn't have a prayer meeting for 25 years and so glad we could re-start this crucial ministry in the church. Jesus said, "His house will be a house of prayer." (Luke 19:46, Isaiah 56:7)

In Christ,

Angela McHugh

2024 Trinity Lutheran Trust Fund Annual Report

The purpose of the Trinity Lutheran Church Trust Fund is to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to support Christian outreach and community support beyond the scope of Trinity's annual unified budget. The Trust Fund is separate from the general operating funds of the church. Church members and individuals are encouraged to submit grant-funding requests for Trinity or non-Trinity organizations and projects. The grant funding application form is available online and at the church office.

Gifts to the Trust Fund are invested to produce income, which in turn is used to grant charitable requests consistent with the mission of the Trust Fund. The original principal of any Trust Fund gift remains intact, and only investment income from the gift is used for grant requests. The current investment strategy employs a mutual fund portfolio designed to produce both growth and income.

The Trust Fund committee members at year-end are:

Helena Devore
Scot Putzig
Henry Otto
Tom Howe
Eric Stangland
Dave Romenesko

The Trust Fund committee both thanks and grants its sympathy to the family of Ron Graunke who passed away while on the committee in 2024. Dave Romenesko was approved by Council to fill out Ron Graunke's remaining term. Ron's contributions will be missed.

The Trust Fund committee met six times in 2024 and approved grant funding requests totaling \$70,466.00 to the following organizations:

1. Reliant Church Mission Support(2023)	\$4,500.00
2. Trinity Lutheran Preschool Scholarship	\$790.00
3. Trinity Lutheran Mission Trip Support	\$133.00
4. Trinity Lutheran Office Equipment	\$506.00
5. Samaritas Program Support	\$767.00
6. Toni & Trish House General Support	\$10,000.00
7. Midland Young Life Program Support	\$15,000.00
8. MCFOAR Program Support	\$10,000.00
9. Trinity Lutheran Preschool Scholarship	\$750.00
10. ARC of Midland Program Support	\$2,500.00
11. ELCA Lutheran Disaster Hurricane Relief	\$15,000.00
12. Hope for the Forgotten Program Support	\$7,000.00
13. Reliant Church Mission Support	\$2,000.00
14. Trinity Lutheran Preschool Scholarship (2025)	\$1,500.00

The Trinity Trust Fund balance at the beginning of 2024 was \$1,761,006.15. The Trinity Trust Fund balance at the end of 2024 was \$2,115,743.06. The Trinity Trust's potential projected total gifting capacity for the upcoming 2025 calendar year is approximately up to \$100,000.00. Complete Trust Fund financial reports are provided to Council quarterly.

All the best,

Scot C. Putzig, Chairman

Asset Management Committee Report for 2024

The asset management committee oversees the maintenance and enhancement of Trinity's properties. In 2024, Gary Warren and Lee Smith co-chaired the committee, joined by Ted Brown, Megan Thomas, Dan Pfreunder, Dave Devore, Sid Allen, Geoff Brandle, and Kevin Blaser. The committee meets bi-monthly on odd-numbered months at 5:30 PM on the Monday before Council meetings. All members are welcome to attend.

Gary Warren, our Facility Coordinator for the past three years, is retiring. Nick Stark will replace him and will join the Asset Management Committee and attend all Trinity Staff meetings.

The following are the properties, and the major items improved during 2024:

Trinity Church (3701 Jefferson)

Major work was done on the drain tiles this year, stopping water from leaking into the maintenance room. New gutters were added to the north side of the church to reduce basement water issues. Lift stations have been inspected and are under repair. Sanctuary roof leaks have been fixed regularly, but a second roof replacement stage is recommended for 2025. A new key fob locking system was installed along with security cameras that store two weeks of footage. Recently, six additional security cameras were added to cover more areas of the church. New lighting both in the narthex area and parking poll lights. Parking lot was also restriped.

Legacy Center (2417 Abbott)

Emergency door was replaced by National Door Systems and gutters replaced on building. Manhole cleaned and area patched with asphalt. Trees trimmed by picnic area.

