

ANNUAL REPORT

Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools

2020-21



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Building.

Belonging.

Becoming.

Building up and joining God's mission as one to nurture love and serve all.

Values

- **Christ-inspired service** in our community (local and global)
 - **Inclusion** of all people
 - **Impactful relationships** with one another that provide support for life's journey
 - Faith-based communal experience of **worshipping** and **learning** together
 - **Multi-generational ministry** relevant to all ages and promoting relationships across generations
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Staff Reports

Hector Garfias-Toledo

Lead Pastor

Dear siblings in the Lord,

Last year we were amid the COVID-19 Pandemic when we gathered as a congregation to make decisions. We were assuming many things as we were uncertain of the impact of the pandemic in the life of each person and the community in general. This year, we come together again for our summer congregational meeting with gratefulness and open to a new reality. We are coming out from a long and difficult year. Things are still uncertain, but we are confident that the Spirit will stir us up and lead us into what the Lord is already doing in the community, in us, and for all people. As St. Paul says, “God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are.” (Romans 8:16).

The past year was a year of transitions for families, individuals, and the congregation. The fluid circumstances created an environment that allowed us to experiment and explore new and creative ways to be church, and to confirm what I mentioned in my last year’s report: “the church was ***called to be a scattered community***, a ***movement*** of resurrection people ***every day, everywhere, in person, online, all the time.***

The Rear Vision Mirror

It has been an especially difficult time for many members/participants and friends of the congregation as the pandemic forced many to isolate themselves. In addition, restrictions for safety made pastoral care difficult. It was impossible to do hospital visits, and home visits were extremely limited.

Our society also experienced the social and political unrest caused by the injustice and polarizing forces that are still tearing apart communities. The pandemic exposed the systemic inequalities that have caused pain, suffering, segregation, and death in communities. As a congregation we have been challenged to respond faithfully to the call to join God’s justice and to take actions that contribute to the transformation of society. Since then, we have been struggling with how to respond in a faithful, proactive, and empathetic way, moving from making statements to actions that reflect the intentionality and commitment to join God’s work for justice and restoration.

There is no doubt that the Spirit continues to work in and through every member of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools (TLCS). Despite not being able to gather in person, ministry has continued. Members have sent cards to the church office expressing how they have been touched by the multiple ministries of the congregation. These are just a few reasons to celebrate and rejoice with you:

- ▶ **Leadership** - The commitment, adaptability, creativity, and faithfulness of the elected and non-elected leadership of the congregation.
- ▶ **Worship and Tech teams** – Both teams, in collaboration, have been instrumental in putting together a relevant worship that is engaging and faith-based leading us to a communal experience of the weekend gathering of the scattered church.

People practice the love for others in tangible ways.



- Presence in the community** - The presence of TLCS in the community at large is evident. Members of the congregation are actively involved in the life of the community at large and through their service to the community they are also witnessing to the Lord.
- Care and concern** - People practice the love for others in tangible ways, which includes visitation, purchasing groceries, checking on others, providing rides, making phone calls, and sending cards.
- Church Staff** - Without doubt, the staff has been a blessing to the congregation as each staff member has adapted and creatively found ways to support every aspect of the ministry for both schools and the worshipping community resiliently and faithfully, regardless of the ongoing staff transition.
- Commitment and support** - The congregation supported both Pr. Jade and me. Her presence and solid ministry were a blessing for ministry. Her contractual

agreement ended in December 2020 but the impact of her ministry and the commitment of the Council have had lasting fruitful outcomes.

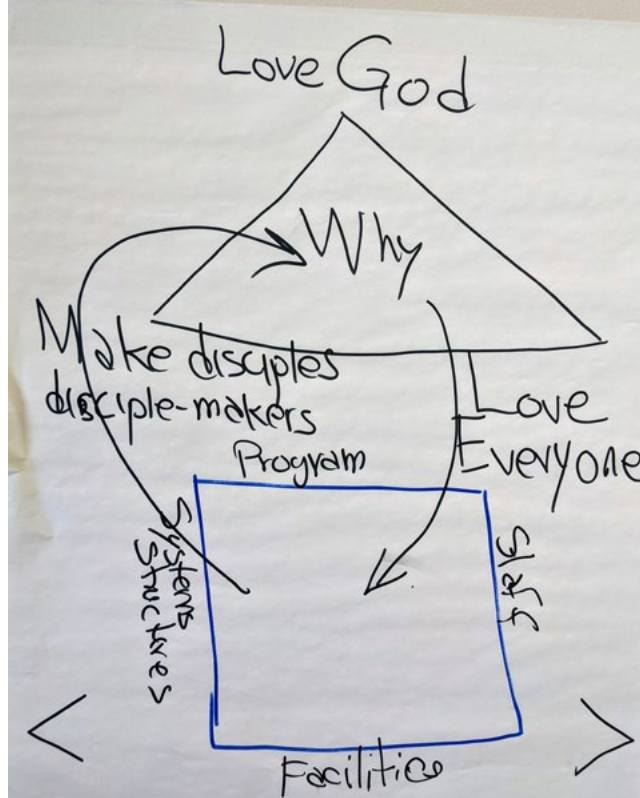
- Intentionality** - Membership financial commitment for a second pastor has come to fruition as the call committee discerns the recommendation of a candidate to the Council. Also, the strong positive response to the Life-Giving Generosity initiative was a powerful witness of members and participants of the congregation.
- Pastoral Care and Stephen Ministry** - Both ministries stood up by proactively providing the pastoral care needed during the height of the pandemic.
- Interim music and worship position** - Music and worship leadership has been boosted by the gifts and leadership of David Horton, Pete and Deb Johnson, and all the musicians, singers, and choir members who have offered musical talents.
- God's people at TLCS** - Every one of you who in different ways have participated in making God's reign tangible through your presence, talents, time, and treasure. Despite the challenges, your faithfulness and commitment to the Lord has made possible for the congregation to continue to witness with word and actions.



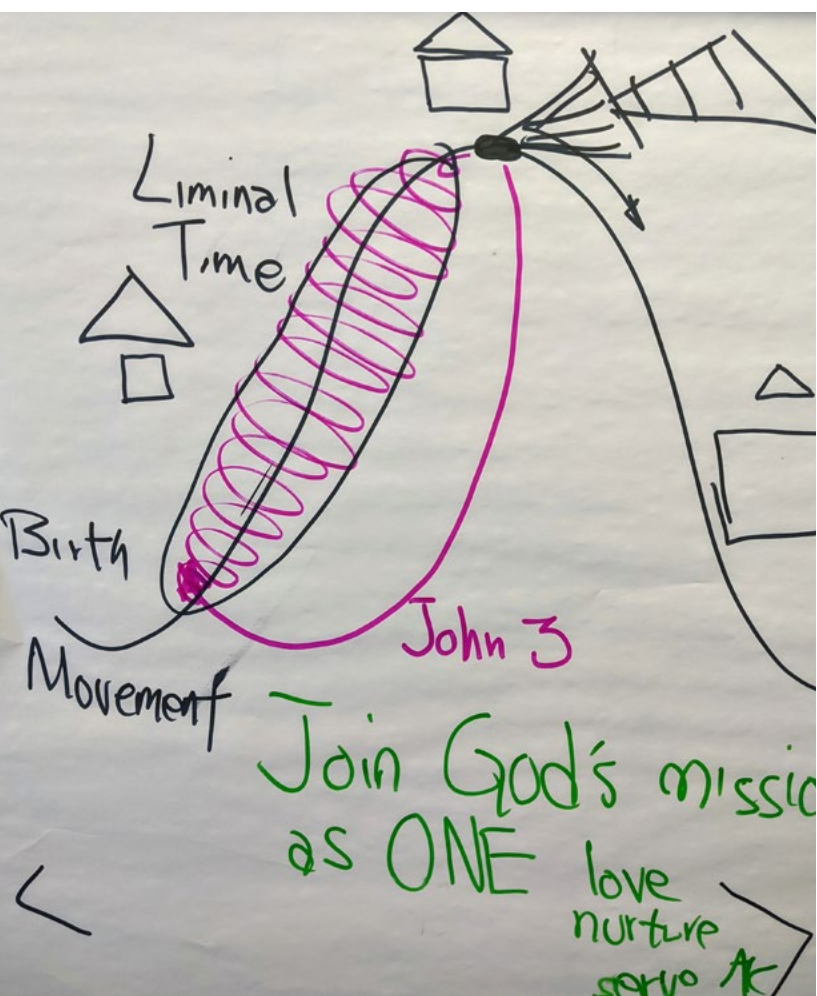
The challenges that we faced have helped us to learn **new ways to “be” church**. Every adjustment that we have made has been a response to the **values of the congregation** which are based on the call that we have to live lives that reflect and respond to the call to **love God, love every person, and make disciple-makers**.

As we look back (rear vision mirror) we see where we have been and what we have learned in order to move forward, well informed and positioned to take the next step.

Although the implementation of the Values-Direction-Action (VDA) recommendations slowed down considerably due to the circumstances, the implementation is ongoing. The congregation’s ministry teams put together **narratives** that helped them to tell how their ministries **align** with the values of the congregation and as a blueprint that will guide them into the future.



