



TRINITY CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28, 2024

OUR MISSION

Connecting People to Christ

OUR VISION

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

**LOVE
JESUS**

**TRANSFORM
LIVES**

**SERVE THE
COMMUNITY**

Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024

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 29, 2023 - P 2
 - b. Annual Budget Meeting Minutes November 20, 2022 - P 3
 - c. Approved 2024 Budget & 2022 Audit Report- P 4
4. Ministry Reports
 - a. Lead Pastor - P 5
 - b. Associate Pastor (Men's Ministry, Confirmation) - P 6
 - c. Missions - P 7
 - d. Creative Arts Minister (Worship and Technology) - P8
 - e. Connection's Minister (Hospitality and Events) - P9
 - f. Little Lights Preschool Director - P 10
 - g. Kids and Family Minister (Trinity Kids) - P 11
 - h. Student and Family Minister (Trinity Students) - P 12
 - i. Communication's and Discipleship Minister - P 13
 - j. Treasurer's Report - P 14
5. Nominating Committee Report for Elections - P 15-22
 - a. Church Council Candidates – elect 3
 - i. Laura Beck
 - ii. Mark Frerichs
 - iii. Jeff Norblade
 - iv. Doug Seaman
 - v. Lisa Schraufnagel
 - b. Endowment Committee Candidates – elect 1
 - i. Barb Grell
 - ii. Rich Kuper
 - c. Nominating Committee Candidates from Congregation-at-Large – elect 2
 - i. Lily Erb
 - ii. Ken Hirschfeld
 - iii. Beth Madson
 - d. Nominating Committee Candidates from Council – elect 2
 - i. Rick Friesen
 - ii. Marcus Schmidt
 - iii. Victoria Tomanek
7. Beliefs and Values - P23
8. Leadership and Election Results
9. New Business
10. Closing and Prayer

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2023

Present: 80 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 30, 2022
 - b. Annual Budget Meeting Minutes November 20, 2022
 - c. Approved 2023 Budget & Audit Report completed in 2022
4. While votes were being tallied, Shavon Erb talked briefly about the success of 2022, including Trinity Kids events, Trinity Students trips, Discipleship classes like Life Younique and Emotionally Healthy Relationships, and the missions Trinity supported in 2022.
5. Announce leadership and election results.
 - a. Church Council Members
 - i. Rick Friesen
 - ii. Marcus Schmidt
 - iii. Victoria Tomanek
 - b. Endowment Committee Members
 - i. George Madson
 - c. Nominating Committee Members from Congregation-at-Large
 - i. Sharon Bernady
 - ii. Casey Hirschfeld
 - d. Nominating Committee Members from Council
 - i. Kiley Cruse
 - ii. Shavon Erb
6. Shavon Erb closed the general congregational meeting in prayer at 11:57 PM.

Special Council Meeting to Elect Officers

Following the congregational meeting, the council reconvened at 12:10 PM in the conference room. The following officers were elected:

- President: Marcus Schmidt
- Vice President: Victoria Tomanek
- Secretary: Carrie Nash
- Treasurer: Robert Graham

Reminder that the next Council meeting is at 6:45 PM on February 14th in the conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2023

Erik opened the meeting with prayer. 57 people in attendance.

Copies of the proposed budget were distributed. Marcus Schmidt thanked the congregation and council members for their prayers and support throughout the year. Marcus thanked the staff for their hard work and budget input, then turned the meeting over to Robert Graham (Treasurer) and Don Davern.

-- Robert commented that he supports this budget proposal, and it reflects an overall modest 2.6% increase over 2023.

-- Robert noted that some of the large percentage increases in ministry budgets are due to reorganization of staff and ministry responsibilities. Ex: Connections Ministry. This budget was previously captured in Discipleship, Outreach and other categories that have been combined into one category.

-- Largest budget item is salaries and represents a 3% increase in salaries. Our people are our biggest resource, and we need to take care of our great staff members. We have several full time and part time staff that are represented in this budget.

Questions and discussion:

- The GO Campaign (to relieve the mortgage and support missions) will be ending in May, but is there more to be covered?
 - Building and maintenance fund actually does not include our mortgage.
 - Covers HVAC, lawn care, snow removal and other property maintenance.
 - GO Campaign is currently looking to be approximately \$100K short of the pledges that were made three years ago. Another campaign will be initiated later in 2024. Contributions to the GO Fund can continue!
- 2024 Expenses - are some of the larger increases anticipated, due to inflation, other reasons.
 - Percentage increases or decreases are mainly due to the reorganization of ministries and the development of new aspects of ministry with new staff.
 - Inflation does affect some of the categories.
 - Tech increase - we need to replace a firewall, replace PCs, increase in tech support fees.
- When the old church was sold to the other church, is there still a balance?
 - We had an agreement with FDD with a payment structure in place.
 - They are behind on their payments approximately 6 months.
 - FDD is making efforts to catch up their payments, but there is a possibility that we do not realize that money.

Don spoke to the key piece of the budget being the amount the congregation gives to Trinity. This year we had a unique initiative for the pledges. In planning for income in the budget, the actual pledges were used. Initially 308 pledge cards sent - around 180 were returned for a total amount. There was an estimate made from those that were not returned, based on the household's 2023 giving history and this amount was added to the total. This is different from how we have calculated the income in the past, and the tracking of pledges versus giving will look different through the year.