Wixom Lake Camp (5213 Wixom Drive)

Due to the closure of the direct bridge, only yard work was conducted at the camp this past year, as travel to the camp was significantly extended. We plan to replace the interior flooring and upgrade the roof in early 2025.

Old Church (3700 Jefferson)

Three large trees were removed due to storm damage, and two others for building clearance. General landscaping was also completed. Dow Chemical replaced parking lot entrances on both sides due to equipment damage from the LPGA tournament setup and takedown.

Pastor Danielle's Parsonage (3711 Jefferson)

Gutters cleaned, HVAC repairs done, seven trees removed or trimmed, and lawn seeded and fertilized in those areas.

Johnathan Lonsway's Parsonage (3701 Cambridge)

Trees trimmed, gutters cleared, and guards installed. A new humidifier will be set up in January.

Charlie Sly's Parsonage (3608 Jefferson)

The chimney was rebuilt, the garage roof temporarily repaired, and the dryer replaced. Gutters were cleaned and guards installed.

Pastor Jeff's Parsonage in 2024 (3706 Leonard Lane)

The swimming pool and decking were removed, and the area was reseeded. The front deck was stained and shrubs were trimmed or removed. The rear entry door was rebuilt with new hardware.

Vicar Tim's Parsonage (206 West St. Andrews)

Drainage tile work was conducted throughout the year to minimize water infiltration through walls and the egress window. Additionally, a new dryer was installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Warren and Lee Smith

ALL SAINTS MEMORIAL GARDEN
ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The cremains of additional persons were interred in the Garden during 2024 with others prepaying for interment. For all persons interred, an engraved brick is placed in the walkway, an engraved leaf is placed on the Tree of Life, and their name is inscribed in the registry book.

Additional tasks completed by the committee include seasonal decorating of the Garden and decorating a memorial Christmas Tree in the Coffee Café. In 2025/2026 the Trustees will discuss purchasing another Memorial Tree.

Remember that the doors to the Garden are always open. Feel free to go into the Garden at any time for reflection, meditation, or to simply view the landscaping.

Trustees for the All Saints Memorial Garden for 2024 were Krista Blaser, Mary Fuentes, Nick Messing, Donna Frawley, and Dick Peterson. Dick Peterson continues to serve as the sexton responsible for interring the cremains. He has performed this service since the inception of the Garden in 2009.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Annual Report 2024

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” 1 John 3:18

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger.

Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we commemorated the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.

In 2024 those of us from Trinity generously gave \$8,172.82 to ELCA World Hunger, down from last year by \$2,046.36. Those who participated in the ELCA Good Gifts program generously gave \$2,747.00, up from last year by \$529.00.

Judy Enger, Hunger Contact Person

ELCA World Hunger

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 True Spirit Singers

We welcome new members who love to sing in a relaxed atmosphere of gospel music. Our anthems are always in English, not very difficult, and with piano accompaniment with the help of Charly at the piano. We usually sing at a worship service once a month, more often during Advent and Christmas and around Easter time.

Come join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 in the music room. There is always room for more singers. We will always welcome you.

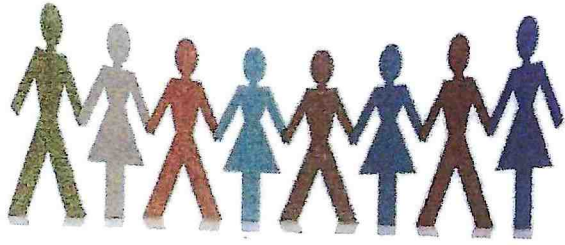
Marijean Fitzgerald, Director

XYZ 50+

Annual Report 2024

Our eXtra Years of Zest (XYZ) 50+ group had another interesting year of educational programs and socializing. Trinity's own Sue Bergeson presented a program on "Ask a Question, Save a Life" the Question, Persuade, Refer approach to preventing suicide. We went to Warmbier Farms for a presentation on container gardening with time to stroll through the gift shop before going to Nori's in Auburn for lunch. Floyd Andrick came for two presentations: The Dionne Quintuplets and The History of the Midland Hospital. In November we toured WareSmithWoolever funeral home with Scott Berry.

