



TRINITY

CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025

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 26, 2025

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 28, 2024 - P 2
 - b. Special Congregational Meeting - P 3
 - b. Annual Budget Meeting Minutes November 20, 2024 - P 4
 - c. Approved 2025 Budget & 2023 Audit Report- P 5
4. Ministry Reports
 - a. Associate Pastor - P 6
 - b. Missions - P 7
 - c. Creative Arts Minister (Worship and Technology) - P8
 - d. Connection's Minister (Hospitality and Events) - P9
 - e. Little Lights Preschool Director - P 10
 - f. Kids and Family Minister (Trinity Kids) - P 11
 - g. Student and Family Minister (Trinity Students) - P 12
 - h. Communication's and Discipleship Minister - P 13
 - i. Café Report - 14
 - i. Treasurer's Report - P 15
5. Nominating Committee Report for Elections - P 16-23
 - a. Church Council Candidates – elect 3
 - i. Dan Benson
 - ii. Amber Clark
 - iii. Alicia Greiner
 - iv. Carl Rhoten
 - v. Lisa Schraufnagel
 - b. Endowment Committee Candidates – elect 1
 - i. Rick Olstad
 - ii. Lynn Sievers
 - c. Nominating Committee Candidates from Congregation-at-Large – elect 2
 - i. Steve Arquite
 - ii. Christine Myslinski
 - iii. Connie Scherzberg
 - d. Nominating Committee Candidates from Council – elect 2
 - i. Laura Beck
 - ii. Mark Frerichs
 - iii. Jeff Norblade
6. Leadership and Election Results
7. New Business
8. Closing and Prayer

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024

65 people in attendance.

Marcus Schmidt called the meeting to order and opened in prayer.

The Annual Meeting Agenda can be found in the Annual Report.

With no comments or questions, Marcus entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made and seconded. Approved.

Three congregational meetings were held in 2023. Marcus entertained a motion to approve those meeting minutes as presented in the Annual Report. Motion made and seconded. Approved.

All Ministry Reports are included in the Annual Report. With no questions or comments, Marcus entertained a motion to approve the Ministry Reports. Motion made and seconded. Approved.

Marcus called for the results of the voting. Carrie Nash presented the voting results as follows:

For Church Council: Laura Beck, Mark Frerichs, Jeff Norblade

For Endowment Committee: Barb Grell

For Nominating Committee (Congregation): Lily Erb, Ken Hirschfeld

For Nominating Committee (Council Members): Victoria Tomanek, Rick Friesen

Marcus thanked all the nominees for volunteering to run.

Marcus opened the floor for any new business. No new business.

Marcus closed with lots of gratitude to Jesus, the leadership and staff at Trinity, and the entire congregation.

Pastor Erik closed the meeting in prayer.

In a short introduction to Council meeting following the Congregational Meeting, the following officers were elected for 2024:

Council President: Victoria Tomanek

Council Vice President: Kiley Cruse

Council Secretary: Shavon Erb

Council Treasurer: Mark Frerichs

Trinity Church
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 7th, 2024

123 people in attendance.

Blank paper and pencils were distributed to voting members. Marcus Schmidt called the meeting to order and invited Brittany Fahrenkrog, Chair of the Call Committee to the stage. Brittany introduced the Call Committee, including Karen Van Briesen, Chad Troester, Beth Madson, Steve Arquite, and John Popelka.

The Call Committee took the last several months to talk with the congregation to determine qualities Trinity wants to see in an associate pastor. The team agreed that we are looking for someone with a deep faith, a heart for ministry, an educator, a listener and someone with a focus on missions. After interviews, the team feels Matt Pearson is a great fit for all these qualities and are pleased to present Matt Pearson for the role of Associate Pastor.

Questions and discussion:

How does Matt's completion of seminary and ordination process fit in all of this?
Pastor Erik explained that the process of call that we extend to Matt triggers the ordination process.

The ordination and installation of Matt will occur at the same service.
Matt has completed everything he needs to become our associate pastor.
Erik also added his support and endorsement of Matt as associate pastor.

With no other questions or comments, Brittany moved that Matt Pearson be called to serve as Associate Pastor at Trinity Church. Motion seconded.

While votes were counted, Marcus prayed over the process and for the provision given to Trinity.

115 votes were tallied and there was a unanimous vote of YES.

A voice vote is required to approve the compensation package for the new associate pastor. All details of the package were accounted for in the annual budget for 2024. Moved. Second. Unanimously approved.

A formal letter of call will be sent to the Synod Office.

Marcus closed the meeting.

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2024

70 people in attendance.

Victoria called the meeting to order at 11:46 AM and opened the meeting with prayer.

Mark reviewed the process completed to prepare the budget. Don Davern and staff prepare the preliminary budget numbers and meet with the finance committee. The Church Council reviews and approves the budget prior to bringing the budget to the Congregation.

Don Davern reviewed the handouts: Profit and Loss Budget Overview and Profit and Loss Budget Performance Building fund.

- Sources of income
- Ministry and Salary/Benefit expenses

63% of the expense budget is salary/Benefits. Benefits are generous, salaries are competitive with the market. We have a high-capacity staff who are extremely efficient.

Core Staff: 6 full-time, 3 part-time = 53% of the total.