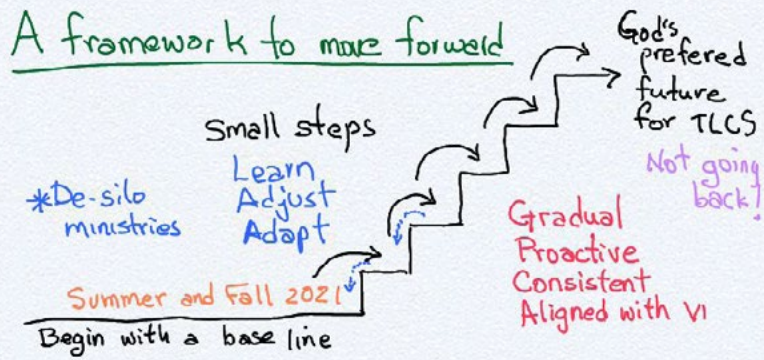
Pastor Hector’s detailed
monthly reports to the council:
trinitylutheranchurch.com/council



I believe that the outcomes of ministry during such a challenging year are **creativity, adaptability, collaboration**, the realization that we **cannot continue to minister in silos, healthy transitions**, and ministry as **relationships** with one another as we are part of a larger story.

We certainly were not able to accomplish many of the plans that we had in mind for the year. However, we were able to learn to **worship online, integrate technology into ministry, and reach out to people beyond the walls of the building**.

I am confident that the Spirit is working in and through TLCS. She does not want us to sit as we see the day pass and things change. **The Spirit is stirring us up** to position TLCS to respond to the new reality with a posture of **generosity, trust, and a willingness to be transformed**.



Windshield Vision

We are joining God's mission as ONE. As St. Paul says, "there are things to do and places to go." *Romans 8 (MSG)*

As the conditions regarding the pandemic seem to be improving in a positive direction, TLCS will start taking steps for a re-entry phased journey. But what is that "new" and "different" reality? Two things are true: a) TLCS **cannot go back to "do"** what we used to do before the pandemic; and b) TLCS is **called to "be" the church** that God needs now and in the future. We are **always becoming**. There are places to go in our journey to God's preferred future for TLCS.

This summer we will begin a re-entry process. The **framework** for the congregation-wide process is **gradual, proactive, consistent, and aligned** with the values of the congregation. Actions will be kept simple and manageable as we **learn, adapt, and adjust**. We will boldly take **small steps** that allow the congregation to advance towards God's future. We will be **intentional** about not taking steps that make

us rebuild our past. Yet, traditions of the past are crucial in becoming the Jesus movement that God needs in a changing community that is called to be a place where people **build one another up** and **belong** as a relationship with God and with one another.

We will begin with one weekend **in-person gathering** in July. As conditions improve, adjustments are made, and we discern the direction of the ministry, we will extend and expand ministries. Again, every adjustment will always be aligned to the **five values** of the congregation.

Based on those values of the congregation, this is what TLCS windshield may look like:

► Christ-inspired service in our community (local and global).

Lynnwood, Edmonds, and other adjacent communities will experience the impact of the light rail train. New housing developments, increase and diversification of the demographics, and economic and social changes will alter the landscape for ministry. New services and partnership at the local level will be needed. In addition, the **Lynnwood Neighborhood Center** will resume construction next year. Imagine the array of new **possibilities, partnerships, opportunities to serve and to be served!** TLCS needs to be proactive and open to new ways of being church. We will be able to do it only if we dismantle silos and find ways to collaborate.

There are things to do and places to go.

► Inclusion of all people.

As I mentioned above, we are at a threshold in the life of the nation. TLCS is called to be a table and place, a movement that extends Jesus' welcome. We will move away from the idea of just "we welcome you." This congregation is the extension of God's grace and Jesus' welcoming compassion. We will continue to strive to be a congregation that lives out the faith and the values of inclusion **beyond slogans and statements without action**. Inclusion means the **willingness to be vulnerable and to die to ourselves** so that we can see the Lord in others. We have taken an initial step by forming a quick response team to acts of injustice. The Council and the pastoral office will continue to work on the formalization of a permanent team that will foster and guide TLCS to be a congregation in which **inclusion of all people and racial justice is our way of life**.

► Impactful relationships with one another that provide support for life's journey.

The core of the VDA recommendations is **relationships**. Unfortunately, the pandemic disrupted the ministry of the First Impressions Team whose focus is **relational evangelism**, connecting people, and fostering a culture of **mutuality and accompaniment**. With restrictions being loosened up, the team will begin to explore new ways to connect with people and instill a culture of intentional relationships that foster **trust, accompaniment, and a shared and common purpose in the journey**.



► Faith-based communal experience of worshipping and learning together.

The weekend gathering (in-person and online) will be live streamed permanently. The focus will be to **broaden the experience from traditional Lutheran liturgy to contextual/ not conventional format**. We will consistently and intentionally seek to reflect the values of **intergenerational ministry, inclusion, art, sensorial, and collaborative planning**. We will explore styles, rhythms, and traditions that lead the congregation to an experience that leads people to **deepening in their faith** and an opportunity to **connect with the community** regardless if they participate in person or online. Learning opportunities will be coordinated to **avoid competition between faith formation and worship**. **Worship is a way of life**; worship happens every day wherever we are, but we gather to celebrate the Spirit's work in us and through us. Language and patterns will be adapted to our new reality.

► Multi-generational ministry relevant to all ages and promoting relationships across generations.

We believe that youth will see visions and the old will dream dreams. Neither generation is better than the other; it is in **coming together** that the ministry will be **enriched, strengthened, and will reflect God's vision of a feast of all people**. As you have seen, we have begun the work with a pray-ground in the sanctuary - a place for families to **worship together**, where **generations come together** to taste the goodness of the Lord as they grow and as they are part of the community.

The **sustainability** of the ministry will depend on our **faithful response to steward** the resources that God has provided. For that reason, we will continue to **invest in people** by providing **training, investing** in creating spaces that promote connections, **fellowship**, and **impactful relationships**.

Some specific steps are:

- ▶ **Coaching** for Council members, staff, and ministry leaders;
- ▶ Resuming **leadership summits**;
- ▶ Developing a faith **formation initiative** (Pathways to Discipleship) ;
- ▶ Addition of an **Associate Pastor** to the ministry.

We are already in the final stages of the call process for the **associate pastor**, and we will begin the search for the music ministry position. Also, it is palpable how the Spirit is raising up and **equipping new leaders** as she leads us to continue to equip the saints for the sake of ministry, “**Building. Belonging. Becoming.**”

Ministry is more than creating a list of things to do. I invite you and challenge you to **think and pray about how to be the church** that the Lord is calling us to be. And to be open to asking crucial and significantly important questions:

- ▶ *What new opportunities is the Spirit presenting to the congregation?*
- ▶ *What are we willing to leave behind or change to be that church that the Lord needs into the years to come?*
- ▶ *How will we respond if the Lord is calling us to be something different from what we want to be (or to go back to)?*

The Spirit is stirring us up, we have been invited to be part of the **dance of the Trinity**, and to embrace the new reality with the



confidence that the Spirit will **heal, restore, and equip** the congregation to be the body of the Lord in this place.

I believe that only through **honest conversation** grounded on the message of the **gospel, prayer, and openness** to the Spirit's guidance, will we see how God is making things plain for us.

I want to express my most sincere **gratitude** to God and to you all for the opportunity to serve with you, and for the care, support, and accompaniment that you have graciously given me through the approximately two and a half years. My **prayer** is that we will learn to live as extensions of the **divine compassion**, and that we will be **witnesses** to the **life-giving** Lord in a divided and hurting world. It has been a journey, but I am sure that we all have learned to see in each other the presence of the Lord. We will learn and relearn, and perhaps even unlearn many things in the months to come. You will be in prayers, and I want to ask for your prayers, asking God to give me the strength, and the will to serve you and serve with you in the love of the Lord Jesus. **Thanks be to God for all of you!**

Today we can say that we are able to continue because “*God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are...*” Romans 8:16 (MSG)

Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, Lead Pastor

David Greenlee

Minister of Faith Formation

Well, a year of pandemic, socially distant, online ministry is done with the end of that hopefully mostly behind us. But what is ahead? Lots of opportunities to do what we have not done before, as well as things that are worth the time to bring back and continue doing. Here is a look ahead.

ZOE and Affirmation will resume in the fall with retreats returning and in-person learning. We learned that our ministry model held up while almost fully remote. But the relationships that come from retreats and weekly in-person is invaluable. The impactful relationships of the high school students mentoring the middle schoolers was what kept it going and continues to make stronger into the future. One of the most missed pieces was being able to do service projects together. We also have many Affirmations of Baptism to catch up on in the months to come.

Faith Stepping Stones for the young worshippers—ie. 3rd grade Bibles, First Communion, Preschool Bibles—were very difficult to do through Zoom. So, we look forward to resuming these, but with some new resources and opportunities.