Twenty seven persons attended a Loons game in July. We had lunch at the Boulevard in June and at Big E's in August. We are in the planning stage for 2025 but one program already scheduled is a September 16 lunch program at Zehnders by the Beach Party Boys (a Beach Boys tribute band). The Planning committee members are: Dick Lebsack, Sue Montesi, Lorna Strautman and Nancy Perry. New members and new ideas are very welcome.



CONNECTIONS...

Just over four years ago (October 2020) we implemented a monthly program called *CONNECTIONS* as a means of Trinity Lutheran Church staying connected with our socially isolated, lonely or physically challenged seniors 60+ in age. The percentages of seniors 60+ in age in our U.S. and Midland County populations as well as in our Trinity Lutheran Church congregation have all increased over the past two decades. This population shift and the COVID-19 pandemic were both catalysts for us to begin this program.

Basic goals of this program are to:

- Strengthen the bonds and communications with our Trinity Lutheran Church senior 60+ members
- Encourage spirituality, faith, service, and relationship with God for both our senior participants and volunteers
- Reduce senior participant feelings of social isolation and/or loneliness by providing fellowship via regular phone conversations with the program volunteers
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of faith based, health oriented, and/or life experience topics to enrich the lives of our senior participants
- Promote the cognitive/mental and physical well-being of our senior church population

Every month a printed packet of 18-20 pages (plus the quarterly *Christ in Our Home* publication is included in January, April, July, and October) is mailed to each senior participant that focuses on monthly topics and themes primarily relating to Christianity, our faith and the Lutheran church, aging physical and emotional health and wellness, events and topics of the seasons, and miscellaneous topics of interest. In 2024 each month we also included a special article about a key event or person in the Bible. Additional topics included in 2024 were: God's love, Valentine Day history, Pontius Pilate, gratitude and thankfulness, the Jewish Passover and Hanukkah, the 12 original disciples, American patriotic songs, our Liberty Bell, Grandparents' Day, friendships, estate planning basics, Paul, early religions, heart health, pies, rings, bread/manna, and Bethlehem. Additionally, the packet includes a variety of puzzles, quizzes, or other activities to stimulate mental functioning. We post monthly on the Trinity lobby bulletin board copies of several of the pages of each month's packet and provide extra copies in a wire basket near the bulletin board for anyone to take. An email is sent every month to the volunteers who initiate phone conversations with our senior participants suggesting some topical questions related to the topics in the monthly packet, etc.

As of January 1, 2025 we have 62 seniors and 25 fantastic volunteers that are active participants with the seniors in this program. Nine of our participating seniors died in 2024 and one discontinued participation in the program due to declining health reasons. Leadership for this program is provided by Sue Montesi who authors the monthly packet materials, and Betty Wallwey who coordinates senior participants and program volunteers who are providing the monthly personal connections via phone conversations with our seniors.

Trinity Lutheran Quilters Annual Report

Trinity Quilters, a group of 16-18 women, continue to faithfully meet Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 to tie, assemble, sew, sort, cut, and iron fabric, but most of all to share in fellowship with one another.

This year we have completed 182 quilts and 65 lap quilts. We boxed and shipped 108 quilts to LWR. We donated 18 quilts to the Toni and Trish House and 32 quilts to North Carolina. Fourteen were donated to various local needs.

We donated 31 bed pads to Samaritas. Our faithful servant Barb Bejcek was the only person working on the bed pads. Each Thursday she usually completed 4. So with her passing we have stopped that service project until someone would like to do it.

We continually get fabric donations. We are thankful for the gifts. We can only use cotton or cotton blends. It is helpful if the pieces are $\frac{1}{4}$ yard or more. We also take sheets that are clean and not stained and are queen or king size. We are fortunate to get donated hospital blankets from a commercial laundry in Saginaw. These are used for quilt fillers. They give us about 20 bags so about 100 at a time (one truck load).

We are so blessed.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Chaussee, Sheryl Daniels, and Charlotte Roth

OPEN DOOR

Once again, as in prior years, it has been a joy to be able to serve those in need in our community through the ministry of the Open Door Soup Kitchen. We serve on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and have a crew of about 4 to 6 people each time that work from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm. Our main responsibilities are to: prepare the noon meal, pack and prepare sack lunches, prep for the next day anything that is needed and serve the lunch.

