



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools

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.

Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools

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Hector Garfias-Toledo

Lead Pastor

It seems that we met just a few months ago. As a Cuban song writer says, “*El tiempo pasa nos vamos poniendo viejos*” (Time goes by and we gradually get older). Although it may sound



Time goes by and we gradually get older

that it only refers to aging, the words in Spanish convey the idea of growth and fulfillment in life.

The past year was an interesting time of transitions, adjustments, challenges, and possibilities which have helped us to grow and to discover the new ways in which we, as the movement of the resurrection people experience the fulfillment of God’s promises.

Some of us can say that, although we seem to have some control in our lives, the truth is that uncertainty is still—and will continue to be—part of the current reality. Yet, amid such uncertainty we continue to see the surprising, life-giving work of the Spirit who propels us to be the witnesses; that is agents and catalysts of healing and transformation.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God’s purpose and vision

for creation is shalom (well-being and righteousness). God calls us to join God’s work to bring healing, life, and dignity to all people, “*I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you*

a full life in the emptiest of places ... You’ll be known as those who

can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.” (Is 58:9,12 MSG).

It is only **when ministries’ work is aligned with the common and shared purpose of the congregation** that we will be able to live out our call, which is to join God’s mission to build a community that offers a place to belong so that every person can become the disciples (witness) of Jesus. Filled with a full life even in the emptiest of spaces, we (TLCS) are called to be the catalysts of God’s healing and the transformation that will make the community livable and whole.

The Rearview Mirror Vision

First, I invite you to celebrate and lift up the leadership of the congregation—both elected and non-elected—and the staff members, all of whom

have demonstrated a remarkable commitment and inspiring faithfulness.

For the past year, we worked on finding the best ways to utilize the tension between the new and past practices of the church to create the energy and the environment that foster opportunities for faith formation, spiritual growth, relational evangelism, and service to the community.

You have noticed that life and transformation is gradually emerging and flowing in the life of the congregation. The **Sunday gatherings of the church (worship services)** have been growing, both in numbers and relational opportunities. Children are included as part of the gathering because they are part of the movement!

Perhaps the most significant event in the ministry is the launching of the “**Build Up, Branch Out: Generosity Lived**” Campaign. Such a campaign is the result of the discernment, prayer, and commitment of the congregation to intentionally commit to a life-transforming faith journey. The campaign has forced us to seriously ponder how we can live with open hands and hearts, and to assess and re-imagine the ways in which everyone can



be engaged regardless of their financial status. Enough information and details have been shared with the congregation about the desired outcome of the two-year campaign. If you have not been able to join, you still can join the journey [tlcs.church/buildup].

Another aspect that reflects the intentionality to live out our values is the **growing collaboration between the two sides of the TLCS' ministry: Worship/service and TLC Schools**. We rejoice seeing students and parents participating in the Sunday gathering. We still need to work on



the worship/service members to intentionally connect with parents of the schools.

Although we saw a remarkable adaptability, we also need to be honest by saying that there was (and is) a tendency to believe that every little step that we took would eventually take us back to 2019. The survival instinct distracted us at times, by making us continue looking back to the past. However, the Spirit relentlessly continued to disrupt us and agitate us

by opening new opportunities and connecting people to the Lord Jesus through the congregation.

The congregation experienced **attrition** through a significant number of deaths of members, and of members whose sense of call or their views of ministry were different from TLCS'. As a result of attrition in members **TLCS is now a mid-size congregation** according to the standard of the ELCA. That means that the congregation does not have the same human capacity that it used to have several years ago.



Therefore, some of the ministries and small groups have had to assess their sustainability and faith-

fully come to a decision about what is next.

Regrettably, adjacent **communities continued to experience violence, inequity, and despair** caused by injustice and polarizing forces that are still tearing apart communities. In addition, the economic crisis has affected families and individuals in significant ways. Last year was not different from previous years. We have been struggling about how to respond in faithful, proactive,

and empathetic ways that are not performative or fall into virtue signaling behaviors. This is an area of growth we will work on this year.

In conversation with members, leaders, and staff I have learned that **TLCS' heart is about being a healing and transforming presence in the community**. It has become clear that God's purpose in the community at large is for TLCS to be a catalyst for healing and transformation. On February 11, the council spent time discerning how we would move from last year's focus on defining the new future into actually living that new future using the impact model mentioned in the minutes of the church council meeting held on February 21, 2023 [tlcs.church/council]. At that meeting the church council entrusted the staff to lead the process to implement the new approach which I will share during our congregational meeting.

Here are a few reasons to celebrate and rejoice together for the fruitfulness of our ministry:

Leadership & Staff

- The hiring of the Trinity Lutheran Preschool Director, Joelle Dudak, who has been boldly and faithfully seeking a greater collaboration between the two sides of the ministry.



- Training of seven coaches on team coaching to support leadership development and the implementation of the impact model mentioned in my report. The training was sponsored by Pr. Rothenberger and TLCS.
- Ongoing commitment, adaptability, creativity, and faithfulness of the elected leaders and staff members of the congregation
- The work, dedication, care, and love of Kris Dudak who retired after 30+ years as Trinity Lutheran Preschool director.

Worship

- Implementation of creative, thematic worship experiments in the form of worship series, music styles, and choir singing
- Intergenerational activities offered throughout the year including the intentional inclusion of young worshipers in every aspect of the Sunday gathering
- Ongoing enhancement of the Livestream worship by the Tech team

Faith Formation & Joining God's Mission Through TLCS

- Implementation of the "Paths to Discipleship" as an approach to faith formation as we experiment

and adjust faith formation time for young worshipers and adults on Sundays

- Participation in the 4th Soil Project sponsored by Vibrant Faith
- Increased collaboration between schools and worship community that includes the pastors and school directors leading chapel in the sanctuary.
- New witnesses (members) joining God's mission through TLCS

Communications

- Using social media and new formats to share messages, pastoral reflections, leaders' messages, which include videos and podcasts.

Faithful Stewardship

- The ongoing Generosity campaign marked by the exemplary response of many members has made it possible to plan for the next two years of ministry.

So, *what do we learn from the past year's experiences which are shaping TLCS to shift our pattern in this new?*

I believe that the Generosity campaign has taught us that having a clear sense of purpose and an aligned effort generates excitement and a sense of ownership.

Also, it became clear that **ministries need to be taken to the next level**. We cannot try to function as we were able to do before and during the pandemic or remain as they have been for decades. We still have enough capacity to take ministries to a new level in which they reflect the reality of both the actual capacity of the congregation and whether the ministry as it was in the past still responds to the new reality.

Therefore, we need to **narrow the scope and focus to go deeper**. What would that mean? It potentially means that we will need to have fewer ministries which can focus, go deeper and have a sustainability plan.

Our call isn't to survive, hoping to go back to the past, we are the resurrection people who live in hope looking forward, **building upon the legacy of those who went before us**, but free to be shaped by the Spirit



to be who God needs us to be now and into the future.