NET & Student Leadership Team did better than survive. The SLT worked hard the whole year keeping ministry going in whatever form we could manage. It was not a year that we

would want to have to repeat though. Looking ahead at gathering in-person this summer for Summer Youth Nights and returning to in-person NET is so exciting to the kids. But also look forward to an extra fall high school retreat and are hoping to add some new ministry and service opportunities. And most importantly, looking to the summer of 2022 and doing mission and service trips along with camp.

Children & Family Ministry was so hard during Covid. Zoom was a struggle for many of the younger kids, and not having many opportunities to gather together as families meant many of our families disconnected from the life of the congregation. Bringing back opportunities for those relationships and figuring out how to do faith formation for our young worshippers is one of the challenges ahead for our congregation. The multi-generational approach to forming faith must be our model. Parents need support and kids having many adults caring for and about them is essential for kids catching the faith.

Key to our re-entry to in-person ministry is the necessity of encouragement and facilitating **impactful relationships** for all ages. **Christ-inspired service** for teens and families will be central to our return. **Inclusion of all people** of all ages will renew our **multi-generational** ministry with a strong investment into Sunday morning **communal worship & learning**.



David Horton

*Interim Coordinator of
Worship & Music*

“Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure.” -Rumi

First, I want to sing praises to Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools. We have lived a year of Lent. In the midst of it all, we have seen love shine through at times, but as we look back on this moment, it feels like a year of shattered dreams and shattered peace. To borrow a phrase from our Holy Vessels liturgy, “Time and adversity... making something beautiful out of that which, once seen as ordinary and broken, is now considered a transformed and precious piece. This is the journey we undertake.” This is a journey, and it needs a team all working together to make worship happen each week and so, thank you.

Thank you for hiring me and for your continued support of my endeavors, my wild ideas of worship, for being brave, vulnerable, and active in our faith community however that looks. You make this more than a job, a task, or a deadline. You make my late nights practicing in the sanctuary, endless hours tinkering with liturgy, and restless nights thinking, “what next,” worth it. This year has brought continued growth to our music ministry and a sense of fine-tuning to both new and established traditions; we’re just getting started! We go forth building a worship experience that exemplifies authenticity and genuine praises to God! It has been incredible collaborating with Pastor Hector, the staff, and the Worship Team each day, helping to grow our faith community spiritually and musically.

Here are just a few goals I want to center on as your Interim Coordinator for Worship and Music this coming year.



First, our worship services will continue developing and emphasizing what it means to have a multisensory worship experience. In collaboration with Pastor Hector and the Worship Team, we will continue developing worship services that deepen our spiritual practices, discovering new rituals that stretch far beyond our Sunday morning gatherings. Accompanying this goal will be new approaches to music ensembles, full integration of the worship band, expanding media and fine art, and incorporating the youth—all as conduits to praise God.

Another goal involves what in-person worship will look like and how we can continue developing blended worship that involves the many talented musicians at TLCS. There are several different approaches to this, but the first will be listening to see what will serve our congregation. I’m looking forward to stepping more fully into this role with you. There is lots of work to do, and I can’t be more grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Coordinator for Worship and Music.

We are building something new, we all belong to this family of God, and we are becoming transformed by it every step of the way. Cheers to the future ahead of us, buckle up, TLCS; it’s never going to be a dull moment.

Don Boelter

Trinity Administrator

Church at the Crossroads

In early May, David Horton and Josh Judd-Herzfeldt put together a wonderful 15-minute *Blessing for the Inbetween* prayer service. If you have not already done so, I would urge everyone to go to the Trinity YouTube channel and take a look. It meant a lot to me, as it accurately put a finger on where we are at in this particular snapshot in time: “In-Between.”

As you know, Trinity literally sits at “The Crossroads”—one of the busiest intersections in the State of Washington, soon to get busier with completion of the Alderwood Light Rail Station and new rapid bus line connecting that to the Edmonds Ferry Terminal. But we also sit at a metaphorical crossroads, as we emerge from our time of “scattered church” and into our new reality. South Snohomish County continues to grow and change, and we must also adapt how we do things at TLCS in order to meet our new neighbors wherever they are in their life’s journey.

I am excited and energized to meet these challenges in the year ahead because the pandemic has provided an opportunity to hit the “reset button” on almost everything we are doing at TLCS. It provides us with a chance, as we are on the eve of bringing back in-person worship and other activities, to evaluate how we choose to spend our human and financial resources through the lens of our Building, Belonging, Becoming, mission and values.



Personnel

With the calling of an Associate Pastor eminent, we will be ready to embrace our mission in the program year ahead with a full staff. In addition to the skills and abilities the new pastor will bring, it will also free up time for Pastor Hector to continue to focus on leadership development within the Congregation and keeping us all on task with our mission and values.

David will be extending his time with us as Interim Director of Worship and Music through at least Easter of next year as a job description is developed and search team works to find a permanent music leader. David will be considered for the permanent position if he is interested, but no matter who is hired, we have ensured that we won’t be left with a gap in this critical worship position. This additional time to search for a permanent Director will also allow the Associate Pastor to step into the role in worship planning as described in the Ministry Site Profile, and take an active role in the selection of a new music leader.



**Trinity sits at
the crossroads.**

Facilities

J2 Consultants have finished their preparatory work on the design review for our much-needed roof and exterior stucco replacement, and bids have been sent out to potential contractors. We are still on track to complete work this season. Completing these necessary repairs will allow us to remain a presence at “The Crossroads” for another generation of Lynnwood residents.

Life-Giving Generosity

Not just the name of last Fall/early Winter stewardship emphasis, but hopefully a year-round mindset. In that spirit, we will be having a special emphasis again this fall and winter similar to last year’s highly successful emphasis. This year, we will be focusing on sustainability of the above staffing model and financing for capital projects, including the roof project. THANK YOU for your ongoing contributions to Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools. Please contact me if you have any questions about your giving and/or if you would like to set up automatic electronic payments.

Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

After over a year’s delay due to the circumstances of the pandemic, the Volunteers of America (VOA) LNC project on our property has resumed fundraising work in earnest and is planning to begin Phase II construction about a year from now. This new building will provide a community resource hub to South Snohomish county residents young and old, and Trinity looks forward to opportunities to engage in Christ-inspired service with the partners that will be located at the new facility. These include: The Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County, Medical Teams International, Korean Community Service Center, Latino Educational Training Institute, Center for Human Services, and VOA.

Live Streaming Worship Services

Thanks to camera and other hardware upgrades over the past year, and the remarkable work of our Tech Team volunteers, we now have the opportunity to share our worship services live with the world over YouTube and other platforms. These live streams are not ending with the return to in-person worship. We are constructing additional tech space at the back of the sanctuary to keep equipment out of harm’s way and to keep our online presence rolling. We hope to expand these live streams to other events at Trinity, such as what we did this past year with the online Synod Assembly and Bishop’s Convocation, which we were able to successfully host on-site thanks to our new capabilities.



Return of Concerts and other Community Events

After TLCS worship and other internal events re-enter the building, we turn our eyes to the return of community concerts, graduation ceremonies, workshops, and other events we have been able to host over the years thanks to our central location and large facility. As groups begin to seek space in our building again, we will work not only to provide them with a welcoming environment to return to, but focus on renewing and building *relationships* with the outside groups using our building—we want to be *partners*, not just “landlords” with all the groups seeking use in our space.

Payroll Protection Plan, Second Draw Reimbursable Loan

After successfully applying for and receiving almost \$280,000 from the first draw of the PPP program, we qualified for and received \$335,000 from the 2nd draw. As with the first draw, we anticipate applying for and receiving forgiveness for the full amount in this fiscal year. These funds are spread out between the church and schools' programs, and the first draw allowed the church budget to finish with over \$100,000 in surplus for fiscal year 2020.

Josh Judd-Herzfeldt

Communication Coordinator

This has been a year like no other, both personally and here at Trinity. First and foremost I am eternally grateful for the congregation, council and staff for making possible my nearly three months of paternity leave following the birth of my first child last June. A special thank you to Debbie Jeske for picking up the bulk of my responsibilities during that time.

Trinity, along with many other congregations around the world, was faced with what at the end of the day is a very simple issue: how to remain connected as a congregation, and more specifically how we can continue to experience worship together. Trinity's tech team—with the financial and spiritual backing of the congregation—stepped up to upgrade our technical capabilities and knowledge in order to produce and provide exceptional worship via live

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

I look forward to working with incoming Treasurer nominee David Fox and the rest of the Church Council on completing a budget for next year to present to the Congregation for approval in January 2022. We will continue to focus on making sure our budgetary priorities represent our values as outlined in the VDA process.



stream. Not only has this enabled the people of Trinity (and beyond!) to worship together while physically separate, but sets us up to live out our values of inclusion and worshipping together even as we enter this new post-covid life.

As Trinity continues down the road toward 'full' staffing, I look forward to additional freedom to build on the skills and knowledge gained over the past year, as I seek to support Trinity's ongoing emphasis and education around our Values > Direction > Action process. How do we as a congregation live out our values outside the walls of the building? How do we communicate those values in word and deed to the seekers and non-seekers alike?

I am excited to build on Trinity's rich history by imagining, dreaming, and bringing to life the bright future ahead.

