

**Trinity Lutheran Church
612 N. Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,




The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith

1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'red to serve,

pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.

The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!

Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at ELCA.org/subscribe.

Read about Mission Support and learn more at
LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 25, 2026

10:15 AM

A. Opening devotions

B. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting, January 26, 2025

C. Reports to the Congregation

1. Congregation Council
2. Treasurer
3. Ministry Reports

D. Elections

1. Officers and council members
2. Personnel committee
3. Sugar Creek representative
4. Synod assembly voting members
5. Nominating committee members
6. Endowment committee Board of Director member(s)

E. Approval of 2026 budget

F. Unfinished business

G. New business

H. Closing prayers and Adjournment

Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA

Sparta, Wisconsin
office@tlcsparta.org
608-269-5081

Staff

Pastor Josh Buzbee— Senior Pastor
Michelle Peterson Hyatt - Youth and Family Minister
Christin Gasner - Ministry/Digital Communications Coordinator through August
Julie Ender - Ministry Coordinator August through December
Leslie Peterson- Administrative Assistant

Council Members

President – Steve Bennett- January 2027
Vice President – PJ Sikorsky- January 2027
Treasurer - Tammy Barclay - January 2026
Secretary – JoEllen Siver- January 2026
Term expiring 2026—Kelly Funk, Brittany Michalski, Joel Oppriecht, Bethany Peterson
Term expiring 2027—Missy Erickson, Abby Scholze
Term expiring 2028—Larry Larson, Shawn Stoffregen

EVANGELISM

Music & Worship—Dennis Glaman, Chair; Carol Glaman, Secretary; Connie Jerome, Julee Hopkins, Jan Jenkins, Diane Dammen, Karen Edwards, Alice Olson, Trevor Tripp, Bob Emery, Adell Morton, Melissa Erickson, Virginia Bolin

Worship Teams

Accompanists - Adell Morton, Virginia Bolin, Joyce Emery, Wyatt Tripp

Choir/Directors: Dennis Glaman - Chancel Ringers
Trevor Tripp - Alleluia Choir

Ushers - Chuck Amundson, Paul Amundson, Mark Baltz, Dan Amundson, Alice Olson, & Al Jenkins

Altar Team - Diane Dammen, Siri & Taylor Donskey, Judy Schure, Mary Herrman, Nila Larson, Pauline Haug, Linda Erickson, Judy Bennett, Carol Thorsen, Sharon Nelson, Carol Glaman, & Cynthia Lockington

Worship Decorating - Barb Moorhead, Julee Hopkins, Nancy Oswald, Barbara Selbrede, and Marie Grewal, Diane Dammen, Nila Larson, Connie Jerome.

Little Free Pantry—Dennis & Carol Glaman

Prayer Chain - Jonelle Intihar

Fellowship Committee- Sarah Tripp, Cynthia Lockinton, Blaine Markuson, Brittany Michalski, Christine Gasner, Barb Moorhead and Pastor Josh

Sunshine Club - Debbie Bassett

Luncheon Ladies - Audrey Zebell, Linda Erickson & Alice Olson

Quilters— Alice Olson, Joanne Benning, Sherry McClain, Audrey Zebell, Anita Jensen, Lois Luther, Karen Edwards, Mary Madison, Gale Fisher, Janet Lisney, Diana Rose, and Wanda Wright

TLCW - Anita Jensen, Chair; Audrey Zebell, Secretary; Tammy Barclay, Treasurer

Education, Youth, & Family Ministry - Chair: Michelle Hyatt & Missy Erickson

Members: Anita Jensen, Christin Gasner, Dawn Jacobson, Kevin Peterson, Amy Stoffregen, Dan Amundson, Pastor Josh

Council members: Missy Erickson

Faith Formation Guides - Missy Erickson, Michelle Lietzau, Wendy Spori, Sherrie Krueger, Jim Peterson Jackie Gerl, Lindsey Preston, Ken Becker, Ashley Jaeger, Katie Kirchoff, Kevin Peterson

Trinity Cares - Education, Youth, & Family Ministry partner together on various projects throughout the year with the help of many volunteers

Family Promise - Anita Jensen—Family Promise Board Member

Food Pantry - Judy Bennett and Sharon Nelson, Trinity Representatives on the Ecumenical Food Pantry Board

Outreach/New Member Committee —Bob Emery

Joy Circle - Julee Hopkins

Mary Circle - Barb Moorhead

Shalom Circle - Adell Morton/Jo Ellen Siver

Buildings & Grounds/Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee—Bob Lydon, Jim Moorhead, Dan Amundson, Al Jenkins, Dean Weibel, Brent Gerl, Joel Oppriecht, Scott Perkins, and Chuck Amundson

Trinity Grounds Sub-committee: Milt Armstrong, Diane Dammen, Eldie Erickson, Bill and Mary Herrman, Al Jenkins, and Paul and Nancy Oswald.

Council Liaisons: Jim Moorhead & Joel Oppriecht

Stephen Ministry Leader—Jan Jenkins, Nancy Sikorsky, Linda Mull, Julie Ender, Pastor Josh

Stephen Ministers: None Currently

Blood Drive Coordinator— Karen Edwards, Deb Hagen

Personnel - Sharon Nelson –2025; Chuck Amundson—2026; Todd Page—2027; Steve Bennett & Pastor Josh

Nominating - Stewardship

Stewardship - Bill Herrman (and Mary when requested), Blaine Markuson and Pastor Josh.

Mission Endowment - Nila Larson-chairperson, Pauline Haug-Secretary, Jeremiah Erickson-Financial Secretary, Sarah Tripp-Publicity Assistant, Dennis Glaman and Pastor Josh.

College Grants Committee - Linda Frei, Barb Moorhead

Mission Interpreters - Barb Moorhead and Deb Bonello

Loose Change Mission: Mark Baltz

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Carol Glaman, Dennis Glaman, Audrey Zebell, Cynthia Lockington, Kelly Funk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 26, 2025

Council members present in the church building were: President Blaine Markuson, Vice President Steve Bennett, Treasurer Tammy Barclay, Secretary Jo Ellen Siver, Connie Jerome, Brittany Michalski, Jim Moorhead, Missy Erickson, Joel Oppiecht, Julee Hopkins, and Kelly Funk.

Those not present were: Bob Emery, Abby Scholze, and Ashley Jaeger.

Pastor Josh Buzbee was in attendance as well.

President Blaine Markuson called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. A quorum (24 or greater) was present. Prior to the meeting, Diane Dammen and Dan Amundson checked the list of eligible voters and distributed 62 ballots.

A. Opening devotions were led by Pastor Josh Buzbee.

B. Approval of the January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting:

Motion to approve: 1st Dennis Glaman, 2nd Jan Jenkins, motion carried.

C. Reports to the Congregation

1. Congregation Council

Blaine said that 2024 was a good year for Trinity. We celebrated our 150th Anniversary, the Youth enjoyed the New Olean's Convention, and we paid off the mortgage. He said that he was impressed to see how many youth are inviting their friends to faith formation. Blaine thanked people who stepped up to cover for Myrt during the gap before Leslie was hired, and for helping to cover the church cleaning after Vince left. He said that we have hired a cleaning service now. He thanked the council members who are coming off council: Connie Jerome, Jim Moorhead, Bob Emery, Julee Hopkins, and Ashley Jaeger.

2. Treasurer's Report

Tammy Barclay thanked Jan Jenkins, Terry Putman, and counters for their help with the finances. We ended the year with a general fund balance of \$13,692.47. We ended 2024 spending \$1,856.29 more than our income, We were able to donate \$35,200,00 to benevolence.

3. Ministry Reports are all listed in the 2024 annual report booklet.

CONTINUED...MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 26, 2025

D. Elections

Blaine opened the floor for anyone who would like to nominate someone or themselves to any of the positions on the ballot. He also asked for nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee. He explained that it requires 3 members be nominated from the floor, then 2 members of council will bring the total to 5. Mick Siver suggested that people shouldn't nominate anyone who has not said he would serve. Pastor Josh said that per the constitution, the Nominating Committee does not require a written ballot, only verbal approval. Adell Morton, Alice Olson, and Anita Jensen said they would serve on the Nominating Committee. They received verbal approval and thanks.

Thank you to Mark Baltz and Stacey Markuson, who volunteered to count the 61 ballots that were collected.

The Endowment Board was the only opening with an extra candidate. Nila had 51 votes, Sarah Tripp had 39, and Sarah Morrow had 31.

The following members were elected:

1. Officers and Council Members:

Council President (2-year term): Steve Bennett

Council Vice President (2-year term): PJ Sikorsky

To Council (3-year terms): Larry Larson and Shawn Stoffregen

Youth Representative (1-year term): Bethany Peterson

2. Personnel Committee (3-year term): Sharon Nelson

3. Sugar Creek Representatives (1-year term): Ken Becker and Eileen Becker

4. Synod Assembly voting members:

Male: Bill McClain and Jeremy Erickson

Female: Kelly Funk and Cynthia Lockington (alternate: Missy Erickson)

Youth: Bethany Peterson

5. Nominating Committee: Adell Morton, Alice Olson, and Anita Jensen

6. Endowment Fund Board of Directors (2-year term): Nila Larson and Sarah Tripp

A HUGE THANK YOU to Connie Jerome, Jim Moorhead, Judy Schure, Doug Dengel, and Krista Sherin for all their hard work on the nominating committee.

E. Approval of the 2025 budget:

Blaine presented slides with bar graphs showing the budget amount, actual expenses for the last 4 years. He said the 2025 proposed budget of \$363,772 included \$1,000 per month to capital improvements. He asked if anyone had questions about the proposed budget.