Ancillary Staff (Little lights and cafe) and taxes comprise the other 10% of salary expenses.

Insurance costs have gone up 23%; increase in premiums as well as deductibles.

When we sold the lot to the Sarpy County Museum we saved \$250,000 as a safety net and intend to continue to keep this money in an account to continue to gain interest in the event it is needed in the future.

Questions: Benevolence: money for mission.

Trinity Students and Trinity Kids increases over 2024 budget: there was staff accounting misinterpretation of how budget was prepared for the budgets that were submitted last year. A large portion of these budgets are for camps and events.

Salary: we have budgeted for a new lead pastor, reduced Connections Minister hours, reduced Cafe Manager hours, and new part-time Missions Coordinator position. We have also budgeted for a 5% salary increase.

Suggestion for future budget handouts to include some sub-categories that explain what goes into each Ministry. Discussed that those reports are available if anyone has specific questions about each ministry.

Familia de Dios status: We have not received payment in 18 months, and they have been avoiding us. We continue to follow up, but we are not confident that we will receive any funds. They appear to be struggling financially.

We are happy to report that the projected income and expenses for 2025 are balanced at \$1,204,550.00.

Motion to approve the General Fund Budget for 2025 as submitted, second, and unanimously approved.

Building Fund Discussion: Interest rate of 3.95%. Balloon payment of \$3.8M will be due 09-30-2024

As long as we make our payments in the next few years, we should be able to re-negotiate the terms of the loan for an extension.

Victoria closed the meeting at 12:23 PM.

**Trinity Church
Profit & Loss Budget Overview**

	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>(Decrease)</u>
Income				
<i>Congregational Contributions</i>	\$1,055,000.00	\$1,055,500.00	(\$500.00)	-0.05%
<i>Other Income</i>	149,550.00	149,975.00	(425.00)	-0.28%
Total Income	<u>\$1,204,550.00</u>	<u>\$1,205,475.00</u>	<u>(\$925.00)</u>	<u>-0.08%</u>
Expense				
<i>Benevolence</i>	\$54,000.00	\$55,950.00	(\$1,950.00)	-3.49%
<i>Designated Gift Expenses</i>	5,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.00%
<i>Worship</i>	16,728.00	17,048.00	(320.00)	-1.88%
<i>Trinity Kids</i>	24,300.00	19,550.00	4,750.00	24.30%
<i>Connections Ministry</i>	33,500.00	36,200.00	(2,700.00)	-7.46%
<i>Trinity Students</i>	57,200.00	38,400.00	18,800.00	48.96%
<i>Adult Ministry</i>	25,550.00	25,975.00	(425.00)	-1.64%
<i>Pre-School</i>	6,100.00	6,125.00	(25.00)	-0.41%
<i>Staff Salaries and Benefits</i>	756,166.00	790,335.00	(34,169.00)	-4.32%
<i>Administrative Items</i>	38,137.00	40,214.00	(2,077.00)	-5.16%
<i>Church Utilities</i>	60,635.00	66,130.00	(5,495.00)	-8.31%
<i>Property & Maintenance</i>	74,108.00	76,343.00	(2,235.00)	-2.93%
<i>Insurance</i>	28,318.00	23,400.00	4,918.00	21.02%
<i>Technology</i>	24,808.00	29,712.00	(4,904.00)	-16.51%
Total Expense	<u>\$1,204,550.00</u>	<u>\$1,227,882.00</u>	<u>(\$23,332.00)</u>	<u>-1.90%</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>(\$22,407.00)</u>	<u>\$22,407.00</u>	

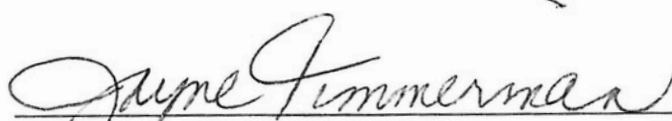
Report of the Audit Committee

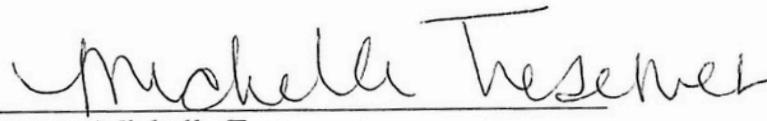
Date: May 13, 2024

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, 2023. 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

Associate Pastor's Report

Praise be to God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I pray your 2024 was filled with joy and an abundance of blessings from God.

Our 2024 congregational theme, Different Because of Jesus, centered our hearts and minds on Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Our staff found this verse and theme to be a lot of fun to sit in and to dream out with the congregation on Sunday mornings and in Connection Groups.

Throughout this last year, I pray that your encounter with God's word, love for Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit has challenged you to be different. I think this has been happening. Having been on staff at Trinity Church since 2006, I can see that as a congregation we have grown missionally and intentionally since then. This growth has been beautiful and sometimes hard. I take joy in seeing how we have been marked by this theme, Different. In particular I have loved that hospitality is becoming a core of who we are. Trinity is truly a place to Belong and Become who God is calling you to be.