Debbie Jeske

Ministry Coordinator

During this ‘in-between’ time of having lived through over 14 months of working and worshipping remotely, yet not quite back to in-person, it feels like we are at a sort of precipice, a unique place where we don’t quite know all the ways the past has changed us, nor what the future quite looks like. It has been a reassurance, during all these months, both as a staff and congregation member, to focus on Trinity’s values, and our tagline of Building. Belonging. Becoming. has never been far from my mind.

In my particular role as Ministry Coordinator, keeping the church calendar up-to-date has been as challenging as ever, and I expect that to be true, too, as we transition to in-person gatherings bit by bit. I’ve scheduled and shared more Zoom links with folks than I could ever count; and in doing so, I have often thought about how each connection supports the inclusion we strive for, as well as the building and maintaining of impactful relationships. It’s been interesting, to say the least, but wonderful, to be able to continue the work of collaborating with all the staff, as well as ministry groups and individual members, despite the remoteness of it all.

It has been a blessing that the Phone Livestream service has been available for those unable to join us in livestream worship on YouTube. I have provided support for both efforts, through which we’ve been better able to include all who wish to worship with us each week. Personally, our online worship has been a lifeline during this time, and I have so appreciated the varied participation to make it happen, the unique gathering of our church family, and the clear and

constant message of the Gospel and in such, the encouragement to live out our values. I look forward to seeing how our varied ways of joining in worship ‘together’ yet separate develop in the months ahead.

I’ve been witness to expansive Christ-inspired service as I have supported Pastor Hector and the Pastoral Care Ministers in their care of members and friends of Trinity. The number of losses has been heart-breaking and still, I thank God for the blessing of having had those loved ones in our church family. May we continue to carry their memories with us.

There remain many unknowns, but it’s exciting to imagine how God will use each of us at Trinity going forward. The anticipation of constantly becoming who God hopes we will be, is indeed a challenge and a gift.

**It’s exciting to
imagine how God
will use each of us
at Trinity going
forward.**

Kris Dudak

Trinity Preschool Director

We have been truly blessed this year!

We started our school year in January 2021 and feel truly blessed to provide a Preschool experience for 30 lively, wonderful children. Their parents, who were so excited we were able to reopen, expressing their gratitude to us and to Trinity. We were also blessed to have two teachers, Joelle Dudak, and Danielle Severson, who were able to juggle their own children's remote and in-person school schedules in order to come back to work. We have been a small but mighty team. We look forward to our next school year and have already hired back three more to the teaching team and will add assistants by fall in time to welcome back more students to our classes as we build back enrollment. This has been an answer to prayer.

At **OUR** Preschool:

We **BUILD** faith by sharing Bible stories, singing songs and talking about God, Jesus and the family of God each week. We **BUILD** developmental skills in children, helping them to be ready for what comes next in their life.

We **BELONG** to the family of God by modeling positive, loving, and forgiving relationships with the children in our care each day. We learn we **BELONG** to our families and to each other as we teach what it means to be in a community of faith.

We **BECOME** persons of faith when all these things come together, helping to shape and celebrate each child for who they are, created by a loving God, and who they will become that will last a lifetime!

ALL this has been made possible because of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools' care for this community in so many tangible ways. This past year, more than ever, we felt part of the greater ministry. We extend our immense gratitude and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for each and every one of you!



*I am the Church
You are the Church
We are the Church together
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world
Yes we're the church together!*

Nanette Erban

Child Development Center Director

The Child Development Center, like the church, community and the world, has had a year like no other. We have had challenges, worked through them, and have stayed open to serve children in new and exciting ways.

This June, we will finish up a year that included distance learning and hybrid classes. We provided full day care with distance learning support for children ages 5-12 as we adapted to the changing needs of families in our community. As the next school year unfolds, we will offer after-school care once again to support a post-Covid school environment meeting the needs of children and families.

We continue to have the capacity to serve over 100 children daily and are currently serving approximately 80% of that capacity. Our staff of 23 is hoping to expand as we will be extending our hours post-Covid, offering 7 AM to 6 PM

service when Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools opens to in-person worship. We are seeking quality staff to support the growing need in our community with loving care for its youngest members. For more details, email Nanette@trinitylutheranchurch.com.

We are celebrating the passage of the Fair Start Act in Washington State. This will provide funding to better support childcare and early learning to include funding a more diverse group of children in our community. It also means more education funding for our staff, enabling them to better serve the children God has entrusted to us by building meaningful relationships with families. The Act will also help to fund more support for our early learners through behavioral specialists and early intervention. Together, we live out our goal of inclusion for all families in our community who need care.

2020 Statistical Report

- ▶ 924 Baptized Members
- ▶ 739 Confirmed Members
- ▶ 512 Households
- ▶ 886 Online Average Worship Attendance*
- ▶ 267 Onsite Average Worship Attendance*
- ▶ 7 Members Received
- ▶ 3 Affirmations of Baptism
- ▶ 0 Baptisms
- ▶ 1 Wedding
- ▶ 1 Funeral

Council Reports

Sue Carlson

President

This was certainly not the kind of year I was expecting. To understate, we survived! But the truth is—God is good and this congregation has continued the work of the gospel. Our staff has learned to use the media to live stream worship online, giving us one of the best set-ups in the Synod. (I have watched others). We can worship in a new way, although ‘jamas and breakfast may be out later this year!

Our ministry groups also have found new ways to reach out. See reports from Neighbors in Need, Living Water and of course our schools. This is also true of Bible Study, ChristCare groups and countless meetings using Zoom. Debbie Jeske keeps these schedules in order, which can be complicated.

Council too, has gone to Zoom meetings. This has been challenging at times, as it can be hard to communicate with mute/unmute, share screen lags, reading emotions and having fellowship time. On the good side, we can start meetings early and get done at a decent hour. My goal has been to continue the work of this church by moving forward to reach our goal of calling a second pastor and hiring a music and worship person. At this time both have committees that are working toward those goals.

Another recent goal is to better get to know our ministries within. We have many groups that have dedicated funds that sometimes act as their own entity (Silos). As partners, we should collaborate and see how we can work together as we Love God, Love Everyone, and Make Disciples. We are blessed with these

volunteers who passionately give of their time and resources.

This brings me to the core of the future—Volunteerism! We learn to disciple those that want to serve and encourage those that have not discovered their gifts. What is your passion? What is God calling you to do to spread the Good News? The Council has many ideas, but time and covid restraints have put these ideas on hold. Examples:

- ▶ **A Racial Justice Team** felt overwhelmed with so many issues to deal with. Currently Pastor Hector, a staff member and a Council member will react to immediate needs. Do you have a passion for local justice? Volunteer!
- ▶ **How are we preparing for the influx of new neighbors that are buying/renting houses in the area?** There will also be families coming to the Volunteers of America facility in the next few years. Another place to volunteer.
- ▶ **We have existing ministries that would welcome new help.** Kelly Apling in the office will help you connect to those leaders as some groups require background checks. **There are also in-house openings** for ushering, serving communion, decorating the sanctuary for the seasons, serving at fellowship time, constitutional committees and Council.



We will be able to open our doors soon, so pray about how you will serve God in this congregation. There will be changes with new staff and new ways of gathering, but let us be that beacon of light on the corner of Lynnwood that gives hope and love in the name of Jesus, to our neighbors.

Council accomplishments for 2020-2021 Values-Direction-Action (VDA)

The charge of the Council is to tend to the business of the church which is defined in the VDA square. On the four sides will be Staff, Programs, Facilities & Buildings, and Systems & Structures. This is so we can be the church represented by the Triangle with legs of Love God, Love Everyone, and Make Disciples. These are the ways we exhibited these actions:

Square

- ▶ Two government PPP loans granted and one (so far) forgiven
- ▶ Call Committee and Music and Worship job description groups working
- ▶ Funds granted for livestream improvements
- ▶ Job descriptions for Constitutional positions
- ▶ Background checks for volunteers in certain leadership areas
- ▶ David Horton hired as Interim Coordinator of Worship and Music, with extended contract through Easter 2022 (or until permanent position is filled)

Triangle

- ▶ Council meetings that use our VDA values and organized in a way that represents our business and our mission (Christ-inspired service)
- ▶ Contacting our Black and Asian/Pacific Islanders during the recent attacks on people of their nationality (Inclusion-impactful relationships)
- ▶ Funding for developing coaches (Make Disciples-Impactful relationships)

Now for the important gratitude that I have experienced these two years

I first want to **THANK** Pastor Hector for his guidance as I learned a new way to look at the way we do the business of the church. I am still learning and hope to use this knowledge as I serve in other ways.

Thank you to my fellow Council members, with a special shout out to David Gunderson, Don Boelter and June Lee for their hours of work on the PPP loans.

Thank you to outgoing members Colleen Collins, Mbaire Nettles, Sam Sommerman and David Gunderson for your dedication these two years.

Thank you to our staff that also dedicate themselves to serving Trinity. They do not just hold jobs, but are a ministry to us and the community.

