



# TRINITY CHURCH

## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2023

### OUR MISSION

Connecting People to Christ

### OUR VISION

A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be.

**LOVE  
GOD**

**GROW  
COMMUNITY**

**SERVE  
OTHERS**



# Agenda for the Annual Meeting

## Sunday, January 29, 2023

1. Welcome, Prayer & Call the meeting to order
2. Review and approval of the agenda - P 1
3. Review and approval of previous congregational meeting minutes
  - a. Annual Meeting Minutes January 30, 2022 - P 2-3
  - b. Annual Budget Meeting Minutes November 20, 2022 - P 4-5
  - c. Approved 2023 Budget & Audit Report- P 6
4. Ministry Reports
  - a. Lead Pastor - P 7-8
  - b. Little Lights Preschool Director - P 9
  - c. Kids and Family Minister (Trinity Kids) - P 10
  - d. Student and Family Minister (Trinity Students) - P 11
  - e. Associate Pastor (Groups) - P12
  - f. Pastor in Training (Missions) - P 13
  - g. Creative Arts Minister (Worship) - P 14
  - h. Treasurer's Report - P 15
5. Nominating Committee Report for Elections - P 16-22
  - a. Church Council Candidates – elect 3
    - i. Rick Friesen
    - ii. Thomas Grady
    - iii. Marcus Schmidt
    - iv. Victoria Tomanek
    - v. Lynn Sievers
  - b. Endowment Committee Candidates – elect 1
    - i. George Madson
    - ii. Robert Bowne
  - c. Nominating Committee Candidates from Congregation-at-Large – elect 2
    - i. Sharon Bernady
    - ii. Steve Arquitte
    - iii. Casey Hirschfield
  - d. Nominating Committee Candidates from Council – elect 2
    - i. Kiley Cruse
    - ii. Shavon Erb
    - iii. Robert Graham
7. Leadership and Election Results
8. New Business
9. Closing and Prayer

## Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2022

Present: 108 congregants in attendance

1. Council President Shavon Erb prayed and called the meeting to order at approximately 11:45 AM.
2. Review and approve the agenda. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved as presented.
3. Review and approve previous congregational meeting minutes and reports. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved as presented.
  - a. Annual Meeting Minutes January 31, 2021
  - b. Annual Budget Meeting Minutes November 21, 2021
  - c. Approved 2022 Budget & 2020 Audit Report completed in 2021
4. Watch the celebration video and review the ministry reports.
5. Announce leadership and election results.
  - a. Church Council Members
    - i. Kiley Cruse
    - ii. Shavon Erb
    - iii. Bob Graham
  - b. Endowment Committee Members
    - i. Craig Scherzberg
  - c. Nominating Committee Members from Congregation-at-Large
    - i. Jackie Mach
    - ii. John Popelka
  - d. Nominating Committee Members from Council
    - i. Carrie Nash
    - ii. Rachel Staab
6. Discuss the offer to sell the land.
  - a. The portion of land up for sale is the corner lot on 90th Street and Highway 370. It is about 2.8 acres. The city and state require some egress by Highway 370. The land has been listed for about 2 years now. The church received 2 offers in the last months of 2021. The Church Council and contingencies in offers were reviewed as well as zoning restrictions to narrow down the offers presented to the congregation. The land is currently zoned R3, which is residential zoning. The covenants require that the new company would preserve visibility of the church. The offer that was presented was a full offer for our asking price of \$945,000. After realtor fees and closing costs, the church would likely receive approximately \$875,000 in cash. We would use this money to pay down debt and apply to the building funds. The intended use for the land is for a funeral home. The buyer's contingency is that they will need a special use permit approved by City Council, but the intended use fits in the current zoning requirements.

## Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes Continued

**January 30, 2022**

- a. The company will fit well with the church for missional and functional purposes. We have received 2 pictures of possible renderings though there are no guarantees that can be provided as to what the final design will look like. The company is an independent, locally-owned company that has a few funeral homes throughout the Omaha and Council Bluffs metro area. The access to the buyer's building will be determined with the process when they submit the proposal to the City. The part we know is that the main road from our property will be a shared road with shared responsibilities for the maintenance of the road. They have also discussed possibly requesting an entrance that would be a right in, right out only entrance on 90th Street, but not finalized and subject to approval from the City Council and possibly the State Highway Department. Motion and second to begin the vote on paper ballots. The vote was then held.
  - b. While votes were being tallied there was another question to review the specific numbers of the mortgage balance, indebtedness, how sale would impact this.
    - i. The mortgage has approximately \$4.9 million on it. We also have a line of credit with \$400,000 on it. The Council will make the final decision, but the money first has to be used to retire the line of credit and then the remaining balance would likely be used to do monthly PMI payments or large principal payment on our mortgage.
7. Announce results of the land sale vote. It was determined that the church will sell the property.
8. Shavon Erb closed the general congregational meeting in prayer at 12:47 PM.

### Special Council Meeting to Elect Officers

Following the congregational meeting, the council reconvened at 12:54 PM in the conference room.

The following officers were elected:

- President: Shavon Erb
- Vice President: Marcus Schmidt
- Secretary: Carrie Nash
- Treasurer: Josh Tresemer

Discussion about the need for people in officer roles previously will hand off and mentor those coming into their new roles. Don will switch signing authority at the bank and any other legal/financial requirements to reflect these new officers as of Monday, January 31.

Reminder that the next Executive Committee meeting is at 6:30 PM on January 31 in the conference room. The new officers and Pastor Erik will attend. The next full council meeting will be at 6:45 PM on February 8 in the conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

## Congregational Budget Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2022

**Present: 61** - Shavon opened the meeting with prayer. 61 people in attendance. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed. Shavon gave a welcome and introduction to the annual budget meeting, then turned it over to Josh.

Josh acknowledged and thanked Don Davern for his abilities and skills and keeping our finances in order. Also, Gary Moores, Rob Lamp, and Bob Frederick as the Finance committee and the work that they do.