Anita Jensen asked what "used designated funds" meant in the Family Promise line. Tammy explained that Family Promise had received almost \$900 that was designated for their expenses. Tammy explained that in order for donations to designated funds to appear on member's statements, the check must be made out to Trinity Lutheran, with the fund name in the memo. If the check is made directly to the fund, then it can't be processed by the counters.

Motion to approve the 2025 budget: Mick Siver 1st, Al Jenkins 2nd, motion carried.

F. Unfinished Business:

Tammy said that the First Community Credit Union required Congregation Approval before they would issue Michelle Hyatt a credit card that would allow her to spend Youth Fund money. Blaine explained that Michelle previously used a debit card, but now that the funds are transferred to the Trinity accounts, under the control of the treasurer, she needs a credit card to access the funds. Dennis Gaman asked why she couldn't use a debit card. Tammy explained that the debit card would access all Trinity's funds. The credit card allows access

CONTINUED...MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 26, 2025

only to the Youth Fund.

Motion to approve the issuance of the credit card to Michelle Hyatt:

1st Connie Jerome, Dennis Glaman 2nd, motion carried.

G. New Business:

Solar Panel Presentation by Jim Moorhead. Jim said that a committee was formed to consider getting solar panels. The committee consisted of the following people: Jim Moorhead, Joel Oppriecht, Tammy Barclay, PJ Sikorski, Judy Schure, Brittany Michalski, Al Jenkins, and Pastor Josh. They considered 3 bids, and now recommend Lydon Solar, a local contractor. They were the cheapest bid and we have a good relationship based on past projects. The total cost is \$63,347.40, after incentives, the cost would be reduced to \$18,316.78. There are 4 incentive programs: IRA Direct Pay Provision, Focus on Energy, Solar for Good, and the Solar Moonshot Grant. They are not guaranteed, but considered fairly likely. They project the cost will be paid off in 2 to maybe 4 years. In order to proceed with the project, we need congregation approval to enter into a contract with Lydon Solar, and approval to open a line of credit for up to \$75,000 to help finance this project and any future projects. They will install 87 panels. Jack Miller questioned if the panels were made in America. Joyce Putman looked them up and they're made in Japan.

Motion to approve entering into contract with Lydon Electric:

1st Bill McClain, 2nd Jack Miller, motion carried.

Motion to approve obtaining a line of credit up to \$75,000 with First Community Credit Union: 1st Dennis Glaman, 2nd Joyce Putman, motion carried.

H. Closing Prayers and Adjournment

Pastor Josh said 2024 was a great year and it was good to take part in it. He said that faith formation is doing well and has 50 attendees every Wednesday from 2 to 9 PM.

Last Friday Missy, Michelle and Pastor Josh submitted an application to take part in the Engaging Children Initiative, which is a program offered through the Synod that focuses on how to engage our children in worship. If we become part of the program, we would receive \$1,000/month, and the program will run until the summer of 2029.

He thanked everyone who is serving or have served in the past.

Motion to adjourn at 11:30 AM: 1st Joel Oppriecht, 2nd Barb Moorhead.

CONGREGATIONAL

STATISTICS

FUNERALS

Members:

Delores Bowen
Janice Jansen
Gary Zimmerman
Arlene Walter
Beverly Schultz
Lyle Johnson
LaVern Erickson
Ron Wall

Non-Members:

Robert Sweeney
Robert Cooper
Mary Bushek
Sheri Latimer
Norm Baker
Jim Amundson
Ruth Becker
Billy Buzbee

Date of Death:

February 26, 2025
May 1, 2025
May 16, 2025
May 16, 2025
May 29, 2025
June 12, 2025
June 16, 2025
July 25, 2025

Date of Funeral:

March 6, 2025
May 12, 2025
May 24, 2025
May 28, 2025
June 10, 2025
June 21, 2025
June 20, 2025
August 2, 2025

March 11, 2025
May 10, 2025
April 22, 2025
May 24, 2025
September 27, 2025
September 13, 2025
September 21, 2025

BAPTISMS

Baptized:

Landon Lee Pennel
Hudson Jon Pennel
Quency Alexander Sanwald
Malia Peterson
Cleo Jane Lydon
Everett John Lydon
Kallen Davies

Baptismal Date:

April 6, 2025
April 6, 2025
April 19, 2025
April 27, 2025
May 18, 2025
May 18, 2025
June 22, 2025

CONFIRMED

Hermoine Anderson—Landon Bolen—Hadley Brandau—Clara Brown—Mikaela Dixon—Ella Erickson—Gladden Gasner—Ava Hanson—Addyson Harris—Sterling Intihar—Noah Markuson—Ethan Oppriecht—Rylee Perry—Quency Sanwald—Rhea Savage—Corey Schroeder—Kortney Steinhoff—Willow Thoreson—Lucas Walley—Sabrina Zebell—Samantha Zebell

GRADUATES

Joshua Arnold—Makayla Blount—Hannah Bloyer—Kennedi Bolen—Logan Eilers—Ava Erickson—Ashley Jaeger—Trey Manske—Tristan Martinson—Elizabeth Miller—Emily Miller—Dusty Morrow—Lillian Peterson—Noah Peterson—Katelyn Scholze—Colton Schroeder—Emma Smith—Luke Tempski—Brody Warthan—Emily Woodworth

Baptized Roll - 617

Members lost by death—9

Average Attendance - 100

PASTOR'S REPORT

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:6

Grace and peace to you,

As we reflect on this past year in the life of our congregation, we do so with deep gratitude for God's steadfast love and for the ways the Holy Spirit continues to work among us. As an ELCA congregation, we are rooted in God's grace, called to proclaim the gospel, and sent to serve our neighbors—and this year has been a clear testimony to that calling.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Word and Sacrament have remained at the center of our life together. In worship, we have gathered around the promises of baptism and the gift of Holy Communion, trusting that God meets us not because of our worthiness, but because of God's grace. Through preaching, prayer, and music, we have sought to create space for honest faith, deep listening, and hope grounded in Christ.

Youth and Children

This has been a big year for youth and children at Trinity. At the beginning of the year I wrote a grant for the Engaging Children Initiative (ECI) unsure if we would even stand a chance. Receiving that grant (\$1000 a month for 4 1/2 years) set the tone for our children's ministry over the course of 2025. Since then we have:

- Fully remodeled the Nursery
- Implemented our Prayground in the sanctuary
- Created a game room in the Education building
- Expanded our children's library and Bible resources

In addition to ECI experiments we have also expanded out after school Wednesdays for middle and high school students and continued to have a robust faith formation program with 50+ students.

Green Initiatives

ECI is not the only major project we undertook in 2025. In response to the Synod's continued push to be as environmentally friendly as possible Trinity began to seriously explore options to be more conscientious. In addition to minor changes like more energy efficient light-bulbs, we undertook a project to install solar panels on the roof. We were able to raise funds and install a solar array that should produce enough energy to provide for all of our needs as a congregation. We eagerly await an inspection from Xcel to be able to turn on the system and see the fruits of our labor.

Thank You

I can not name in this report all that was accomplished in the last 12 months. I have but scratched the surface in this report. We had ups and downs but throughout it all one thing always remained steady—the faithfulness of those who call Trinity home. Thank you for all you have done this year.

PASTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED...)

Thank you to the Church Council for the work that you do and the leadership you provide.

Thank you to the staff, Michelle, Leslie, Christin, Hermione, Hadley, Julie, and Andy. For the work that you do, day in and day out, often unseen and unacknowledged. You are a blessing beyond words to this congregation and the community we serve.

Thank you to our youth. For showing up. For being faithful. For your eagerness to learn and your willingness to grow. For your joy and laughter. For keeping us young, and reminding us that there is a bright future for the church with you leading the charge.

Thank you to you. For being here. For showing up. For being God in the world in all the ways you can. Thank you for being part of this crazy, beautiful place we call Trinity.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the coming year, we do so with hope and confidence in God's ongoing work among us. We will continue to lean into our calling—grounded in grace, committed to justice, and active in love. May we remain open to where the Spirit is leading us, faithful in our witness, and bold in our service.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor for another year. And as always I leave you with this question. For all that has been and all we have done, are we better for it?

I believe so.

~PJ

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

It has been an honor to serve as President of our Church Council during the past year. It has been one of faithful service, steady leadership, and continued commitment to God's mission here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Through worship, fellowship, outreach, and stewardship, we have sought to live out our calling by serving Christ in our community and beyond.

Gratitude and Leadership

First and foremost, I extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Josh, Michelle, council members, ministry leaders, staff, and volunteers. Their dedication, prayerful discernment, and countless hours of service make the ministry of Trinity possible. The Council has worked collaboratively and respectfully, always striving to make decisions grounded in Scripture, prayer, and the best interests of our congregation.

I am especially grateful for the spirit of cooperation and mutual support that has characterized our meetings and our work together this year.

Highlights of the Year

Over the past year, Trinity Lutheran Church has experienced many meaningful moments and accomplishments, including:

Saying goodbye to **Christin Gasner** we welcomed **Julie Ender as Ministry Coordinator**, to continue to strengthen communication, coordination, and support across our ministries

Hosting a **Synod Council Retreat and the Youth ConFest**, offering hospitality and leadership beyond our local congregation

Faithful worship continues to be the heart of our life together

Ongoing Christian education opportunities for children, youth, and adults

Increased engagement of youth, especially through the Engaging Children Initiative and our expanded **Wednesday after school activities**

Participation in fellowship events that nurture relationships within the congregation

Outreach efforts that reflect Christ's love to our neighbors in Sparta and the surrounding community as evidenced by our **Feast of Abundance** held in the park, our **All are Welcome** meals and generous donations to local charities

Continued support of many local, regional, and global ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D

Creation of the **Listening Post** allowing members to share what is working well, what is not working well, and what they would like to see changed.