Thank you to the MSP Task Force for all their work, and now followed by the Call Committee. Your focus on our values and Spirit-led deliberations will bring the candidate for Associate Pastor to us soon. My Thank you also to the Music Ministry Position Task Force as they finalize the document for the new search committee.

Thank you to YOU, my fellow congregants, for supporting me, and this church. It has been an honor to serve you in this capacity that I never thought I could handle. Things change-as this church has seen a lot of that! We must continue to pray that not our will, but Yours be done O Lord!

*Summing
it all up, friends,
I'd say you'll do best
by filling your minds and
meditating on things true,
noble, reputable, authentic,
compelling, gracious-the
best, not the worst; the
beautiful, not the ugly; things
to praise, and not things to
curse. Put in practice what
you learned from me, what
you heard and saw and
realized. Do that, and God,
who makes everything work
together, will work you into
his most excellent harmonies.*

Philippians 4:5-9, The Message



David Gunderson

Treasurer

It has been another challenging year for TLCS and your treasurer. Projecting and budgeting for income has been challenging because of the limitations placed on the congregation due to the Pandemic. Expenses, on the other hand, have been consistently under budget due to staffing situations and hardly any use of the building (except for schools). We have invested in considerable audio/video gear, and this has proven its worth in the quality of streamed worship services.

During 2020, we acquired a PPP loan of \$282,001.88. We were forgiven \$277,750.41. We paid back \$4,251.47. Of the forgiven portion, the schools received \$152,627.17 and TLCS operation's share was \$125,123.24.

With the PPP loan proceeds, TLCS finished 2020 with a surplus of income over expenses of \$102,756.78, which was transferred to operating reserves.

The 2021 budget process started in September 2020. The revised 2021 budget included an associate pastor, starting in May and a full-time music staffer in July. The 2021 budget was approved at the February Congregational Meeting with a projected deficit of expense over income of \$102,511. This would deplete operating reserves to \$35,076, which is well below the recommended 3 months of operating reserves for an organization like TLCS.

Early in 2021, we applied for a second round PPP loan and received \$334,352. We spent all but \$103 of the entire amount before the end of May. This was split \$211,587 for the schools (for payroll) and \$122,662 for TLCS operations (for payroll, mortgage, utilities, COVID-19 PPE, and office equipment rent). If we are granted

forgiveness for this loan, which we fully expect, we will again finish 2021 with a surplus.

I would like to commend the performance of Don Boelter and June Lee who took the lead in acquiring the second round PPP loan from HomeStreet Bank.

During April 2020, the Preschool shut down completely, and the CDC was operating at a much-reduced level. As a result, the Council authorized a \$60,000 line of credit to keep the schools operating. So far, the Preschool has taken \$40,000 but the CDC was able to avoid taking any of the funds.

In 2021, income exceeded expenses in January, February, and May. However, in March and April, income was less than expenses. We currently have a surplus of \$63,234 for the year. Expenses are 8.6% below budget for the first 5 months of the year, however contribution income is running 6% below budget for the same period.

It's difficult to forecast finances for the remaining half of 2021 due to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The schools have recovered well and will likely not need additional funds from the line of credit. Search committees are currently active for the associate pastor and music staff positions.

Projecting further into 2022, when TLCS will be fully staffed, income must increase substantially to support the additional payroll costs. There will likely be no more PPP loans to balance the budget.

It's been a rewarding (and occasionally stressful) 2 years being your Treasurer. Thank you for your trust and support.

Financial Report

2021 Year-to-date

<i>Actual Totals</i>	May 2021	May 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	
Income	\$93,556	\$86,748	\$493,378	\$512,482	May up 7.8% from '20 to '21
Expenses	\$84,519	\$98,532	\$430,144	\$485,613	May down 5.5% from '20 to '21
Difference	\$9,037	-\$11,784	\$63,234	\$26,869	

Notes:

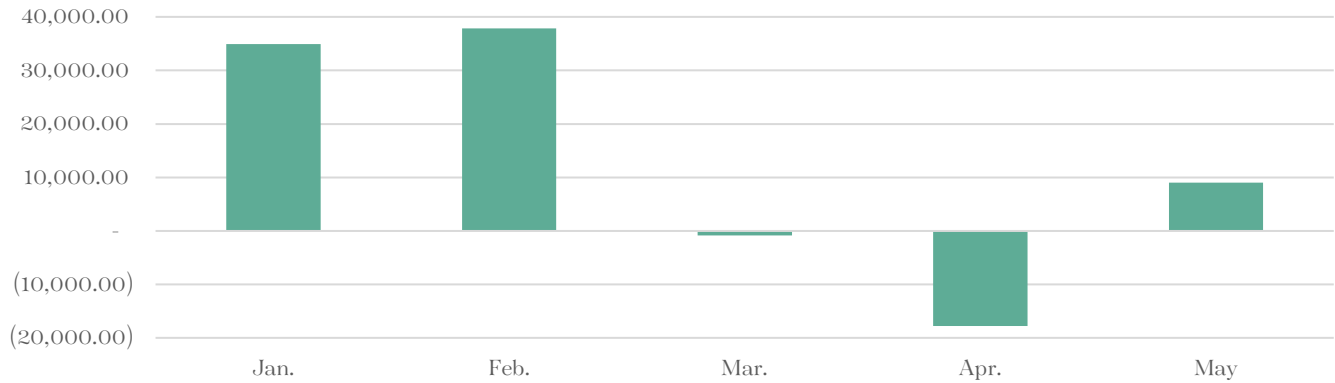
1. May expenses more than income by \$11,532
2. Year to date expenses less than income by \$63,234

	May 2021				Year-to-date 2021			
<i>Budget vs. actual</i>	Budget	Actual	%	Diff	Budget	Actual	%	Diff
Income	\$85,747	\$93,556	9%	\$7,809	\$522,731	\$493,378	-6%	-\$29,353
Expense	\$93,110	\$84,519	-9%	-\$8,591	\$470,837	\$430,144	-8.6%	-\$40,693
Difference	-\$7,363	\$9,037		\$16,400	\$51,894	\$63,234		\$11,340

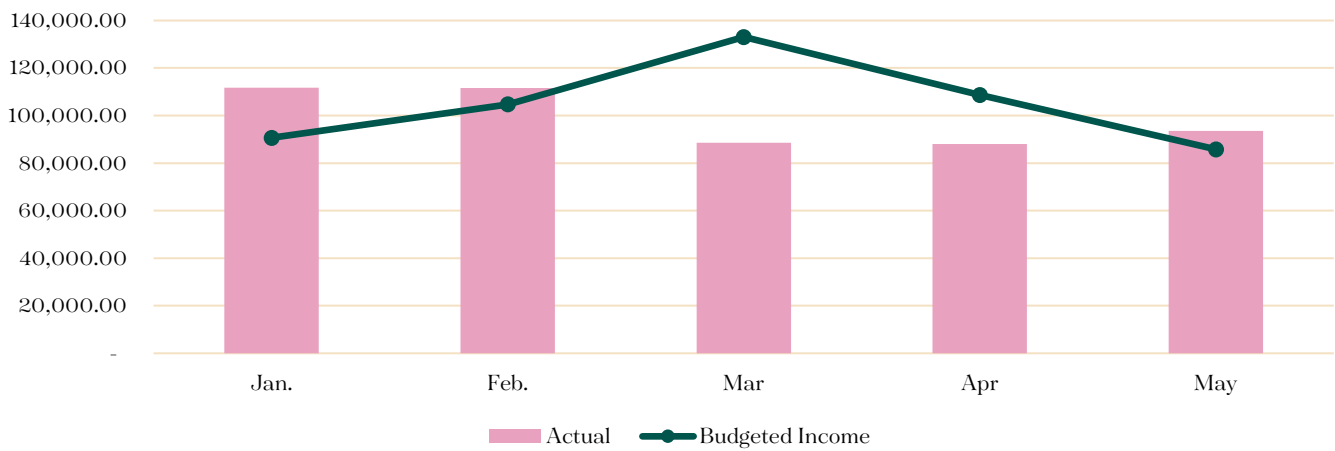
Notes:

1. Year to date Income is less than the amount budgeted by \$29,353
2. Year to date Expenses are Less than the amount budgeted by \$40,693
3. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$63,234 (\$11,340 More than budget)
4. Dedicated accounts: \$373,542 (\$194,315 in Capital funds account)
5. Liquid assets: \$1,070,970 (\$89,854 in US bank checking \$103 in homestreet checking (2nd draw PPP loan), \$733,594 in mission investment) (note Wafd account closed and PPP funds mostly spent)
6. Current assets: \$40,000 loan to Preschool
7. Fixed assets: \$9,400,625 (land, bldgs, sign, equipment, furniture, vehicles, office)
8. Mortgage: \$1,559,053 (at Thrivent, refinancable in 2024)
9. Reserve accounts: Operational: \$137,586, Capital: \$29,404, Bequest Holding: \$157,028, prepaid gift \$103,316. Total: \$440,703
10. 2nd round PPP loan \$334,352 being used for schools and TLC payroll, mortgage, utilities, PPE Spent \$334,250 to-date (\$211,587 for schools, \$122,662 for TLC). \$103 remaining.
11. Preschool YTD income: \$65,023, expenses: \$44,072, cash on hand: \$65,792 (\$29,587 from 2nd PPP loan)
12. CDC Income: \$359,449, Expenses: \$374,487, Cash on hand: \$321,488 (\$182,000 from PPP loan)