Did the money from the sale of the land to the Sarpy Co Museum go into this budget?

- Short answer is no. That money goes to the Building Fund, which is separate from the General Fund budget that we are approving here.

Marcus entertained a motion to approve the 2024 budget as submitted. Moved. Seconded. Motion passes. **Marcus closed the meeting.**

**Trinity Church
Profit & Loss Budget Overview**

	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>Jan - Dec 2023</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>
Income				
<i>Congregational Contributions</i>	\$1,055,500.00	\$972,711.00	\$82,789.00	8.51%
<i>Other Income</i>	149,975.00	135,800.00	14,175.00	10.44%
Total Income	<u>\$1,205,475.00</u>	<u>\$1,108,511.00</u>	<u>\$96,964.00</u>	<u>8.75%</u>
Expense				
<i>Benevolence</i>	\$55,950.00	\$50,200.00	\$5,750.00	11.45%
<i>Designated Gift Expenses</i>	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
<i>Worship</i>	17,048.00	18,188.00	(1,140.00)	-6.27%
<i>Trinity Kids</i>	19,550.00	21,000.00	(1,450.00)	-6.90%
<i>Connections Ministry</i>	36,200.00	18,995.00	17,205.00	90.58%
<i>Women's Ministry</i>	15,475.00	2,000.00	13,475.00	673.75%
<i>Youth Groups</i>	38,400.00	45,500.00	(7,100.00)	-15.60%
<i>Adult Ministry</i>	12,500.00	13,500.00	(1,000.00)	-7.41%
<i>Pre-School</i>	6,125.00	4,600.00	1,525.00	33.15%
<i>Staff Salaries and Benefits</i>	790,335.00	806,990.79	(16,655.79)	-2.06%
<i>Administrative Items</i>	40,214.00	38,809.00	1,405.00	3.62%
<i>Church Utilities</i>	66,130.00	62,100.00	4,030.00	6.49%
<i>Property & Maintenance</i>	76,343.00	72,520.00	3,823.00	5.27%
<i>Insurance</i>	23,400.00	20,940.00	2,460.00	11.75%
<i>Technology</i>	29,712.00	18,888.00	10,824.00	57.31%
Total Expense	<u>\$1,229,882.00</u>	<u>\$1,196,730.79</u>	<u>\$33,151.21</u>	<u>2.77%</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$24,407.00)</u>	<u>(\$88,219.79)</u>	<u>\$63,812.79</u>	<u>-72.33%</u>

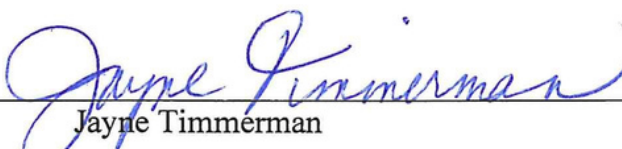
Report of the Audit Committee

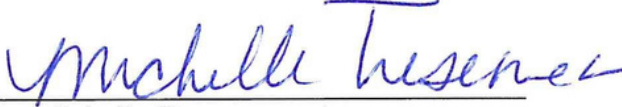
Date: June 23, 2023

To: 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, 2022. 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, Business Manager, 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


Michelle Tresemer

Lead Pastor's Report

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. ~1 Corinthians 15:58

We live in a profoundly different world than we did five years ago. COVID restructured life with family, friends, and the world around us. Priorities have shifted. The means of sending and receiving information have changed. Our society, Church, families, and workplaces are all seeking the new normal. The differences in our world, sinfulness, and responses to life have caused conflict, distance, hurt, and transitions. As we have experienced those realities in our community, homes, and workplace, so too we have experienced them in our Church and across the Church of Jesus Christ. I chose 1 Corinthians 15:58 as a reflection on 2023 because I have both witnessed and experienced stability among the Body of Christ at Trinity despite the challenges, despite the difficulties, despite the world around us. It is rewarding to see a growing number of people serving, engaging in mission, and growing in Christ. We have new people coming into our Church regularly. Our labor is not in vain. I see our Vision Statement being lived as people are “becoming who God has called them to be.”

In the last year, Trinity continued to deepen our spiritual roots. Weekly worship services, prayer, Connections Groups, and Bible study remain instrumental in nurturing our faith. Community at Trinity is building and growing through our time together in the Commons, Men's and Women's Ministries, and our worship life. Although in-person weekly worship attendance declined slightly to 390 per week; this trend appears to be reversing as people are becoming more passionate about worship. When you include our online worship of 228, weekly attendance is 618.

I am grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of our congregation. Despite the uncertainties around us, your financial contributions have sustained our programs, operations, and missions. Our 2023 budget expected a deficit of \$88,219. Careful spending and generous giving reduced the deficit to \$55,870. Our fall stewardship emphasis allowed the congregation to approve the 2024 budget with an anticipated \$25,000 deficit, moving Trinity in the right direction for the future.

I am privileged to lead a deeply faithful, passionately committed, and highly skilled staff team. The 2023 addition of Morgahn Randal (Connections Minister), Chris Randal (Student and Family Minister), and Amanda Lynn (Children and Family Minister) has created a synergistic team that enjoys working together for the glory of God. Trinity is blessed as we move into the future.

As I step into 2024 with Trinity, I do so with a sense of optimism and purpose. Our vision remains steadfast – Connecting people to Christ. Our heart remains committed to our vision of belonging and becoming who God has called us to be. Trinity continues to be a beacon of hope, love, and faith in our community. As you read these pages, celebrate what God has done, and prayerfully consider how he is calling you to connect Christ to the world around you.