These ministries are made possible through the generous sharing of time, talents, and financial resources by our members.

Church Council Work

The Church Council met regularly throughout the year to oversee the spiritual and administrative life of the congregation. Key areas of focus included:

Stewardship of the church's financial resources

Care and maintenance of church facilities which included solar panel installation and new air conditioning units

Support and encouragement of staff and ministry leaders resulting in obtaining the Engaging Children Initiative grant enabling among other things the total revamp of our nursery and creation of the children's prayer ground

Planning for the future with the Creation Care Initiatives

Addressing current challenges while remaining open to new opportunities for ministry

The Council strives to communicate openly with the congregation and to serve as faithful stewards of the trust placed in us.

Stewardship and Financial Health

We give thanks for the generosity of this congregation during our "Power of Faith" campaign. Your pledges allow the Council to budget to support our missions and control expenses. While financial challenges are always present, Trinity continues to approach stewardship with responsibility and transparency. The Council remains committed to wise financial management, ensuring that our resources align with our mission and ministry priorities.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the coming year, the Council remains hopeful and confident in God's guidance. We recognize that the church must continue to grow and adapt in order to remain relevant and faithful in today's society. To that end, we are intentionally **trying new and different approaches to our various activities and worship services**—some of which will take root and flourish, and others which we may choose not to continue. What matters is that we are willing to step forward together in faith.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D

Our goals include:

- Strengthening worship and faith formation opportunities
- Encouraging deeper member engagement and volunteer involvement
- Continuing outreach and service to the Sparta community
- Caring for our facilities so they remain welcoming and functional for ministry
- Exploring new ways to engage children and families in worship
- Enhancing music in worship to encourage broader participation and engagement
- Developing adult programs to foster further engagement within the congregation
- Developing a more welcoming program for potential new members
- Expanding our bible study program using a variety of new and creative approaches

We trust that God will continue to lead Trinity Lutheran Church as we move forward together.

Appreciation and Farewell

This year, we also pause to say goodbye to two very active and beloved members of our congregation, **PJ Sikorski (Council Vice President) and Nancy Sikorski (Stephen Ministry)**. We give thanks for their faithful service, leadership, and friendship, and we wish them God's blessings in their next chapter.

I also want to express my **deep and sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who work faithfully behind the scenes**. Their dedication often goes unseen, but it is essential to everything we do as a church. Trinity Lutheran Church is supported and sustained by these servants, and I am truly thankful for each one.

Closing

In closing, I thank you for the honor of serving as Council President. It has been a blessing to work alongside faithful leaders and members who care deeply about this congregation. May we continue to walk together in faith, trusting in God's grace, remaining open to change, and responding courageously to God's call.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Bennett
Trinity Council President

Michelle Hyatt – Youth & Family Minister

2025 Reflections

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9-10

“IF I Got Jesus” by Ben Fuller

If I got Jesus
I've got all that I could ever need
Take the world away from me
And I'll be okay

If I got Jesus
There's a hope that's living deep inside
A joy that I could never hide
And a safe place to fall
If I got Jesus, I got it all.

I've seen weakness turn to strength
I've seen failures met with grace
And it's not from what I've done, it's Christ in me.
A miracle I can't explain
Oh, he's given me his name
I'm the richest that I could ever be.

I've been reflecting on the above song with powerful lyrics all throughout 2025. I got the honor to watch Ben Fuller sing this live, & it was one of the most awesome God moments I have ever felt! Take a moment to read the lyrics, & then read them again. It's a great reminder that if we have Jesus, we have it all!

2025 was a year of blessings, challenges, adversity, hope, grief, laughter, and tears. The BEST moment was the beautiful homecoming of my daughter, Adelynn, after her 307- day deployment. Through all of the highs, lows, mountains, valleys, & everything in between, God remained faithful with His steadfast love. Ministry is ever changing, but God NEVER changes! He is with us every step of the way, & we need to keep our focus solely on Him.

Here are some highlights of our year together:

We had our annual chili cookoff & dessert bakeoff in early February. It's always a wonderful time of fellowship & some really good food! We would love to see this expand even more for years to come!

Michelle Hyatt – Youth & Family Minister

2025 Reflections Cont'd

The Lenten Season was a beautiful time of being together at our weekly Wednesday evening meals. Our Faith Formation students were a part of the mentor time, & it was wonderful to hear the buzz & feel the energy in the Fellowship Hall. Many hands came together to cook, love, serve, clean up, & pray for all of this to happen. They all did an outstanding job, & their love for Jesus was evident in this! Lent is such a special time here at Trinity as we join Jesus on His journey to the cross.

March Madness was a fun season of kicking off with a meal on Selection Sunday, March 15. A good time was had by all!

Palm Sunday Brunch was held on Sunday, March 24. It is always a great morning of giving Jesus all the praise & gathering together for a scrumptious breakfast hosted, served, and cleaned up by our Faith Formation students and guides.

Our Affirmation of Baptism for our 21 confirmands was held on Sunday, May 4. It was a very special time to honor them with this milestone in their faith lives. What a blessing for all of us to walk alongside them on their faith journey learning & growing over these past 3 years. I am excited to see them continue to learn & grow in their faith as God calls them to use their gifts & abilities.

Our Graduate Sunday was held on May 18, & it was a memorable occasion for our 15 Trinity Graduates. We honored them along with their parents for a special blessing & a presentation of beautiful quilts (made by our incredible quilting group), a cross necklace, or a personalized Bible to each of the graduates. I am looking forward to all that God has planned for them in their futures!

Summer was a busy time of fun days in the Dells, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, 4G Bible Study at the pool, all Trinity pool & pizza party, worship in the park, & VBS.

Welcome Wednesdays kicked off this fall with our church doors being open after early dismissal for our 6th – 12th graders. Each week 25-30 kids come here to hang out, talk, play games, have a snack, or have a little time to relax. We love to see their smiles when they walk into a safe space to show them our love for them!

We kicked off Faith Formation in the fall with over 50 kids & 6 “Triple A” (authentic, available, affirming) adult leaders. There have been some challenges finding the balance with extracurricular activities & church, but we will continue to pray & work together. Amidst this, it has been an incredible year so far to truly see our kids out there being disciples & sharing their faith. We are grateful to our adult leaders who give so much of themselves to our kids walking in faith together.

4G (God, Girls, & Guys RGR8T) for grades 7 – 12) kicked off this fall on Sunday mornings. We meet after worship for Bible time, food, conversation, & laughter in a “no phone” zone. It’s some of our favorite time to BE with God & with each other embracing & being present in the moment.

Michelle Hyatt – Youth & Family Minister

2025 Reflections Cont'd

We started up our AAW “All Are Welcome” meals on Wednesday evenings to coincide with our FF schedule. They run from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. FF families serve the first & second weeks, & we have another team of some incredible adults that faithfully serves the third week. We are encouraging more to get involved in this important ministry. Again, it is a wonderful time to be with our Trinity family sharing in a meal & conversation in God’s presence. Feeding people is something I love to do, & it’s definitely a Jesus thing throughout His ministry!

Trinity had the honor to once again host ConFest – an incredible, faith-filled event geared for confirmation aged students throughout the LaCrosse Area Synod to gather, learn, grow, engage in team building activities, enjoy a meal, & join in worship together. Over 400 people filled our space – students, adult leaders, pastors, & Trinity volunteers. All in all, it was a wonderful evening, & I am very grateful to the many hands who made it possible!

Lastly, I felt very convicted to start a monthly Bible Challenge in September, & it is still going strong each month since then. It’s a great way to have intent time with God through a daily verse to read, reread, reflect upon, & share your thoughts. I love hearing others’ thoughts, & it’s been great to hold each other accountable. It’s never too late to join! Another great way to stay connected to get is through K-LOVE’s verse of the day. Download the app, or check it out at www.klove.com.

All in all, Trinity is alive & well with SO many faith opportunities to grow, learn, serve, & love as God has called us! Let’s all get out of our comfort zones to embrace change leading by Jesus’ example to share Him with everyone everywhere we go! I look forward to 2026 with all of you to see ALL that God has in store for us – trusting in His plans for us!

God IS with us now & always –

Michelle

Trinity Lutheran Church
Report of the Audit Committee
January 5, 2026

Audit Committee Members: Jim Moorhead, Joyce Putman, Jeremy Erickson

The Audit Committee reviewed the following items:

IRS Filings: Supporting documentation was reviewed to confirm that the Federal Form 941 was filed quarterly and that 941 deposits were made by the 15th of each month. State tax withholding reports were matched and no discrepancies were noted. W-2 reporting and 1099-MISC reporting will be sent out to recipients by January 31st.

Portico: Portico reports were reviewed and change information was verified to reflect appropriate changes to employees' salaries.

Checking Account Reconciliation: Checking account reconciliation is being performed monthly. Statements were reviewed to confirm monthly balancing. Samples of drafts were matched to verify that they have cleared. The Audit Committee tracked giving from the counter sheet for the month of April back to the amount deposited. A sample of expenses were reviewed for the month of April to verify that justification was present in the A/P file and that expenses matched the monthly reconciliation.

Youth Account Reconciliation: The Youth Account funds were in an account which was closed in April of 2025. The Youth Account funds were transferred from their separate checking to the New Youth Designated Funds in 2025.

General Fund: Treasurer Tammy Barclay explained the transfers between each of the fund accounts. It is the belief of the Audit Committee that transfers were accurate and justified.

General Comments: During the audit, it was noted that Treasurer Tammy Barclay has put good systems in place to ensure that tax payments are being made on time, A/R and A/P files are highly organized, and that a separation of duties exists when handling cash, making deposits, and reconciling the books. Tammy explained the process for the Vanco fees, helping us to understand the difference between the giving and the deposit. Tammy has been mentoring Kelly Funk who is preparing to take over Treasurer duties in 2026.