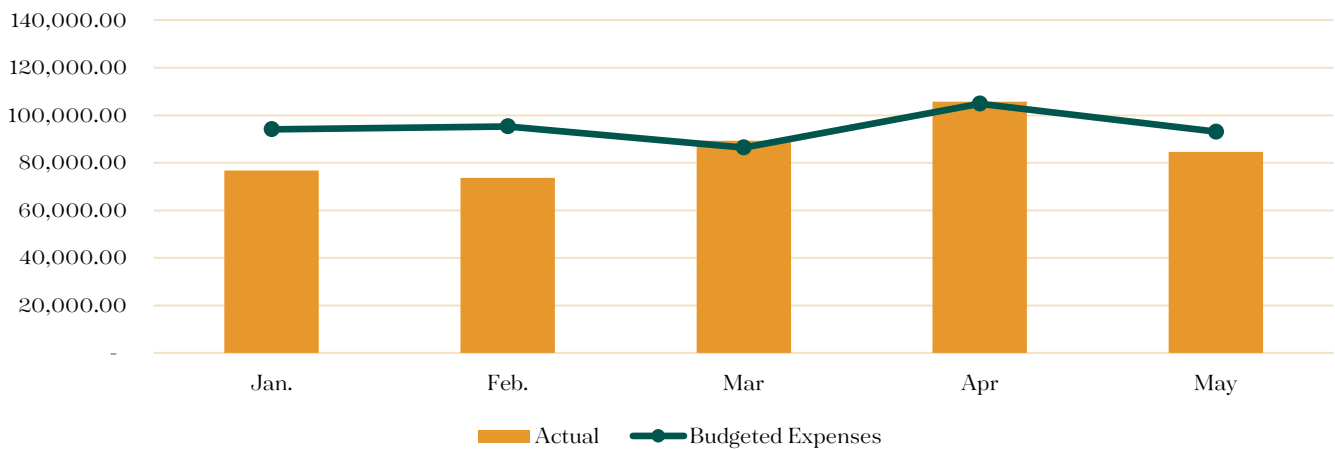
YTD Net Income



YTD Total Income: Budget vs Actual



YTD Total Expense: Budget vs Actual

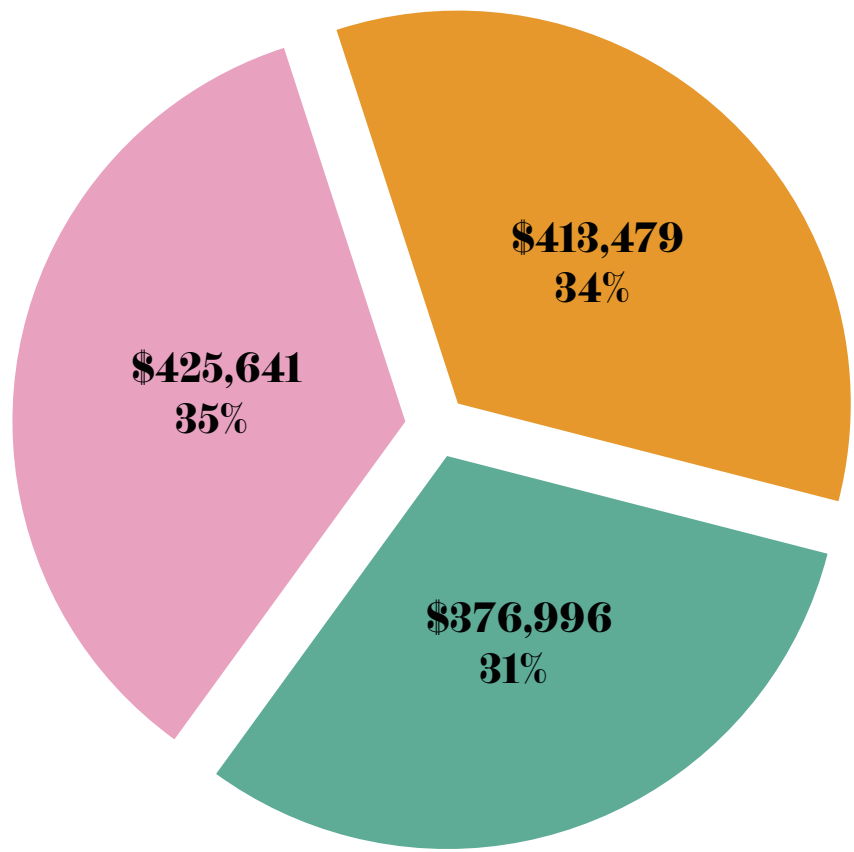


Missional Budget: Stewarding Our Resources

Figures represent the 2021 budget.

Each category includes percentages of salaries, building maintenance & upkeep, and administrative costs.

Through the pandemic, Trinity continued to serve, provide worship, and nurture people, even as some ministry areas paused, and others were limited in what they could do. Regardless, all of what is identified below remains vital to the core of Trinity's identity and future direction.



Provide Meaningful Worship & Music

Welcoming hospitality to all
Sunday morning & special liturgies
Choirs, children's choirs,
instrumentalists, soloists
90+ collaborating in worship
Message for young worshippers
Relevant & biblical preaching
Special concerts & recitals

Nurture Persons Through Community & Spiritual Formation

Footprints Sunday School,
Affirmation of Baptism,
youth & family programming
Bible studies,
special forums & lectures
Advocacy &
special interest groups
Lay pastoral care ministry,
Stephen Ministry, prayer chain
Potlucks & social gatherings
Small groups

Serving & Sharing Generously Beyond Our Congregation

Mission support to NW
Washington Synod & ELCA
Outreach & direct service to
community members
Interfaith relationships with
neighboring faith communities
Justice advocacy
Active use of building space by our
schools & community groups
Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

Audit Committee

Hans Berkenhoff, Claudia LaFollette, Sarah Zabel, Linda Fargo

The Audit Committee has enjoyed the addition of new members recently. Hans Berkenhoff and Claudia LaFollette continue to serve on the Committee, joined by Sarah Zabel in 2020 and Linda Fargo in 2021.

Due to the pandemic, the Audit Committee was not able to function in the same way in 2020. On a positive note, it was a good time for building the committee and getting to know the members of the Committee, as well as looking at work plans, new ideas and areas of focus, including a possible review of our process by outside audit professionals.

With a larger committee, we have begun to think about ways our members can separate out areas of review, using the specific strengths of our varied members and making space for

ideas about how to function more efficiently and manage the work of the Committee. In this way, we are able to focus not just on tasks, but on the importance of establishing how we will complete oversight functions.

In many ways, it may seem that we did not finish our annual goals in 2020. That said, there are times when taking a pause to consider what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how that serves this community of Christ at this time, is very important indeed.

The Audit Committee members are grateful for the tasks in front of us and we look forward to continuing to critically review our procedures and structure and to ensure accountability with respect to the resources entrusted to Trinity.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Endowment Committee

Lin Russell, Claudia LaFollette, Kim Palmer, Julie Buetow, Jayne Meyer

The Endowment Committee works to support members of our community by providing grants for education, ministry and emergency assistance. Through the committee's work we are supporting the vision of Trinity: Building. Belonging. Becoming. We are helping to build a network of support and assistance to those in need, creating a sense of belonging to a greater vision for the church and helping young adults become full members of the larger community.

We welcomed two new members to the Endowment Committee in 2020, Jayne Meyer and Julie Buetow, each for a three year term. In addition, Claudia LaFollette was elected treasurer at the August 2020 meeting.

During 2020, the Endowment account was blessed to receive two contributions from members of our congregation.

As in years past, Trinity's endowment account was able to provide funds for emergency assistance, including for rent and home repairs, as well as \$900 to each of eight students that applied for college grants.

Funds that were not disbursed in 2020 remain available for grants in 2021.

As a Committee, we appreciate everything our community does to support the Endowment Committee and we consider it a privilege to serve on this Committee.

Nominating Committee

Mark Bergquist, Jamie Curtis, Dirk Howe, Karen Kirkmire-Wilson, Vianne Reay, Pam Steberl

The Nominating Committee began our work by using the values of inclusion, multi-generational ministry, and impactful relationships to design our faith-based process. The nominating process is more than merely filling an opening. As we worked to find the next leaders of Trinity, the process included intentional prayer, discernment, understanding the vision and values of the congregation, and leadership development.

During the past year, we realized the importance of continuity. The Nominating committee is unique in that the entire committee is new each ministry year. This continuity is imperative to continually improve the process of identifying future leaders of Trinity. We also identified areas that need to be enhanced to better support the nomination process.