The Windshield Vision

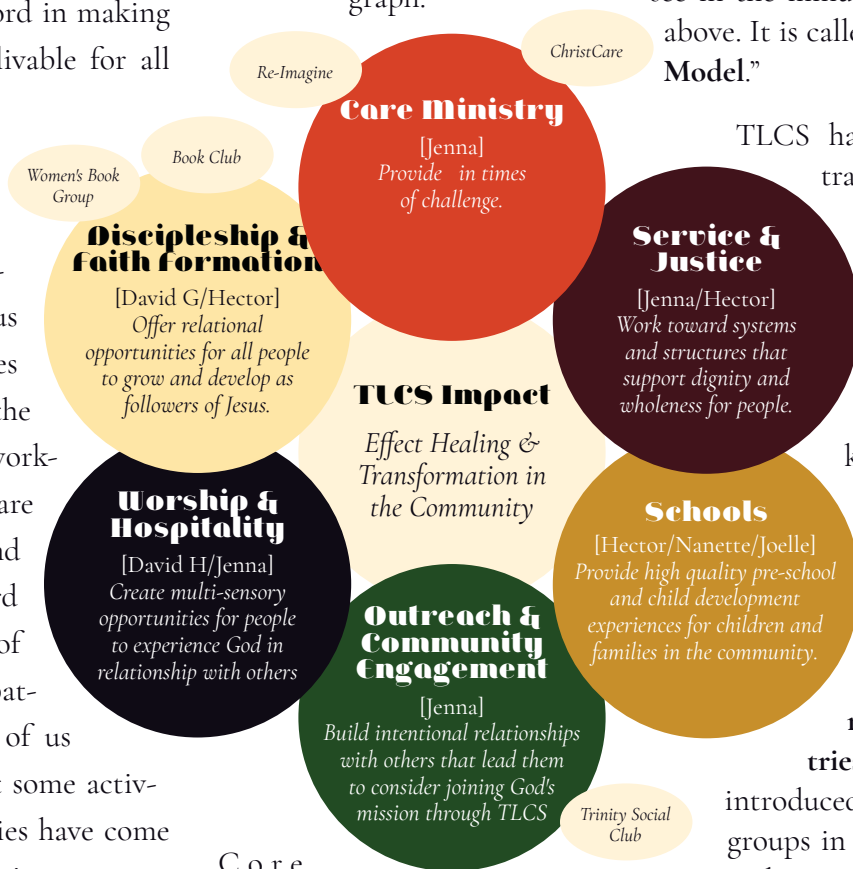
Last year, we focused on defining the new future. This year **we will be focusing on how we will live in the new future** and what we will do to faithfully witness to the Lord in making the community livable for all God's people.

The new reality that we are experiencing has shown us that quick fixes to bring back the past are not working. Some of us are feeling uneasy and are having a hard time letting go of the previous patterns. But some of us are realizing that some activities and ministries have come to the end of their season, so with gratitude and hope we have been able to come to holy closure and be open to the new possibilities.

The question for each one of us is, *what actions will we take to fully engage in a process that moves TLCS to be a catalyst of healing and transformation?*

Ministries & Leadership

As mentioned above, **we need to assess the current ministries** and how they will work in alignment towards a common overarching purpose, which is to be **catalysts of healing and transformation**. Based on the TLCS' values we have six **Core Ministries** as shown in the graph.



Core ministries are embraced, well known, and part of the narrative of the congregation. The core ministries have a purpose, a plan for reproducing discipleship/leadership, a plan for collaboration for other core ministries (NO SILOS), a plan for implementation, and a plan for sustainability (finances and

reproducing leadership). Core teams will be **accountable to the council/congregation**.

The process implies that every core team will set specific **outcomes**, ways to gauge their progress (**indicators**), and specific actions (**strategies**) that contribute to the overarching impact of the congregation by using the model that you could see in the minutes mentioned above. It is called the **"Impact Model."**

TLCS has invested in training seven **coaches**. The role of the coaches will be to "coach" core teams to keep on track and accountable to their own planning.

The **grassroots ministries** (originally introduced as affinity groups in last year's Annual Report), are groups of people that have a common interest and get together for fellowship, spiritual support, accompaniment, learning, growth, relationship building, support ministries of TLCS or the community at large. The length of time for them is determined by the group. A few examples of some current grassroots ministries are:



Cheshier Christ Care, Trinity Social Club, Re-Imagine Widow's Group, and others.

The impact model approach will help us to:

- **focus**, go deeper, and plan for mid-term and long-term activities.
- **avoiding duplication** of efforts in the community.
- to **develop a path for people to join ministries**, identify new leaders, and create what I call a "Healthy and Fruitful Leadership" model.
- **increase capacity, sustainability of ministries, and decrease the burnout** of leaders. Leaders will serve in up to three ministries or teams: One in which a person is the lead, one in which the person is part of the team but not the leader, and one in which a person is seeking to grow and learn new aspects of ministry (push out the comfort zone).

Generosity Lived

As we continue our two-year Generosity Lived journey, **the goal is that generosity will be part of the DNA of the congregation.** Our giving of time, talent, and treasure will be for the sake of the mission of the congregation beyond giving to a project. God has entrusted TLCS to live with open hands and hearts, so that each one of

us will be an orchard that bears fruit **not because we "have to," but because of who and whose we are.**

November of this year will be one year since our commitment to the campaign. Therefore, we will hold a **re-commitment service** to celebrate, share about our spiritual growth, and our commitment to a life of generosity.



Inclusion must permeate every aspect of ministry.



TLCS Values Lived Out

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

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

As we define how service to the community will contribute to healing and transformation, we will develop a plan for the core ministry in which current partnerships will be strengthened and new partnerships developed. It is our hope that once the [Lynwood Neighborhood Center \[voaww.org/lnc\]](https://voaww.org/lnc) is built, the array of possibilities will increase.

Inclusion of all people

The impact process mentioned above helped us to realize that we do not have a firm and defined justice and outreach ministry. Since inclusion must permeate every aspect of ministry; we are forming a team that will define outcomes and strategies to fill the ministry of justice and outreach. 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

As mentioned, every year, the core recommendations of the VDA point to **relationships.** The hospitality team is exploring new ways to connect with people and instill a culture of intentional relationships that foster **trust, accompaniment, and a shared and common sense of belonging.**

Faith-based communal experience of worshiping and learning together

For the past year, we have been intentional about **broadening the experience of worship.** The hybrid model opens many possibilities but comes with challenges since we have now basically four congregations: in-person, online real time,



later Sunday or in the week (online), and seekers. Every event will be designed to connect people in meaningful ways. We will continue to be intentional and consistent about reflecting the values of **intergenerational ministry, inclusion, art, sensorial, and collaborative planning.**

If worship is every day, **faith formation** is in everything that we do. We will continue to create space for spiritual growth through helping parents to be the primary source of spiritual support and discipling practices. The 4th Soil project will be the basis for developing paths for people to engage in a discipling journey.

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

For the past few months, you have seen young worshipers, youth, and older members interact during worship and in other events or activities. Young worshipers will continue to be integral to the life of the congregation by becoming leaders in the church. For instance, young adults apprentice younger children. We believe that youth will see visions and the old will dream dreams. Neither generation is better than the other, it is **coming together** that the ministry will be **enriched, strengthened, and**

will reflect God's vision of a feast of all people.

The **sustainability** of ministry will depend on our **faithful generosity lived out, and our willingness to make disciple makers.** For that reason, we will continue to **invest in people** by providing **training, investing** in creating spaces that promote connections, **fellowship, and impactful relationships.**

In this new future, we need to **accompany each other, accepting** the reality and **importance of losses, and supporting one another with empathy.** And, to **practice new ways to be the Jesus movement.**

As I said above, we have been **called to be catalysts of healing and transformation in the community.** TLCS has joined God's work in making the city livable for all people. As resurrection people trust in new life and the power of the Spirit, I appeal to you to pray and join God's mission as one to serve, nurture, and love all people.

Let's keep in mind that it is only through **honest conversation**

grounded on the message of the gospel, **prayer, and openness** to the Spirit's guidance, that we will see the important work of God in us and through 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 to the staff and to me through the approximately three and a half years.

My **prayer** is that we will learn to live out the call that we have received to be catalysts of God's reckless never-ending love for all people. It has been a journey, but I am sure that we all have learned to see in each other the presence of the Lord.

You will be in my prayers, but 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!**

Your sibling in Christ,

Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo

You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my father promised to you, to stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."
Luke 24:48-49 (MSG)





Jenna Bergeson

Associate Pastor

Dear people of TLCS,

I thank God for another year with you as fellow disciples, and being church in this particular time and place.