The audit committee would like to thank Tammy Barclay for her attention to detail and for the highly organized manner in which information was presented and questions were answered during the audit process.

Jim D. Moorhead
Joyce Putman
Jeremy D. Erickson

TREASURER'S REPORT

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
 Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2025

Friday, January 9, 2026

Page 1 of 2

Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
Altar Team Fund	1,561.36	0.00	33.94	0.00	1,527.42
Anniversary Celebration Balance	273.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	273.92
Bell Choir Balance	323.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.26
Building Capital Fund	4,201.82	1,310.00	1,834.95	0.00	3,676.87
Building Maintenance Fund	548.24	955.00	1,257.38	0.00	245.86
Coffee Fund Balance	550.23	536.93	428.03	0.00	659.13
Contingency Reserve Balance	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
Decorating Fund Balance	176.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	176.98
Education Ministry Fund	451.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	451.10
Endowment Balance	2,410.00	1,896.56	4,306.56	0.00	0.00
Engaging Children Initiative Fund Balance	0.00	10,000.00	4,554.97	0.00	5,445.03
Family Promise Program Balance	896.01	413.64	0.00	0.00	1,309.65
Fellowship Fund	2,614.19	0.00	678.57	0.00	1,935.62
Flower Fund	1,118.23	1,080.00	1,092.53	0.00	1,105.70
Furnace Replacement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Fund Balance	13,452.47	315,135.76	316,421.39	0.00	12,166.84
Helping Hands Fund Balance	1,441.30	0.00	678.75	0.00	762.55
Historical Balance	686,916.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	686,916.18
Kitchen Balance	1,766.67	0.00	611.64	0.00	1,155.03
Lent Soup Supper	0.00	193.00	61.77	0.00	131.23
Matching Grant College Balance	2,864.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,864.38
Memorial Balance	3,505.98	1,335.00	4,500.00	0.00	340.98
Misc Undesignated Fund	562.96	5,074.40	5,075.46	0.00	561.90
Money Market Savings Balance	583.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	583.20
Net commerical LOC Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Mortgage Fund Balance	227,233.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	227,233.75
North Wall Fund Balance	135.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	135.00
Organ Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Outreach Fund Balance	855.38	0.00	104.10	0.00	751.28
Restricted Estate Fund Balance	26,394.87	103.97	0.00	0.00	26,498.84
Roof Fund Balance	455.00	790.00	0.00	0.00	1,245.00
Sabbatical Fund Balance	6,295.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,295.99
Sanctuary/Interior Refurbish	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00
Solar Roof Fund Balance	0.00	24,126.00	13,596.80	0.00	10,529.20
Sound System Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stephen Ministry Fund Balance	540.00	0.00	540.00	0.00	0.00
Sunday School Balance	3,187.47	583.12	724.97	0.00	3,045.62

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2025

Friday, January 9, 2026

Page 2 of 2

Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
Thrivent Choice Fund Balance	6,118.86	1,127.00	7,000.00	0.00	245.86
TLCW Quilters Balance	885.90	0.00	573.88	0.00	312.02
Unrestricted Estate Funds Balance	50,000.00	0.00	38,556.30	0.00	11,443.70
Worship & Music Fund	820.43	365.00	844.08	0.00	341.35
Youth AAW Meals Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	1,046.92	2,272.15	1,225.23
Youth Ministry Fund Balance	0.00	3,687.40	3,066.39	0.00	621.01
Youth Mission Trip Fund Balance	880.92	710.00	0.00	0.00	1,590.92
Youth Trinity Cares Fund Balance	0.00	700.00	130.17	0.00	569.83
Total	<u>\$1,073,222.05</u>	<u>\$370,122.78</u>	<u>\$407,719.55</u>	<u>\$2,272.15</u>	<u>\$1,037,897.43</u>

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025

Friday, January 9, 2026

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Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.100.100	1st Community Credit Union	76,081.10
1.120.128	CD - Weeden Estate Restricted - 5/27/2026	27,052.20
1.200.100	Money Market Savings - 1st Community Credit Union	22,873.94
1.300.100	Helping Hands Checking Balance	762.55
	Current Assets	\$126,769.79
1.700.100	<i>Projects in Progress</i>	
1.700.201	Interior remodeling	9,434.07
1.700.203	Sound System	7,752.33
	<i>Total Projects in Progress</i>	<i>\$17,186.40</i>
1.800.100	Building	823,103.00
1.800.200	Parking Lot Completed	65,870.19
1.900.100	Furniture and Equipment	7,178.00
	Fixed Assets	\$913,337.59
	Total Assets	\$1,040,107.38
Withholding		
2.100.101	State Withholding	440.88
2.200.101	Federal Withholding/FICA	1,769.13
2.400.211	Pretax contributions-Sr Pastor	335.61
2.400.214	HSA Pretax contributions-Sr Pastor	(335.67)
	Total Withholding	\$2,209.95
	Current Liabilities	\$2,209.95
	Total Liabilities	\$2,209.95
Fund Balance		
3.100.175	Kitchen Balance	1,155.03
3.200.101	Building Maintenance Fund	245.86
3.200.106	Flower Fund	1,105.70
3.200.109	Coffee Fund Balance	659.13
	Building General Expenses	\$3,165.72
3.100.102	Helping Hands Fund Balance	762.55
3.100.212	TLCW Quilters Balance	312.02
3.200.108	Family Promise Program Balance	1,309.65
	Community Outreach	\$2,384.22
3.800.100	Net Mortgage Fund Balance	227,233.75
3.900.100	Historical Balance	686,916.18
	Balancing Accounts	\$914,149.93
3.100.177	Sunday School Balance	3,045.62
3.100.178	Engaging Children Initiative Fund Balance	5,445.03
3.100.702	Matching Grant College Balance	2,864.38
3.200.103	Education Ministry Fund	451.10
	Parish Education	\$11,806.13
3.100.189	Decorating Fund Balance	176.98
3.100.195	Bell Choir Balance	323.26
3.100.210	Altar Team Fund	1,527.42
3.200.102	Worship & Music Fund	341.35
	Worship and Music	\$2,369.01
3.100.165	Lent Soup Supper	131.23
3.100.185	Anniversary Celebration Balance	273.92
3.200.105	Fellowship Fund	1,935.62
3.200.111	Outreach Fund Balance	751.28
	Fellowship and Outreach	\$3,092.05

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025

Friday, January 9, 2026

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
3.100.115	Building Capital Fund	3,676.87
3.100.116	Roof Fund Balance	1,245.00
3.100.117	Sanctuary/Interior Refurbish	3,200.00
3.100.118	Solar Roof Fund Balance	10,529.20
3.100.120	North Wall Fund Balance	135.00
	Building Capital Fund	\$18,786.07
3.100.401	Youth Mission Trip Fund Balance	1,590.92
3.100.410	Youth Trinity Cares Fund Balance	569.83
3.100.420	Youth AAW Meals Fund Balance	1,225.23
3.100.450	Youth Ministry Fund Balance	621.01
	Youth Programs	\$4,006.99
3.100.101	General Fund Balance	12,166.84
3.100.171	Memorial Balance	340.98
3.100.380	Restricted Estate Fund Balance	26,498.84
3.100.399	Contingency Reserve Balance	20,000.00
3.100.400	Misc Undesignated Fund	561.90
3.200.100	Money Market Savings Balance	583.20
3.200.104	Unrestricted Estate Funds Balance	11,443.70
3.200.107	Thrivent Choice Fund Balance	245.86
3.200.110	Sabbatical Fund Balance	6,295.99
	Total Fund Balance	\$1,037,897.43
	Total Withholding and Fund Balance	<u>\$1,040,107.38</u>

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 (Total Operating
Income and Expense)

Friday, January 9, 2026

Page 1 of 3

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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Income		
4.100.105	Pledges	303,232.25
4.100.110	Visitor/Non-member	1,546.00
4.100.120	Loose Offering	3,135.66
4.100.125	New Year Offering	10.00
4.100.130	Lent Offering	770.00
4.100.135	Maundy Thursday	65.00
4.100.140	Good Friday	290.00
4.100.160	Christmas	1,225.00
4.100.170	Use of Church	100.00
4.100.175	Interest Earned on Money Market	4,621.85
4.200.155	Thanksgiving Inc.	140.00
	Budget Income	\$315,135.76
	Total Income	\$315,135.76
Expense		
5.100.101	ELCA Benevolence	30,000.00
5.100.401	Sugar Creek	2,500.00
5.100.601	Lutheran Social Service	2,500.00
5.100.801	Boy Scout Charter	200.00
	Total Further Kingdom Work	\$35,200.00
5.200.101	Salary - Sr. Pastor	51,545.08*
5.225.101	Pension - Sr. Pastor	7,695.60*
5.230.101	Health Ins - Sr Pastor	11,196.00*
5.230.502	HSA-TLC share	600.00
5.250.101	Housing - Sr. Pastor	15,750.02*
5.260.101	Self Emp FICA - Sr. Pastor	5,995.88
	Senior Pastor	\$92,782.58*
5.200.301	Salary - Youth Dir.	52,564.22*
5.225.301	Pension - Youth Dir.	5,519.16*
5.230.301	Health Ins - Youth Dir.	4,000.08*
5.260.301	FICA - Youth Director	4,327.32
	Youth Director	\$66,410.78
5.200.401	Salary - Secretary	18,743.50

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 (Total Operating
Income and Expense)