I remain deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and each one of you who have contributed your time, talents, and resources to the work of God through Trinity Church. Your commitment and passion have been the driving force behind our successes. Together, we will embrace the opportunities and challenges of 2024, and serve God by connecting people to Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erik Boye
Lead Pastor

Associate Pastor's Report

I am excited about the ministry we get to do each day. Trinity Church is a unique place that is blessed with faithful people. We get to share the greatest news ever - the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We who have been entrusted with God's gift of grace and mercy are given the opportunity through Jesus Christ to express His Good News to every person we encounter in every place and in every situation.

Trinity had a great year in 2023 doing amazing things for the kingdom of God! You'll find out all about it through the pages of this report. Here are few for which I am responsible.

Men's Ministry

Our Men's Ministry continued to impact men, providing opportunities to grow in their faith and be challenged as iron sharpens iron. This ministry seeks to foster deep-rooted connection between men as they experience Christ fresh and new, learning to be men of faith.

During 2023 we created spaces and adventure for men to grow.

- ManCamp - 22
- Axe Throwing Outing - 30
- Sunday morning men's group - 12 to 18 guys weekly
- Tuesday men's study - 6

In 2024 we look forward to all that God will do too impact more men through Trinity Men

Confirmation

Our three-year confirmation structure supports parents in passing faith along to their student. In partnership together we cover the three articles of the Apostles Creed, along with a focus on parts of the scriptures. Here's the breakdown.

1. God the Father with a key focus of walking through understanding the Old Testament
2. God the Son (Jesus) with a key focus of walking through the four Gospels and Jesus' life, death, and resurrection
3. God the Spirit with a key focus of walking through the New Testament letters from ACTS to Revelation

This Discipleship process helps students get a strong foundation to know God and make Him known, as well as to make their affirmation of faith on Confirmation Sunday. In 2023, 13 students were confirmed. We look forward to serving Christ with them long into the future.

In 2024, we get to continue this work for God's kingdom, building upon the ministry Trinity has been living out for over 100 years. So let us embrace all that God places before us in the coming year as a faith-filled community living with the sure and certain hope we have in Jesus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Pearson
Associate Pastor

Mission's Report

What a joy it is to partner with great ministries to live into God's calling for us to be the hands and feet of Christ. It's been a great year as we have been able to proclaim Him through our work and service.

- Our partnership with The Raining Season (TRS) in Freetown, Sierra Leone, continues to be strong as we help care for orphans in Sierra Leone. In 2023 we had a team of six from Trinity travel for the first time since before Covid. It was a great opportunity to continue to build our relationship with TRS and encourage kids and staff in country with the love of Christ. This mission outpost continues to train children as disciples of Jesus and to build them up to be integral parts of their community. We are looking at the potential for travel teams again in 2024.
- During this past year we were able to help several families dealing with difficult events and crisis in their lives. Through meal trains, gift cards, and financial support, these families have been blessed by Trinity's generosity and care in the midst of the difficult experiences they were facing.
- Continuing to partner with Campus Life ministry. We supported their impact in local schools to meet students, most of whom do not know Jesus or have little or no church experience.
- Over this last year, we again stepped up and provided over 75 Thanksgiving meals for families in need in north Omaha area.
- During the Christmas season, we blessed Little Miracles' families with toys and basic necessities.
- Connection groups continue to serve various ministries for which they are passionate.
- We began a new mission partnership with Pastor Pimpinan in North Sumatra, Indonesia, in doing so we help fund a church plant to reach people with the Gospel.

We are so grateful for your generosity and the ministry we have been able to do during 2023 and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Pearson
Associate Pastor

LITTLE MIRACLES MINISTRY

Thanks be to God for the support of Trinity Church with our Little Miracles ministry! In addition to the items on the chart, this ministry has been able to pass along God's blessings to our families in the form of many other baby items and peace of mind knowing that their child's needs were taken care of.

	2022	2023	Growth
Total Families	17	37	118%
Total Orders	53	104	96%
Diapers and Wipes	4,000	9000	125%
\$ of Clothing	\$1,100	\$2,010	83%
Baby Bottles	60	112	87%
Christmas Families	12	18	50%
Christmas Individuals	46	88	91%
Christmas Gifts	100	370	270%

In 2024, we have already broken our previous record of total orders in a month, and we can't wait to see the other exciting ways God plans to expand our ministry!

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Staab

Creative Arts Minister's Report

If 2022 was a year of finding my bearings as a new staff member, I would say that 2023 was a year of deepening my passion and caring for Trinity Church.

In recent months, we have welcomed new members to our music team, infusing fresh talent and passion into our worship ministry. The diversity of skills and backgrounds has added a rich tapestry of sound to our services, creating a dynamic and uplifting atmosphere. These new team members bring not only their musical gifts but also a deep commitment to worship, enhancing our collective journey of praising and connecting with the divine.

Furthermore, I am overjoyed to witness the increased involvement of the congregation in our worship services. It is heartening to see more faces lighting up with enthusiasm during our musical offerings. This heightened engagement is a testament to the power of worship to unite and inspire us. Our shared experience of lifting our voices and hearts together creates a sense of unity and purpose that strengthens our spiritual bond as a community.