As a faith community, we have ventured through some significant things together in the past year, including:

- Debbie Jeske's retirement (from 23 years working at Trinity)
- Hiring David Horton as the full-time Minister of Music & Worship
- Kris Dudak's retirement (from 32 years as Preschool Director)
- Hiring Joelle Dudak as the new Preschool Director
- Starting a partnership with Generis for the two-year "Generosity Campaign" (see Don Boelter's report for more details)
- Various rhythms, series and worship styles for Sunday morning worship
- 2 weddings, 12 memorial services and 4 baptisms
- [the return of coffee fellowship!]

My role as Associate Pastor has also shifted some in the past year with the introduction of the "Impact Model" (see Pastor

Hector's report for more details).

Previous areas of focus:

- Worship
- Pastoral Care
- Relational Evangelism
- Engagement with the Community at Large
- Preaching
- Pastoral Acts

New areas of focus ("Core Ministries"):

- Worship & Hospitality
- Care Ministry
- Outreach & Community Engagement
- Service & Justice

I have immense gratitude for the ongoing ministries that have helped to carry out Trinity's values (*see inside front cover*) through these Core Ministries, as well as new ministries that have emerged in the past year.

In the coming year, I plan to pay special attention to the Core

Ministry of "Service & Justice" and consider how we can collaborate as one body (of "many members" - 1 Corinthians 12:12) to address and work toward *healing and transformation in the*

community in those particular areas.

As you continue reading through this 2023 Annual Report (as a whole), I invite you to consider how this formal "record" acts as a living document of and for our collective faith community. Each year, we take time to reflect on the work of God and God's people through this place. I believe it's an important practice to look back, because it should inform the way in which we move forward - with vision, cooperation and faith.

I'm excited to move forward in good courage with you and our trusted Shepherd.

Your partner in ministry,

Jenna Bergeson
Pastor Jenna

Today is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Psalm 118:24





Nanette Erban

Director, Trinity Child Development Center

Here we Grow again!

The Child Development Center is an active vibrant place that is in high demand! With our commitment to giving high quality early childhood education in a Christ centered environment, the rooms we have staffed are at capacity and we have over 60 families waiting for a space to come and join the Trinity family for care.

We have welcomed more teaching staff with the goal of expanding once again to full capacity of the center by late spring, welcoming more families into Trinity. Our hope is to be full and overflowing, providing families with a safe and welcoming place to receive care for their children and spiritual support to enable families to thrive.

We are grateful for our teaching staff who work diligently to ensure a welcoming and loving environment for children to grow and learn and receive love and care. The staff of 25 serve between 80-100 children each week year round with patience and dedication. I would like to invite God's people of prayer to remember the Child Development Center staff and the service they provide faithfully to the families and children in

our community, pray for them by name as the spirit leads:

Saba, Debbie, Amy, Kathy, Sandra, Shamika, Kassidy, Lauren, Lois, Andrew, Evie, Nanette, Teresa, Ashley, Huriya, Consolate, Semhar, Lea, Donna, Kimberly, Rosa, Kaylie, Natalya, Lindsay, Crystal.

Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools is intentional about creating connections between people who worship on Sundays and people who are part of the Trinity experience throughout the week in our schools. The schools sponsored and advertised a Lenten dinner this year that saw 65 people attend. It was wonderful to see the interactions and the inclusive, welcoming spirit at this event. We hope to do this each year and watch this event grow.

Child focused stations of the cross were posted in the hallways used by the Child Development Center. Families were asked to create a cross that represented their families as a way for young learners to see themselves as part of the Easter story. I hope you had a chance this spring to see the results of this "homework" assignment. Our Schools are a place of vibrance, inclusion, and show the diversity Lynnwood has to offer.

I represent the Snohomish county community on behalf of Trinity by participating on the Edmonds College Early Childhood Education Advisory Board. The college has conversations with people like myself in the community who are doing the work on a daily basis to keep its finger on the pulse of the needs of the ECC community and how to provide the best training possible for early childhood professionals.

I recently began work with the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association as a member of the Diversity and Justice Team. This team works together to provide resources and training opportunities to member schools concerning social justice to all people. I have oh so much to learn and a strong desire to share the knowledge I gain to help the greater church be as inclusive, culturally sensitive and as just as God has called us to be.

I am ever thankful for the ongoing opportunity to serve God through my service here at Trinity over the past 28 years and look forward to continuing to grow and serve.

In God's Service,

Nanette Erban,
CDC Director





Joelle Dudak

Director, Trinity Preschool

This year for Trinity Lutheran Preschool has been a year of positive transitions and changes. With Kris Dudak retiring, I was so excited and eager to take on the role of director after being a teacher for 11 years! Trinity Lutheran Preschool continues to minister to our community through relationships built with families of preschoolers. We care deeply about the spiritual development of our children as well as excellent programming for the development of cognitive, physical, social, and emotional skills.

One goal I had for my first year as director was to try to get back to pre-covid times.

The past few years we unfortunately were not able to do some things at the preschool that I think are important and special to our children and families. This year we were able to go on our pumpkin farm field trip, have multiple community helpers come to visit including a firefighter, dental assistant, the Lynnwood k-9 unit and a reptile lady.

We were also able to bring back our Spring Sing concert/fundraiser. This was something I was nervous about since it was my first time leading this event. I have of course been involved in it in the past on the

teacher's side but not the director's side. And let me tell you, it was very successful! Not only did the children and teachers work very hard at putting on an amazing performance with 6 songs, two of them brand new to them using sign language, but we also raised over \$3,000 to help bring new items into our playground! I was so happy with how it turned out and received a lot of positive feedback from the parents and family members as well!



Another focus for this year was to make sure we continue to integrate Trinity's core values into the Preschool. Our children attend Chapel in the Sanctuary once a week where they get to participate in Bible stories and Christian songs. Throughout the year, students get to experience lighting of the candles that represent the Light of Christ. This is a very special part for the children. The children also love when Pastor Hector and Pastor Jenna come to help with Chapel. They look forward to learning from them!

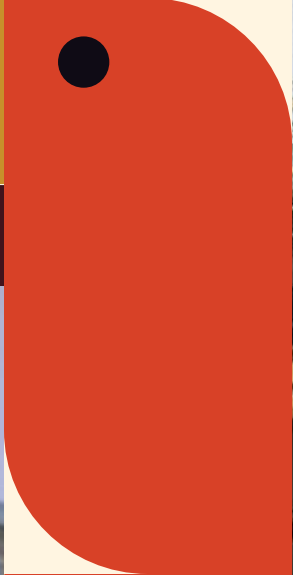
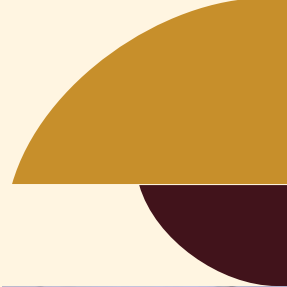
At Trinity Preschool we have a very diverse community, where we honor each student and family as a blessing from God. We have watched families come together and grow in their faith as well as their friendships. With the conclusion of our Tanzanian education fund, this year we donated our Chapel funds to a local group, Nourishing Network, that supports the Edmonds School District by supplying food for families that are in need. This teaches the children to care for others as God cares for each of us.

I would like to thank our great team at Trinity Lutheran Preschool: Kari Dobbs,

Lindsay Stark, Amanda Kohlmeier, Natasha Pia Kamaakeaina, Danielle Beckwith, and Ashlee Erban. They have brought dedication, love, compassion, and hard work each day to the Preschool. They provide engaging and creative curriculum for our children to grow socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically. Without these 6 ladies, I would not have been able to have a successful first year as director.

Thank you for everyone's support throughout this year of transition. It is a privilege serving in such a wonderful community.