All are welcome to join us. No real skills are needed, plus it is a great time of fellowship among the workers, we are always blessed over the summer months to have some of our youth also join us along with our faithful seasoned workers. If you would like to help, you can sign up at church on the sign up board next to the Nursery area or call the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Smith at (989) 415-5020.

Thank you.

Lee Smith

Trinity Lutheran Preschool
December 2024

Trinity Lutheran Preschool has been serving families since 1965, offering preschool programs for ages 2- 5 year olds. Through the years Trinity has seen many changes and requirements in the field of Early Childhood Education. Strict demands required by the State of Michigan involving licensing, education, and programming continue to be challenges that we have faced and conquered. Trinity Lutheran Preschool continues to uphold its legacy of being one of the most reputable and honorable preschools in the Midland Community. Trinity is considered the cornerstone of early childhood education for those we serve. We have been in operation now for 59 years due to the dedication of past and present staff members, who have devoted over 25 years to this outreach program.

During the 2024-2025 school year, our enrollment numbers are once again comparable to where we have been for the past 2 years. As families continue to rely on our organization for core values, their children continue to experience a normal classroom setting, focusing on socialization, a developed curriculum, and gentle boundaries. We continue to offer this routine each day; focusing on each child individually. The preschool staff continues to work tirelessly, providing what is necessary for these children to have a safe and loving experience. The staff willingly accepts the challenges associated with the daily operation in order to have a positive impact on these children's lives. We are fully committed to offering the best program to the community.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool is sponsored and endorsed by Trinity Lutheran church and is an educational, community outreach, and social ministry program of the church. As a licensed childcare center by the State of Michigan, we meet and exceed the standards required by the State. The preschool, which is part of the church, is required to raise and maintain its own budget, which also includes the purchasing of supplies and the hiring of qualified staff members. We receive no State or Federal funding, and only a nominal stipend of \$2000 from the church to be awarded to families in need of financial support. As an outreach program, we have never turned away a family in need. We are able to keep our doors open due to the dedicated staff members who serve the church and the families of the community. These dedicated staff members are paid below minimum wage for the number of hours devoted to the program, in order for us to maintain our budget during low enrollment years. We receive no retirement or benefits for serving in these roles.

This past summer, the Preschool was blessed to receive new lighting for the classroom. These improvements allowed us to continue a new look for the community, showing that we are invested in their children. We continue to revive our classroom with new learning materials, allowing the children to learn and play with a wide variety of toys and games each day. We have also hosted various activities for parents, including social events in September, October, and November. These events not only show parents what the children have been working on in the classroom, but also the involvement & unity between the church and preschool.

Our families are beyond pleased with the program we offer and the care given to their children. The families, along with our Preschool Board of Directors, are highly impressed with the classroom operation and the staff. The Licensing Agent, assigned by the State of Michigan, has expressed how superior our program and staff are compared to other programs in the Midland area. We continually offer an *excellent* early childhood education program to the community. The legacy, reputation, and dedicated individuals of this preschool bring families in each year, knowing they will receive the highest quality of care associated with our organization.

The staff within the preschool consists of long time members, Andrea Berchert, Director and Teachers, Terri Sauve & Michelle Youngstrom. Paraprofessionals include Cindy Cummings, Debora Zigoris. The preschool board currently includes the following members: Pastor Danielle Shealy, Holly Hellebuyek, Linden Rogers, Wendy Flory, Elaine Fabinski, Melody Wilson, and Andrea Berchert.

The staff of Trinity Lutheran Preschool would like to express its extreme gratitude for the guidance and support of this Advisory Committee. We have made great strides for the future of this outreach program, which reflects the commitment to the families in Midland and the surrounding communities. We believe each day we open our door; we make a positive impact on humanity. We do something good each day for the families we serve and without the dedicated preschool staff and congregation, none of this would be possible. Thank you.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Total Membership January 1, 2024	1157	1005
Accessions during 2024		
Youth Confirmed	10	24
		9
Losses during 2024		
By Death		18
By Transfer		3
Inactive and Statistical Adjustment +		
Total Membership January 1, 2025	1167	1017