As we continue to grow, I want to encourage each one of you to take responsibility for the worship experience of those around you. Worship is not a passive activity but a communal journey. Let us be mindful of creating an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome, included, and able to connect with God in their unique way. Extend a warm greeting to newcomers, sing with all your heart, and embrace the diversity of expressions within our congregation. In doing so, we amplify the impact of our worship, fostering an environment where everyone can encounter the divine in a meaningful way.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and enthusiasm in our shared worship journey. Your presence and participation contribute immeasurably to the spiritual vibrancy of our community. Let us continue to grow, connect, and uplift one another in the spirit of worship, forging a path of unity and love.

Thank you for your commitment to our worship community. May our collective journey continue to be blessed and filled with the divine presence.

In heartfelt gratitude,

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan Lynn
Creative Arts Minister

Connections Minister Report

Joining Trinity Church as the Connections Minister this past spring has truly been an honor! I am beginning to find my stride in this role and all that comes with it. Reflecting on the past few months fills me with awe and joy as I witness the incredible work of God within the Trinity Church family. I feel so blessed to work alongside my spouse and have our son grow up in Trinity Church.

As the Connections Minister I oversee the church's hospitality, special services, events, connection groups, church-wide courses and conferences, and staff culture.



Check out what's been going on in Connections since April of 2023!

Events:

Soaring Wings: 97 congregants

Legacy Ice Cream Social: 46 congregants

Pie & Fellowship: 60 congregants

Family Movie Night: 65 congregants

Staff/council culture:

Staff and Council Christmas party: 35 people

Staff Retreat: 8 staff members went to Carol Joy Holling for an overnight two-day retreat, many staff outings, putt putt tournaments, shared meals and desserts to celebrate staff, and even lunch bible studies.

Courses/Conferences:

Find your people course: 93 congregants

Connection courses/groups:

Active new members: 21 congregants

New Connection groups: 4 groups

Hospitality:

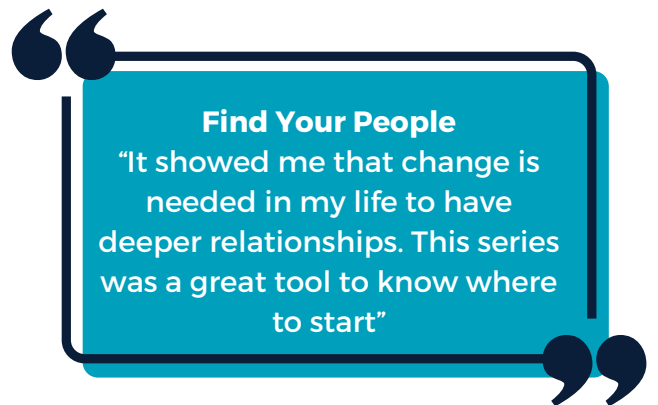
New volunteers: 15 congregants

Volunteer training: 45 congregants

It's truly been an honor and privilege to join this role with such an amazing staff and church body! I believe God has a lot in store for the upcoming year. I cannot wait to see you at the exciting connection opportunities in 2024!

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgahn Randall
Connection's Minister





Teaching Children to Grow, Learn and Shine for Jesus

Many students come to Little Lights with experience in learning about God and Jesus through their home, church, or programs such as VBS. For others, this is their first experience. No matter their background we love to teach them about God! They learn through the Bible, chapel time from Matt Pearson, monthly Bible verses and prayers at the beginning of each day and before we eat. We know that children learn best through song, play and interactions with one another so we equally focus on these areas of learning as well. We have a lot of fun at preschool!

The 2022-2023 school year was wonderful. This success is due in part to our experienced and dedicated staff who provide a fun learning environment every day. Last school year we hosted many annual events such as parent involved field trips, classroom parties, Donut Day, Muffin Day and our End of the Year programs. As the year progressed, children grew in so many ways, physically, spiritually, and academically. We could truly see the light of Jesus in each and every one of them! We are extremely thankful for the support of Trinity as we continue our mission of teaching young children year after year.

Registration for the next school year, 2024-2025, has begun. Each year we offer two 3-year-old classes and two 4-year-old classes. If you are interested or know someone who has a young child looking for preschool, contact Stacy Denne, Little Lights director, at littlelights@trinitylife.org or 402-281-3133.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Denne
Little Lights Preschool Director



THE NUMBERS Update

Teachers: 4 & Substitute Teachers: 4
Families Served: 62
Includes 6 from Trinity and 56 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:

“My daughter enjoyed her time at Little Lights! The staff did so much to mold and shape her and all the kids at Little Lights.”

“We appreciate how much the staff loves the kids like they are their own kids!”

“We are so grateful for the staff’s kindness, patience and willingness to teach our boys. They were so prepared for kindergarten and love learning!”

“The Little Lights staff is incredibly warm and welcoming and made my daughter’s transition to a new school such a great experience. They are such a blessing to our family.”

“We love Little Lights! We wouldn’t have sent our children anywhere else!”



Trinity Kids has had a fantastic year! We have been so blessed to see many new families, many new volunteers and have seen some real growth through our new kids discipleship pathway.

4th & 5th grade growth: Feeling a bit too old for TK classes and service time, this age group had been slipping away. However, in the last few months of 2023 there has been a shift. We divided them from the K-3 whole group with curriculum to fit their developmental level, and our Trinity Student's minister, Chris leading their group semi routinely. One of my favorite things is happening; this age group is returnig. And I am super excited that TK is offering 4th & 5th camp in March 2024!