Don Boelter Administrator

The highlight of the past year for me was—without question—the launch of our ongoing Build Up, Branch Out generosity campaign, which began in the Fall of 2022. The generosity emphasis Sundays in October and other campaign events were challenging to plan and execute, but it was fantastic seeing so many folks willing to participate as volunteers, special speakers, and/or become committed contributors to the future financial and facilities health of Trinity.

As you may recall, there were two components to the generosity emphasis: 1) address the ongoing needs of our mission budget, and 2) completion of a special capital project to replace the roof and siding. By addressing our long-term needs in both areas, we were able to ensure that the work of building up and joining in God's mission in our community will be able to continue at this place for years to come.

Regarding the Mission Budget: through the first 1/3 of our fiscal year (January to April 2023) we have seen an increase of contribution income of over 30%, or nearly \$100,000. This is an outstanding jump, over 9.5% more than the projected contribution projections in the budget to this point in the year. Even more exciting, we are also

seeing increased attendance, both in-person and online, and new folks following generous impulses in many different forms as part of their increased participation in this community post-pandemic.

As to the capital portion of the campaign, with the huge assist of a \$500,000 additional Build Up, Branch Out contribution in April, we were able to increase the scope of the project back to what was originally intended at the start of the campaign; that is, include the much-needed siding replacement in addition to addressing the ongoing roof needs. We plan to start work this summer, with project completion 9-12 months after the construction start date.

But Build Up, Branch Out is far from over. We'll have another emphasis Sunday at a special outdoor service on July

16 at Lynndale Park (amongst real trees literally “branching out” around us), and a very special Sunday this Fall where we mark the half-way point of this two-year campaign. Please contact me if you'd like to make a commitment to the campaign or increase your current commitment (and check out tlcs.church/buildup to learn more).

While there is still lots of work to be done, I am very encouraged by the increased attendance and energy in our in-person and online activities, greater synergy between the worshipping community at Trinity and our two school programs, and the start of construction of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center on our campus. It should be another exciting year of ministry at TLCS!



Campaign Progress

Two-year commitments as of April 17, 2023

Mission Budget Funding

\$2,415,420 pledged toward \$2.5m goal

Roof & Building Repairs

\$1,700,078 pledged toward \$1.7m goal



Mark Schmidt

Council President

Dear siblings in Christ,

The Council is an insightful and caring team that engages in prayerful discussion and decision making to guide and serve Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools. We are the legislative authority of the congregation and the board of directors for our nonprofit corporation. We meet monthly to fulfill fiduciary, strategic, and generative responsibilities to enable



The Congregation Council fulfills fiduciary, strategic, and generative responsibilities.

and support Trinity's vision of building up and joining in God's mission to nurture, love, and support all.

Council members wear three "hats:"

- A **fiduciary hat**, which provides high-level oversight to ensure that our staff have the resources and support they need to manage their daily work, that the congregation operates within an approved budget, and that we have and follow good policies and procedures. We ask: *What problems do we need to solve?*

- A **strategic hat**, which sets goals and mobilizes resources to solve bigger problems and advance initiatives that align with our vision and values. We ask: *What's the plan?*
- A **generative hat**, which challenges us to think beyond current norms and explore topics in new and different ways. We question our current reality in anticipation of future challenges facing the congregation. We ask:

What's the key question we should be asking?

We seek to balance these three "hats" – oversight, planning, and critical thinking that leads us beyond problem solving into future ways of being church – to support Trinity's current and evolving needs. Here are some examples of how we have done that this past year:

- Participating in the leadership of the **Build Up, Branch Out: Generosity Lived campaign** which affirmed the congregation's commitment to Trinity's vision through remarkable engagement and financial generosity.

- Developing a **balanced 2023 Mission Budget** which enables ongoing ministry in a way that is sustainable into the future.
- Commissioning and supporting a **review of the congregation's constitution and bylaws** to update and clarify how we work together and hosting congregational meetings to discuss and approve recommended changes.
- Overseeing and planning the **building repair project** and hosting congregational meetings to review and authorize project expenditures.
- Participating in discussions about **ministry impacts** and **aligning ministries** to achieve the desired impacts.
- Commissioning and affirming work by the Personnel Committee to **develop a process for regularly reviewing staff salaries** for fairness and equity.
- **Nurturing relationships** with church staff, committees, ministry groups, new members, and outside partners to support ministries in the community.
- Managing other Council business – approving expenditures, facilitating and documenting Council



and congregation decisions, acting on proposals, staffing committees, reviewing policies, etc.

As we do what we do, we strive to live out the values of Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools:

- We serve and learn from one another in humbleness, guided by Jesus' great commandments and great commission (*Christ-inspired service*).
- We engage in challenging conversations, risk vulnerability, and encourage dissenting viewpoints (*inclusion of all people*).
- We seek to connect people and instill a culture that fosters trust, collaboration, mutual accountability, and shared purpose (*im-pactful relationships*).

- We uplift, support, and pray for our staff, congregation leaders, volunteers, and participants who generously share their giftedness and passion to enable life-giving gatherings of God's people (*worshipping and learning together*).
- We encourage relationships across generations and embrace God's vision of a feast for all people (*multi-generational ministry*).

It is good work, and I am deeply grateful for my partners in this work. Please join me in thanking the 2022-23 Council for their commitment and contributions this past year:

- Susan Erickson, who completes her two-year term in June.
- Terry Anderson, Clint Buetow, Tabatha Cyphers,

Jenny Louch, and Vanessa Villavicencio, who are midway through their terms and continue to serve.

- David Fox, Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum, and Bonnie Sheehan, who have offered to serve second, two-year terms.
- Pr. Hector, Pr. Jenna, and Administrator Don Boelter, who serve on an ongoing basis.

Finally, thank you, dear church, for the opportunity to be church with you in this place and for your ongoing encouragement and prayers as we move forward into God's future together.

Blessing and peace,
Mark

2022 Statistical Report

871
Baptized Members

685
Confirmed Members

492
Households

129
Onsite Average Worship Attendance

110
Online Average Worship Attendance

9
Members Received

12
Deaths

3
Affirmations of Baptism

4
Baptisms

0
Weddings





David Fox Council Treasurer

“But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in love for us - see that you excel in this grace of giving.”

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

Thank God for all of you. Your generosity has placed Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools on the road to good financial health. While we need to continue our focus on our spirit of generosity to meet our core expenses and capital improvements, we are now able to turn our focus to our ministries.

Our facility use is returning to pre-pandemic levels. In addition to increasing our facility use income, this enables our ministries to better serve our congregation and the local community. While we continue our life as the scattered church, our in-person attendance has been growing. With God's help we are serving and reaching more people every week.

Our worship services have evolved to accommodate this changing environment. We combined our three services into a single service designed to bring the congregation together. With our growing in-person attendance we need

to evolve once again. However, we don't want to lose the benefits we have gained through our multigenerational worship, the time will come when we need to offer another gathering opportunity.

The church leadership and staff continue to guide us through the evolution of Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools. The involvement and generosity of the congregation makes this growth possible. As stakeholders in our mission to create disciples and serve our community, we have accepted the need for change, reached consensus on a new proposed reality, and begun to implement the changes. We still have challenges to overcome, we are doing our best to live fully as God's people and to confidently serve others as we embrace our new beginnings.

During our January congregational meeting we passed a balanced budget. I am pleased to report that we are on track to meet our financial commitments, complete our roof and siding replacement, and increase our mission budgets.

We will be obtaining a short-term loan to fund construction cash flow until we receive the second year of funds committed during our generosity campaign. Our plan is to repay that loan no later than December 31, 2024. We will not be adding

We have accepted the
need for change



to our current mortgage. The balance of our mortgage as of April 30, 2023, is \$1,490,613.

We are still deferring some staff wage increases and our planned increase donation to the synod until we receive our Employee Retention Credit funds. I expect to be receiving those funds in late Summer.

Please review the tables and charts on the following pages which illustrate our current financial performance.