There has been a constant flood of new visitors and people gracing our doors. While there is still room to grow, I take joy seeing how Trinity people have been a welcoming and an open-handed community. It is our responsibility as people marked by Christ to express His love and heart for each person who enters Trinity Church. Hospitality is becoming the core of who we are. Trinity is truly a place to Belong and Become who God is calling you to be. Along with our welcoming people, we get to take the light of Christ out into our workplaces, families, and circles. May we at Trinity continue to express Different because of Jesus long past 2024. As we love like Jesus and Connect people to Christ we will truly make a difference in peoples lives.

May our God and Father continue to strengthen you and guide all you do that it might bring glory to God and express Christ in this world.

Men's Ministry

Trinity Men continues to be a place that makes a difference for men and families. A good way to describe us is that we are a community that encourages, challenges, and laughs. We average around 15-20 guys weekly on Sunday mornings to study God's word together. Trinity Men also had the opportunity to participate in Man Camp again this year. We headed out to Table In The Wilderness in Laramie, WY to enjoy the mountains, camp fires, worship, adventures, and to discuss the temptations we all face. Men's Ministry is all about being part of a group that helps you grow in faith as well as encourages you to enjoy the life that God has given you through friendship and risk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Pearson
Associate Pastor

Mission's Report

Trinity makes a difference because of Jesus meeting tangible needs and sharing Christ with the world. In 2024, we continued to lean into our primary Missions with a local focus on Little Miracles by helping families with kids under two year old to have the things they needed to thrive. See report below for the good news.

Trinity also has two global mission partners. Our strong partnership continued with The Raining Season (TRS) in Sierra Leone West Africa. In 2024 they were in process of developing land for a larger center that will help lessen costs, as well as give the children in their care more opportunity to thrive. Our other overseas partnership is with Pastor Pimpinan in North Sumatra, Indonesia. His church plant has seen incredible growth reaching new groups of people that had not been connected to Christ.

As a church on mission, Trinity also had various opportunities to connect people to Christ. Through the Stephen Center (12 meals), Thanksgiving baskets (117 meals), Operation Christmas Child with our Trinity Kids Ministry (103 boxes), the Giving Tree (MomCo support) and Angel Tree (Little Miracles). We have also been able to bless Trinity families in need through Trinity's Relief Fund. What a blessing it is to express God's love with the world and our community.

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.

We have also grown in other ways by expanding to serve families until

their child's 2nd birthday instead of their 1st, which led us to add another pickup time. To support this growth, we added approximately 40 new volunteers to our ministry.

In 2025, 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

	2022	2023	2024	Growth
Total Families	17	37	81	119%
Total Orders	53	104	289	178%
Diapers and Wipes	4,000	9000	25,200	180%
\$ of Clothing	\$1,100	\$2,010	\$6,210	209%
Baby Bottles	60	112	252	125%
Christmas Families	12	18	40	122%
Christmas Individuals	46	88	145+	65%
Christmas Gifts	100	370	499	35%
Bibles (provided upon request)	11	16	52	225%

Creative Arts Minister's Report

In 2024, we have seen continued growth in our worship ministry. Our team has been blessed with even more talented individuals who bring unique gifts and perspectives to our music and tech ministry. The blend of seasoned members and newcomers has created a beautiful synergy, resulting in worship experiences that are both vibrant and spiritually enriching. Their dedication to excellence and authenticity has elevated our worship services, drawing us closer to God as a congregation.

One of the most significant milestones this year has been the increased participation of our youth and families in worship. Seeing young voices join our team and families worshipping together has been a powerful reminder of the generational impact of our ministry. It has been inspiring to watch our church community embrace a spirit of mentorship, guiding the next generation to find their own voice in worship.

We also introduced several new elements to our worship services in 2024, such as special concerts, Kingdom Nights, and more. These additions have been met with enthusiasm and have provided fresh opportunities for us to encounter the divine in new and meaningful ways.

As we reflect on this year, I want to encourage us to carry forward the intentionality and passion that have marked 2024. Worship remains a team effort, and the power of our shared experience relies on each of us embracing our role—whether through singing, serving, or simply being present with open hearts. Let us continue to make space for everyone to feel seen, heard, and connected, celebrating the diversity of expressions that enrich our worship.

To my team members, I am endlessly grateful for your dedication, creativity, and faithfulness. To the congregation, thank you for your wholehearted participation in this ministry. Together, we are creating an atmosphere where God's presence is tangible, and lives are transformed.

As we look to 2025, I am excited for the journey ahead and the opportunities to grow even deeper in worship and community. Let us continue to seek God's guidance and grace in all that we do, building on the beautiful foundation we have established this year.

In humble gratitude,

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Lynn
Creative Arts Minister

Connections Minister Report



“Everything was terrific! Speakers were phenomenal. Lots of great information shared and fun and laughter. We appreciate all the hard work that went into the Marriage Conference”

“Hospitality excels at welcoming new members, making new and old members feel at home, and has a lot of knowledge of our church community”

“It was a pure joy to interact with people that have not been on my radar. We talked about tough family issues with each of us & what we might do better”

Community has truly flourished over this past year, and as I look back, I'm filled with awe and gratitude. It's incredible to reflect on all that God has done to connect people to Christ through His local church. From Connection Courses, Baptism Basics, Soup Suppers, Family Movie Night, Connection Groups, Legacy Socials, pancake feed, the Marriage Conference, Hospitality Luncheon, Celebrate!, staff retreat, Kingdom Nights, and so much more, we've been actively living out our discipleship values in countless ways. I'm especially grateful for the many new members who joined us, those who started or joined Connection Groups, the lives transformed through baptisms, and all the ways Trinity Church has impacted our community. What a blessing to see God at work among us!