TK Missions: In August, we asked parents what their kids weren't grasping in our ministry. Missions was the response! In 2023, we continued supporting Mary in Sierra Leone as our Global Initiative, and added a Local Initiative, too. This changes every three months! On our TK Mission Sunday Quarterly, kids engage in a hands-on activity assembling physical necessities, like winter care kits for the homeless. We've set a TK monthly goal which is measured in a fun way in their classroom! Our kids raised \$750 from August-December, and are really grasping how their money is going to help others.

Volunteering: We are thankful to have many new faces serving with our TK team. Fifteen new volunteers since August!! Additionally, we have some serving positions for our Elementary kids, including- TK tech for whole group, reading the memory verse for the class, taking up the offering, and praying at the end. Kids can sign up in their classroom, and many of them teach and help each other! It's been such a joy to see them invest in their own space and classes.

MOPS & Little Lights: This year we have definitely seen some momentum when it comes to these partnerships! Mothers Of PreSchoolers (MOPS) has really bought into our Cafe & Play ministry on Tuesdays, and semi-regularly use that as one of their weekly play dates. I'm excited to continue serving Stacy Denne & the Little Lights (LL) team. We plan include Legacy members in LL activities have added them to our communications for TK families including on our Check-In TV so people understand that Little Lights is a Trinity ministry, too!

Events: Events have been a great way to welcome new families into our building, provide a time of fellowship for our families, and much more! We started the school year with a bang on Open House Sunday. Six - seven families toured through the kids wing, many of whom are now regular attendants. In August & September, we also held a volunteer training lunch and a parent & teacher breakfast, which has really helped with the buy in from those two groups! Our holiday events, included the BOO Bash and the Family Movie Night. These were definite highlights for 2023. We estimate about 250 attending the Boo Bash, many from other ministries came (such as MOPS, LL, outside bible studies), along with many faces from our community whom we did not know! We look forward to continuing with this outreach event in 2024.

Repectfully Submitted,

**Amanda Lynn
Children & Family Minister**



In the year 2023 we witnessed God move in powerful ways at Trinity Students. This year we were intentional to strengthen our culture and double down on our values as a Student Ministry. We want God's handprint all over our ministry, so we made it a priority to value what He values. Here are some key highlights from 2023:

1. Prioritizing Connection to Christ: At Trinity Students our focus is helping young men and women connect to Christ. Through our weekly gatherings, events, and service, we strive to connect with Jesus and each other while having fun in the process! Throughout the year, we were intentional to create space during our Wednesday Night gatherings to slow down to be with Jesus. We are all busy. Our hope is that Trinity Students is a place for students to hit the pause button, slow down, and connect with Jesus. With this hope in mind, we were able to see students this year embrace prayer more than ever before, prioritize God's Word, and look to care for the needs of others.

2. Student Leadership Development: I am not afraid to say that we have the best students. This year we witnessed students step up to lead in a variety of ways. We have a group of students that lead a portion of our programming at Trinity Students. Each night we either have students leading other students in a time of prayer, or they are sharing a devotion that God has put on their heart with everyone. Student leadership is not just seen on a Wednesday Night, but it has moved into our schools as well! Our students have started Bible studies in their schools in hopes to see more students connect to Christ!

3. Innovative Outreach Initiatives: One element that is new to Trinity Students in 2023 is our "Event Wednesdays". On the last Wednesday of each month we are focused entirely on outreach. We have intentionally create invite friendly events each month to equip students to invite those in their life who have yet to connect to a youth group. Since launching these monthly events we are already beginning to see the fruit! We have already been able to connect with new students and we will continue to see more.

4. Creating Space for Spiritual Growth: There is value in getting away from time to time. In 2023 we were able to see Students grow in their faith through our Summer Camps and our Fall Elevate Retreat. On our Summer Camps we traveled to Wyoming as students we encouraged to move out of their comfort zone! Students not only took steps off a mountain during our day rappelling, but we also saw students take next steps in their walk with Jesus. This year at Elevate students were challenged to identify areas in their life where God is calling them to move. This led to many meaningful discussions and inspired students to live out their faith.

5. Generational Impact: I want to personally thank all of our amazing Trinity Students Volunteers as we wouldn't be able to invest in the next generation without you. Thank you for sacrificing your Wednesday Nights to love and care for students. You are making a difference and leaving a mark on this generation!

Overall, we are grateful and thrilled for what God has done at Trinity Students in 2023. We know this momentum will carry into 2024. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. If there is anything I can do to serve you or your family, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Joyfully,

Chris Randall
Student & Family Minister

Women's Ministry, Discipleship, and Communication's Report

In April of 2023, Trinity Church implemented a focused **Women's Ministry**. We began with a Launch Party that asked two questions: What type of event would you invite a friend to, and what makes a healthy ministry? Both questions brought many answers and a lot of good chatter occurred around the tables. Hearts were encouraged, including my own.

From that gathering, a core Women's Ministry team was created, along with a Prayer Group, and six serve teams: Celebrations, Annual Retreat, Bible Study Facilitator, IF:Gathering Planning Team, Quarterly Party Planners, and Food Team. Together, our ministry is creating a welcome space for each woman to use her gifts to make Jesus known in the world. While we are just getting started, please pray for God's leading, clarity, purpose and intention for this ministry.

How did God show up in 2023?