2023 Budget Formation

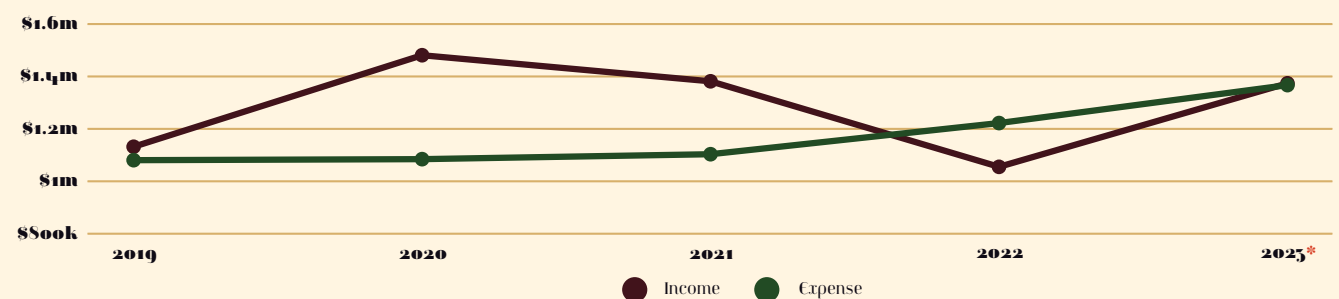
Church Income

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Contributions	\$ 1,000,064	\$ 1,170,489	\$ 1,043,563	\$ 1,035,325	\$ 1,206,900
Facility Use**	\$ 71,901	\$ 21,935	\$ 525	\$ 18,367	\$ 40,000
Miscellaneous***	\$ 61,937	\$ 290,128	\$ 339,142	\$ 3,732	\$ 128,700
TOTAL	\$ 1,133,902	\$ 1,482,552	\$ 1,383,230	\$ 1,057,424	\$ 1,375,600

Church Expense

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Benevolence	\$ 45,127	\$ 46,976	\$ 62,620	\$ 62,205	\$ 84,483
Personnel	\$ 706,463	\$ 709,795	\$ 663,684	\$ 735,935	\$ 806,528
Mortgage	\$ 98,196	\$ 98,196	\$ 98,196	\$ 98,196	\$ 142,467
Faith Formation	\$ 4,276	\$ 1,530	\$ 1,522	\$ 2,849	\$ 4,760
Evangelism Ministry	\$ 1,711	\$ 1,497	\$ 1,197	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,400
Facility Ministry	\$ 132,406	\$ 131,207	\$ 140,811	\$ 178,226	\$ 177,500
Congregational Life	\$ 2,817	\$ 1,168	\$ 671	\$ 369	\$ 3,000
Management	\$ 77,526	\$ 85,833	\$ 124,849	\$ 122,609	\$ 125,700
Social Concerns	\$ -	\$ 279	\$ -	\$ 294	\$ 250
Worship	\$ 8,199	\$ 6,166	\$ 7,502	\$ 15,396	\$ 15,600
WAY Student Ministries	\$ 6,081	\$ 4,033	\$ 4,433	\$ 6,726	\$ 7,050
TOTAL	\$ 1,082,802	\$ 1,086,680	\$ 1,105,485	\$ 1,224,155	\$ 1,368,738

Income vs Expense

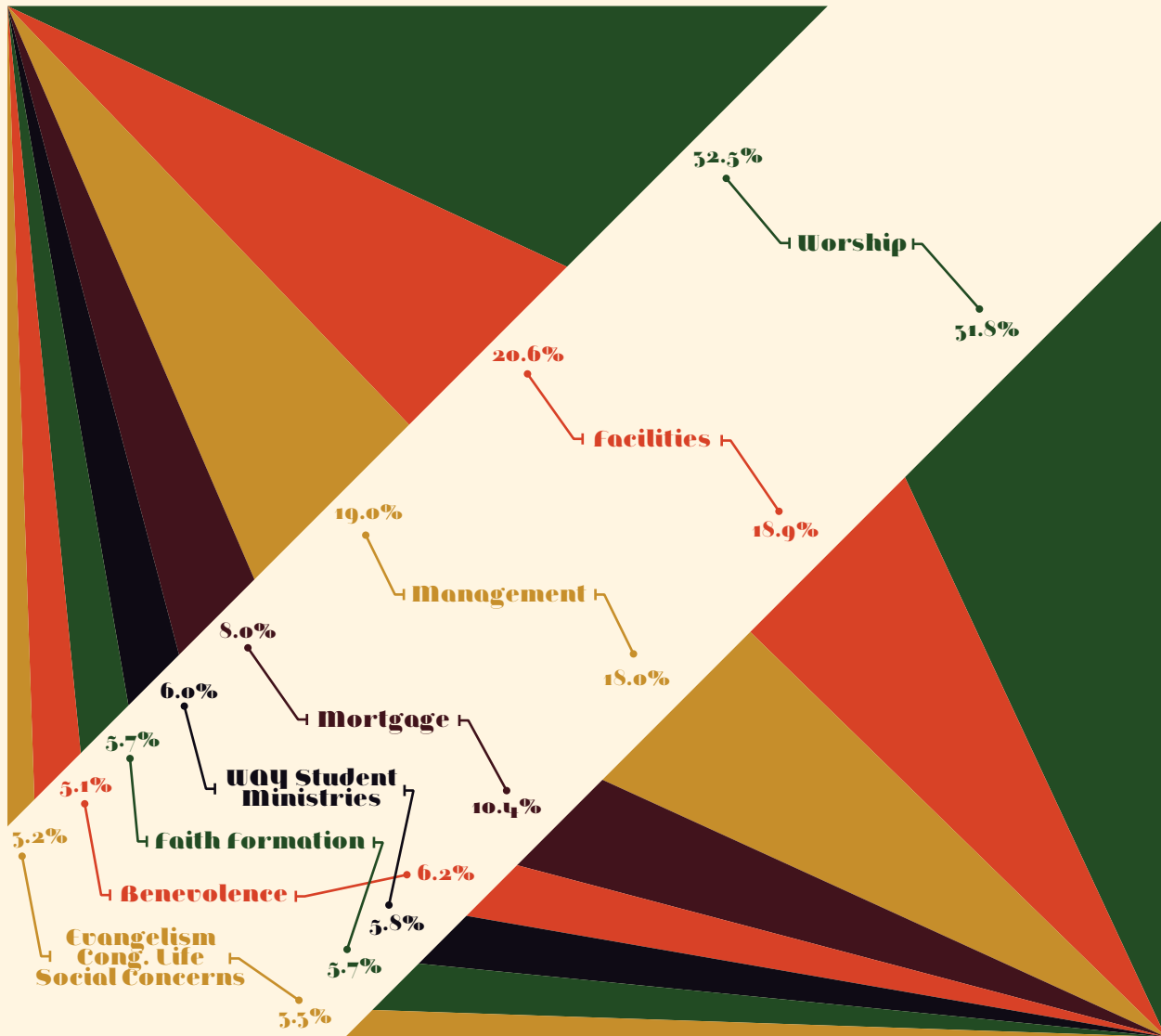


*2019-2022 are actuals. 2023 is estimated for budget purposes.
 **2019 & 2020 include rent income from Pointe of Grace Cell Tower & Chinese Church
 ***2019 includes Operational Reserve Funds; 2020 & 2021 include PPP Funds



Expense Charts

2022 Actual Expenses*



2023 Budgeted Expenses*

*Personnel expenses have been proportionally divided between the other 10 categories.

“It is he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining the whole measure of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV)



Year-to-date Financials

Through April 30, 2023

Current Cash Reserves

As of April 30, 2023, we had \$1,945,250 (\$1,415,565 in US Bank Checking and \$529,685 in our Mission Investment Funds Savings). \$1,444,350 of these funds are dedicated, as described below, leaving ~\$500,900 to be utilized if needed for budget shortfalls.