Total number of weekend worship services conducted – 154
(includes Saturday, Sunday, Easter, and Christmas)

Average attendance per week – 575
(2023-416)

Total number of special services conducted – 16
(Includes Ash Wednesday, evening Lent, midday Lent, Living Last Supper,
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Men's Retreat, Women's Retreat,
Thanksgiving eve service, Advent, and New Year's Eve)

Number of households – 660
(2023-681)

Number of marriages performed - 1
(2023-0)

Number of funerals – 25
(18 member and 7 non-member)
(2023-16)
(14 member and 2 non-member)

Number of baptisms – 13
(12 children and 1 adult)
(2023-5)
(5 children and 0 adult)

Trinity Congregational Meeting
10:00 am February 9, 2025

- Our Mission is to invite children, men and women and equip them to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Our Vision is that Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of disciples that actively welcomes, witnesses and invites all people in the name of Jesus Christ. Trinity Lutheran Church encourages a life of discipleship centered on study, worship and fellowship that results in prayer, service and stewardship.

1

Adoption of the Agenda

- Adoption of Agenda
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Acceptance of 2024 Congregation Minutes (verbal approval)
- Milestones & Transitions in 2024
- Priorities for 2025
- Phase 2 Roofing Project Plans and Funding
- Proposed Slate of Nominees
- 2024 Financial Highlights
- Proposed 2025 Mission Budget
- Voting on Slate of Nominees, 2025 Unified Budget and Phase 2 Roofing Project Funding
- Discussion
- Closing Prayer

Council moves that this proposed agenda be adopted. (Seeking a second)

2

Call to Order

- ▶ Quorum Requirements:
 - ▶ 5% of Voting (Confirmed) Members
 - ▶ 66 Members must vote in person or absentee
 - ▶ Please sign the attendance roster
- ▶ Voting Members as of 1/1/2025: 1,324
 - ▶ Membership roster updated in 2024
- ▶ In accordance with the Trinity Constitution, voting is allowed only by confirmed members of Trinity Lutheran Church

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Opening Prayer

4

Review and Acceptance of the Minutes from the 2024 Congregational Meetings

For meetings held on:

- 2/10/2024: Annual Meeting
- (Seeking a Motion and a Second)

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Milestones in 2024

- Happy 81th Birthday Trinity!
- Wednesday IGNITE energy
- New Festival of Tables
- Vicar Tim as first intern in over 20 year
- Angela McHugh growing children's ministry
- Completed efforts to clear all basement tiles and fix water flow off roofs
- Security cameras and access upgrades
- Technology, website, and audio-visual improvements

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Benevolence (Trinity Trust)

- First full year with significant higher amounts to donate
- Established new rules on what and what not to fund
- Investments growth during the year from \$1,761,000 to \$2,116,000 (increase of \$355,000) after writing checks during year of \$70,466 (Funded 14 Requests)
 - ELCA Lutheran Disaster Hurricane Relief: \$15,000
 - Midland Young Life Program Support: \$15,000
 - Toni & Trish House General Support: \$10,000
 - MCFOAR Program Support: \$10,000
- 2025 Gifting Capacity Raised to \$100,000

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Benevolence (2024 Unified Budget)

Unified Benevolence	2023	2024
Synod General Mission Support	\$70,000	\$70,000
Samaritas	\$16,200	\$16,200
Preschool Scholarships	\$2,000	\$4,000
TOTAL UNIFIED BENEVOLENCE	\$88,200	\$90,200

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Benevolence (2024 Dedicated Fund)

Dedicated Benevolence	2023	2024
Special Needs with referrals from Midland Area homes	\$31,887	\$28,864
ELCA World Hunger	\$10,144	\$8,173
ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief	\$2,130	\$3,485
Lutheran World Relief Quilts	\$80	\$35
Mobile Food Pantries	\$4,981	\$4,041
Christmas Families	\$1,800	\$3,239
TOTAL DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE	\$51,022	\$47,837
COMBINED UNIFIED, DEDICATED and TRUST	\$154,182	\$208,503