### **Comments on the proposed budget:**

- There is a projected deficit of \$88,000 for the fiscal year 2023.
- The single largest component of the budget is staff salaries. The importance of our dedicated staff and the work they do was emphasized. Comments were made from Council members about the momentum and growth of Trinity, and the desire to keep that going. Our staff is lean already, and we hope to look for volunteers to step in in numerous ways. All ministry areas were asked to plan their budgets with a dream mentality, while cutting expenses as much as possible.
- An explanation of the staff salary increase amounts was given, noting that there were no staff raises during 2020 or 2021, and the increases during 2022 were an attempt to rectify that as well as match market values for each position.
- Motion to approve the 2023 budget. Motion is seconded.

### **Questions and discussion:**

- How did the youth budget decrease so greatly? The largest decrease was to not fund the mission trips – those trips will be family and student funded.
- Can you explain the youth group and adult ministry budget changes? We have seen a significant increase in attendance and involvement in adult ministry and the budget increase reflects providing funds to facilitate trips and discipleship for both the men's and women's groups.
- No one wants to see a budget deficit, but do we feel that this is a short-term problem and the momentum mentioned previously will translate into revenue? Josh addressed this with a positive outlook that we have an incredible staff and a great forward momentum that keeps us optimistic.
- Are we on track for our 2022 income budget? Don addressed this question explaining that our deficit is a giving shortage, not an expense issue. He explained that the staff is trying to produce creative ways to increase revenue, but while we have been blessed with governmental monies these last two years, it is concerning how we will sustain our budget. We will manage our income and spending, reviewing it quarterly. There may be a time when we must make challenging decisions about staffing and ministries.

## Congregational Budget Meeting Minutes Continued

- There was a suggestion to communicate to the entire congregation a dollar amount that if everyone gives that amount, it will have a significant impact on the budget. Shavon acknowledged that we sent a letter concerning this last year and may do it again this year.
- Can you explain more of a breakdown of some of the expense lines and what all the descriptions mean? Matt stepped in to explain what types of activities fall into the Discipleship and Adult Ministry categories and encouraged people to talk with him if they had more questions about specific areas.
- Why are we no longer passing out pledge cards and asking for a commitment to giving? How do you budget if you do not have an idea of what people plan to give? Historically, pledge cards do not give an accurate indication of actual giving amounts (only about 80% of pledge amounts are seen, in addition to the amount of people who do not pledge). The budget is based instead on historical giving. Most churches do not rely on pledge amounts anymore.
- Have we eliminated the passing of offering baskets? Nathan stepped in to communicate the challenges with passing the baskets, including the awkwardness of passing a basket to new guests/new believers and the fact that the difference in giving between weeks that the baskets were passed versus not was negligible. We are trying to communicate and encourage people to give because they see value in supporting the church and showing people that we are making a difference. A couple of people expressed their agreement that they were drawn into the church by other people, men's group, and were captivated by the community that we are providing, and this is what has prompted them to be involved and give to Trinity's ministry.
- Instead of asking families to fund youth trips, can we go back to selling stock for students to earn their way? YES! We plan to find ways to offer fundraising for students to make the trips more affordable and offset costs. There were also suggestions for finding ways to get parents involved in fundraising efforts.
- A thank you was raised for the Council and Staff who are working so hard to make Trinity great.
- Any other ideas and suggestions can be sent to [council@trinitylife.org](mailto:council@trinitylife.org)

Call for a vote. Motion carries.

Council and Staff will review the budget quarterly.

Shavon closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Carrie Nash, Church Council Secretary

Trinity Church  
Profit & Loss Budget Overview

	TOTAL Jan - Dec 2023	TOTAL Jan - Dec 2022	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
<b>Income</b>				
Congregational Contributions	\$972,711.00	\$937,851.00	\$34,860.00	3.72%
Other Income	135,800.00	139,350.00	(3,550.00)	-2.55%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,108,511.00</b>	<b>\$1,077,201.00</b>	<b>\$31,310.00</b>	<b>2.91%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Benevolence	\$50,200.00	\$48,967.00	\$1,233.00	2.52%
Designated Gift Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Worship	17,000.00	15,000.00	2,000.00	13.33%
Trinity Kids	21,000.00	16,900.00	4,100.00	24.26%
Youth Groups	45,500.00	79,500.00	(34,000.00)	-42.77%
Adult Ministry	15,500.00	8,000.00	7,500.00	93.75%
Pre-School	4,600.00	6,300.00	(1,700.00)	-26.98%
Staff Salaries and Benefits	806,990.79 (b)	697,818.50 (a)	109,172.29	15.64%
Administrative Items	33,809.00	33,227.00	582.00	1.75%
Church Utilities	62,100.00	63,700.00	(1,600.00)	-2.51%
Property & Maintenance	72,520.00	69,552.00	2,968.00	4.27%
Insurance	20,940.00	21,200.00	(260.00)	-1.23%
Outreach (Evangelism)	10,683.00	15,650.00	(4,967.00)	-31.74%
Conference/Staff Development	8,500.00	8,000.00	500.00	6.25%
Discipleship Development	6,000.00	4,150.00	1,850.00	44.58%
Technology	18,888.00	27,152.00	(8,264.00)	-30.44%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,196,730.79</b>	<b>\$1,117,616.50</b>	<b>\$79,114.29</b>	<b>7.08%</b>
<b>Net Income ( Loss)</b>	<b>(\$88,219.79)</b>	<b>(\$40,415.50)</b>	<b>(\$47,804.29)</b>	<b>118.28%</b>

(a) Staff Salaries and Benefits: Congregation approved the budget at \$697,818.50. In March of 2022 Council approved a 7% salary and benefit increase as there were no pay increases in 2020 and 2021. In addition the Worship and Christian Education positions were upgraded due to market conditions. So with the salary increase and position upgrades the expense becomes \$782,818.50.