Dedicated Funds Not Included in 2023 Budget

In addition to the funds managed by the 2023 Budget, TLCS has dedicated funds donated to support specific ministries. These funds can only be used for dedicated purposes and cannot be used to support mission budget shortfalls.

Balances as of April 30, 2023:

- Congregational Ministries - \$ 32,726
- Local Mission - \$ 22,991

- Global Mission - \$ 58,058
- Music Ministry - \$22 ,593
- Youth and Children Ministry - \$13,796
- Benevolence to Organizations - \$2,788
- Deposit & Fees - \$2,235
- Capital Funds (Roof & Siding Repairs) - \$1,275,727
- Miscellaneous Funds - \$12,437

- Cash on Hand - \$114,749 (\$1,516 in Dedicated Funds)
- COVID Impact Loan Balance - \$40,000

Child Development Center

- Income - \$ 373,548
- Expenses - \$ 366,082
- Cash on Hand - \$ 410,196 (\$5,050 in Dedicated Funds)

Schools' finances

Meetings are ongoing discussing the consolidation of the Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools finances. Therefore, their budget performance is not included in the Church report. Following are the year-to-date numbers of the schools as of April 30, 2023:

Preschool

- Income - \$109,506
- Expenses - \$74,652

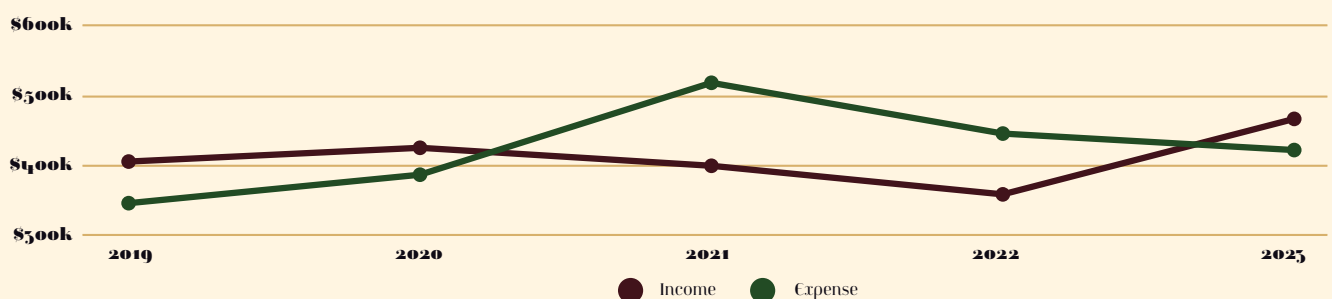
Conclusion

Thanks to God, and the generosity of our congregation, the 2023 financial performance of TLCS is on track for meeting our commitments as well as our capital improvements.

This spirit of generosity will allow us to move our focus to the ministries we support. Donating our Treasure, Time and Talent provides us the opportunity to share our God given gifts with our neighbors (local and global).



April 30 Year-to-date Income & Expense





Nominating Committee

Steve Johnson & Cathy Rankin

The focus of the Nominating Committee over 2022 and 2023 had been to intentionally apply the values articulated in the Values Direction Action Report in preparing for future candidates to join the leadership team of Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools.

The Committee strove to develop a model for finding and developing new leaders of the congregation for the next generation. Our Committee benefited greatly from previous years' nominating committees creation of the Nominating Committee Manual, a resource transcribing the history and wisdom of past Nominating Committees.

Through Trinity's values of Christ-inspired service, inclusion of all people, impactful relationships, multi-generational ministry, and faith-based communal experience of worshipping and learning together,

the committee commenced our search. We were able to transition to weekly in-person meetings and were inspired by each other during these planning and update meetings. With prayer and reflection, the Nominating Committee developed a slate of nominees.

Our committee's members were grateful for many existing leaders who were willing to extend their service for a second term, maintaining continuity of our mission. With this process and the hand of God, we are pleased to announce your candidates that have been preparing through a discipleship process.

■ Congregational Council (2 Yr term)

President – Mark Schmidt

Treasurer – David Fox

Members – Judy Jacobson, Bonnie Sheehan, Kirsten Lunstrum

■ Endowment Committee (3 Yr term)

Jayne Meyer, Julie Buetow

■ Nominating Committee (1 Yr term)

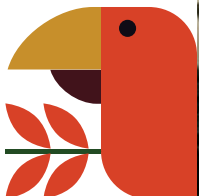
Christina Howard, John Cheshier, Sharon Bloch, EdnaMae Olufson-Smith, Ron Collins, Lin Russell

We will hold our next nominating committee in prayer as they seek God's wisdom for our future as well as those who may be thinking about how and where they can serve, answering God's call.

Many thanks to the team members of this nominating committee Colleen Farrell, Bill Hunnewell, John Judd, and Dagfinn Melby. We also want to thank Pastor Hector for his inspired guidance and support.

In Christ's service,

Steve Johnson and Cathy Rankin, Co-chairs





Endowment Committee

Claudia LaFollette

As you may know, the Endowment Committee gathers to support members of our community by providing grants for education, ministry and emergency assistance. During 2022 we expanded our communication efforts and successfully discussed and distributed grants in each category.

We are grateful for the pivotal role of past members that serve as consultants, Lin Russell and

Mike Schultz, as well as the kind assistance of the staff of Trinity.

We were able to provide educational grants to 10 students and to distribute emergency and ministry grants. Funds that were not disbursed in 2022 remained available for grants and for that reason we were able to respond to additional requests in 2023. We appreciate the support of this community and

look forward to presenting additional information regarding ministries that have received grants from the Endowment Committee on behalf of our community. Thank you!

Members: Julie Buetow, Inger Hamburg, Lynn Hinnenkamp, Claudia LaFollette and Jayne Meyer, and consultants Mike Schultz and Lin Russell





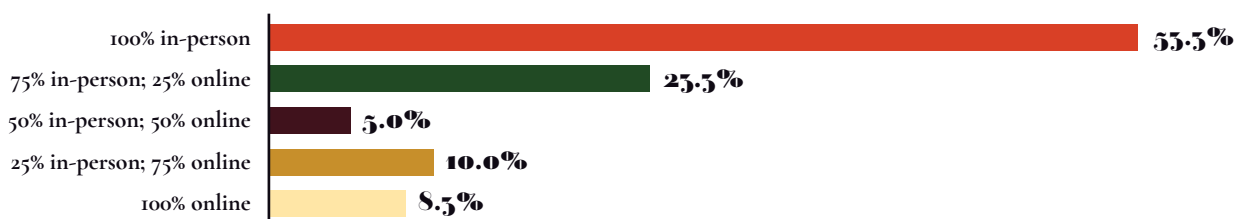
David Horton

Minister of Music & Worship

The Music and Worship Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools is committed to creating multisensory opportunities for all people to experience God in relationship with others.

Flexibility, creativity, and vulnerability. These three words continue to guide me as I serve as your Minister of Music and Worship.

Flexibility in discovering what it means to be a worshiping community in-person and online. I am grateful for the dedication and attention to detail our amazing Tech Team brings to our gatherings. Together, we continue to listen and discern what it means to be a hybrid church, knowing that sometimes things work and some things don't. However, we are committed to bringing a worshipful experience to all however that looks. We will continue to build this ministry with the flexibility and adaptability of the great gifts of technology, artistry, and the Holy Spirit. Here are some statistics from the congregation about how they worship on average.



Creativity in exploring worship series, liturgies, hymns, and songs that challenge our assumptions, theologies, and ways we encounter God. One of the great joys in my position as Minister of Music & Worship is creating worship and worship series that bring vibrancy, relevancy, and urgency to our sacred texts and liturgical seasons. In designing our worship, three questions guide my creativity: what theological themes have we addressed in previous years? What's missing? What is poignant this year?