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgahn Randall
Connection's Minister





Teaching Children to Grow, Learn and Shine for Jesus

Our program is successful year after year because of the supportive families who trust us to care for their children, and our experienced and dedicated staff who provide a fun learning environment in the classroom.

Learning about God and Jesus is the core of our program. It is amazing to be at the beginning of our student's faith journey!

Some ways we did this in 2024 include:

- Chapel time lessons with Pastor Matt Pearson
- Learning monthly Bible verses
- Praying at the beginning of each day and before we eat
- Songs and art projects centered around Bible stories

We know that children at this age learn best through song, play and interactions with one another so we equally focus on these areas of learning as well. It is a great blessing to watch the children grow and develop throughout the school year. We can truly see the light of Jesus in each one of them!

We provided parent-involved activities, too:

- Fall and spring field trips
- Classroom parties for Halloween and Valentine's Day
- Donut Day
- Muffin Day
- End of the Year Programs

Our ministry would like to thank Trinity Church for their support as we continue our mission in teaching young children.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Denne
Little Lights Preschool Director

THE NUMBERS

4 Teachers, 4 Substitute Teachers

63 Families Served

7 from Trinity and 56 who have another church home

or do not claim a church home

The amazing support of our families also makes our preschool successful.

Here are some of their comments:

"I've had two children attend and I've never felt disappointed about any aspect of Little Lights. Ever. Expectations are always met. Great communication, clean facility, amazing staff, and most importantly, my kids learn and have fun. We love Little Lights!"

"Little Lights is very organized, and the teachers are patient and caring. I always felt comfortable leaving my child there."

"We really enjoyed our time with Little Lights. We are always praising Little Lights to all of our family and friends. Thank you for all you have done for our little one. My child loved going and learned a lot. We would definitely sign up again for future children and/or recommend to others!"



Trinity Kids 2024

**WE ARE
YOUR
VILLAGE.**

This year we saw a huge amount of growth in our kids ministry. I am especially thankful for the generosity of so many (85) volunteers who have served this group consistently, joyfully and faithfully.

The paragraphs below show a snapshot of what God has done in Trinity Kids in 2024:

- **“We Are Your Village”** - This year’s campaign provided families with at-home opportunities to enforce our GO value with their kids. One of the most successful parts of this campaign is Legacy & TK Penpals which connected young families with a Trinity member 65+ years of age. Many of these relationships continue to close the gap between generations. The second was Operation Christmas Child in which we gave away 100 boxes to children in need across the world. We look forward to launching our 2025 campaign: Present in Prayer.
- **Community Engagement and Missions** - This year we made an effort to meet our community where they are at. One of those efforts was our Summer Play Dates. Families who saw Trinity as their church home were encouraged to meet within Papillion and Bellevue to get to know our community. Trinity Kids also continues to adopt a local mission initiative every 3 months. This year our kids have learned about and supported Angels Among Us, Little Miracles, Samaritans Purse, Project Harmony, Open Door Mission, as well as Trinity Village members, our local school partnerships, Little Lights’ families and our local firefighters. Furthermore, we continued to connect with and sponsor Mary Kamara through TRS.
- **Developments In Our Weekly Program** - In 2024, we welcomed over 40 new families and 17 new volunteers. We opened a new 4th-5th grade room second hour to accommodate this growth. A big focus was to engage kids more thoroughly in worship as this has been a struggle particularly for our younger children. We increased instruments, such as box drums and a keyboard, and our older kids joined the younger ones for a monthly elementary worship. Some of our TK graduates have been trained to serve in larger roles, such as facilitating whole groups or working 1:1 consistently with an adult volunteer to learn how to effectively teach their age group. I am so proud of our growing group of students who serve! Other additions include our new parent resources and a more thorough volunteer onboarding process.
- **Events** - Always a highlight providing us with “new people momentum”!
 - **Cafe & Play** has become a consistently effective ministry as we meet and care for many of our young Papillion families each week. The **new Kids Corner** near the Cafe has been an oasis for those with small, busy bodies at Cafe & Play, as well as on Sundays and throughout the week.
 - Smaller events included **JUMP** (Jesus Use Me Please) for our 4-5th graders, **Communion Classes**, **Kids Clothes Swaps**, **Summer Playdates** as previously mentioned, our **Busy Bee Workshop**, **Open House**, **Parent Meeting** and our **Christmas Family Party**. We saw good engagement across the board.
 - **VBS** was FREE for the first time this year. This made a difference for many families and 250 kids attended!! We were overwhelmed with the support, including contributions to our collection of many pounds of animal feed, pet toys and a monetary donation for Scattered Joy Acres.
 - **Boo Bash** was a whirlwind! We anticipated 250 people and ended up with between 1000-1500. What a great time it was to be with our greater Papillion community, especially with the addition of our gospel video presentation. Thank you to all those who contributed who make this a big success!