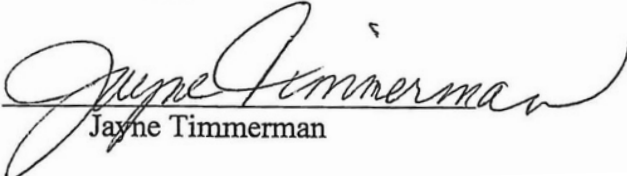
(b) Staff Salaries and Benefits: Proposing a 3% increase for 2023.

Date: September 13, 2022

To: The Church Leadership and Membership

We have audited the records and the financial reports of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund dated December 31, 2021. While our audit was limited to testing the transactions and balances and would not necessarily disclose all errors, we found no evidence of significant errors or omissions. In our opinion, the financial reports mentioned above are fairly stated.

We wish to commend the Finance Committee, Bookkeeper, and Financial Secretary for their fine work during the year. On behalf of the congregation, we thank them for the gift of their time and talent.

  
 Jayne Timmerman



# Lead Pastor's Report

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Romans 14:17-19*

The Apostle Paul inspired the Church at Rome to focus on the most important aspect of faith: a relationship with the Lord. We are called to live “a life of goodness, peace, and joy *in the Spirit*.” A life in the Spirit, a relationship with God through the Spirit, is the fundamental priority of God’s Kingdom on earth. Steven Covey said it a little differently: “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” Your relationship with God is the main thing.

Our mission statement gives focus on the main thing: Connecting people to Christ. Our strategy as a congregation to Love God, Grow Community and Serve Others is all focusing on the main thing: Connecting people to Christ.

I share this to characterize 2022 as a year of clarifying our congregational focus and structure for our relationship with Jesus to keep the main thing the main thing. Council and staff worked with the Table Group to clarify our organizational structure. We have a diverse staff who bring other backgrounds and experiences to Trinity. We are exploring ways we can further strengthen our practices in leadership and structure. We are completing an update to our constitution and bylaws, roles, decision making process, and structure.

The Church and the culture around us are changing in ever increasing ways. We have moved from a Christian culture to a post-Christian culture. A living faith in Jesus is no longer the norm in our society. Simultaneously, people continue to ask questions and seek opportunities to engage a spiritual connection beyond themselves. Jesus Christ is the answer to their search, and Trinity is working diligently to join people in their journey and Connect people to Christ.

Partial evidence of our work at Trinity is revealed through the metrics we track. Here are a few:

- Kid’s Ministry participation has risen from 47 kids per Sunday for the 21/22 school year to 75 kids per Sunday in fall of 2022. That's 60% more kids! This is also important because kids bring their families.
- Student Ministry is averaging 55 students a week compared to 50 last year. We are reaching 10% more students. Likewise, we are reaching more families.
- Worship response shifted more toward online worship. 2022 in person was 462 and online was 102. In 2021, we had in person 477 and 86 online. It is important to note that one online typically represents 1.5 people on the average since couples and families often watch together.
- Finances remain a challenge. Giving to our General Fund was \$956,368 in 2021 and \$896,690 in 2022. This means we have been unable to keep pace with inflation, expand our ministry, and increase our mission. Increasing costs for utilities, materials, supplies, personnel, and programs with the reduction in giving means we can do less in mission and support for the faith of people.

**Continued on page 8**

## Lead Pastor's Report Continued from Page 7

Our two greatest challenges experienced in 2022 for continued growth are financial support and serving. I raise each of these issues on two levels. First, and I believe more importantly, is the spiritual reality that our connection to Christ is deepened when we trust God by following the biblical practices of both tithes and offerings, as well as serving. My personal experience and the anecdotal witness from others are generous giving in both finances and serving engenders a deeper spiritual relationship with Jesus. Second, finances and serving are critical components to reaching more people. The reality is that for the size and ministry of Trinity, we remain understaffed and work with limited resources to accomplish the mission. While we have simplified and reduced ministry to provide for continued excellence, there is so much more we could do with additional finances for both staff and program ministry. Likewise, we need more members of Trinity to serve in critical areas like Trinity Kid's, Hospitality (ushers, greeters, communion servers, Next Steps Guides, etc.), Trinity Students, Worship Team, and other areas of our ministry. Please hear this clearly: your serving makes an impact in your life, the life of Trinity, and the life of those who are searching for a relationship with Christ. I encourage you to choose impact! Our leadership is working diligently to address each of these issues. I believe we can meet the challenge to expand our financial and serving resources to bring transformation into people lives and press more fully into our mission of Connecting People to Christ.

I remain grateful to our Church staff for their partnership in the Gospel. Trinity is blessed with a highly committed, deeply faithful, and extremely skilled staff. We have worked together diligently to understand the profound transitions in Church and culture to find ways to share the gospel in our community and beyond. Systems, practices, experiences, and events that worked in the past as recently as pre-Covid do not necessarily work well today. Your staff has continued to evaluate, embrace, and pivot into the necessary changes to be effective. We are becoming more agile in our work together, adopting new practices, and engaging people with the message of the gospel.

I am also grateful to our Church Council. I commend and appreciate their diligent work in dealing with challenges and seeking resolutions that will build up the body of Christ at Trinity. Their partnership with staff in the Gospel is changing lives, for which Trinity is blessed.

Finally, I am grateful for the personal support and understanding shared with me by the congregation. It has been a surprising, difficult, and challenging year for me personally. As I continue to heal and move into the future, I remain thankful for your support and caring.