- February - IF:Gathering - 73 women
- April - Launch Party - 60 women
- July - Bingo at Twisted Vine Music BINGO - 42 women
- July - Floating the Elkhorn and Potluck - 26 women
- August - 3rd Quarter Bunco Party - 51
- August - Move Your Body morning Workout (ongoing) - 26
- November - Women's Serve Team Gathering - 16
- November - Chili Cookoff - A Churchwide Fundraiser for Three Local Schools - 100+
- November - Packing Backpacks from the Fundraiser - 20
- December - 4th Quarter Cookie Exchange - 20
- Monthly - IF:Tables (6 women, 4 for questions, 2 hours) - 3
- Current Groups for women: 21 Avg Size = 14 Unique members = 135

As you can see, God did good work in and through Trinity Women in 2023. I'm trusting Him for more good work to do in 2024. Stay tuned for our fall retreat, another awesome IF:Gathering, growth of groups and studies, additional IF:Tables, and various outings and gatherings. All of this gives opportunity to invite our friends, to advance God's kingdom, and the best part, and draws women together in community with one another.

Our **Discipleship Team**, made up of those in Trinity Minister roles, continues to develop our discipleship pathway to give a clear invitation to be more like Jesus, both as individuals and in community. In 2023, our theme DEEPER gave expression to our values to Gather, Grow, Give and Go. Last year, we grew from 28 groups to 53 groups. In 2024, we look forward to what God will do in and through our body of Christ at Trinity from our theme Different: Because of Jesus.

As a church staff, we work hard on our **communication** to share clearly and accurately what God is doing, how you can join him in his work, and the opportunities to grow and share faith as the body of Christ. With the many ways to convey a message, our best tips to stay connected to Trinity Church and what Jesus is doing are as follows: download the Church Center App, read the weekly email, open the monthly newsletter, follow TrinityPapillion on YouTube, and connect with us on Facebook and Instagram at TrinityChurchPapillion.

Looking forward to serving Jesus with you in 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Staab

Communciations and Discipleship Minister

Treasurer's Report

A blessed New Year to all! Twenty twenty-three was a great year for Trinity Church. We moved into our current building three years ago in the shadow of the COVID-2 pandemic. Since then, like your home budget, inflation has been a real issue. To quote the Red Queen, "It takes all the running you can do to stay in the same place." Fortunately, giving is now reflecting pre-pandemic patterns and moving us to a better place financially. The Fall stewardship campaign saw more commitment cards than in the past with an increased amount on those cards. The total commitment was \$766,268, which should result in an increase in giving during 2024. This will fund new ministries, facilities and enhance current programs. 'Little Miracles,' our rapidly expanding ministry for new mothers, is a shining example of what's possible. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isa 43:19)

Financing the new church building was a reach of faith that rested on the sale of three properties: Trinity Life Center on Lincoln Street, Church Center on Halleck Street and the sale of excess property at our current location (LOT3). I'm glad to report that after a false start, we sold the last of these (LOT3) to the Sarpy County Historical Society for \$ 900,000 this year. This will move our debt load into a more typical range for a church of our size and leaves Trinity better positioned financially in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted in His service,

Robert Graham
Trinity Church Council Treasure

General Fund

- Revenue \$1,025,478
- Expense \$1,081,348
- Net Deficiency (\$55,870)

12/31/23 Fund Balances

- General \$202,822
- Building \$144,370
- Endowment \$366,200
- Memorial \$71,787

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 28.

Council Member Candidates Vote for 3 of 5 of the Following

Laura
Beck



Spouse and Children: NA

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Sierra Leone Travel Team last September. Communion as . Bible study (not at Trinity).

I have agreed to serve in this position: I would love to help grow Trinity and be a voice for the younger generation especially ones around my age that might not have much of a role in the church at the moment. I think our church is lacking in areas regarding young adults and college age and I would love to help change that.

My faith story: I grew up in this church. We came to Trinity when I was five and have been here ever since. I was involved in Sunday school, church retreats, youth group, bible study and mission trips growing up. I now go to Sunday services and help out when I can. I recently went on the Sierra Leone mission trip in September.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I think this past year God has been trying to show me what gifts I have and how to use them. He made a way for me to travel to Sierra Leone which has been on my heart for a long time. I am planning on traveling again in the future and I sponsor two kids now. God has revealed a lot of his promises this past year in ways I never expected. He has also been teaching me patience and the gift of waiting. Waiting can be difficult but God always makes it worth it and it is always better than imagined.

Mark
Frerichs



Spouse and Children: Pam. Brent and Ben

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Stephen Center (support & serving), Go Vision Appeal Stewardship Committee, Greeter

I have agreed to serve in this position: I retired recently from a career which had a fair amount of travel so when I received a call from Sharon on the nominating committee, I prayed about it and decided I really had no excuse but to run for Church Council. My wife, Pam, also encouraged me!

My faith story: I have been a member of Trinity for 34 years serving on Church Council, Church Treasurer, Endowment Committee, Memorial Committee, Nominating Committee along with several stewardship drives. Both of our sons were raised and confirmed here. Trinity Church has evolved over the years and currently has a welcoming campus and staff on the corner of 96th & 370 in Papillion, which was only a vision for so long but now is a wonderful reality. I would like to serve the congregation and community as we continue to spread the word about Trinity's Mission of "Connecting People to Christ."