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Lynn
Children and Family Minister

2024 was an extraordinary year for Trinity Students, as we experienced God moving in powerful ways in the lives of students. Week after week, we saw students take meaningful steps forward in their relationships with Jesus—whether through worship, small groups, or serving their peers and community. It was a year marked by growth, transformation, and incredible memories.

Our camps and retreats were some of the most significant highlights of the year. At our Middle School Camp in Centennial, WY, students were challenged to ignite their faith and step boldly into God’s calling for their lives. Our High School Camp in Estes Park, CO provided a beautiful setting for students to dive deep into the truth of what it means to exchange the world’s expectations for God’s best. Then in the fall we had our Elevate Retreat at Camp Rivercrest in Fremont, Nebraska. It was such an intentional weekend of spiritual renewal and relational connection, strengthening both faith and friendships.

Beyond our camps, we embraced the call to serve others and make a difference in our community. A highlight was our partnership with the Nebraska Diaper Bank, where students came together to serve families in need, living out their faith through acts of compassion and service.

Perhaps one of the most exciting parts of this year was welcoming many new students into our ministry. We were thrilled to see these students not only walk through our doors but also choose to stay, build friendships, and grow in their faith as part of our community.

Through every camp, every small group, every outreach event, and every Sunday gathering, we’ve seen God’s hand at work. Lives were changed, faith was strengthened, and we were reminded of His faithfulness time and time again. As we look back on 2024, we celebrate all that God has done and eagerly look forward to another year of pursuing Jesus together!

Joyfully,

Chris Randall
Student & Family Minister



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

Our **Discipleship Team** is made up of staff members who are in minister roles. This team played an integral role in developing our 2024 theme DIFFERENT: Because of Jesus. Our team focuses our ministry that aligns with our values to Gather, Grow, Give and Go to provide a clear discipleship pathway:

- Groups grew from 53 to 60
- Kingdom Nights - 205 people
- Lenten Bible Study: Easter
- Rooted Experience Training - 14 people ready to facilitate our 2025 Lenten series.
- Marriage Conference - 126
- Sunday message development
- Establishing clear pathways for Baptism, Confirmation, Connection Groups and Membership.

In 2025, we look forward to our theme, Alive and Active, and the transformation God brings as we read God's Word together.

Communication is important and the number of ways to do so continues to grow. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for the congregation and community to find what they need to connect with our mission. Here are best practices to always be in the know.

- Worship on Sundays because that is God's desire. Plus you will hear announcements and spend time with chatting with your church family.
- Check your email.
- Open the monthly newsletter. It's online.
- Follow us on YouTube @TrinityPapillion or on Facebook and Instagram @TrinityChurchPapillion
- The Church Center App is **the best** place to find all the most up-to-date info and to connect. Active app users increased by 80 in 2024.



Church Center App

Women's Ministry continued to pursue and live out our purpose to connect women to Christ and to one another. Did you know that there are 518 women actively connected to our church? Vital to this are our Serve Teams. Some are year round groups while others tackle a specific event. Check out what they accomplished in 2024.

- The **Celebrations Serve Team** sent out 518 birthday cards, 217 anniversary cards and a variety of congratulations and sympathy cards.
- The **IF Planning Team** hosted 137+ women last February. Connections were made and lives changed. In 2025, IF is shifting to Gather25 to connect with the global church via simulcast.
- The **Party Planners** brought three different fun opportunities to connect, eat and laugh with Trivia (38), Bingo (33) and Game Day (27). They have wonderful ideas ready for 2025.
- The **Food Team** brought snacks and created meals for our parties and events, including the desserts for the church and community-wide Celebrate! event. This group is expanding their purpose to include the making of frozen meals to create Care Bags in 2025.
- The **Chili-Cookoff Fundraiser Team** hosted this annual event along with the packing opportunity to put together backpacks for food-insecure kids in our local area. We raised \$2,098 and put together 60 backpacks that provided 10 days worth of meals for kids.
- The **Retreat Team** planned and executed an incredible two days for women at a lodge in Van Buren County, IA. They appropriately named this annual retreat, Women of Grace, and created a beautiful logo to go with it. 14 attendees were blessed.
- The **Women's Pray Team** did just that. We consistently prayed for this ministry, the women served by it, mailed praying-for-you post cards, and supported any church-wide prayer events,

Respectfully Submitted,
Juli Staab, Communications and Discipleship Minister

Café Report

Trinity Café has been expanding its reach! We are connecting the community with different events and have welcomed in both believers in Christ and those who we are setting the foundation for. One example is a group of moms from the adjacent neighborhood who came to the church during our voting process. They discovered the café and the play area and now meet every Thursday morning with their kids for a play date and a coffee. They have had the opportunity to see other events that we have and are building relationships with others.

We have also increased our connections with the community by increasing contacts with others such as the Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce and through marketing with social media. Kiley Cruse and Abby Tointon have done an amazing job with our Instagram posts which have grown followers further reaching others in our community.

Another café success is the collection of tips for Little Miracles. All tips in 2024 went directly to this mission totaling \$917.72 ! We are proud and honored to support other missions as well as our own.