I look forward to the future and experiencing God's plan for Trinity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Erik Boye  
Lead Pastor



**TRINITY**  
LITTLE LIGHTS  
PRESCHOOL

**Teaching Children to Grow,  
Learn and Shine for Jesus**

At Little Lights Preschool our mission is to provide a loving and secure Christian environment for young children to develop a solid foundation for life. Our many areas of curriculum include: Chapel time with Matt Pearson, parent involved activities, and community outreach service projects. Students learn daily through song, play, activity, and interactions with one another. Many of the children that attend Little Lights have had previous experiences in learning about God and Jesus. For some children this is their first experience. It is a blessing to be able to introduce and nurture this Christian foundation!

During the 2021-2022 school year, we provided another successful year of preschool with four different classes for three and four year olds. This success is due to an amazing staff that worked hard each day to provide a fun and safe learning environment for these little ones. We watched the students come to school with smiles on their faces and ready to learn. It was a joy to see! Our many events throughout the school year also made our program special. We hosted Donut Day and Muffin Day for the parents, celebrated our holidays with classroom parties (and parent volunteers), we took Fall and Spring field trips and hosted a fun end of the year program. While our daily schedules were filled with fun opportunities for our students, we made sure to take the time to sit back and enjoy watching them play and grow. What a truly special gift!

Registration for the next school year, 2023-2024, has begun. If you are interested or know someone who has a young child and is interested, contact Stacy Denne, Little Lights director, at [littlelights@trinitylife.org](mailto:littlelights@trinitylife.org) or 402-281-3133.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Denne  
Little Lights Preschool Director



**“The teachers show so much compassion and love to each student.”**



**THE NUMBERS Update**

**Teachers: 4 & Substitute Teachers: 4**

**Families Served: 58**

**Includes 5 from Trinity and 53 who either have another church home or do not claim one.**

The amazing support of our families also makes our preschool successful. Here are comments from some of them:

**“Little Lights provided exactly what my daughter needed to grow in her learning, to make new friends and be comfortable sharing her thoughts. It’s been incredible watching her grow and change. We are grateful for this Trinity program”**

**“Little Lights was a safe place for my children, and it is obvious how much the teachers care about the kids”**

**“We are so thankful that both of our children had the opportunity to learn and grow at Little Lights”**

**“We are so happy to have found Little Lights. They have such a wonderful team of educators.”**

**“My son was excited to come every day!”**



# TRINITY KIDS

Trinity Kids has had a wonderful year of growth, spiritual development, and connection with families. Our ministry cares for babies three months of age through fifth grade every Sunday. We value learning how to worship, reading and understanding the bible, and developing life long skills to live and love like Jesus!

## Connecting Kids and Families to Christ



## TK Events

We have so much fun at our events this year. We had an amazing fall event called Trick Shots and Treats that brought families together, tons of games and candy for kids to play, and volunteers that were a blessing to all. Trinity Kids also hosted a winter event called Christmas Campout where families joined together, young and old to encounter the story of Jesus and enjoy crafts, activities, and snacks together. We have enjoyed great partnerships with MOPS, Boy Scouts, and Little Lights at our events too!

## Volunteers

Trinity Kids Volunteers are simply what makes our ministry possible week to week. We have about 50 volunteers that are part of our team for Sunday morning worship. From set up and decorating, to connecting kids to Christ, they create a warm, loving environment that leads kids to take a step toward owning their faith. People don't volunteer for kids ministry because it is easy, they do it because it matters. We are so grateful for the Kingdom impact our volunteers have made this year.



Be part of what God is doing through TK in 2023!



Respectfully Submitted,  
Kayla Florom  
Children's and Family Minister



## A ministry for students in grades 6-12

2022 was a great year for Trinity Students. We were (finally!) able to resume summer trips, kicked off our new and improved ministry teams, and have seen much leadership growth in our students.

We have had a great year in Trinity Students, with at least 30 new time attending guests joining us over the past year. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our hospitality team, who have focused on welcoming and engaging new students.

One area where we have seen significant growth and development is in our ministry teams. This year, we have placed a strong emphasis on empowering our students to take on leadership roles within the Games team, worship team, hospitality team, and preaching team. As a result, we have seen many students step up and take on these responsibilities, and it has been amazing to see them thrive in these roles.

Another highlight of the past year has been our mission and adventure trips. These trips provide an opportunity for our students to serve and grow in their faith. It was inspiring to see the students take on leadership roles during the service projects, and we are grateful for the impact they had on the organizations we served.

One of the standout events of the past year was our Elevate Retreat, where we partnered with Thanksgiving Church to bring together students from both congregations for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. It was a joy to see our students come together with their peers from another church to worship and learn from one another. The retreat was a great opportunity for our students to meet other Christ-following students in their community and to build relationships with other churches. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Thanksgiving Church and for the positive impact that the retreat had on our students.

Overall, it has been a fantastic year for Trinity Students, and we are looking forward to continuing this momentum in the year ahead. Thank you for your support and commitment to our ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chase Florum  
Student and Family Minister



## Associate Pastor's Report

2022 was a great year for individual discipleship and for developing Trinity's discipleship process. Last January and February, Matt Pearson led several adults through Life Younique, a six-session course that equipped participants to discover their life call. Participants worked to understand their life, story, gifting, passion, and calling. At the end of the course, each participant implemented what they learned through a 90-day challenge.

Adults also had the opportunity to grow through the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship courses by Pete Scazzero. In the spring, participants in the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course explored topics like the problem of emotionally unhealthy spirituality, enlarging your soul through grief and loss, and establishing healthy rhythms through Sabbath and daily office. The fall brought the opportunity to explore concepts of healthy relationships through the Emotionally Healthy Relationships course. The lessons on clarifying expectations, exploring emotions, considering your family of origin, and fighting cleanly always provide rich conversation and reflection.

In May, an exploratory team that had been tasked with establishing a discipleship pathway for Trinity concluded its 8-month schedule of regular meetings. The team began by exploring important themes in discipleship, listed out all of Trinity's current options for adult spiritual growth, and dreamed about a future where every adult connected to Trinity knows their place on the discipleship pathway. The team believes the pathway has a place for everyone, from those who are not yet connected to God or Trinity to those who are actively training others to be followers of Jesus. Watch for more info, including a visual for the pathway, to come out in 2023.