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
5.260.401	FICA - Secretary	1,433.88
	Secretary	\$20,177.38
5.200.501	Salary - Organists	2,600.00
5.260.501	FICA -Organists	198.98
	Organists	\$2,798.98
5.200.650	Salary-Worship Coordinator	13,084.70
5.260.650	FICA-Worship Coordinator	1,001.00
	Worship Coordinator	\$14,085.70
5.200.701	Supplemental Help	8,680.00
5.200.750	Pulpit Supply	242.00
	Total Support Leadership	\$205,177.42
5.280.101	Books - Sr. Pastor	273.94
5.300.101	Travel - Sr. Pastor	1,598.80
5.300.301	Travel - Youth Director	1,831.90*
5.300.450	Phone Stipend - Sr Pastor	900.00
5.300.475	Phone Stipend - Youth Director	600.00
5.300.499	Pastor Discretionary fund	132.45
5.325.100	Accounting	709.95
5.325.101	Office Supply	2,640.18
5.325.201	Postage	1,625.75
5.325.301	Offering Envelopes	717.07
5.325.401	Altar Supply	927.41*
5.325.501	Church Lit/Lutheran Magazine	2,373.33*
5.325.601	Conv. & Conferences	1,707.39*
5.325.801	Kitchen Supplies	172.92*
5.335.101	Fees	673.97
5.350.301	Parish Ed. Committee	3,739.82
5.350.350	Layleader Training	100.45
5.350.375	Stephen Ministry	1,189.96
5.350.501	Worship/Music Com.	1,849.39
5.350.601	Youth Ministry	3,488.37
	Total Tools & Materials	\$27,253.05

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI
Treasurer's Report as of December 2025 (Total Operating
Income and Expense)

Friday, January 9, 2026

Page 3 of 3

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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5.400.101	Building Maintenance	4,782.19
5.400.201	<i>Utility & Fuel</i>	
5.400.211	Electric	7,855.12
5.400.212	Gas	7,483.64
5.400.213	Water	1,509.41
5.400.214	Telephone	2,155.78
	<i>Total Utility & Fuel</i>	<i>\$19,003.95</i>
5.400.301	Janitor Supply	1,024.16*
5.400.401	Office Equip. Maint.	6,549.24*
5.400.501	Snow Removal	2,306.94*
5.400.601	Insurance	14,935.18*
5.400.901	Exterior Gardens Maintenance	63.98
	Total Maintain Property	\$48,665.64
5.500.301	Commerical LOC - Principal	125.00
5.500.401	Commerical LOC - Interest	0.28
	Total Debt Service	\$125.28
	Total Expense	\$316,421.39
	Difference	<u>(\$1,285.63)</u>

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI

Presentation Budget Report (Total Operating Income and Expense)

Monday, September 15, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Budget 2025	Proposed 2026
4.100.105	Pledges	\$362,073.00	\$363,000.00
5.100.101	ELCA Benevolence	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
5.100.401	Sugar Creek	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
5.100.601	Lutheran Social Service	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
5.100.801	Boy Scout Charter	\$200.00	\$200.00
Totals		\$35,200.00	\$35,200.00
5.200.101	Salary - Sr. Pastor	\$51,545.00	\$53,606.80
5.225.101	Pension - Sr. Pastor	\$7,474.00	\$7,695.60
5.230.101	Health Ins - Sr Pastor	\$9,096.00	\$9,456.84
5.230.502	HSA-TLC share	\$600.00	\$2,500.00
5.250.101	Housing - Sr. Pastor	\$15,750.00	\$15,750.00
5.260.101	Self Emp FICA - Sr. Pastor	\$5,996.00	\$6,179.69
5.200.301	Salary - Youth Dir.	\$51,064.12	\$51,064.12
	Bonus - Youth Dir	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
5.225.301	Pension - Youth Dir.	\$5,308.00	\$5,519.22
5.230.301	Health Ins - Youth Dir.	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
5.260.301	FICA - Youth Director	\$4,683.00	\$4,683.46
5.200.401	Salary - Secretary	\$24,700.00	\$26,000.00
5.260.401	FICA - Secretary	\$2,201.00	\$2,316.60
5.200.601	Salary - Custodian	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.260.601	FICA - Custodian	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.200.501	Salary - Organists	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
5.260.501	FICA -Organists	\$398.00	\$463.32
5.200.650	Salary-Worship Coordinator	\$17,727.00	\$7,971.60
5.260.650	FICA-Worship Coordinator	\$1,579.00	\$710.27
	Salary - Digital Coordinator		\$7,280.00
	FICA-Digital Coordinator		\$648.65
5.200.701	Supplemental Help	\$8,900.00	\$11,940.00
5.200.750	Pulpit Supply	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Totals		\$218,721.12	\$225,486.17
5.275.301	Continuing Ed - Support Staff	\$400.00	\$400.00
5.275.101	Continuing Ed - Sr. Pastor	\$400.00	\$400.00
5.280.101	Books - Sr. Pastor	\$300.00	\$300.00
5.285.101	Sabbatical Res. - Sr. Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.300.101	Travel - Sr. Pastor	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
5.300.301	Travel - Youth Director	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
5.300.401	Travel - Secretary	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.300.450	Phone Stipend - Sr Pastor	\$900.00	\$900.00
5.300.475	Phone Stipend - Youth Director	\$600.00	\$600.00
5.325.100	Accounting	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
5.325.101	Office Supply	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00
5.325.201	Postage	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
5.325.301	Offering Envelopes	\$1,000.00	\$900.00
5.325.401	Altar Supply	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
5.325.501	Church Lit/Lutheran Magazine	\$450.00	\$1,800.00
5.325.601	Conv. & Conferences	\$1,400.00	\$1,800.00
5.325.701	Piano and Organ Repairs	\$700.00	\$500.00

Trinity Lutheran Church - Sparta WI

Presentation Budget Report (Total Operating Income and Expense)

Monday, September 15, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Budget 2025	Proposed 2026
5.325.801	Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$500.00
5.330.101	Professional Fees	\$800.00	\$2,689.00
5.335.101	Fees	\$701.00	\$700.00
5.350.301	Parish Ed. Committee	\$5,600.00	\$5,222.23
5.350.350	Layleader Training - Stephen Ministry	\$5,000.00	\$4,150.00
5.350.401	Stewardship Committee	\$700.00	\$600.00
5.350.450	Synod Assembly Offerings	\$600.00	\$600.00
	Worship and Music	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
5.350.601	Youth Ministry	\$12,000.00	\$8,000.00
	Youth Trips - reserve for future		\$2,000.00
	Quilting Ministry	\$0.00	\$750.00
5.350.701	Milestone Ministries	\$400.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$43,751.00	\$44,211.23
5.400.101	Building Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
5.400.175	Bldg Projects - Capital Improvement	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
5.400.201	Utility & Fuel	\$23,000.00	\$18,000.00
5.400.301	Janitor Supply	\$900.00	\$900.00
5.400.401	Office Equip. Maint.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
5.400.501	Snow Removal	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
5.400.601	Insurance	\$14,500.00	\$12,541.00
5.400.901	Exterior Gardens Maintenance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Totals		\$62,900.00	\$55,941.00
Grand total expenses		\$360,572.12	\$360,838.40

2025 Ministry Team Reports

FUNERAL LUNCH 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Audrey Zebell and Alice Olson presently coordinate the service of preparing and serving funeral lunches at Trinity. Three menu choices are offered to the families. This year five lunches were provided.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any capacity, whether preparing, setting tables, serving, cleaning afterward, and/or providing sweets for dessert. You are all very much appreciated.

Submitted by Alice Olson

QUILTERS 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission quilts are loaded on semi trailers in LaCrosse for shipment to people in need through Lutheran World Relief annually in October, therefore, this report covers October 2024-October 2025. Trinity quilters completed 140 quilts for LWR. 10 of our Trinity graduates received a quilt, 2 were donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, 1 for Sparta Area Cancer Support (SACS), 1 for fundraising, 2 for Sugar Creek Quilt Auction, 3 for Trinity's Fall Fest.

We are presently meeting in the Fellowship Hall the first, third, and fifth Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 to noon. We're still in need of more quilters to join our group. We can never have too many! Please consider helping with this important mission of our church. Thank you.

Trinity Quilters are: Alice Olson, Joanne Benning, Sherry McClain, Audrey Zebell, Lois Luther, Anita Jensen, Karen Edwards, Mary Madison, Gale Fisher, Janet Lisney, and Diana Rose

Submitted by Alice Olson

Sunshine Club 2025 Annual Report

In 2025 I sent 70 plus cards to celebrate those who are 80 years and older on their Birthdays.

I don't track the number of sympathy cards I send, but as I reflect, it felt fewer in number.

There were more in our congregation experiencing illness or injury during the past year. On behalf of all of you I send out get well wishes with notes of encouragement.

We celebrate newly Baptized members and wish them blessings on their faith journey as they grow in the love of Jesus, within the Trinity family, or beyond our community.

My mission has been to send out personalized greeting cards to members of Trinity.

I have enjoyed doing so for many years.

Submitted by Debbie Bassett

MUSIC AND WORSHIP 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Since Music and Worship are important to our Trinity family, our team has had many discussions about both. We have continued to introduce one new hymn a month and repeat it until it becomes more familiar. Using the projection for some contemporary songs got mixed reviews. But there was widespread use of percussion instruments as lively accompaniments. We also featured an appearances of the area Polka Masters group. They are scheduled in 2026 as well.

We continue to talk about the best options for Communion including our present schedule of the first and third Sundays of each month. The head of the Altar Team, Cynthia Lockington has introduced the use of Sign Up Genius to be sure all necessary slots are filled. And she pairs new volunteers with experienced ones to be supportive. Having the communion servers assist with clean up reduces some of the burden for the set up pair.