Some of the regular activities that involve the café as well as other ministries include:

- **Café and Play** – A group for children aged birth to five and their mothers, grandparents, caregivers, etc. The adults have a fellowship time sharing experiences and supporting one another while the children play and interact in the gym or in the play area designed by the Kids Minister Amanda Lynn.
- **Story Time** – A group for toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers to interact with guided story time and crafts. Caregivers often get a coffee and the café has added drinks that are child-sized and geared towards their likes.
- **Legacy Mornings** – A gathering of our 55+ members for devotion and discussion, guest speakers, community service projects, and just plain fun and games. In 2024, the gatherings were one Thursday a month. Word of the fun and interesting topics reached other 55+ members who were not able to attend on Thursdays, and a request was made to add an additional day of the week! So some months in 2025 will have 2 gatherings. This is a growing group of people supporting and loving one another as we all walk our journey of life.

Trinity Café has an amazing team of 18 volunteers aged 16 to 57! What a great variety of talent and stage of life to be able to interact with each other and provide service with such devotion and care for all our church members and visitors.

The café crew is excited to continue with its growth and reach into 2025!

Jill Pratt
Trinity Café Manager



Treasurer's Report

As your Trinity treasurer, I am pleased to present the annual financial report for 2024, providing an overview of how our collective contributions have been utilized to support our ministries and further our mission. I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you on behalf of Trinity council and staff for your generosity no matter the amount of your contributions – they are all very much appreciated.

2024 General Fund

In 2024, Trinity's annual income budget totaled \$1,151,225. Our actual congregational income for 2024 came in higher than our budget at \$1,196,209 which is \$44,984 over budget.

Expenses came in under budget and the council and staff did a great job managing expenses throughout the year. Total expenses in 2024 totaled \$1,102,046 against a budget of \$1,178,872 (under budget by \$76,826).

Here are a couple highlights of expenses in 2024:

- Benevolence of \$53,694 will be given to the various supported Trinity missions.
- Trinity staff personnel expenses totaled \$699,612 against a budget of \$795,575 – under budget primarily due to the retirement of our senior pastor Erik Boye.

The congregation general fund giving for 2024 was over budget and very positive, resulting in a net contribution gain of \$94,163 versus a budgeted loss of \$27,647, bringing the general fund cash reserves to \$282,775 to begin 2025. This is first time in recent years that we have had an annual net contribution gain!!! Our congregational approved budget for 2025 is flat to 2024 with some restraint on technology, church utilities, administrative items, and staff salaries/benefits.

Capital Campaigns in 2024

We continued to receive gifts related to the “Go Vision” three-year campaign that started in 2021 and received \$203,437 in 2024 putting us within a whisker of our goal of \$1.2M (3 year total = \$1,163,983). We launched and implemented the “Here For Good” initiative last fall and have received gifts at the end of 2024 totaling \$77,852. We're off to a great start on our three year capital campaign goal of \$1.5M (stretch target of \$2M) with 140 congregation household pledges totaling \$1,135,528 YTD and more coming in as I write this report – Very Exciting! Every contribution helps us reduce our debt, freeing up more funds for vital ministries.

Again, thank you to the entire congregation for your faithful giving in 2024 and to our staff and council members for their responsible management of God's Gifts to Trinity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Frerichs
Trinity Church Council Treasurer

2024 General Fund		12/31/2024 Fund Balances	
*Revenue	\$ 1,196,209	*General	\$ 282,775
*Expense	\$ 1,102,046	*Building	\$ 61,375
*Net Gain	\$ 94,163	*Endowment	\$ 405,368
		*Memorial	\$ 61,967

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

**DAN
BENSON**



Family: Joey, April and Audrey Benson

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Greeter, Worship Team (tech team) and Little Miracles Inventory team

I have agreed to serve in this position: I am eager to run for the church council because my faith is the cornerstone of my life, and I want to grow it further through meaningful service. I see this role as an opportunity to deepen my spiritual journey while contributing to our church community. Additionally, I believe that my leadership skills can help guide our church's future. I am dedicated to fostering an environment where our community can thrive, spiritually and communally. By serving on the council, I hope to inspire others and help our church fulfill its mission and vision.

My faith story: I grew up in the church but never felt a personal connection to my faith. It wasn't until I faced a significant challenge in my life that I turned to prayer and turned my life over to the Lord. Due to this difficult period, we ended up at a church that I had an opportunity to become really involved as a church Elder and my relationship with God deepened in ways I never expected.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: My relationship with God is a fundamental and evolving aspect of my life. Through daily prayer and worship, I experience a deep sense of connection and find guidance, comfort, and strength in both prosperous and challenging times. While I continue to seek growth and understanding, my faith deepens with every experience of God's love and grace. Over the past year, I have furthered my faith journey through active participation in the worship tech team, enhancing my spiritual growth through music. Additionally, my involvement with the Trinity Men's Group has been crucial to my ongoing spiritual development, as we engage in weekly meetings, men's trips, and Bible studies.

**AMBER
CLARK**



Family: Spouse: Caleb Clark, Children: Hayden (12), Liberty (9), Jonas (5)

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Adult Leader at Trinity Students (HS Girls) Little Miracles Volunteer Photographer

I have agreed to serve in this position: Our family is immensely thankful for Trinity and fully invested in the success of its future.