The team that developed the discipleship pathway also revamped Trinity's membership process into four connection courses. 101 covers an overview of our ministry. Options for spiritual growth are the topic of 201. 301 explores the biblical value of serving and challenges participants to find their place to serve in the church, community, and world. The final course, 401, shares Trinity's expectations for members and invites participants to join Trinity's mission. Beginning in 2023, there will be options to take these courses individually or all together in one session.

The final discipleship development for 2022 was an intentional embracing of different types of groups for adults. Connection Groups are typical small groups, featuring Bible study, prayer, and time for relationships. Discipleship Groups slowly crawl through a section of the Bible and challenge each member to consider how the passage applies to their life. Activity Groups bring people together around an activity of shared interest. You can learn more about these groups at <https://trinitylifepapio.churchcenter.com/groups>

2022 was also a great year for my family and me. My two favorite highlights are that I started a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program in May, and my family moved into a new home in October.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Parrish, Associate Pastor

## Pastor in Training's Report

What a joy it is to partner with great ministries and live into the calling God has given us to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world. Trinity Church is redefining and reestablishing how our missions at Trinity will function and focus in the future. In the meantime, 2022 has been a great year for mission.

- Our partnership with The Raining Season continues to be strong as we help care for orphans in Sierra Leone. At Christmas, we had the opportunity to share financial gifts to send nine students - who have aged out of orphan care at TRS - to University to further their education and help move them into adulthood. The Raining Season continues to train children as Disciples of Jesus and to build them up to be integral parts of their community of Freetown, Sierra Leone. We look forward to travel teams in the near future!
- Through our partnership with Heartland Family Services, we were able to prevent a family's eviction from their home, as well as providing for basic needs of people in our community.
- Continuing to partner with Campus Life ministry, we support their impact in local schools to meet students, most of whom have never had a church experience or any idea who Jesus is.
- Over this last year, we again stepped up and provided over 100 Thanksgiving meals for families in need.
- During the Christmas season, we blessed Little Miracles and Open Door Missions with toys and basic necessities.
- Our ministry partnerships with Shalom in India, Heartland Hope Mission, Stephen Center, and others continues.

We are so grateful for your generosity and the ministry we have been able to do during 2022 and look forward to what God has in store for us for 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matt Pearson

### **The impact of one of Trinity's mission partner ministries...**

Thanks be to God for the support of Trinity Church with our Little Miracles ministry! Throughout 2022, we have given away 53 regular monthly pickups to 17 families. Over 4,000 diapers and wipes, \$1,100 in clothing, 60 bottles, 35 blankets and so many other baby items were given away! This ministry has been able to pass along God's blessings to these families in the form of beds for their babies to sleep on and peace of mind knowing that their child's needs were taken care of.

We also organized our first annual Christmas gift giveaway. Through this event we shared the love of Christ with 12 moms and 34 kids by giving them over 100 presents in total!

We can't wait to see what God has in store for our ministry in 2023!

Thank you for helping us bless these families in such a meaningful, tangible way!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rachel Staab

## Creative Arts Minister's Report

I am very thankful for all that God has done this year at our church! I was able to join the staff at Trinity in August of 2022, and the staff, teams, and congregation has been so welcoming and encouraging of my time at Trinity already.

This year, our creative ministry has been able to minister to the bodies and souls of our members. Our worship team has seen growth in both numbers and spiritual maturity as we have strived to lead our church members in meaningful and purposeful worship. We have also seen new members join our team and have been excited to have them on board.

We have seen a steady increase in attendance during our worship services and have implemented several new strategies to engage our members more deeply in worship. I have personally seen the engagement in worship and expression grow in many members as we invite people to join us in our Sunday experiences.

As I think about my part in our church's expression of worship on Sunday, I'm dwelling on the necessity of music in our Sunday experience. It goes without saying that Jesus is at work in our world whether we do anything or not. But the beauty of Jesus Christ is that he invites us to be a part of his working, and to take part in the expression of his goodness. I think of the music we sing, and the union that comes from raising our voices together. We sing in churches because singing is a powerful way to express praise and worship to God. Singing helps to bring the congregation together in a unified voice and can help to draw members closer to God and to one another. It is also a powerful tool to help us remember and internalize Biblical truth. Singing is a way to connect to God in a deeper, more meaningful way and to bring Him glory and honor.

I hope to continue to invite the congregation to take part in this tradition weekly, and to continue to grow their ability to worship. That doesn't just mean singing louder (or singing at all..) but it means taking an active part in inviting Jesus to be a part of our services, and ultimately a part of our every day lives. What if we decided to view worship through music on a Sunday, not as a required part of the service that we may or may not feel like participating in, but instead as an opportunity to act in obedience, strengthening our own abilities to allow God to fill us with the fruits of the spirit, and uniting us with hundreds and even thousands of others experiencing what He has for us in that moment.

We are excited to see what God has in store for our worship ministry in the coming year and look forward to the opportunities He will bring our way. Our goal is to continue to grow our ministry and reach out even further with Christ's love.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and celebrate all that God has done this year!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nathan Lynn



# Treasurer's Report

Happy New Year Trinity Family! 2022 was another exciting year for Trinity as we spent our first “full” year in our new church building. God continues to bless our congregation as we gather in the facility for worship and the many wonderful fellowship activities that connect us as a church family. The “buzz” that is felt in the commons on Sundays is a true reflection of the Lord’s plan for Trinity when He guided us towards completing our new church building. From a financial perspective, 2022 was similar to 2021 in variety of ways. First, we had some additional expenses as we continued to “settle in” to the new church. However, many of them were planned capital expenses associated with the Go! Campaign. Another similarity to 2021 was the timing of funds received. Congregational giving stepped up in November and December, thus finishing the year in a better position than what was shared in our late fall budget meeting. We were able to secure some additional tax credits and childcare grants that provided revenue enhancement to make some of the additional expenditures in 2022. A brief snapshot of the year-end finances is shown below. Thank you for your generosity and call to Christ’s mission at Trinity Church!