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: This past year I joined a Trinity men's bible study group. Along with the enjoyment of fellowship it has also expanded my understanding of the bible and faith in Jesus Christ. Pam and I continue to support our second child (Mohamad) through the Raining Season in Sierra Leone and skype with him bi-monthly at the orphanage - it's a joy to watch them grow physically and spiritually.

Council Member Candidates Continued

**Jeff
Norblade**



Spouse: Kim, Jared and Tate

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Connection Group Organizer/Facilitator - 15 years. Usher, Communion Server, Greeter, Event server.

I have agreed to serve in this position: As the new staff has been getting acclimated and engaged, I try to connect with them each week to see how they are doing and what they have going on. Their energy and enthusiasm has grown on me so I want to get involved in different ways. This is the same feeling I experienced years ago at our Texas church, where I served on Church Council and Executive Committee. This opportunity will allow me to connect with new people and understand their spiritual and community needs and help the church grow to meet these needs.

My faith story: My whole life I have been a regular attendee of the Lutheran Church. While living in Texas, Kim and I joined a connection group where we were involved for 8 years. When we moved to Papillion 15 years ago, we began a Connection Group that has been focused on Bible Study and Community Service. In these years, my Faith has continued to grow along with a desire to know more about God and what he has to tell us. Each morning begins with a devotion and a prayer of thanks, forgiveness, and a request for wisdom and understanding.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: A little over a year ago, I attended a class called "Emotionally Healthy, Spirituality." From then on, have grown in my morning devotions along with my prayers to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Through-out my day I find myself giving thanks, asking for forgiveness, requesting guidance, and honoring special prayer requests. Even my radio stations have changed to Christian music to be more uplifting.

**Doug
Seaman**



Spouse and Children: Jamie, Evan, Caroline

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Usher, Greeter, Trinity Men

I have agreed to serve in this position: Having been nominated by church members to serve on council, I considerate it an honor to even be considered for this role. I view the Council as stewards, carrying Trinity forward in our mission: connecting people to Christ. My spiritual gifts of "Administration", "Shepherding", and "Exhortation"

My faith story: From my teens to my forties, I would constantly bounce in and out of faith. When I met my (now) wife, she convinced me to come back to church, and my life has been blessed ever since. Life is a journey of ups and downs, highs and lows. God of the mountain and the God of the valley. I believe my journey from "None" to "Believer" helps me understand where many are right now in America, and would help me provide a unique perspective to Council. I have been on the other side of the faith journey.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: My relationship with Jesus is both humbling and inspiring. I am a sinner, but his Grace redeems me, even when I don't deserve it. That is awe inspiring. Over the last year, I have grown closer to Jesus through Bible studies, in communion with others in small group, and especially with the Trinity Men. I have learned that I am not alone in my spiritual journey, and that I have a community at Trinity. The most important thing I have learned over the last year in my relationship with Jesus is that he is perfect and I am not, and that is sufficient. I continue to improve, to grow, and to be humbled by his Love and his Grace. A loving Father provides a kind of peace that nothing else can bring. Thank you for considering me for Council. God Bless.

Council Member Candidates Continued

**Lisa
Schraufnagel**



Spouse and Children: Tim, Gabby, and Anna Schraufnagel

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Volunteer for Trinity Students (middle/high school) on Wednesday nights, monthly Sunday greeter

I have agreed to serve in this position: I love the direction that our church is headed and all that is happening. I am a manager for an inpatient oncology unit and am no stranger to listening to ideas for improvements, complaints, and more. I am able to see the big picture from multiple sides - behind the scenes, from higher level management, from employees, and from patients and their family members. I feel I would be an asset as a member of council.

My faith story: I have attended Trinity since I was about seven years old. I remember "getting it" in the midst of my confirmation journey. In my college years and the beginning of my nursing career I missed out on attending church regularly due to schedule conflicts and the business of life. Now I have a more flexible work schedule and am able to attend church on Sundays. I make it a priority to attend church when able. I volunteer on Wednesday nights to be a leader for the middle school girls. I can say that they make a difference in my life and add ideas pertaining to faith that I had not thought of before.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: My current relationship with Jesus is good. I try to walk through life with Him by my side. My eyes have been opened more in the last few years and there is a hunger to learn more about the bible, live life with loving God and others, and improve myself as a person. The church's mission to connect people to Christ stands out to me and should be every church's mission. Tim and I are raising our daughters to be Christians. We are becoming more comfortable with talking about Christ and inviting friends to church.

Endowment Committee Candidates
Vote for One of Two

**Barb
Grell**



Spouse and Children: The late Perry Grell; sons Brett and Tyler
Current service activities at Trinity Church: Women's Connection Group, Communion Server, Lenten Soup Super, and Undie Sunday

I have agreed to serve in this position: Serving on the Endowment Committee is another way I can continue to serve and honor God. As a former elementary administrator, I worked with budgets and decision making.

My faith story: I came to know Jesus many years ago when I was in middle school. I recall an overnight retreat as a significant event where I knew that Jesus came into my heart. Since that time, I have followed Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I praise him every day.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I spend time daily praying and talking with God. Reading daily devotionals and studying God's word through scripture is important in growing my faith. Surrounding myself with people of faith helps support me to grow closer to God.

**Rich
Kuper**



Spouse and Children: Pam and two adult children Josh and Liz

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Greeter and usher. Previously served on Endowment Board years ago.