Scheduling for the best selection of worship and education times, we have continued with one service each Sunday at 9 AM and Sunday School at 10:15. This seems to be working well.

We continue with our three regular accompanists but know this situation will change when Wyatt leaves for college. Therefore, we are looking at options including recorded music. Our Alleluia Choir normally sings on the first Sunday of the month with Trinity Sunday School frequently sharing on the second. Handbell Choir often plays on the fourth Sunday.

Faith Formation youth have recently responded to options for participating more in worship. They have been especially active behind the scenes like setting up and running the projection and streaming efforts. Their participation has been well received.

The Usher teams continue with faithful service but it would be desirable to recruit more members. Our team would always welcome interested members.

Team:

Pastor Josh Dennis Glaman (Chair) Carol Glaman (Secretary) Julee Hopkins Jan Jenkins Trevor Tripp Cynthia Lockington Virginian Bolin Adele Morton Missy Erickson

ALTAR TEAM 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Trinity Altar Team gathered for coffee in September to express gratitude to Diane Dammen for many years of leadership. She stepped down due to family demands.

Cynthia Lockington is attempting to fill Diane's shoes of noteworthy size and is slowly feeling her way, generally with mere minutes to spare. The Music and Worship team plus Judith Schure have helped make sure those once per year rituals (such as candles for Christmas Eve) don't get missed.

Recognizing the need to increase participation, Altar Team members assessed the current needs of the congregation and those of potential volunteers. The group is now using an online volunteer registration platform (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0849AFA62AA0FC1-59127996-trinity#/>). This lets individuals sign up week-by-week.

Another new protocol is to partner an experienced Altar Team member with a new member. These weekly teams collaborate to select the time that works best for them to prepare for Sunday Service. Each person is free to identify as "new" for as long as they wish! Also, there is no required number of Sundays per year to serve.

These changes have increased participation in Altar Team; still, we welcome ALL members regardless of age to serve our congregation in this very tangible way. Come, be part of our team, the Altar Team!

FAMILY PROMISE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Family Promise

2025 has been a year of change for Family Promise of Monroe County, beginning with its name. Its official name is now Family Promise of the Great Rivers which reflects the presence of the Jackson County office, and the fact that we receive funding from agencies outside of Monroe County.

In January of 2025, the Family Promise office moved from 117 W. Oak to its present location at 211 W. Oak with the purchase of the old Torkelson Funeral Home. Along with that shift, there was also a shift in philosophy: Churches were no longer used to house families; they were sheltered at the Day Center, which is referred to as a “static site.”

On March 27, 2025, Family Promise officially opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an Open House. A successful fund raising campaign was kicked off to raise \$25,000 for initial remodeling of the electrical system and other needed repairs. The main floor was painted by a group of volunteers, and other improvements are being made as the money and talent appear.

The capacity of the Day Center is currently three families; however, as the two rooms on the third floor are remodeled, capacity will increase to five. During the past year 96 families in active housing crisis have been served, which equates to 321 individuals. Families sometimes receive: financial aid to prevent eviction, gas cards to navigate child care, work and education, or in-kind donations of diapers, etc. in addition to actual shelter. Meals are provided by volunteers three nights a week, and families eat leftovers or cook for themselves the other days. Once accepted into the shelter program, guests have 60 days to turn their lives around. Extensions may be earned on a case-by-case basis, providing progress is being made.

Family Promise participates in community events such as Wellness Fairs, Run/Walks, brat barn events, etc. to raise awareness and fund raise. The 1st Legacy Car Show was held in Millston on Sept. 13, an event we will be growing. By participating in Cranfest Parking, volunteers assisted in raising over \$30,000. Events too numerous to mention help fund Family Promise, in addition to grants received through United Way, WHEDA, etc.

Family Promise operates with just two paid employees who work exceedingly hard to accomplish an amazing amount of work to keep Family Promise running. The cadre of volunteers and a working Board faithfully support that work. Trinity has been part of that support for over 14 years, seven years before doors were even opened! We hope Trinity's commitment of support extends far into the future. Please consider becoming involved! Family Promise needs all of us!

Submitted by : Anita M. Jensen

STEPHEN MINISTRY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Our present Stephen Leaders are Pastor Josh, Julie Ender, Linda Mull, and Jan Jenkins. We are thankful that Julie joined the leadership team after taking the Stephen Leader Training Course this summer. Jan is taking a more supportive leadership role and future Stephen Ministry classes will be taught by Linda and Julie. Pastor Josh is anticipating taking the Stephen Leader Training Course sometime in 2026.

Jan, in her Stephen Leader role, is sending out the four Journeying through Grief books over the course of a year to Trinity members who have lost loved ones. Nineteen members received their last book during this year. Ten members began receiving the books after losing a loved one in 2025. Recipients of the books have commented that the books were very helpful during their time of grieving.

Stephen Ministry is recruiting to have members take the Stephen Ministry class to prepare them for providing distinctively Christian care to congregational members experiencing difficult times. We currently have one member waiting to take the class. If you would like more information regarding Stephen Ministry, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders.

We pray that God will bless our Stephen Ministry in 2026 and that the Holy Spirit will stir members' hearts to serve others through this ministry.

Submitted by,
Jan Jenkins

Buildings and Grounds 2025 Annual Report

2025 Building Maintenance and Projects in Review

- Solar array complete, waiting for final Xcel inspection to operate
- Removed damaged lighted cross, cleaned rust from flashing and stone wall, waterproofed stone
- repaired and maintained snow blower
- reversed door swing into nursery
- installed door locks at game room
- installed cement cap on entrance retaining wall (w/ Shovelmen)
- new AC compressors installed

basic church cleaning contracted to SereneClean

Volunteers mow and trim grass and weed
Volunteers empty waste baskets and put out garbage/recycling
Volunteers provide snow removal for walkways

Anyone wishing to volunteer for buildings and grounds tasks would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lydon

Mission Endowment Fund 2025 Annual Report

Officers and members of the committee include: Nila Larson-chairperson, Pauline Haug-Secretary, Jeremiah Erickson-Financial Secretary, Sarah Tripp-Publicity Assistant, Dennis Glaman and Pastor Josh. A Thank You to Dennis Glaman for his six years of service to the Endowment committee. Members of the committee were great to work with.

The committee meets four times per year to discuss ways to promote the fund for planned giving and estate planning. We also consider requests for funding from groups and organizations within the community. Many of you have given memorials in memory of loved and respected friends and relatives. Thank You for your generous gifts.

Mission Endowment Fund was established in 1999 to enhance the mission outreach of Trinity Lutheran Church. The fund can accept bequests in wills, assignments of life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and other trusts.

November 17: Balances:

River Bank Endowment Checking \$2362.30 (amount to be spent)

ELCA Mission Investment Checking \$1002.55

ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust \$163,819.10

In the past year we have financially supported the TLC solar panel project, 9 college scholarships, A Rocha USA, Ecumenical Food Pantry, Trinity's Little Food Pantry, Family Promise, Life Change Connections and Sparta Backpack Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Nila Larson chairperson

WORSHIP DECORATING TEAM 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Each year we utilize seasonal decorations and plants donated by members to celebrate special events. Thank you to all who help by purchasing lilies, tulips and daffodils for Easter services, remembrance geraniums in May that are planted outside the building to enjoy all summer and poinsettias for the celebration of Christ's birth. We appreciate Mary and Bill Herrman's winter woodland arrangements at the church's front door each visit.

The committee changes out decorations each season, plants, water and weeds the geraniums all summer and shares plants that are left at church with friends at local care facilities. We also assist at funeral luncheon gatherings to provide table decorations.

Continued thanks to faithful committee members, Barb Moorhead, Barb Selbrede, Julee Hopkins and Nancy Oswald for their time and skills. We appreciate all the volunteers who help prepare our church home for Advent and Christmas. If you helped this year, Thank you! If not, maybe you will consider joining us next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Grewal

MATCHING FUNDS FOR COLLEGE GRANTS COMMITTEE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025 was the eighteenth year of Trinity Lutheran church's participation in the "Matching Funds for College Grants" program. As members of Trinity Lutheran Church, we have an opportunity to help students who choose to attend an ELCA college. The Matching Funds for College Grants Fund program is a cooperative venture between participating ELCA Lutheran colleges and congregations. The colleges agree to match grants given to students from local congregations up to \$750 per student each year. The grants may be given to students for a total of four years per student.

For the 2025 – 2026 school year Trinity has no students benefiting from the Matching Funds program. A list of ELCA colleges and universities is listed below. Please contact the committee if you know of any Trinity members who plan on attending a listed school.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way to the Matching Funds for College Grants Fund through donations and memorial gifts. We appreciate your support. Please continue to support the Matching Grants Fund.

Anyone interested in knowing more about this program, please contact us.

Linda Frei Barb Moorhead

ELCA colleges and universities:

Augsburg University
Augustana College (Illinois)
Augustana University
Bethany College (Kansas)
California Lutheran University
Capital University
Carthage College
Concordia College (Moorhead, Minnesota)
Finlandia University
Gettysburg College
Grand View University
Gustavus Adolphus College
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Luther College (Iowa)
Midland University
Muhlenberg College
Newberry College
Pacific Lutheran University
Roanoke College
St. Olaf College
Susquehanna University
Texas Lutheran University
Thiel College
Wartburg College
Wittenberg University
Wagner College



Mission Interpreters:

Telling the story of our hands doing God's work in the world.

Trinity's Mission Interpreters tell the stories of how Trinity is a partner in the wider ELCA mission and ministry at home and throughout the world. Mission Interpreters submit "Mission Moment" stories each month in the Tidings to highlight how communities and people are impacted by the ELCA ministries and world-wide outreach programs.