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Tresemer  
Trinity Church Council Treasurer

## General Fund

- Revenue \$1,099,631
- Expense \$1,113,247
- Net Deficiency (\$ 13,616)

## 12/31 Fund Balances

- General \$254,154
- Building \$ 23,642
- Endowment \$334,148
- Memorial \$ 74,925

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Congregational giving was \$851,592, which was nearly identical to 2021.
- \$61,811 of ERTC Tax Credits and \$19,584 of Childcare grants were received.
- Expenses were over budget by \$44,897, but included several of the previously mentioned
- Capital Expenses. Most of these expenses were “one-time” and were covered by Endowment Funds or made in consideration of the grant money received.
- The Net Deficit of (\$13,616) was a \$26,799 improvement over the budgeted deficit of (\$40,415). If adjusted to eliminate the one-time grant money and corresponding one-time expenses, Net Income would have been \$3,222.

2022  
Nominating Committee Report  
to Elect Leadership



TRINITY  
C H U R C H

Per the Trinity Church constitution, those eligible to vote are confirmed, contributing, communing members of Trinity Church. Voting takes place before and after worship on Sunday, January 29.

## Council Member Candidates

### Vote for 3 of 5

**Rick  
Friesen**



**Spouse and Children:** Brittany and Morgan

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Church Worship Band

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I feel I have valuable insights and ideas to contribute to the decision-making process that shapes the church. My growing sense of commitment to church drives me to express my opinion such that it adds value and serves the mission.

**My faith story:** I was raised and baptized at the Bethesda Mennonite church in Henderson, Nebraska which we religiously attended. After leaving Henderson, I didn't attend church for many years. We tried several but nothing felt right. It wasn't until 5 years ago when my wife and I found Trinity Church that I returned to a faith community. Our experience at Trinity Church was a turning point for us. As our family and son fought cancer, the love and support we received from the church helped us to cope with the deep pain, which we still carry. The church provides a safe and loving environment for us to heal and grow. In addition to the emotional support, Trinity has provided me an outlet for my creative expression. I began playing drums and it filled a previously unknown hole in my life. It helped me to feel whole and complete, and it was a powerful way for me to connect with friends, family and God. I believe that my involvement in the music ministry has been a vital aspect of my faith journey.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** Playing drums at Trinity Church has deepened my relationship with Jesus. It has become a form of worship and devotion for me, and has allowed me to connect with God in a meaningful way.

**Tom  
Grady**



**Spouse and Children:** Lindsay. Memphis, Hayes, Myles, and Eli

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** I was honored to assist with the creative team. I sincerely hope to be able to serve on church council and see the doors open for continued outreach activities.

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** Over the years Trinity has given innumerable gifts to me and my family. I feel serving on the Church Council is just the beginning of what I can do to help grow Trinity and serve those who have helped me grow spiritually.

**My faith story:** As long as I remember Jesus has been a part of my life. Growing up Catholic I've always been surrounded by strong Christians and a community to help foster and grow in my faith. My parents instilled a belief system that has guided me through the years but it wasn't until I met my wife and was subsequently introduced to Trinity Lutheran that I really felt connected and at home in a church. My life at Trinity started at the Family Life Center on Halleck and I feel the small unassuming nature of my experience there is what I was really looking for coming from a large Catholic parish. I am excited for Trinity's growth and continued reach and hope to help it retain its small town welcoming nature that welcomed me in years ago.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** The last year of life has been a bit of a blur with three boys at home, but my relationship with Jesus grows daily through them. Teaching them how Jesus sacrificed and died for our salvation truly opened my eyes to how important He is to me and through hardships over the years, I've learned to rely and lean on Jesus more and more. My relationship with Him is continually strengthened as I trust in our eternal salvation.

## Council Member Candidates Continued

**Marcus  
Schmidt**



**Spouse:** Kathy

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** 1. Current member of Church Council, serving as vice-president 2. Hospitality roles -- usher, greeter, next steps helper, online evangelism 3. Occasional leader of men's ministry connection group  
**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I remain passionate about the opportunity Trinity has to reach out into our community, connect people to Christ, and help all of us build a deeper relationship with Jesus. As a current member of council, I want to continue to help advance our work as smart stewards of all God has given us as we pursue our mission. I also want to continue to be a voice for positive change as we consider how technology can help us in both evangelism as well as discipleship.

**My faith story:** I'm a life-long Lutheran, going all the way back to baptism. I was confirmed in my home ELCA church in Spearfish, SD. As I went off to college, I fell away from faith. But Jesus has a way of pursuing stray sheep like me and brought me back to faith when I met and married Kathy. Unfortunately, a few years later, I strayed off again when we moved to the Seattle area. When we moved to Papillion, we found Trinity and my faith was reignited. I've enjoyed being part of our church family for the past 12+ years.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** I work at growing in discipleship each and every day through time spent in God's Word (I'm a huge fan of the YouVersion Bible app!). I'm active in our Trinity Men's ministry, meet weekly with a smaller discipleship group of these same men over lunch on Tuesdays. My wife and I have completed the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship courses (multiple times!) and also enjoyed learning more about where God is leading us via the Younique course.

**Lynn  
Sievers**



**Spouse and Children:** Tim. Cole and Amber

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Lent soup suppers and Empty Tomb  
**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I would like to serve on the church council because I am thankful for the opportunities my family has had and the relationships we have formed as members of Trinity.

**My faith story:** I grew up attending church and going to a Catholic school. My husband and I attended many different churches before we found Trinity. We immediately felt welcome and were happy to find a church with a great youth ministry program for our kids. Since becoming a member of Trinity and finding a great connection group, my faith has grown immensely.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He is always with me and provides guidance and comfort. I continue to grow as a disciple through prayer and studying the Bible.