As we assessed our process, we felt called to create an intentional transition between the current and future Nominating Committees. A foundation that includes best practices, history of the past leadership, giftedness of members of the congregation, status of membership, and clarity of the direction of the congregation will set a baseline as the new committee begins their work. Another aspect of the transition is fostering relationships; both with other ministry teams in the congregation and between the current and future Nominating Committee. To that end, we met with the incoming Nominating Committee and will share our suggestions and best practices with them at a meeting after they are elected.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve this year. We are hopeful that our work and experience can be used to continue to move God's work forward in this place.

Worship & Music Position Task Force

Randy Pirwitz, Deb Johnson, Gordon Hilstad, Vianne Reay, Josh Judd-Herzfeldt

This group was tasked with crafting the "Worship and Music Position" document to be used by the search committee in selecting a candidate to fill the Minister of Music and Worship position. Our guidelines for creating this document were first and foremost based on Trinity's Mission and Core Values (VDA), which formed the basis of the "Job Summary" section of the document. Having received over 50 (!) congregational responses to the music ministry survey that we sent to members, we then utilized much of what we received in those responses to write the "Duties and Responsibilities" and "Skills and Qualifications" sections. Our goal is to be able to hand over the completed document to the search committee this summer.

Ministry Groups

Trinity is home to a variety of groups, some more structured, involving many people and others more informal small groups around a shared interest or desire for study or activism. Contact group leaders to learn more about the group and how to get involved.

- ▶ All for Peace
Liz Gimmestad, cgimmestad1@hotmail.com
- ▶ Artists at the Organ
Penny Lorenz, penlorenz@comcast.net
- ▶ Arts & Environment
Pam Steberl, plsteb_idesign@hotmail.com
- ▶ Book Club
Joan Jolly, joan.jolly@gmail.com
- ▶ ChristCare
John Cheshier, johncheshiertoby@gmail.com
- ▶ Communion Bread Bakers
Sharon Smith, sharonlovespatrick@gmail.com
- ▶ Community & Middle East Peace Builders
John Berg, johntberg@msn.com
- ▶ Esperanza Mission Trips
Deb Johnson, deb.johnson15@gmail.com
- ▶ Facilities Board
Don Boelter, administrator@trinitylutheranchurch.com
- ▶ Fair Trade
Carolyn Boone, carolynboone@comcast.net
- ▶ Fathering Small Group
David Greenlee, david@trinitylutheranchurch.com
- ▶ First Impressions
Sandra Schneider, sandradoula@hotmail.com
- ▶ Journey
Judy Schleusner, rjschleusner@comcast.net
- ▶ Living Water
Chang Oversvee-Choi, changhakchoi@gmail.com
- ▶ Love, Learn, Live
Ardyth Savage, agsavage@live.com
- ▶ Mom's Group
Julie Buetow, clintnjulie@gmail.com
- ▶ Neighborhood Youth Alliance
Dary Garcia-Thompson, ricandary@gmail.com
- ▶ Neighbors in Need
John Boone, johnmboone@comcast.net
- ▶ Prayer Shawl Ministry
Lois Toroni, lvtoroni@gmail.com
- ▶ Quilters
Sandy Bueing, 425.563.0612
- ▶ Sowing Seeds of Hope
Gabby Raudebaugh, grraudy@yahoo.com
- ▶ Tech Team
Joe Jeske, joejeske@hotmail.com
- ▶ Trinity Choir & Worship Music
David Horton, music@trinitylutheranchurch.com
- ▶ Trinity Social Club
Rudy Schleusner, rjschleusner@comcast.net
- ▶ Trinity Women
Sandy Bueing, 425.563.0612
- ▶ Visio Divina
Ruth Lee, rleetrainger@gmail.com

Ministry Area

Reports

Artists at the Organ

Penny Lorenz

Our committee, represented by Karen Bruck and myself, as chair, were invited to present to the Trinity Church Council last month, a bit about what we do, what we are about and how we fit into the goals and aspirations of Trinity Lutheran Church. I will include what Judy Schleusner wrote for our committee presentation, which we feel so eloquently sums up our ministry.

Trinity is a place where believers gather to worship through Word & Sacrament. Upon entering the sanctuary, we know the cross is the center of our faith. The persons who designed and built our church also wanted music to be a foundation of our worship, as evidenced in the placement of the organ, and the acoustical structure of the room.

Through the “Artists at the Organ Series,” we have been able to be a welcoming, embracing community to so many folks. Not only do we reach out to people of other faith communities, but we have been privileged to have people of other geographic locations, as well as people of varied socio-economic groups, attend our concerts. The musicians who have played in concert here are well-known, professional

artists. We ask a suggested donation of \$10- \$15 or pay as you are able. People who cannot afford the ticket prices at the Opera or the Symphony, are able to hear great musicians at an affordable price. This is in line with the **inclusion of all people, as well as ministering to our local and global community.**

When we experience the power and the beauty of music, we realize how spiritually uplifting and nourishing it can be. Music feeds us. The Creator has blessed us with so many gifts...gifts for **building us up, creating a sense of belonging, and ultimately becoming the people of God.** Included in the gifts given us, music continues to offer us a way to **worship together, to learn together** and to **peacefully and lovingly live together.** To me, the universality of music is evident in the marvelous ministry of “Trinity Artists at the Organ.” Together, we are lifted and **supported** by the **bond** that music brings to **life’s journey.**

After a year with no concerts, our faithful and enthusiastic audience is anxious to return to Trinity when we are safely able to bring folks into our sanctuary. I hope that perhaps we can

start again by late fall, but that will depend on many factors. We do plan to dedicate our return concert as a memorial to our wonderful, dear, departed organists, Norma Aamodt-Nelson and Janice Stamey! Our concerts continue to be extremely popular and draw people to our church from near and far, people who experience God's presence in our church through music, with an average attendance of about 100-150. Trinity Artists at the Organ is dedicated to this ministry and outreach to our community. We are totally self-sustaining, with income received from concert attendees, gifts, and memorial gifts to our Organ Recital Fund. We are very grateful to Martin Pasi who regularly maintains and tunes the organ for us. We look forward with hope and gratitude to our 27th season.

Cheshier ChristCare

John Cheshier

Our Cheshier ChristCare group has met via zoom every two weeks for the past 12 months religiously, which worked well, because two of our group are snowbirds who traveled to Arizona and California for the winter. As of June, we have decided that since we are all vaccinated, that we will resume in-person meetings with our masks on at Casa Cheshier. Presently we are studying the book of John, based on a recommendation from Pastor Hector.

Christ-inspired service: Some of our group serve on Saturday mornings to help the homeless, some are or have been Stephen Ministers, and some serve on our church Council and in other capacities within our congregational community.

Inclusion of all people: we are and have offered

to others to join our group, an effort which hopefully will be easier now that the Covid restrictions are abating.

Impactful relationships: Our ChristCare group is very, very supportive as our members have endured terrible health issues and loss of spouses over the past year.

Communal worship and learning: The ChristCare group dynamic is centered around study of God's Word, somewhat in depth, at each and every meeting.

Multi-generational ministry: Is something that we will have to work on. Our core group has been together for many years. Our task is to reach out intentionally.





Fair Trade

Carolyn Boone, Jude Vaders

The mission of the Fair Trade ministry is to provide income to the farmers of coffee, tea and cocoa in some of the neediest areas of the world such as Colombia, Guatemala and Peru, by creating a market for their products. Unfortunately, our ministry was impacted by the Covid shutdown, since the majority of our business is done in-person on Fair Trade Sunday. We look forward to the reopening of the church building and reinstating of regular services so we can restart our offering.

Fair Trade shines a light on the needy of the world and invites conversation with every congregant to show them how they can build a relationship with these farmers and have a direct impact on the life of some of the poorest people on the planet.

Living Water

Chang Choi

We are grateful that the Living Water ministry has successfully been able to continue through this year of Covid. With the grace of God, our congregation, in partnership with Edmonds Lutheran Church, has continued to make regular donations so that we have:

- ▶ Funded 6 water softeners for 6 centers of Maher Ashram in India to assist in infrastructure longevity
- ▶ Funded 1 well for El Porvenir in San Esteban, Nicaragua
- ▶ Funded 200 water wheels in Karjat block of Raigad district through Habitat for Humanity India
- ▶ Funded 1 borehole well in Bakori Center through Maher Ashram in India
- ▶ Provided special matching grant funding of approximately 350 ration kits for starving families due to Covid through Maher Ashram in India

- ▶ Developed relationships with new US partners to help to provide water access to a wider net of water-poor communities using new technologies such as the Wello Wheel: Wello (wellowater.org)

The Living Water ministry is the very embodiment of what Trinity aspires toward with Building. Belonging. Becoming. With the support of the entire congregation, young and old, we work with partners within our community, and even more widespread, to assist in providing water where it is most needed in the world. Our goal remains to work toward a time when our ministry is no longer needed and there is life-giving access to clean water worldwide.

