
2015 Annual Report



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

14088 CLAYTON ROAD
CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017

636-227-5432

JOINUS@TRINITYCHESTERFIELD.ORG

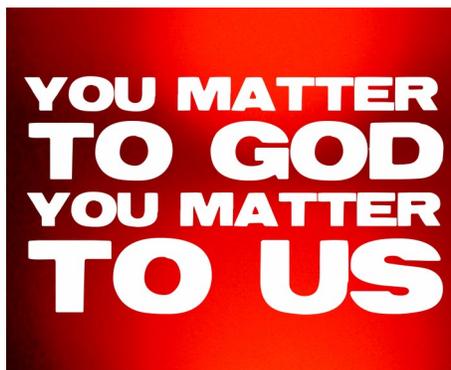
WWW.YOUMATTERTOGOD.ORG



MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 31, 2016

Page 2, 3	Interim Pastor's Report
Page 4, 5	President's Report
Page 6, 7	Walking Together Report
Page 8, 9	Gateway 180 Report
Page 10	Meals Do Matter Report
Page 11	2015 Missional Service Report
Page 12, 13, 14	January 25, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes
Page 15	Trinity 2015 Parish Statistical Report
Page 16	Trinity Balance Sheet Year Ending 2015
Page 17	Trinity 2016 Proposed Summary Budget
Page 18	Trinity 2016 Nominating Report



INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Dr. John M. Mann

In my annual report I'm going to share with you both the obvious and perhaps the unexpected. In terms of the obvious, let me just describe what the pastor's work normally consists of, since that's a very large part of what I've been doing in the name of God and on your behalf. My ordination certificate describes the office of Word and Sacrament as my primary responsibility. As I understand that, it means my areas of special service to the congregation have to do with overseeing, designing and being creative about both worship and preaching, and the teaching of God's word. Those responsibilities continue to demand a remarkable amount of my weekly attention. That is, I think, as it should be.

My own specialty in pastoral ministry from my earliest post high school education onward has always been in pastoral care. My graduate degrees are in pastoral psychology and the enabling of lay ministry and vocation. I have worked extensively since I've come to your congregation in September to provide the normal kinds of pastoral care for people in hospitals, nursing homes and family crises. What may not have been so obvious, even to me, is that in the process of consulting about your current congregational conflict, I have done far more and extensive pastoral care and support than I would have expected. Upon reflection I'm very happy it's worked out that way. But the result has been that my conversations are taking far more time and perhaps a bit more energy than I might've anticipated. I am approaching the point where those conversations will have met my minimal goal of 15 to 20% of the congregation. But in many ways they have been so important that I think I will continue them in some form, as I talk with the others in our ongoing effort to heal some of the fractures within the congregation.

I also spent a fair amount of time relating to the staff, listening to their ways of serving and ministering, and encouraging their work. That is part of my responsibility as head of staff at Trinity. It is also a natural role for someone in the pastoral office. Because of the dramatic changes in the makeup and size of our staff over the past year and because of some of the leadership decisions impacting the staff, my time with them in caregiving and molding the staff's future work together has been more emotionally taxing than I would have anticipated. Again, this is not a complaint, I find it wholly appropriate.

My daily work as well, pastor, breaks down into three major areas of endeavor. Much of it is work in preparation and study and research and writing. Those responsibilities take several days a week and are critical to my doing my job adequately. A second area of my responsibility is being available for interaction with church staff, members and leaders. This takes even more daytime than my work in study. It usually happens either at church or in individual meetings. I rarely have a moment alone or idle while I am at the church. The third area has to do with my representation of the congregation in

meetings with other clergy and leaders of the church in our area. These responsibilities are an important part of my ministry on your behalf to the synod , the ELCA , and to our ecumenical partners in ministry. They are an important expression of our valuing our oneness in the body of Christ with other Christians here and around the world. This is not ministry above and beyond the call of duty. It is central to the nature of the church. Finally and I don't know how to speak of this well, my responsibilities among you have to do now with creating a church culture. Moved by biblical teaching, theological commitment and our public pastoral functioning, the very nature of our community needs to be reflective of the faith and values we share. Too often lately that has not seemed to be true. Therefore one of my responsibilities is to both cast a vision and to represent an incarnation of what it is we believe Christian life and relationship ought to look like, if we take seriously Jesus' call. Obviously I'm not the only one called to do this. But I am the one most accountable to making sure we all remember that it is our common baptismal calling.