## Council Member Candidates Continued

### **Victoria Tomanek**



**Spouse and Children:** Matt. Ella (9), Lane (7), and twins Kyla & Cal (5)

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Currently serving on church council and volunteering in Trinity Kids for the last 4 years, co-lead our connection group, and served on the kids ministry initiative team and worship initiative team in the last 3 years.

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on our council the last 3 years. It has been an opportunity to help Trinity through many tough transitions and changes, moving to the new building, COVID19, and post-COVID 19 church. I love the feeling that Trinity feels like home and want it to feel like that for all of Trinity and the new people who are walking through our doors. I would like to continue to help our church grow and become a foundation serving in our community.

**My faith story:** I was blessed to grow up going to a small town Lutheran church fairly routinely as a child, participated in children's ministry (Sunday school), VBS, youth group, confirmation, etc. So I had an idea of who God was, I knew about Jesus and learned all the good Bible stories. It wasn't until Junior High school that I stepped out take that commitment and make my faith my own. I had a friend who invited me to a Sonicflood concert (fairly popular contemporary/modern Christian band at the time). It was there that I felt God move in me. That night I asked Jesus to come into my heart and made that commitment with my friend by my side. From then on I started living out my faith, reading the Bible, praying, and worshiping God on my own, not just in confirmation classes or Sunday mornings. Of course there were some valleys and challenges. most notably during my college career but for most part I have held fast to my faith since that night at the concert.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** I love Jesus, He is my rock and without Him I would not be the person I am today. I try to be faithful by spending daily time in prayer, daily devotional, and/or time in my Bible. Of course being a full-time working mom of 4 young children I do fail but it is something that I continue to work on and practice. Trinity has really helped me grow in my faith. Being part of Church Council these last 3 years has made church more of a priority and allowed me to understand more about what it means to be a disciple. This past year I also completed the Emotional Healthy Relationships course which has broadened my inner knowledge of my thought processing and emotions. I am continuing to gain skills to be a better disciple so that I can connect and share the love and joy that Jesus has brought me with those around me.

## Endowment Committee Candidates

### Vote for One of Two

**Bob  
Bowne**



**Spouse and Children:** Connie. Dennis Langdon, Amy Jenkins, Kyle Bowne  
**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Bold Faith Capital Campaign: led Lead Gifts Team; Regular Greeter. Supported creation of Prayer Garden as part of Eagle Scout Project. Financial Support - Tithe regularly. Pledged to Bold Faith Capital Campaign. Pledged to GO Vision Initiative.

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I have supported Trinity Church with my talents in the past and I believe the Endowment Board is another area where I can serve.

**My faith story:** I grew up as a practicing Catholic in Stamford CT, attending Catholic grade school and high School. Drifted away from religion in college and when serving in the USAF. Pastor Jorgensen married Connie and I in 1987 and I began to get more involved in church life. Rejoined Trinity Church when we returned from Rapid City, SD in 1989. Connie and I have been involved with Trinity Church since then.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** During the past year, I have enthusiastically supported the post-COVID return to in church services. I have followed Pastor Erik's advice for almost daily Bible reading and reflection. I have attended (with Connie) Pastor Dave's Emotionally Healthy Spirituality series. I am currently participating in the daily reading for the Advent series "The Expected". Through all these avenues, I continue to grow as a disciple.

**George  
Madson**



**Spouse and Children:** Nadine. Lindsay and Kyle

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Usher and Greeter; Budget Committee

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** As a former church council member and current budget committee member, I believe I have the knowledge and experience to be a good steward of our church's endowment funds.

**My faith story:** As a life-long Christian and former military member, I have lived many places and have been part of several congregations, but my belief in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior has never waived.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** As a recent retiree, I have more time to study and reflect on the words and deeds of Jesus. I also have more time to serve others through the church and other activities.

**Nominating Committee Candidates**  
**from Congregation at Large**  
**Vote for Two of Three**

**Steve  
Arquitte**



**Spouse and Children:** Tera, Alex Maeder and Logan Arquite

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Trinity Students Volunteer, Trinity Sunday night small group, Trinity Men

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** To help find willing Volunteers to be on council no matter the age of that person.

**My faith story:** I came to faith later than most really started after my cancer diagnosis. I feel like it pushed me closer to god.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** I feel like it is better than it has been and have been leaning on what he would do and act as my wife and I have an extra 16 year old in the house and how that has turned life upside down.

**Sharon  
Bernady**



**Spouse and Children:** Tom, Michaela, Brandon and Cruz; Adam, Heather, Ella and Emry

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Trinity Kids preschool teacher, thank you gifts for Trinity Student leaders celebrations. Helped organize the IF gathering 2022. Occasionally do Stephens Center with family members

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** It is a good time for me to help Trinity with finding good candidates for council this coming up year. I know quite a few members/worshippers from working at Trinity for 20+ years

**My faith story:** I was raised in a Catholic church and came to Trinity with a PT job as a nursery director about 20 years ago. I feel like God put a desire in my heart to be a servant for Him. So when an opportunity came up to work with and for HIM as a Resource Coordinator here at Trinity I was very excited to take that on! My faith life has grown so much by being with all the Pastors and co workers I have worked with over the years. There as been so many opportunities for me to be in worship, bible studies, staff retreats, prayer groups, conferences, visits to other churches and fellowshiping with all Gods people has always been one of my favorite things to do :) my faith continues to grow and my journey continues.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** I feel like my relationship with Jesus is wonderful. I am actively pursuing Him especially since I recently returned from a silent retreat at the Cloister on the Platte. I had the opportunity to speak with a spiritual advisor and I have taken on a daily biblical prayer life that has been enlightening for me and keeping me much closer to God. My hope through this commitment is to know God's heart more and to share Him on a daily basis whether through words, service or my actions. I made this commitment to God while at the retreat and I hope and pray I can keep this up on a daily basis. If you see me, keep me accountable, and ask me how I'm doing :) Also I have enjoyed teaching the preschool Trinity kids a couple times a month. I love to have them learn about Jesus early on when they absorb everything like a sponge and to make it FUN, like Trinity does, helps in this endeavor !! I also learn through this experience :)