Vulnerability in this incredible worshiping journey with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. This is a continued invitation to stay curious about what makes you uncomfortable. I know that not all the elements of our worship might spark joy, but I hope you savor the moments that do. Still, more importantly, I hope you find joy in witnessing others savor their moments. Start a conversation with them, listen to their story and experience, don't respond; just listen—the second invitation.

Meet me over a beverage or a meal and share your thoughts, ideas, hopes, and dreams for our worshiping community. We will be church together and continue to collaborate together because we are in this together.

Thank you for journeying with me as we continue creating multisensory opportunities for all people to experience God in relationship with others. This is what it means to be a church that is building, becoming, and belonging to God's diverse and beautiful creation.

**“For I am the Lord
your God
who takes hold
of your right hand
and says to you,
Do not fear;
I will help you.”**

Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)

Yours in Christ,

David Horton
Minister of Music & Worship





Artists at the Organ

Penny Lorenz, chair

Trinity's Artists at the Organ presented two concerts this past season.

Paul Tegels, professor of organ at Pacific Lutheran University performed a beautiful program in the fall, with the assistance of trumpeter, Jay Judson Scott.

On April 30, we presented Aaron David Miller to a very enthusiastic audience of about 100 people. Dr. Miller is an extraordinarily talented organist, improviser and composer, who just happened to have put his fingers on organ keys for the first time at the age of 5, here at Trinity Lutheran Church, when his father, David Miller was doing his pastoral internship here. His program included works of Bach, Mendelssohn and others, and an improvised three movement symphony for Eastertide, based on three different Lutheran Chorales.

Unfortunately, our February concert, which was to have presented Craig Cramer, had to be postponed, due to uncertain weather conditions.

Through the Artists at the Organ Series, we have been able to be a welcoming, embracing community to so many. 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, who have come from as far away as France and Germany. 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. The universality of music is evident in the powerful ministry of Trinity Artists at the Organ.

Together, we are lifted and supported by the bond that music brings to life's journey. Luther saw music as God's great gift to mankind. He called music a "noble, wholesome and joyful creation. It is a true gift of God"

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 or more. The organ recital committee is dedicated to this ministry and outreach to our community, as we have been for 28 years. We are totally self-sustaining, with income received from concert attendees, gifts, and memorial gifts to our Organ Recital Fund. We are extremely grateful to Martin Pasi who regularly maintains and tunes the organ for us.

Plans are coming together for our 29th season, starting again in the fall of 2023.

Many thanks to the committee members: *Chairperson: Penny Lorenz; Asst chairperson: Karen Bruck; David Horton, staff liaison; Julie Buetow; Sue Carlson; Shirley Forsgren; Dick Gourley, Silke Harper; Ingrid Huff; Marlene Kristensen; Kathleen Mayhle; Wayne McGuire' Evie Nordeen; Edna Mae Olufson; and Judy & Rudy Schleusner.*





First Impressions

Sandra Schneider, co-chair



Mission Statement

“The First Impressions ministry team welcomes all, on behalf of TLCS. It is our prayer that you are listened to, become connected, share a sense of belonging, and feel the care of God’s Love.”

Who We Are

Current active members of First Impressions include:

- Co-chairs Cathy Rankin & Sandy Schneider
- Jude Vaders
- Judy Bergquist
- Shirley Forsgren
- Teresa Judd
- AJ Watland
- Bruce & Nancy Sutherland
- Ken & Mary Eaton

What We Do

Members of the First Impressions Team greet worshippers as they arrive on Sunday morning. We offer the bulletin, noticing those folks who are unfamiliar to us. We welcome them, introduce ourselves, and offer direction if needed.

What We Pray About

We continue to pray that this ministry is pleasing to our Lord. We pray our TLCS

leadership and staff is aided and uplifted by our efforts; that our intention to be welcoming and grace-filled is felt by members and visitors. We pray to be filled with and led by the Holy Spirit in all we do as a ministry team. We pray the entire congregation considers themselves a part of this ministry.

What We Have Experienced

This team continues to be fluid, as members join FI Team, and some move into other ministries. We welcome this fluidity and embrace the flexibility it offers.

Just as all are welcome to worship at TLCS, all are welcome to participate in the First Impression Team. We consider the entire congregation to be part of this warm, welcoming ministry.

What We Realize

Our core members continue to be committed to this ministry.

We’ve welcomed new members to FI Team, as well as new worshipping members to TLCS. We embrace the organic way we operate, using our natural gifts of hospitality and friendship.

Because of the diligence of Kelly Apling, we have become more organized this year, including excellent scheduling coverage.

We have so much gratitude for Kelly and for her efforts in support of this ministry.

Submitted by Co-chair
Sandy Schneider





David Greenlee

Minister of Faith Formation

What a year of new beginnings!

After a covid-induced hiatus, Footprints Sunday School returned last Fall on Sundays at 9:00 am with about a dozen kids involved. With some adaptations as the year progressed, we have now have a little more than two dozen kids involved.

We have about 18 adults involved in the Sunday morning Adult class as well, with 10 to a dozen regularly there. The Wednesday evening adult Bible study also continues to have a strong attending group of a dozen or more.

At the same time, we are challenged both in children and youth ministries with the busy schedules of families and parents. This makes the timing of Trinity's involvement in Vibrant Faith's 4th Soil Parenting Project timely and relevant [vibrantfaith.org].

For three years we will have a team helping us to do experiments, surveys, classes and events as we learn about investing in the parents of our congregation and schools to help them form faith in the home with the congregation's support. The team is just now forming and this summer we

will pilot a few events as we begin the process.

We will still hold events for all family types, including the Trinity Summer Campout at Lutherwood, July 21-23 and some summer events. The teens



will have their Summer Youth Nights too, along with a Urban Mission trip to Spokane and a week of summer camp.

As a congregation, Trinity has a lot of families we have contact with through Sunday morning, the weekday schools and the Latina Music Program. But how do we support and help

these families to raise their children with the love of God being central to both congregation and home? We will be looking to involve more people in helping to support our outreach to parents, children and teens.

When we are talking about faith formation we are not talking about school or tests or crafts and games. We are talking about faith coming alive through story, relationships, experiences and engaging with others.

I hope you will all consider how you can join in faith formation for yourself and your family!





Care Ministry

Spiritual, emotional, and psychological support

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is part of the pastoral care team at Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools. We are trained to give one-on-one listening care to people who are experiencing significant life changes, such as aging, illness, job loss, relationship break-ups, or grief.

Our role as members of the pastoral care team is to walk beside you over the “long haul.” For example, someone whose spouse has died will spend time with a Pastor or Pastoral Care Minister during the first grieving and “busyness” involved with a death. After the relatives, friends and neighbors return to their homes and lives, there is still much grieving and loneliness for the new widow or widower. If that person wishes, a Stephen Minister will be assigned to share the journey for however long it takes to adapt to this unwelcome change. It is a time of conversation, remembering, and exploring how to live as a single person with, of course, the support of prayer and scripture.

The three years of Covid illness, death, and isolation have been hard on each of us as individuals and as family units. The Stephen Ministers have studied updated materials and continuing education

presentations so that we can provide compassionate and safe care during this unwelcome “new normal”.

Trinity has 14 active Stephen Ministers. It is with great joy that we will add two newly trained Stephen Ministers. They will be available to give care in early June.

We are here to listen and care in confidential, prayerful partnership. God bless each of you on your journeys. Know that we are here when you have a burden to share.

We wish peace in Christ,
Sheri Kasen-Kessler,
Liz Gimmestad,
Joan Jolly

Pastoral Care Ministry

As Christians, all of us are called to care for each other in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Pastoral Care Ministers are a vital part of the pastoral care team at Trinity, engaging and caring for people who are struggling with the variety of life changes and struggles that we all experience.