I hope this brief report on my involvement with you over the last few months will help you understand how I see my responsibilities to God and to the congregation. I'm more than happy to talk with any of you about these details or your reactions to them.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John Mann



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Norm Hild

2015 proved to be a year of transitions for Trinity. They included the expected departure of Pastor Jeff Hackler in July, and arrival of Interim Pastor John Mann in September to guide us through a process of healing and preparation for calling a new permanent Senior Pastor.

The 2015 annual meeting included a call from several members for increased transparency in carrying out the congregation's business, particularly more timely distribution of Council meeting minutes and publication of Executive team minutes. The 2015 Council committed to making changes necessary to improve communication. In the past, Council meeting minutes were prepared by staff and then approved at the next month's regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting minutes were then distributed to the congregation approximately five weeks after the meeting.

In response to that annual meeting request, the Council adopted a new internet-based process that allowed approval of meeting minutes and their delivery to the congregation approximately a week to 10 days after the meeting. Executive committee minutes (except personnel discussions) are also now being distributed to the congregation. Mission Implementation Teams now provide their meeting minutes for publication.

Please remember that Council meetings are always open to visitors who wish to listen to discussions and ask questions.

The Trinity staff also underwent transitions in 2015. Bruce Vantine resigned and KJ Sharitz retired, both in July after long time service to Trinity. Angie Hudelson left at the end of November when she and her husband, Dustin, moved to Illinois to be closer to family, and Ross Donaldson left at the end of 2015 to pursue new opportunities. We thank each of these individuals for their many contributions to Trinity and wish for them the best in the future. Amy Jones has assumed Angie's responsibilities for the rest of the Interim period until a new senior pastor comes on board.

There were a number of highlights during 2015 that are worth noting;

- The Trinity Endowment Fund passed the \$100,000 asset threshold that allows distribution of funds for outreach projects and/or capital improvements. This achievement was due to the commitment and dedication of the entire fund committee and to past President Jim Wilhite's tireless efforts in promoting the fund during his term in office. A hearty "Well done" to the entire team!!!
- Once again, the Trinity garage sale was a huge success thanks to donors of the sale items, and special thanks to Susan Meyland-Smith and her team of dedicated volunteers. They worked long hours to make the sale another huge success!
- We enjoyed a very well-attended Chili cook-off fellowship night in which we were able to sample a huge variety of chili recipes – from mild all the way to eye-watering flavors! Success was due to the dedication of Christy DeWees and her team of Council members.

- We had a wonderful trivia night that provided fellowship and challenged our minds while also raising \$5,000 to support our Walking Together ministry to the homeless at Gateway 180. Congratulations to Kelly Sturm, Charlene Ndi Jones and the entire team for a wonderful evening!
- Trinity participated in the first ever Town & Country parade!



- 2015 was the 58th year of operation for Trinity Preschool with 155 children enrolled and learning every day about the love of Jesus. This is the highest enrollment the preschool has ever had!

There were also some challenges throughout the year, and many of those concerned income. Like virtually all mainstream churches, Trinity's membership is declining. Our current membership is approximately half what it was ten years ago, and the resulting loss of contributions has begun to affect our ability to support both ELCA and local community outreach initiatives. We need to work hard to overcome recent divisions that have exacerbated the income problem. Pastor John's "listening" sessions with a large cross section of the congregation is expected to provide some insight as to how best to achieve that objective. The good news is that volunteer support by membership continues to be strong, and we thank God for all of you!

Trinity remains firmly committed to providing membership a choice of worship styles. The Traditional service format follows long term Lutheran practice and is well established. However, we do need to consider a possible small adjustment to the starting time for that service. The congregation will be fully consulted before any changes are made. The Contemporary service seems to be in need of refreshing since its attendance is small and not growing. Future plans are to appoint a group to analyze the situation and to recommend changes that might initiate growth. Contemporary service attenders need to be part of the solution!

In closing, I am thankful for all the members of the Council who have had a profound effect in dealing with the events of the past year, and in helping Trinity adjust to some big challenges. The staff has been terrific to work with and has made my life much easier. I also thank many Trinity members who have offered me support and good advice during the last year.

I thank God for all you!