## Nominating Committee Candidates from Congregation at Large Continues

**Casey  
Hirschfeld**



**Family:** Parents: Ken and Tracy. Siblings: Camryn, Jacob, and Carrie  
**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Trinity Cafe Trinity Students Worship Team

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I have agreed to serve in this position because I love to have new ways to become more involved within the church. I think having this position will be a great way to get connected with more members of the congregation and also hopefully encourage more people from the younger generation to join in on all the exciting things to come for our church.

**My faith story:** Faith has been an important part of my life since I was a little girl, but I really started to take it seriously when our family started coming to Trinity. This church has allowed me to build up my faith to a stronger level by providing many mission trip opportunities and study groups over the years.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** My current relationship with Jesus has been built strongly in trust through the past year finishing college and starting my new job as a nurse. I have spent the past year building new and strong relationships with others and I use my relationship with Jesus to care for and reach people every day in my job caring for others the way he cares so much for us.

## Nominating Committee Candidates from Church Council Vote for Two of Three

**Kiley  
Cruse**



**Spouse and Children:** Husband, Jay. Daughters, Schyler and Jena. Son-in-law, James.

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Church Council member Trinity Kids volunteer Trinity Cafe volunteer I think it's important to find a diverse group of highly qualified candidates to run for leadership positions in the church.

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** I think it's important to find a diverse group of highly qualified candidates to run for leadership positions in the church.

**My faith story:** I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church. When we joined Trinity about 13 years ago, I realized with my church upbringing, I had just been doing church and not being church. What I found in Trinity was a place I could grow my faith through Connection groups, Bible studies, volunteer activities and the lasting friendships I've developed.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** Even though Jesus calls us friend in the Bible, I still feel like I'm more of a student. My connection group has helped me continue to grow in my knowledge and confidence as a believer. Having a personal relationship with Jesus takes time and effort. I have spent more time in the last year diving into the Word. I have also realized the importance of having quiet time with Him. I do my best to share the love of Jesus with others.



## Nominating Committee Candidates from Church Council Continued

**Shavon  
Erb**



**Spouse and Children:** Kyle, Tucker, and Lily

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Council, Hospitality, Confirmation

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** Church leadership is instrumental in the overall operation of the Church. It's important to find those key individuals who will continue our mission and fulfill God's plan for our congregation.

**My faith story:** I have always been a believer, but I didn't feel drawn to the Church until after I had my kids. I wanted them to know Jesus, just like my parents did for me. My faith really grew when I started my battle with chronic pain. I felt His love through the long process of finding a diagnosis and then learning how to live with fibromyalgia.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** Jesus is my rock! I lean into Him every day and in every situation. This last year has brought many challenges, but through it all, I was reassured in the faith that everything happens according to His will and His plan for me.

**Robert  
Graham**



**Spouse and Children:** Wife--Marlene, Daughters--Jennifer Neumann, Jessica Schull

**Current service activities at Trinity Church:** Church Council, Usher, Greeter, Parking Lot, Heartland Hope Mission

**I have agreed to serve in this position:** Finding good candidates to run for Church Council is key to the continuing the mission of Trinity.

**My faith story:** I came to Christ after a series of remarkable events when I was still an officer candidate in school and have striven to live in faith since. I've been a part of Trinity since moving to Papillion in 1991 and look forward to serving this church in any position I'm called to.

**My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year:** In addition to weekly worship, I connect with Jesus daily through prayer and Bible study. In the last year I've grown as a disciple through connection with others, particularly through Men's groups.

## **TRINITY'S CORE BELIEFS**

- We believe the Bible is the authoritative Word of God.
- We believe in One God as seen in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

### **God the Father**

- God is eternal. He was in the beginning and will be for all eternity.
- God created everything.
- God created each person in His own image, therefore all human life has value.
- God created each person to live in a relationship with Him, however, this relationship has been broken because of our sin.

### **God the Son, Jesus Christ**

- Jesus Christ was sent from Heaven to Earth by God to share a message of forgiveness and restore our relationship with Him.
- Jesus died to save all people from the eternal consequences of their sin.
- Jesus rose again and is alive in Heaven today. He gives believers new life for today and for eternity.
- Jesus is the only way to salvation.
- Jesus gives salvation as a free gift to those who trust in Him alone.

### **God the Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit draws us into living our relationship with Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit empowers those who believe to tell others about salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit guides those who believe to live a life that pleases God and connects others to Christ.
- We believe that the lost (those apart from Christ) matter to God, therefore they matter to us.

## **TRINITY'S CORE VALUES**

### **We value the two Great Commandments,**

- to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength
- to love others as ourselves.

### **We value the Great Commission**

- which commands us to teach others about God and to lead all people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **We value the Great Confession.**

- We confess our belief in Jesus Christ just as Peter did in Matthew 16:16 when Jesus asked, "Who do you say I AM?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

### **These values are expressed in the following ways.**

#### **We value Loving God through**

- joyful worship
- proclamation of God's Word and the confession of sins and prayer
- the Sacraments (baptism and communion)

#### **We value Growing Community by**

- studying God's word together through Christian Education and Small Groups
- gathering together to share Christ-centered life
- actively inviting everyone to connect with Christ and grow with Him

#### **We value Serving Others through**

- ministry support inside the church
- loving our neighbors outside the church
- local and global mission support





# TRINITY C H U R C H

848 Gold Coast Rd  
Papillion, NE 68046  
402-339-3788



TRINITY  
CHURCH

848