Pastoral Care Ministers follow up with each prayer request to our community, make hospital, care facility and home-bound

visits, celebrate communion and serve our Neighbors in Need on Saturday morning.

Our Pastoral Care Ministers have been trained as Stephen Ministers. They have also had many hours of additional training to engage them in a journey of self-discovery of their personal and pastoral identity and to provide an opportunity to develop and refine pastoral skills under supervision.

The Pastoral Care Ministers meet monthly for mutual support, on-going supervision and continuing education.

We have two people that are currently taking PCM training and we plan to start another training class in January, 2024. There is a need for additional Pastoral Care Ministers and we invite you to prayerfully consider serving in this one-on-one caring ministry.

We pray to God to continue to empower us for our task. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of pastoral care.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gimmestad.





Service & Justice

Support dignity and wholeness for people

All for Peace

All for Peace is an interfaith ministry of Christians and Muslims who share a mutual hope for greater understanding and unity in a divided and fearful world. We gather monthly so that we can know each other as neighbors, honor our differences and to seek ways to stand together to show how love casts out fear.

We gather our neighboring communities of Muslims and Christians to eat together, pray and play together and work together on projects that improve the neighborhoods and communities that we all share. We sponsor and host events and lectures that invite neighboring communities to engage in deeper learning, understanding and connection. We march in parades together and enjoy delicious meals together. We invite all to join us as we

seek to honor our differences and find ways to stand together. We trust that God is present in our work as we strive to become a people of God where all are welcome

Submitted by Liz Gimmestad.

Esperanza Mission Trips

We are celebrating a 24 year partnership between Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools and Esperanza International. Forty teams and 692 participants have helped build community 116 homes. We are dedicated to changing lives on both sides of the border.

Esperanza International and Fundacion Esperanza de Mexico are again receiving and accepting volunteers to serve alongside the people of Tijuana to build community and homes. TLCS along with 30

plus other volunteer groups will join the FEM team and the families to build community and dignified housing. This will be our 24th year of building community, relationships and homes with our team and the people of Mexico.

Over the years we have discovered that transformation is experienced not only by the families whose home is being built but also by those of us who are working with them. We get to know the people, which makes this very personal. We have discovered differences in cultures and learned to love those differences while creating cross border relationships. We have seen the face of Jesus smiling at us as we look into the face of the people we serve. We have discovered one way that we can be the hands of God in a world of need.



By the end of each week, we have built lasting bonds with our team, the people, the culture, the work seeing the results of open hearts and open minds. We have been truly blessed by this experience with Esperanza.

Esperanza Mission Statement

We partner with communities to support families building their dream of a home with volunteers and above all, mutual trust.

Colaboramos con comunidades para apoyar a las familias en la autoconstrucción de su sueño de un hogar con voluntarios y sobre todo, confianza mutua.

We are thankful for the blessings God has given us through this ministry.

Submitted by Deb Johnson & Cliff Bronson.

Living Water

The Living Water ministry celebrated our 20th year of water this year! With the grace of God, our congregation, in partnership with Edmonds Lutheran Church has donated \$1 million dollars in the past 20 years. To celebrate this, over the first 5 months of Living Water Sundays in 2023 we highlighted areas that we have supported through the years:

- Maher Ashram, India
- Maswa, Tanzania, Medical-Dental Clinic
- Water 1st International, Kenya, Honduras, and Bangladesh
- Wello Water Wheels, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malawi, Kenya & Zambia
- El Porvenir, Nicaragua

Through your generous support the families receiving the gift of clean water have been able to have dignity, health, and life.

This year we have donated \$23,840 to areas of the world in dire need of clean water for drinking, sanitation, and cleaning. More highlights:

- We added 1 new member, Maureen McKinsey to our committee.
- We approved grants to India, Haiti, Tanzania, & Syria earthquake Lutheran Disaster Response.
- We had a speaker from Charity Water with whom we plan on partnering in the near future.

We usually meet the 2nd Sunday of the month at noon. All are welcome to join us in our mission: "Living Water intentionally seeks to enable communities worldwide with safe and reliable uses of water."

Submitted by Judy Jacobson, co-chair.

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." - John 7:38b



Neighbors in Need

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.

The NIN ministry at TLCS consists of **Saturday Morning** with the Neighborhood Youth Alliance (currently suspended), the **Emergency Cold Weather Shelter** and the **Toy Shop of South Snohomish County**.

Saturday Mornings

We continue to be a primary support to our unhoused and low-income friends and neighbors in Lynnwood, Edmonds, and Mountlake Terrace. Each Saturday morning up to 25-30 rotating volunteers from several of our partners hand out 40-60 bags per week 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; and shoes and clothing provided by Trinity and our neighbors.

And, since September 2022, we have been serving indoor hot breakfast burritos and coffee,

and occasionally scrambled eggs or biscuits-n-gravy with all the trimmings, with the help from friends at TLCS, Holy Rosary, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Edmonds Unitarian Congregation, Unity Church and The Nest Mission at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church.

At least once per month **street medicine doctors and nurses from MercyWatch** continue to provide flu, hepatitis and shingles vaccines, health checks, and COVID vaccinations to our neighbors and volunteers, and the **mobile dental van** has returned to provide bi-monthly services.

Emergency Cold Weather Shelter

The Emergency Cold Weather Shelter this past winter (Nov. 2022 – Feb. 2023) was open 44 nights, providing 737 total bed nights, averaging 17 guests per night.

Toy Shop

The Toy Shop again provided Christmas gifts to children from over 250 families with donations from Toys for Tots, the Edmonds Unitarian Congregation and TLCS families and neighbors, that were distributed with the help from volunteers from the Lynnwood, Edmonds, and MLT Food Banks, TLCS members and friends.

Partners

Through the Jean Kim Foundation, we continue to provide support to the **Lynnwood Hygiene Station** (showers and bathrooms), and **The Village** (short-term housing at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church for LEAD program participants), and through the **Nest Mission**, emergency housing in local motels.

NiN has also provided The **Hand Up Project** with backpacks loaded with hygiene products for their homeless outreach program that provides detox and sobriety services.

Financial Support

None of this could have occurred without the generous contributions we received from TLCS members and friends, holiday concerts, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church, St. Vincent DePaul at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, and the North Sound Church.

Some NiN Celebrations:

Alejandro worked in Texas as a machinist. He and his wife drove to Washington to take advantage of our Puget Sound "booming economy. Our cost of living required them to live in their car while he looked for work. During his first visit to



Neighbors in Need, he introduced himself to Sue and Mark at our resource table. They asked a “pre-Covid” volunteer who owns a local manufacturing company to interview Alejandro. Alejandro proved to be a skilled machinist. Now our volunteer has a skilled and dependable employee, and Alejandro and his wife are housed, employed, and contributing members of our community.

Katie came to Neighbors in Need as a student at Neighborhood Youth Alliance. She was in primary school. The NYA volunteers helped her with her homework and encouraged her natural gift of mentoring others, both as an interpreter and as role model. Post-Covid, Katie is a junior in high school

and joins us every Saturday as a volunteer. Her calm, universal acceptance and her language skills are critical to our serving. She is proof of the value of our mentorship as we volunteer.

Kelly was a “charter Neighbor.” He and a few others came to Neighbors in Need when it was as simple as coffee and pastry on the Narthex counter. We served him as a Neighbor, and he served in directing the increasing homeless to Neighbors in Need. When Kelly died of cancer last summer, TLCS’s staff put their all into a celebration of his life. They scheduled their time to be present on Saturday Morning for a beautiful service. They accommodated his disabled family members. Thank you to

the staff and congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools for patience, forgiving, and encouraging.

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 also thankful to be able to safely serve indoor breakfast again, as this ministry is as important to our neighbors as it is to our volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

NiN Leadership: Joan Jolly, John Boone, Chris Frizzell, Sarah Merrihew-Fox, Lila Robinson, and Chuck Hoffman.





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