WALKING TOGETHER REPORT

Charlene Ndi, MSW, Director

The Walking Together Mentoring ministry accomplished much in 2015, successfully completing Year I with five mentor pairs and five Gateway 180 families experiencing transformed lives. Secondly, WT was rewarded with a second year of funding by the Lutheran Foundation, validating the accomplishments of Year I. But so much more was achieved than meets the eye in a ministry that is still finding its way within Trinity. A summary follows:



WORSHIP

As 2015 drew to a close, during a season in November of 'giving thanks' Walking Together was invited to share with broader Trinity how mentors and those being served are being transformed. As the mission of WT is

"transforming two families at a time," both mentor and mentee are expected to be changed by the relationship that develops between them. So the transformative power of God's love was on display as Trinity was reminded of the Holy Scripture recorded in **John 13:35**. It reads thus, ***"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another."***

This exhortation was offered as a charge toward lives of service, and as a means to transformed lives for Trinity members and onlookers present at both worship services. The presentation was also a part of Trinity's effort to commemorate the start of the annualized Hunger & Homelessness Week. But the delivery was most compelling as ten of twelve WT mentors and Support Specialists shared the varying ways their lives have, and are being changed through mentoring, literally spelling out M-E-N-T-O-R-S as an acrostic and soliciting new candidates to join them in being transformed. The Youtube.com video presentation can be viewed at: <http://www.walkingtogetherstl.com>

SMALL GROUPS

At least two small groups are a part of the on-going life of Walking Together, in the form of Mentor and Leadership Team meetings held monthly. Both meetings are integral to the core focus of Walking Together.

Monthly Mentor meetings provide opportunities for exchange of information between mentors and the director of WT. Mentors provide oral and written updates of their experiences mentoring. They also provide written reports of these encounters. The meetings are designed to be a place where mentors can draw inspiration from each other through their shared experiences, as well as a place where they draw inspiration from the Walking Together director, equipping them to continue the journey of faith and changed lives. The meetings are also a place where mentors are expected to provide outcome reports for data collection, and a place where they receive additional training to optimize their capacity to serve.

At monthly Leadership Team meetings, the vision and mission of WT are shaped, providing an environment in which the director offers an analysis of the program, and defines

program needs that ensure strengthening of the ministry to ensure best practices and outcome measures that are congruent with the expectations of WT funders. The Leadership Team ended 2015 with plans to hold an extensive strategic planning process to be held in January to set the vision for 2016 and beyond.

An important small group activity in which WT had a significant role was in the Adult Forum Series on Race held for three consecutive weeks beginning in June 2015. The entire series was a poignant reminder both of how far we have come and, of how far we still have to go to achieve understanding and civility in our hopes for fruitful coexistence. But even more importantly, it is a reminder of how far we must 'grow' to exemplify our Creator, Savior, and Lord in the world.

MISSIONAL SERVICE

Walking Together is a missional ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and as such, is the expression of ministry exemplified through Trinity members and others serving in the lives of families attempting to recover from the effects of homelessness. Moreover, it is the measure of our faith lived out loud, in which we have the chance to impact lasting change in the lives of heads of households and subsequently, their developing children. This is carried out through relationships we form with other churches such as Dayspring, Transfiguration Lutheran, and St. Johns Lutheran; community organizations such as the St. Louis City Schools Superintendent's Monthly Prayer Breakfast, Continuum of Care, Concordia Seminary and all four Schools of Social Work; but most importantly with mentees across a restaurant table, at the zoo, and/or in the home of someone who may be different in appearance or socioeconomic status. Thus, we reach across cultures, and this is what makes WT stand apart in missional service. WT affords Trinity the chance to get up close and personal with the challenges of life we, and others are experiencing when living in material and other kinds of poverty. And it provides an opportunity to change lives.....Someone else's, and our own. To be continued in 2016...**Please pray for Walking Together!**



GATEWAY 180 REPORT

Kathy Gaal

2015 marked the eighth year of our relationship with Gateway180 :: Homelessness Reversed, Trinity's congregation-wide local mission focus. Through the continued support of the Trinity family and friends, Trinity is able to be the hands and feet of Christ by serving this organization and its clients and positively impacting the lives of some of the struggling families in the St. Louis area.

Gateway180 :: Homelessness Reversed remains Missouri's largest 24-hour emergency housing organization for women, children and families, providing services to empower clients to move their families beyond homelessness into stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible. Gateway180 provides shelter and three home-cooked meals a day to residents. Following a "Housing First" approach, as soon as immediate needs are met, Gateway180 works toward long-term solutions, including strengthening families as they work through the process of placement into transitional or permanent, supportive housing. Through their programs, as well as partnering with other agencies in the metropolitan St. Louis area, Gateway180 works toward their goal of ending homelessness in the St. Louis region. This includes working with families in crisis to keep the housing they already have, moving families out of emergency shelters into permanent housing as quickly as possible, linking families' needs with targeted services, and collecting and sharing data to improve program management with partner organizations.