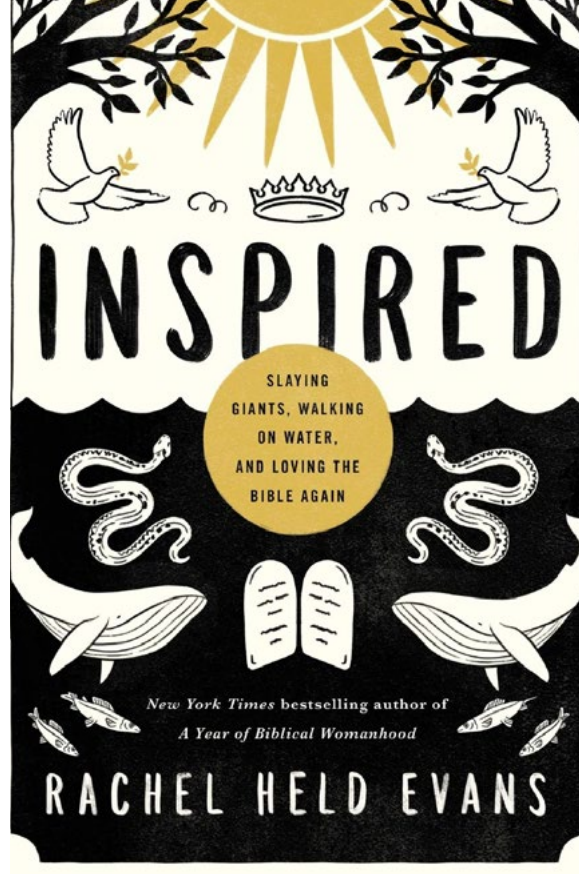
We are planning to restart in-person meetings again this summer, and always welcome new members.

Mom's Book Group

Julie Buetow

The Moms' Book Group first met in November 2020 with the purpose of bringing moms together for mutual support, discussion and prayer, in a book club format. As a group, we have chosen books on spiritual themes that we think will have real-life application and will generate lively discussion. So far we have read and discussed *Present Over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist, *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things* by Sarah Bessey, and *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans.

Over the past year, we have had 7 participants, including 5 Trinity members. Julie Buetow is acting as coordinator and facilitator. We meet over Zoom on Tuesday evenings about twice a month. Despite the limitations of Zoom meetings, we have maintained a connected, caring community that is not afraid to ask questions about our faith. Upcoming group decisions include what our next book will be, whether to take a summer break, and when would we all feel comfortable meeting in-person. We welcome new members!



Neighbors in Need

John Boone, Joan Jolly

Neighbors in Need's mission is to serve all people by providing basic support services, encouragement, and unconditional acceptance within a safe, caring environment. This program extends God's love through neighborly compassion and respect to anyone facing life's challenges, while inspiring all to continue in our shared quest for wholeness.

While we last served 200+ plates of breakfast on February 29, 2020, Neighbors in Need continues to be a primary support to our unhoused and low-income friends and neighbors in Lynnwood, Edmonds, and Mountlake Terrace. Since

then, each Saturday morning 10-15 rotating volunteers from several of our partners hand out 30-50 bags per week, over 2000 to date, of non-perishable food and Trader Joe sandwiches and salads provided by the Edmonds Food Bank; fresh fruit, string cheese, and hard boiled eggs provided by the Edmonds Unitarian Congregation; monthly bag lunches from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, fresh produce from the Edmonds Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Edmonds Rotary; and winter shoes and clothing provided by Trinity and local neighbors.

At least once per month, street medicine doctors and nurses from MercyWatch continue to provide flu, hepatitis and shingles vaccines, health checks, and more recently, COVID vaccinations to our neighbors and volunteers.

The Toy Shoppe provided Christmas gifts to almost 1,100 children from over 300 families with donations from Toys for Tots, the Alderwood Rotary, the Edmonds Unitarian Congregation and TLCS families and neighbors, that were distributed with the help from volunteers from the Lynnwood, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace Food Banks, TLCS members and friends.

Through the Jean Kim Foundation, we provided support to the Lynnwood Hygiene Station (showers and bathrooms), The Village (short-term Edmonds College student housing at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church), and the Nest Mission at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church, which provides emergency housing in local motels. None of this could have occurred without the generous contributions we received from TLCS members and friends, holiday concerts, Lynnwood Police Department, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church, St. Vincent DePaul at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Holy Rosary Catholic Church and North Sound Church.

We are so thankful for this opportunity to help our less fortunate neighbors for it has provided us not only with a way to build relationships with them, but also with our many volunteers and service partners. Every Saturday, we're asked when we'll be serving breakfast again, as this ministry is as important to our neighbors as it is to our volunteers. Plans are being made to start serving breakfast hopefully this summer, God willing. We miss them all and look forward to the time when we can safely be with them all again.





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Lois Toroni & Marilyn Thomsen

In March 2020, we had a 90th birthday party for the founder of our group, Lois Toroni. We did some knitting/crocheting, too. But that was the last time we gathered as a group.

We had just purchased a bunch of yarn (we're good at finding sales), so when we left that meeting, we each had some yarn and a shawl "in process." When guidelines said we could no longer meet as a group, we knew there would still be needs for prayer shawls. Through phone calls and group texts, we kept in touch and kept making shawls at home. With periodic calls to meet in the church parking lot to hand off a new supply of yarn or turn in completed shawls, we kept a steady supply ready for distribution.

Our prayer: *Dear Lord, thank you for the skills and artistry you've blessed these women with. Thank you for the donors to our "yarn fund." Thank you for the Stephen Ministers and others who distribute the shawls. And our earnest prayer that you bless the recipients. As the shawls encircle their shoulders, may it be a reminder they are encircled by your grace-filled and loving arms. Amen.*



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders: Marti Derickson, Liz Gimmestad, Joan Jolly, Sheri Kessler

Stephen Ministry (SM) continued to provide ministry throughout 2020 despite the restrictions imposed by Covid19.

A class of new SM candidates had met weekly, starting in January 2020. Comprised of students from Trinity and other local congregations, when the stay at home order was implemented, the class moved to continue online training via Zoom. While not ideal, as the curriculum calls for multiple small group activities throughout each lesson, the zoom sessions were well attended, with only one congregation of the four participating choosing to stop training for their candidate and await in-person learning.

In June of 2020, the remaining candidates completed the required fifty hours of training prior to commissioning. In August of 2020, the five Trinity candidates were commissioned at an outdoor event.

Stephen Ministry mandates that SMs attend twice monthly supervision meetings in order

to participate in the program. The supervision meetings were quickly moved to Zoom when the stay at home orders took place. With Zoom having the capability of breakout sessions embedded within any zoom meeting, small group supervision continued seamlessly.

Continuing Education (CE) is an integral part of SM as well. Stephen Ministry was able to schedule many CE sessions throughout the past year, again using Zoom as the platform.

SMs have pivoted, as have so many throughout these past months. Instead of in-person visits, SMs met with care receivers via phone calls, zoom sessions, cards, texts and letters. Commitment by the SM cadre to provide care never wavered.

Looking ahead, Stephen Ministry is excited to recruit new candidates for training, beginning, if possible, in January 2022. SM supervision and CE will continue via Zoom until in-person meetings resume.

Tech Team

Chris Morris, Cliff Bronson, Joe Jeske, Carl Setzer, Braeden Setzer, Clint Buetow, Andy Reay, Michael Reay, Josh Judd-Herzfeldt, Ron Collins, Pete Johnson

Trinity's Tech Team has been providing the technology for all of Trinity to join in worship each Sunday to continue to build up faith and relationships. They have implemented video and phone live streaming to allow all to join Sunday worship live and/or at a time that works for each person/family. The team's work enables the people of Trinity to stay connected and experience worship while we are separated. We are connected to each other over distance and through the pandemic.

Current work includes plans to integrate our online worship streaming with future in-person worship services to allow those still at home (or on vacation, etc.) to have the same experiences as those who are in-person. They are building the team by adding new members and continually training to ensure the best experiences for the congregation and ensure long-term sustainability, positioning the Tech Team to continue to address the technology needs of the congregation.



Visio Divina

Ruth Lee

Recognizing that there are many different learning styles and ways that we each connect with God, visual art was incorporated into use during worship beginning in Advent, carrying on thru Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. Artists were suggested and contacted about interest in publicly sharing art for our community. With a desire to expand the pool and be inclusive of different styles, mediums, and generations, a call was sent out to all artists to come and explore artistic possibilities. The first gathering of the group was on April 26 with a name of Visio Divina.

Visio Divina is most simply a practice of praying or meditating with the eyes. We experienced it that evening looking at an abstract art image and then reflecting on what the Pentecost scripture text was calling out to us.

Individually we explored how we might use those messages in our own art medium, whether for our own journey or to share within a larger community at Trinity or elsewhere.

Looking ahead, we invite all to join us in creating art inspired by a passage of scripture. We seek to use our God-given gifts to enhance our community worship and prayer life with our art, nurturing our relationship with God, and connecting with God's word. We strive to affirm the artistic gifts of our fellow creatives, to gather and share our work, and to actively encourage others to celebrate and explore their gifts.

As we return to in person gatherings, there is the possibility of creating community art pieces together. Art showings related to themes and issues in our community such as art created by people of color and their injustice experiences have potential. Photo mosaics could be interesting. Inter-generational pairs creating art could strengthen relationships. Education about how to personally use Visio Divina as a devotional practice could expand our ideas of what prayer is, and how God may be speaking to us. The possibilities are expansive!