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Priorities for 2025

- Continue to Build Upon IGNITE
 - Designed for congregational wide assembly
 - Enhancing all ages education
- Continue to engage children's programs
- Developing Youth Programming
 - Hire Youth and Young Adult Director
 - Enhancing Youth Education and Activities
- Reestablish use of Wixom Camp
- Additional technology, website, and audio-visual improvements

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Phase 2 Roofing Project & Funding

Phase 1

- Flat roof around the sanctuary was approved in 2021
- Work delayed due to roofing supplies in 2021, thus completed in 2022

Phase 2

- Flat roof over all offices and gathering room (approx. 25 years old)
- Estimated cost under \$200,000 for a 20-year warranty
- Recommend \$100,000 from Unified Budget Surplus and balance from Dedicated Fund Accounts

Phase 3

- Replace slate shingles on sanctuary roof

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Trinity's 2024 Council

- Peder Danielsen - President
- Michael Rogers - Vice Pres.
- Sandy Avery - Treas.
- Carrie Schaller - Sec.
- Pastor Gramza
- Pastor Shealy
- Pam Fagan
- Eldon Enger
- Kathy Allen
- Dick Peterson
- Glen Mutscher

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Congregation Council

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Pam Fagan	2027	Peder Danielsen	2025
Michael Rogers	2027	Eldon Enger	2025
Carrie Schaller	2027	Sandy Avery	2025
		Kathy Allen	2026
		Glen Mutscher	2026
		Dick Peterson	2026
		Pastor Gramza	ex-officio

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Trust Fund Board

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Tom Howe	2027	Henry Otto	2025
Dave Romeneski	2027	Eric Stangland	2025
		Scot Putzig	2026
		Helena Devore	2026

Memorial Garden Board

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Lorie Mault	2027	Donna Frawley	2025
		Nick Messing	2025
		Lee Smith	2026
		Krista Blaser	2026

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Pre-School Board

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Aimee Smith	2026	Wendy Flory	2025
Rose Zank	2026	Melody Wilson	2025
		Holly Hellebuyck	2025
		Pastor Jeff	ex-officio
		Andrea Berchert	ex-officio

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Asset Management Team

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Randy McGurk	2027	Gary Warren	2025
Joe Sova	2027	Lee Smith	2025
Emily Lyons	2027	Kevin Blaser	2025
		Ted Brown	2026
		Dan Pfreunder	2026
		Sid Allen	2026

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Nominating Committee

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Kathryn Tate	2025
Jeri Pfreunder	2025
Scott MacNellis	2025
Ryan Smith	2025
Amy Danielsen	2025
Connie Warren	2025

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2024 Financial Report

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK
FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY . . .

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2024 Consolidated Unified Fund

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 vs. Budget
Budget	\$ 980,000	\$ 930,000	\$ 930,000	
Beginning Balance	\$ 509,871	\$ 515,484	\$ 701,111	
Donation/Rental Income	\$ 884,769	\$ 881,509	\$ 965,909	\$ 35,909
Expenses	\$ 873,115	\$ 859,972	\$ 1,078,822	(\$ 32,913)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 11,654	\$ 21,537	(\$ 112,913)	
Government Refund	\$ 217,567	N/A	N/A	
Investment Income (Leonard Lane)	(\$ 220,395)	\$ 346,550 (\$182,461)	\$ 375,768	
Ending Balance	\$ 515,484	\$ 701,111	\$ 963,966	

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2024 Unified Fund Expenses

Ministry Area	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Actual as % of Budget
Benevolence	\$ 87,500	\$ 90,254	103%
Caring	\$ 26,000	\$ 19,920	77%
Christian Education	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,494	75%
Music	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,032	40%
Operations Total	\$ 246,000	\$ 291,208	118%
- Utilities	\$ 67,000	\$ 65,624	
- Technology	\$ 20,000	\$ 28,115	
- Copier	\$ 22,000	\$ 19,970	
- Maint. Services & Repair	\$ 40,000	\$ 56,770	
- Insurance	\$ 32,000	\$ 33,413	

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2024 Unified Fund Expenses

Ministry Area	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Actual as % of Budget
Resources Total	\$ 611,500	\$ 647,320	106%
Worship	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,674	128%
Youth	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,920	99%
Grand Total	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 1,078,822	107%