Our offerings and gifts to ELCA ministries through mission support are our hands doing God's work in the world. The goal of mission interpreters is to advocate for member support of the mission and ministry we share beyond Trinity, through the La Crosse Synod, and then on through the work of the ELCA churchwide organization.

The Mission Interpreter stories describe how we make a difference in the work of the church. Examples of stories in 2025:

La Crosse Synod Assembly in June is the annual gathering of representatives from the 72 ELCA congregations in the La Crosse Synod.

ELCA World Hunger programs such as Good Gifts work toward a just world where all are fed.

The La Crosse Synod has a companion synod in Peru, Evangelical Church of Peru-El Iglesia Luterana del Peru.

Lutheran Disaster Response impacts people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States, such as the California wildfires, and around the globe such as Gaza.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry began his role as ELCA Presiding Bishop on Oct. 1, 2025.

Thanks to Trinity members for their faithful service and giving in reaching out to our neighbors in God's world. Join the Mission Interpreter Team! Together we learn and share more about how Trinity is a mission minded congregation supporting a worldwide ministry. You only need a desire to tell the stories of what God is doing in the world.

EDUCATION, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Chair: Michelle Hyatt, Missy Erickson

Council Member(s): Missy Erickson

Members: Anita Jensen, Christin Gasner, Dawn Jacobson, Kevin Peterson, Amy Stoffregen, Dan Amundson, Pastor Josh

Mission/Purpose: The Trinity Lutheran Church Education, Youth, & Family Ministry will strive to build a biblical foundation in the lives of individuals that will transform families, friends, and the community for the Kingdom of God.

Sunday School

- Simply Loved is the curriculum that was used
- Summer VBS welcomed 21 with the theme Jesus, Our Greatest Treasure August 3-5
- 3rd Grade Bibles were blessed and distributed at worship
- Sunday School children shared music during 4th Sunday worships at 9:00
- Dawn Jacobson plans lessons, music, and keep families informed
- Trinity's Christmas Program - students participated in the Christmas program this year. A huge special THANK YOU to Kevin Peterson, Dawn Jacobson, and all Sunday School teachers for their planning, preparation, time, and dedication in delivering another wonderful Christmas Program with singing and readings to retell the Christmas story! Thank you to Adele Morton for providing the music and Hermione Anderson and Hadley Brandau for doing the slides.

Sunday School offerings have been used to purchase ELCA Good Gifts

Faith Formation

- 40 young people in grades 7-9 for Faith Formation & 10 "Triple A" adult guides; 21 confirmands affirmed their baptism on May 4
- Faith Formation small groups led worship each Wednesday evening throughout the Lenten Season
- The annual Palm Sunday Breakfast & Egg Hunt was held
- Fall 2025 currently has over 50 young people in grades 6-9 for Faith Formation & 6 "Triple A" adult guides
- Hosted ConFest on October 15
- Church is open after early dismissal for Grades 5th and up

EDUCATION, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY **2025 ANNUAL REPORT (continued...)**

2025-26 curriculum is based on the New Testament - focus on the 4 Gospels & Jesus' ministry. We meet weekly with large group/small group time & close out with worship in the sanctuary.

Continued Education Events/Opportunities:

- Birth-3 kits continue to be given to young families to help grow the faith of Trinity's little ones; every 6 months families receive items to help faith grow in the home beginning at birth, up to the age of 3
- God's Family: All Are Welcome - food & family activities were offered after worships at Creekside Park during the summer
- Graduate Sunday (May 18) honored our 13 high school graduates with a special worship, quilt blessing, & recognition during coffee hour
- Sugar Creek Bible Camp - 20 of our young people experienced this fun-filled, Spirit-led camp!
- Trinity Family Night at Sparta Aquatic Center - Pool pizza party
- A Family Fun Day was held at Mt. Olympus
- Blessing of the backpacks and school supplies occurred with a Back to School worship on August 17
- Adult Education opportunities:
 - o Pastor Josh continued with the Bible study after Sunday worships
 - o Youth continue to lead worship on the 4th Sunday of the month during the school year
 - o 4G (God, Girls, & Guys R Gr8T) continues to be a hit on Sunday mornings for grades 6-12. Food, digging into God's Word, & face-to-face time is what it is all about! 15-20 participate each week.
 - o Weekly Wednesday evening meals have continued for our Trinity Family - ALL ARE WELCOME to gather around the table for a meal, games, Bible time, & fellowship
 - o Trinity Cares Giving Tree - helping our brothers & sisters in Christ to have a brighter Christmas season.
 - o Trinity's Trunk or Treat was held on October 25.
 - o A Youth Lock-In was held overnight on October 25; 40 young people participated in this awesome event! The youth acted out a skit at worship the following morning.
 - o Education, Youth & Family continues to oversee the aluminum can collection at Trinity as a fundraiser for this ministry.
 - o Education, Youth & Family is one of the learning labs for the Engaging Children in Worship Initiative (ECI). See the ECI report for more information

Education, Youth, & Family Ministries meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:30. All are welcome to join at any time!

Submitted by Missy Erickson & Michelle Hyatt

2025 Trinity Lutheran Church Women Annual Report

Trinity Lutheran Church Women give of their time, talents and treasures on a monthly basis. Whether they belong to a Circle or not, women are helping everywhere. No moss grows under their feet!

On February 2, a meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church Women gathered after Sunday worship to decide how to distribute funds earned at the 2024 Fall Festival (a.k.a. Bazaar). Proceeds from that event amounted to \$2,353.95. Monies go to support local, national and international missions.

Distributions were decided as follows:

Sparta Backpack Program - \$300
TLC Camperships -\$300
Food Pantry - \$300
Faith in Action - \$300
Sojourner's Journey - \$300
Global Refugee Fund -\$300

St. Clare Health Mission - \$300
Sugar Creek Bible Camp - \$300
Family Promise - \$300
Brighter Tomorrows - \$300
Triennial Convention - \$300 saved for 2026
WELCA Church-wide Spring Offering - \$300

This lengthy list of beneficiaries was made possible due to not only money from Fall Festival, but other monies donated to our account from Circle offerings, money from funeral luncheons, and other donations to TLCW.

Three women's circles meet monthly. Mary Circle now meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 1 p.m. in the Shalom Room during the school year. During the summer, meetings are held once a month as social gatherings at individual member's homes. Times and places are decided as summer approaches. Shalom Circle meets the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 in the Mary Crest building of the Morrow Home. Joy Circle meets the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Shalom Room at church. New members are welcome to join whichever Circle fits into their schedule. We would love to have you join us!

Circles support Lutheran World Relief through the making of quilts and baby kits. Trinity contributed 140 quilts and 41 baby care kits to LWR besides numerous quilts being donated to local needs such as the Sugar Creek quilt auction, SACS, local benefits, fire victims, graduates, etc.

Several meetings were held during the year to plan the 2025 Fall Festival, which is the primary fundraiser of TLCW. This year the Fall Festival was held on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025. An impressive assortment of vintage items was on display. A bake sale, which included lefse and other Scandinavian goodies, was held; and lunch was served to support missions far and wide. A total of \$1,926.50 was earned. A meeting will be held in the January of 2026 to distribute those funds. All women of Trinity are invited to attend that meeting.

Submitted by: Anita M. Jensen

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2025

Receipts 2025:

Donations from circles	\$486.00
Funerals	\$1,200.00
Bazaar proceeds	\$2,176.50
TLC donation to Shalom	\$25.00
<u>Deposit in transit - Mary circle</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total proceeds	\$3,927.50

Disbursements 2025:

SCBC Pioneer club	\$40.00
Sparta Backpack program	\$300.00
Sugar Creek Bible camp	\$378.00
Sparta Food Pantry	\$300.00
St Claire Health mission	\$300.00
Family Promise	\$300.00
Sojourner's Journey	\$300.00
Brighter Tomorrows	\$300.00
Bazaar cash	\$250.00
Faith in Action	\$300.00
Evan's Printing	\$72.00
voided check	\$0.00
Global Refuge Fund	\$300.00
WELCA - Church Wide	\$300.00
ELCA - Good Gifts	\$93.00
<u>Sugar Creek Pioneer Club</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total disbursements	\$3,633.00

Beginning balance 1/1/2025	\$4,035.19
<u>Receipts 2025</u>	<u>\$3,927.50</u>
Subtotal	\$7,962.69
<u>Disbursements 2025</u>	<u>\$3,633.00</u>
Year end balance 12/31/2025	\$4,329.69

FOOD PANTRY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Bread Basket Ecumenical Food Pantry has served the Sparta community in various locations and configurations for more than 30 years. Trinity works collaboratively with three local churches to offer food assistance and basic groceries to individuals and families who face daily challenges of feeding their households. The Pantry receives no government funding and is staffed totally by volunteers.

The Pantry continued to experience increased use during 2025 amid rising food prices. To help provide food for the greatest number of community members, visits to the Food Pantry continued to be limited to one time per month per family.

To summarize 2025 Food Pantry activity:

Total number of household visits reached an all-time high of 2,652 and averaged 221 visits each month compared to 217 in 2024.

Total number of individuals served averaged 767 per month, compared to 700 in 2024.

Of the total individuals served, 39% were children and 14% were age 65 and older.

The Hunger Task Force of LaCrosse, part of a statewide network of food banks, continued to deliver some perishable and canned food items each week. In addition, Walmart of Tomah provided surplus food items also on a weekly basis.

However, the Food Pantry primarily depends on monetary and food donations to keep shelves stocked with basic food items including meat, bread, eggs, breakfast foods, basic personal hygiene products and those items typically in high demand such as pasta, soup, and peanut butter. Because of the generosity of Sparta community members – individuals, churches, schools, businesses, and civic and community organizations – the Food Pantry continues to help meet the needs of individuals and families who require food assistance.