I have agreed to serve in this position: Trinity has been a major blessing in my life. Serving on the Endowment Board is a small way to help support Trinity and its mission.

My faith story: I have been part of Lutheran congregations my entire life. We have been members of Trinity since 1980. As have congregations at previous locations, Trinity has played a major role in supporting my faith and strengthening it.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Jesus is my Lord and Savior. Because of him, we all can experience salvation. My faith continues to grow, with the Connection group we belong to being a major part of that growth.

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

**Lily
Erb**



Family: Parents, Shavon and Kyle Erb; brother, Tucker Erb

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Run blood drives with the help of Trinity Students, Co-lead on Celebrations Team for Women's Ministry, Trinity Cafe volunteer

I have agreed to serve in this position: The last couple years haven't really gone to way I had initially thought they would with school and my future, but God has a plan, and if in that plan God has me in this position, then I will trust in that and do my absolute best job I can in it.

My faith story: I have grown up at Trinity and can always remember being super involved with serving. I would say that my faith started getting stronger after an Elevate retreat in middle school when we talked about havkng doubts about God and that He knows those doubt and that it's okay to have them because they will make you stronger in your relationship with God in the long run.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Being a senior in high school, my life is at a major turning point and years ago that probably would freak me out, but I have grown so much in trusting the plan God has for me that is doesn't scare me. I still have, and probably will always, have those little internal doubts, but as Mark 9:24 says "I believe, but help my unbelief" which is something I remind myself every day.

**Ken
Hirschfeld**



Spouse and Children: Tracy, and adult children: Casey, Camryn, Jacob & daughter-in-law Ryan, and Carrie

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Trinity Men, Worship Team, Norblade's Connection Group

I have agreed to serve in this position: I think it's important to say yes when asked to serve unless there's a good reason not to. I couldn't come up with any of those, so here I am.

My faith story: I have been raised in the church and have been in church my whole life. This didn't stop me from sinning. I thought I could hide my bad deeds and rack up good ones to compensate for the bad. I learned the hard way this doesn't work. I accepted the grace of Jesus and his sacrifice for me Easter of 2006.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I'm a sinner. I've been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. Trinity has been instrumental in helping me understand this. I am continually trying to strengthen my faith in Him and trusting Him. The activities I'm involved in at Trinity are helping my faith walk.

Nominating Committee Candidates from Congregation at Large Continues

**Beth
Madson**



Family: Kyle, Olivia, Colin, Liam

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Trinity Kids Volunteer, Call Team for Associate Pastor

I have agreed to serve in this position: I feel called to participate in the Nominating Committee because it provides a new way for me to be an active member of the church community.

My faith story: My faith journey started with my family being very devoted to the Catholic Faith. I attended Saint Columbkille from Kindergarten, until 8th Grade and continued to attend Church there for many years. After getting married, my husband Kyle and I started attending Trinity more frequently with his parents. Once we had our three kids, we found Trinity to be such a welcoming environment to our entire family. This helped us to make the decision to become members of Trinity Church about 6 years ago. Since becoming members we have been blessed with many opportunities to serve, including joining a small group that has been an important part of our faith journey.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: My relationship with Jesus has evolved over the last 5 years. While I grew up going to church and practicing the Catholic faith, I found myself not feeling that I had any solid relationship with God. Attending Trinity and being involved in children's ministry has really opened me up to what it means to feel God's Love and to share that message with others.

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

Spouse and Children: Brittany and Morgan Friesen

Current service activities at Trinity Church: I currently serve on Trinity Council and volunteer with the Worship team.

I have agreed to serve in this position: I've agreed to serve on the nominating committee because I'm committed to helping our church thrive. With a year of council experience, I want to help identify and encourage dedicated individuals to lead our church effectively.

My faith story: After some time away from a church, 6 years ago our family found Trinity to be a great fit and returned to a faith community. Our experience at Trinity Church was a turning point for us. As our son and family 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 in the form of playing drums and it has 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.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Serving on council this past year, I was quickly challenged to reconnect with and apply core values of love and forgiveness, in ways I never had before, reaffirming their significance in our church community helping me to further connect with and understand Jesus' teachings.

**Rick
Friesen**



Nominating Committee Candidates from Church Council Continued

Marcus Schmidt



Spouse and Children: Kathy

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Currently council president and active in our men's ministry.

I have agreed to serve in this position: I'm automatically nominated, but please don't vote for me. Many of you know that we are moving to Kansas City in February.

My faith story: Trinity has been instrumental in growing my faith and I will always consider my time here as the time that really brought me closer to Jesus.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I've learned to trust more in where Jesus is leading as I try to live out the "easy yoke" passage in Matthew 11.

Victoria Tomanek



Spouse and Children: Husband is Mooch, kids are Ella, Lane, Kyla, and Cal

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Trinity Kids, serve communion, small group leader, IF table group

I have agreed to serve in this position: This role is to help find good candidates for church council. My role would be to help find those people within our congregation who are being called to lead our church to continue to reach out community and next generation to lead them to become followers of Jesus.

My faith story: I was born into a good home, both my parents grew up going to church and then raised us by taking us to church, getting involved in Sunday school, youth group, and church life. I accepted Jesus into my life in Junior high after I attended a Sonicflood concert with a friend. I have been part of Trinity church now for about 12 years.

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 my foundation. I continue to learn and grow in my faith. I've completed the Bible in a year for the second time this past year! I also, continue to stay active in church life and connecting with my connection group members.

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