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2024 Dedicated Balance Statement

	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2024
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,275,909	\$ 1,740,614	\$ 1,726,501
Income	\$ 2,196,337	\$ 484,082	\$ 259,399
Expenses	\$ 1,731,632	\$ 491,154	\$ 277,461
Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 464,705	(\$ 7,072)	(\$ 18,062)
Ending Balance	\$ 1,740,614	\$ 1,726,501	\$ 1,708,439

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2024 Cash Flow Summary

	Full Year 2024
Unified Revenue	\$ 965,090
Unified Expenses	\$ 1,078,822
Unified Surplus	(\$ 113,732)
Dedicated Revenue	\$ 259,399
Dedicated Expenses	\$ 277,461
Dedicated Surplus	(\$ 18,062)
Investment Income	\$ 375,769
Cash Flow for 2024	\$ 243,975

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2024 Balance Sheet

Assets	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2024
Cash and Securities	\$ 2,256,099	\$ 2,445,091	\$ 2,707,485
Church, Organ, Personal Property	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 6,400,000
Parsonage/Houses	\$ 765,000	\$ 965,000	\$ 965,000
Youth Center	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Wixom Lake Camp	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
St. Timothy Building	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Total Assets	\$ 10,371,099	\$ 10,760,091	\$ 11,022,485
Trinity Trust Cash/Investments	\$ 1,579,744	\$ 1,761,000	\$ 2,115,743

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Proposed 2025 Unified Fund Budget

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Proposed 2025 Budget	Change from 2024 Budget	Change from 2024 Actual
Benevolence	\$87,500	\$90,254	\$96,000	\$8,500	\$5,746
Caring	\$26,000	\$19,920	\$22,000	(\$4,000)	\$2,080
Education	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,494	\$ 6,000	Same	\$1,506
Music	\$15,000	\$ 6,032	\$17,000	\$2,000	\$10,968
Operations	\$246,000	\$ 291,208	\$240,000	(\$6,000)	(\$51,208)
Resources	\$611,500	\$ 647,320	\$714,000	\$102,500	\$66,680
Worship	\$6,000	\$ 7,674	\$6,000	Same	(\$1,674)
Youth	\$12,000	\$ 11,920	\$12,000	Same	\$80
Total Expense	\$1,010,000	\$ 1,078,820	\$1,113,000	\$103,000	\$34,180

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Proposed 2025 Unified Fund Budget w/ Percentages

	Proposed 2025 Budget	% of Budget
Income	\$965,000	
Benevolence	\$96,000	8.6%
Caring	\$22,000	2.0%
Education	\$ 6,000	0.5%
Music	\$17,000	1.5%
Operations	\$240,000	21.6%
Resources	\$714,000	64.2%
Worship	\$6,000	0.5%
Youth	\$12,000	1.1%
Total Expenses	\$1,113,000	100%
Surplus/(Loss)	(\$148,000)	

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- ### 2025 Considerations
- ▶ Trinity's members were very supportive in donations this past year
 - ▶ Fantastic investment income (over \$375,000) in 2024
 - ▶ Investment returns similar to 2023
 - ▶ Operations
 - ▶ Replace the 2nd phase of the roof this summer (over new section of building)
 - ▶ Work at Wixom Lake to make usable for members
 - ▶ Hired Nick Stark as Facility Coordinator to replace Gary Warren
 - ▶ Resources
 - ▶ Full year Children's Director, future Youth and Young Adults director and paid Facility Coordinator.
 - ▶ Budgeted Cost of Living Adjustment of 3.0%
 - ▶ Parsonage available for future staff

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Motion on the Floor (Made & Seconded by Congregation Council)

The Congregation Council recommends to the congregation for approval, in its entirety:

- (1) 2025 unified mission budget of \$965,000 Giving, \$1,113,000 Expenses and Excess of \$148,000 from Unified Funds
- (2) Nominating committee slate as presented
- (3) Funding of 2nd stage roof project to have \$100,000 come out of Unified Funds and balance from Dedicated Accounts

In accordance with our constitution, voting is allowed only by confirmed members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

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Congregation Discussion and Voting Results

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Closing Prayer

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