A sincere thank you to all Trinity volunteers who continue to cover additional shifts each month enabling the Pantry to remain open for business 4 days and 1 evening each week. A huge thank you to Trinity and our kind and caring members who support this mission with monetary and food donations. We are truly blessed by your generosity!

Food Pantry Board Members – Judy Bennett and Sharon Nelson

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Bennett

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

2025 Joy Circle Annual Report

The second Thursday of each month at 10:00 am finds the Joy Circle meeting in the Shalom Room. Our Bible Study material is found in the Gather magazine. A copy of the lesson can also be picked up in the office for those without the magazine.

Our monthly offerings are given to various groups throughout the year. During 2025 Joy Circle contributed to the solar panels for our church. We also gave monies to Trinity Women's group, the Ecumenical Food Pantry, The Christmas Giving Tree and Sojourner's Journey. Please consider joining us as we continue to learn more about God's word through study and fellowship.

Submitted by,
Julee Hopkins

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

2025 Mary Circle Annual Report

In 2025 Mary Circle met the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 in the Shalom Room. This past year for our Bible Study we used the RightNow Media resource for our Mary Circle Bible Study. Our offering at each meeting is given to the TLCW for local mission donations and we forward another portion of our monthly offering to the Pioneer Club to assist the general fund at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Many of our members attend retreats at Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

The 2nd Sunday of each month Mary Circle serves for Coffee Hour.

In the summer months Mary Circle meets once a month at individual members homes for informal gatherings.

Our 2025 Christmas party was a potluck lunch at Tammy Barclay's home where we enjoyed a fun time of fellowship. Thank you Tammy for hosting us.

We always welcome new people to Mary Circle!

Starting in January, 2026, Mary Circle will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 1:00 in the Shalom Room.

Submitted by:

Barb Moorhead

2025 Shalom Circle's Annual Report

Shalom Circle meets monthly at 1:30PM in the Mary Crest conference room for Bible Study and fellowship. Adell Morton sent everyone beautiful, uplifting cards.

A total of 41 baby care kits were sent to Lutheran World relief. Rita Bennett, Pauline Haug, Sandy Perry, Audrey Zebell, Lois Luther and Jo Ellen Siver met on August 8th and completed the assembly of 33 baby care kits. Pauline and Gretchen Grewal helped Jo Ellen pack them and store the remaining components. Mick Siver helped tape, weigh and store the packed boxes, and stored them with the 8 kits packed previously by Jo Ellen Siver. Alice Olson made the arrangements for these kits to be transported to LaCrosse with the LWR quilts in October.

We are grateful to all our generous donors. Audrey Zebell provided 15 pairs of socks, flannel for receiving blankets, knit fabric for nightgowns, a \$98 Thrivent card for flannel, knit scraps from Alton Ask's quilt, 2 hand towels, and 3 bars of soap. Marie Grewal donated 61 receiving blankets, 52 t-shirts, 13 jackets, and 22 nightgowns, 4 knit sheet sets for nightgowns, and 10 hand towels. Cynthia Lockington provided several boxes of flannel scraps and sheets. Alice Olson provided sheets and knit and flannel pieces. Pauline Haug provided 5 t-shirts. Linda Mull and Lois Luther each provided 12 bars of soap.

Rita Bernette donated 12 t-shirts, 7 jackets, 11 socks, 20 bars of soap, 2 nightgowns and 4 hand towels. Tammy Barclay provided a laundry basket full of knit material so that I could make nightgowns. Joanne Benning provided 16 men's t-shirts so that I could make nightgowns. Joanne also provided flannel for receiving blankets. Adell Morton provided 4 hand towels. Diane Dammen provided a queen size flannel sheet set so that I could make receiving blankets. Gretchen Grewal donated 6 pair of socks. Linda Mull donated soap. Sherry McClain provided hand-made bias tape used to make the hand towels.

Sharon Engle knitted some beautiful baby hats to use when the jacket or sweater does not have a hood. Joanne Benning knitted 2 beautiful baby sweaters. Carol Glamen and Rita Bennett each knitted a beautiful baby sweater. Jo Ellen Siver crocheted 30 baby sweaters.

Submitted by Jo Ellen Siver

To: Trinity Lutheran Church, Sparta WI
From: Doug Dengel
Re: Scouting America Report for Trinity Annual Report
Cub Scout Pack 67 & Scout Troop 67

Scouting America Programs-Trinity Lutheran Church

Here at Trinity Lutheran Church, we are home to Cub Scout Pack 67 and Scout Troop 67. Trinity Lutheran has been the continuous chartering organization for Scout Troop 67 for 80 years and the Cub Scout Pack continuously for over 70 years. The Scouting America programs here at Trinity are a part of our outreach ministry/youth programs that we provide here at Trinity.

Trinity Lutheran has been assisting both of these youth serving organizations with meeting space, adult leadership with youth protection training and storage space for your Scouting property for both the Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop. You have also financial supported these units with paying for the charter fees of \$100 for each unit to the National Scouting America organization. We are most grateful for your continuous support of your Scouting America programs here at Trinity Lutheran.

Our Cub Scout Pack which is designated as a family pack which means Cub Scout Pack 67 can serve both girls and boys K- 5th grade and your Scout Troop 67 is currently designated as a boy troop serving boys age 11-17.

We are hoping to change the status of our Scout Troop 67 from a boy troop to a family troop which will then allow our Scout Troop to serve not only boys but also girls age 11-17. This will be providing that we can recruit the necessary adult female leadership to assist the current adult leadership so girls can be a part of all of our Scout Troop activities.

Currently the Cub Scout Pack serves about 12 youth members and we have 4 girls and 8 boys in the Pack. The Pack meets once a month usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 6-7:30 pm in the fellowship hall. The Cub Scout Pack conducts 2 family overnight campouts each year. This year they were held at Pineview Campground.

The Scout Troop serves about 13 youth members. The Troop meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month throughout the 12 months of the year in the fellowship hall from 6:30-8:00 pm. This year we attended a weeklong camp at Camp Phillips near Rice Lake WI in July. We usually conduct short term weekend campouts or activities every other month.

This past year Scout Troop 67 awarded the Eagle Scout Rank which is the highest award that a Scout can earn to 3 Scouts Christian Roche, Connor Greeno and Noah Peterson. Our Scouts also attended merit badge days at Viterbo and UW-L and also at Camp Decorah. Our Scouts each have earned several merit badges and most have advanced one rank in the Scouting program.

Both our Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop participated in Scouting For Food Drive held in the City of Sparta this past year where 2800 lbs. of food was gathered for the Ecumenical Food Pantry here in Sparta. The Scouts of Troop 67 also participated in their annual roadside cleanup collecting over 15 bags of trash on our assigned highway area.

If you have a son or daughter or you know a youth who is interested in becoming a member of either the Cub Scout Pack or Scout Troop or maybe you or you know an adult who might be interested in serving as an adult leader/role model for our youth members of our Scouting America programs here at Trinity Lutheran please do not hesitate to contact the church office and let them know or contact the leadership listed below.

Blaine Markuson – Charter representative for Scouting America programs

Trinity Lutheran Church- 608-633-4993

Tom Fleming – Cub Scout Pack Committee Chr – 608-797-1625

Michael Bonello – Scout Troop Committee Chr -608-633-2069

Kraig Brown – Scoutmaster – Troop 67 – 608-797-8132

The Church Council moves to accept the following changes to Trinity's Constitution, to come in line with the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

Following are amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations that were approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined; deletions are struck through; all changes are ***italicized and bolded***

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws [*and continuing resolutions*], the congregation of (***Trinity Lutheran Church***) is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."

Rationale: Insertion for comprehensiveness.

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

*C5.04. This congregation ***or the Congregation Council*** shall elect from among ***its the*** voting members ***of the congregation*** laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected ***by this congregation*** and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the ***LaCrosse Area Synod*** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rationale: This change allows for lay voting members of the Synod Assembly to be elected either by the congregation or by the Congregation Council. Current language requires election by the congregation.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

*C7.03. If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to ***relate transfer*** to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to ***relate transfer*** to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the ***LaCrosse Area Synod***.

Rationale: Consistency with 9.71.d. of the ELCA Constitution.

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

*C9.02. **Only This congregation may call as a pastor only:**

a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or

b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.

may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

Rationale: Formatting for clarity.

*C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

....

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, **proclaiming God's love for the world,** advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions. In the process, the phrase “proclaiming God’s love for the world” was omitted from the list of responsibilities of rostered ministers. This amendment restores the phrase.

*C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor **shall may** be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

Rationale: It is not always possible for a synod bishop to appoint an interim pastor for every congregation.

*C9.15. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.

Rationale: Provision is being changed to “required.” With the increasing use of exchangeability of rostered ministers with full communion partners, it is advisable that all congregations make allowance for that possibility.

*C9.22. **Only This congregation may call as a deacon only:**

- a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.

~~may be called as a deacon of this congregation.~~

Rationale: Editorial reformatting for clarity.

*C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

....

- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, proclaiming God’s love for the world, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions. In the process, the phrase “proclaiming God’s love for the world” was omitted from the list of responsibilities of rostered ministers. This amendment restores the phrase.

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

*C15.01. Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary:

- a)* private counsel and admonition by the pastor,
- b)* censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses,
- c)* written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and
- d)* written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.

If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by *paragraphs* a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

Rationale: Formatting correction and consistency of constitutional language.

*C15.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [vice president] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in ~~#S14.18~~ *C9.05.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.

Chapter 16.

AMENDMENTS

*C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:

- a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
- b. be ratified ~~without change unchanged~~ at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

Rationale: Consistency of constitutional language.