My faith story: Growing up in the church with a father who was a college Theology professor, I took for granted an early faith. For a long time, having all the "right answers" to all the "right questions" sustained my belief. After I married and had children, I experienced the deep darkness of prolonged postpartum depression. Consequently, I let go of much of what I believed to be true about life and religion. Still God, in His endless goodness, healed and delivered and restored what broke during those hardest years of my life. Now much later, my testimony is unequivocally this: perfect love casts out fear and quiets the chaos and God is the embodiment of Perfect Love. He calls and convicts and cares for each person uniquely but his Word is for all.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Personal growth is always a tough measurement. I've faced a fair share of unknowns this year; Turns out significant change requires letting go of what feels comfortable. All growth does, I guess. My current relationship with Jesus? Sometimes it's a dance. Some days it's a fight. Always it is true and good and beautiful.

Council Member Candidates Continued

**ALICIA
GREINER**



Family: Spouse: Justin; Children: James, Charley, Miles

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Trinity Kids - nursery, VBS Hospitality - greeter/first time guests Cafe & Play/Mamas Bible Study

I have agreed to serve in this position: I would love to serve on the Church Council as Trinity has become such an important aspect of my life since moving to Nebraska. I care deeply for this church, the staff, and congregation. I'm excited for the future of Trinity and help live out the mission of connecting people to Christ.

My faith story: I was raised a Christian. My family was very involved with the United Presbyterian Church in Washington, IA. I was involved in local and international missions, participated in all of the youth programs, served on the pastor nominating committee, the session (similar to church council), volunteered in any way that I could, and disciplined to my peers in school. In college I attended a non-denominational church and volunteered in kids ministry. After marrying my husband (who grew up Catholic), we regularly attended a Lutheran church in Wisconsin. Upon moving to Nebraska, Trinity church was easy to call home and just what we were looking for in a church.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Jesus is my Lord and Savior! He's my friend and someone I can turn to for anything. My relationship with Christ has blossomed, especially with the help of my Mama's Bible Study. Jesus has given me the courage to step outside of my comfort zone and pray out loud for strangers and disciple to friends that are non-believers.

**CARL
RHOTEN**



Family: Deanna Rhoten, Carlene Flint, Brianna Burger (Josh, Carleigh, Carter, Coulton), Ering Upton (Charles), Courtney Hathaway (Joel)

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Lead Usher for the 8am Service. Santa for Cafe and Play and Story Time. Little Miricle monthly donation pickup.

I have agreed to serve in this position: I want to help the church move forward. Since I am now retired I have more time to serve.

My faith story: I have been a member since 1971 when we moved to Nebraska. I have been thru Sunday school, confirmation and regular church attendance. When my daughters went thru confirmation is cemented the importance of being involved in worship and service. Then I had a couple of life changing decisions that prayer and God helped me with. This lead me to being the lead usher in the new location.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I really rely on my conversations with Jesus. I may not always agree with how he leads me but in the end it is what has to be. I have learned that I miss worship if I do not attend. Now I do on line worship when we are out of town.

Council Member Candidates Continued

**LISA
SCHRAUFNAGEL**



Family: Timothy (spouse), Gabrielle, and Anna (daughters)

Current service activities at Trinity Church: I am a student leader for 8th and 9th grade girls. I am a greeter.

I have agreed to serve in this position: I believe I would be a good asset to the church council. I am level-headed and tend to have a glass half full outlook. I make decisions after hearing different sides in addition to making decisions based on scripture. I am very pleased with the direction the church is going and hope to keep the momentum going.

My faith story: I have been attending Trinity since I was seven years old. I do not recall an "a-ha" moment for my faith; it has been a subtle gradual growth. The older I get, the more important my faith is. Tim and I are teaching our daughters Christianity and how to live a Christian life. I am a nurse manager for the Oncology unit at Methodist Hospital and show love and compassion to my staff on a daily basis.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: As time goes on, I feel an increased urgency or calling to get closer and to further pursue Jesus. This past year I have been diligent with reading my Bible. Tim and I will share our thoughts and questions with one another after reading sections of the Bible individually. My job and personal life has had it's challenges in the past year but I feel God is using me and developing my character with these challenges. He is always beside me no matter what I am experiencing.

Endowment Committee Candidates Vote for One of Two

**RICK
OLSTAD**



Family: Gigi L. Olstad

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Canter at 8:00 AM worship

I have agreed to serve in this position: I was asked if I would like to serve in this position.

My faith story: I turned my back on my faith as a young man. I realized what a terrible mistake it was. I now know and believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior, and he has just been waiting for me wake up a realize how wonderful he truly is. And I give all glory to God for the blessings I have in my life.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Ever since I have been studying the word of God in the bible, I feel closer to Jesus than I ever have.

**LYNN
SIEVERS**



Family: Husband: Tim. Childen: Cole, Amber

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Response Team for the Here for Good Campaign

I have agreed to serve in this position: I would be honored to serve and have the opportunity to become more involved at Trinity.

My faith story: I grew up attending a Catholic Church and school. My family joined Trinity over 10 years ago because of the great children and youth ministries. We found a welcoming church that provided many opportunities for everyone in our family to grow our faith.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I continue to grow in my faith and strengthen my relationship with Jesus through prayer and studying the Bible. The relationships and support provided by being a member of a connection group has been an important part of helping me grow as a disciple.

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

**STEVE
ARQUITTE**



Family: Wife: Tera Arquette. Sons: Logan Arquette and Alex Maeder

Current service activities at Trinity Church: For many years, I've had the privilege of assisting with the youth group on Wednesday nights. Additionally, I support the men's group, especially since Matt Pearson has taken on more responsibilities in the absence of a Senior Pastor. I also contribute to organizing the craft fair, which serves as a fundraiser for Little Miracles.

I have agreed to serve in this position: I realized that rather than simply sitting back and letting things unfold, I want to actively contribute to the decision-making process within the church. It's essential to find the right people to serve in all capacities, and I'm excited to be a part of that process moving forward.

My faith story: For many years, I was the person who attended church simply because my wife encouraged me to. That all changed when I was diagnosed with cancer. Through that challenging time, I found Jesus, and with that newfound faith, I began volunteering and becoming more active in the church. I discovered a wonderful community along the way. My faith has profoundly transformed the way I view life, and I truly believe that I am a better person now than I was over ten years ago.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: My relationship with Jesus has been centered around His grace and His teachings on it. I've been working to become more comfortable in sharing His word and leading others to Christ. While I am still a work in progress, I am making strides every day.

**CHRISTINE
MYSLINSKI**



Family: Husband David; children: Lisa, Laura, and Nicholas

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Little miracles, greeting, ushering

I have agreed to serve in this position: I want to be more generous with my time.

My faith story: God used a miscarriage I suffered in 1992 to draw me to Him and accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Jesus is my all in all, my very present help in trouble. I couldn't live my life without Jesus in it. I've volunteered more in the past year, stepping out in faith.

Nominating Committee Candidates from Congregation at Large Continues

**CONNIE
SCHERZBERG**



Family: Husband, Marty; Sons: Brandon, Jeffrey, Brett, Matthew and Justin

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Hospitality--Usher and Greeter, Prayer Group, Reach One More Committee

I have agreed to serve in this position: I was asked by a wonderful young gentleman if I would serve on this committee. I prayed about it and asked God to guide my decision. The following Sunday, we sang a song that had the words in it of, "My answer's yes, God."

My faith story: I was raised in a family with faith-filled parents and believed in Jesus as long as I can remember. My faith has continued to grow through studying God's Word and the many trials God has used to draw me closer to Him.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: I love Jesus and have a fire inside for Him. Since wanting ALL to know Jesus Christ as Savior, I feel blessed that God has given me a boldness that allows me to share the Good News with so many, including car salesmen!

Nominating Committee Candidates from Church Council Vote for Two of Three

**LAURA
BECK**



Current service activities at Trinity Church: I currently serve as a council member and have volunteered at the Next Steps desk.

I have agreed to serve in this position: I think it is important to pick the right people for certain positions within the church. I would like to be a small part in helping find the right people for those positions.

My faith story: I grew up in the church and have been going to Trinity since I was five. I was very involved with the church growing up. I went to Sunday school, VBS, retreats, bible study and mission trips. In college I continued to go on mission trips and help teach bible study for junior high and high school girls. After college I continued to support Trinity in anyway I could and today I serve as a council member.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Each year I feel my relationship with Jesus grow and this year is no different. This past year had its hardships but I came out a stronger version of myself. I have seen a lot of good changes in my life this past year because of Him. It's hard to see how God can change you in just a short amount time but then you look back and see all the things he was doing. I feel a lot more confident in his plan for me than I did last year.

Nominating Committee Candidates
from Church Council Continued

**MARK
FRERICHS**



Family: Pam, Brent and Ben

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Church Council Treasurer, Greeter, Usher, Welcome/Next Steps host

I have agreed to serve in this position: I am completing my first year on church council this term and automatically placed on the nominating committee ballot - happy to serve.

My faith story: Member of Trinity for over 35 years. Served in many fulfilling capacities over the years - Church Council/Treasurer (2nd term), Endowment Committee, Memorial Committee, stewardship drives, etc. Trinity is our home where we are fed the gospel and work to serve others who walk through our doors.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: Upon completing my first year on church council I have developed a more engaged working relationship with Trinity and the Lord. Many good things in the works as we continue to connect people to Christ!

**JEFF
NORBLADE**



Family: Kim - Spouse, Jared and Tate - kids

Current service activities at Trinity Church: Connection Group Leader, Head Usher, Communion support, Next Steps host

I have agreed to serve in this position: I'm always looking out for the church in new leadership to help continue on our path of connecting people to Christ.

My faith story: Ever since I was a little kid, I have always been active and engaged with Church in church activities. In Texas, I was a member of the nominating committee, Church Council, executive Church Council, and small groups. Since moving back to Nebraska, I have been the facilitator of our small group for the last 15 years. It has been an honor to work with not only our connection group, but other groups and activities, and getting to know people. One of my favorite activities is me time, and doing my daily devotion.

My current relationship with Jesus and how I have grown as a disciple in the last year: A couple of years back Kim and I were involved with an Emotionally Healthy Spirituality small group. I learned more about prayer and daily devotion. Since this time, I am active daily with my prayers and devotions and often share with my family and connection group.

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

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TRINITY
CHURCH

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