In April, Gateway180 expanded their available beds from 110 to 162. In 2015, they provided housing, educational programs and counseling services to more than 2,000 family members, including 1,400 children – many younger than seven years old. On average, 65 families/households are served per day, with between 90 and 100 children staying at the shelter on a daily basis. More than 240 individuals were placed into housing in 2015.

Trinity's family and friends have continued to provide generous support in many ways. In addition to the funds budgeted for this mission, funding available through the Thrivent Action Teams program assisted in supporting Gateway180's needs. On your behalf, the Gateway Action Team gave thoughtful consideration to the use of this funding, targeting both ongoing and special needs. Gateway180 and the Gateway Action Team express sincere gratitude to all who have supported this mission spiritually, financially, in-kind and hands-on.

Throughout 2015, Trinity has been the hands and feet of Christ for Gateway180 in many ways, including:

- Ongoing prayer for Gateway180, residents and staff
- Continued communication with Gateway180 in order to support special needs
- Providing 1875 Brown Bag Lunches for distribution to homeless in Gateway180's neighborhood
- Serve Day activity to prepare Brown Bag Lunches



Hosting 12 Saturday night dinners and activities for adults and children
Hosting Halloween and Christmas celebrations with gifts for adults, children and staff
Providing "My Family's Personal Records" binders to assist residents in maintaining necessary documents
Providing personal care items, layette items, Fresh Start Bags and other needed items
Financial assistance for purchase of beds for the expansion
Providing bus passes for use by residents to travel to appointments, interviews, etc. needed to support their ability to move to permanent housing
Providing bins for storage of residents' possessions
Providing snacks for children's summer camp
Purchase of six Pack and Plays and mattresses for infants staying at Gateway180
Support of the annual Gateway180 Gala through hosting tables and providing auction items
Support of Walking Together

If we have inadvertently neglected to include any areas or activities in which the Trinity family has participated, we apologize. Please let us know.

Gateway180 continues to move forward in their mission. New programs and partnerships with other agencies and programs continue to be added to provide additional support for clients and their families. In addition to grant funding, the annual Gateway Gala, the Chip In The Green golf tournament and support from many local businesses and other organizations provide additional financial support. Gateway180 has proven to be very efficient with the funds they receive and has been honored with four stars, the highest rating, on Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator and is a BBB Accredited Charity. They are also a proud recipient of the Ladue News Charity Award.

We are pleased that two members of Trinity continue to serve Gateway180 in personal capacities. Larry Tietjen continues to serve on Gateway180's Board of Directors and Linda Lemke continues to serve on Gateway180's Program Committee.

Throughout 2016, we look forward to continued support of Trinity's mission to be the hands and feet of Christ by partnering with Gateway180. We value and appreciate the support of the Trinity family in this endeavor. Please contact any member of the Gateway Action team for more information.

The current Gateway Action Team members are Ken Hardebeck, Larry & Linda Lemke, Christie Tietjen, Jon & Barb Trettel, Dick Wegner and Kathy Gaal. We would like to thank Lynn Sapp for her work with the team. More members are always welcome!



MEALS DO MATTER REPORT

Christie Tietjen

In 2015 MDM held 5 cooking sessions where we made 18 to 110 - 4 & 2 serving meals, a total of 1056 meals served and shared in 2015. This is almost double what we did in 2014 (644 meals) where we were limited due to reduced funding, lack of freezer space, and the lack of availability of the gym and kitchen. Over the years we have prepared and shared the following: 340 meals in 2010 our first year, 620 meals in 2011, 744 meals in 2012, and over 800 in 2013. Total of over 4,200 meals since we began in 2010!

This ministry has been able to continue to grow this year because of the purchase of a larger freezer in January 2015. It is much more efficient and cost effective to cook more meals at a time, than to cook meals more often.

Our cook sessions this year consisted of 4 large cook sessions with as many as 4 types of meals prepared at one time, and 2 smaller cook sessions where we made just one meal and completed some meals with odds and ends we had left over or donated. One cook session was held on Trinity's Day of Service with many members and non-members involved. Additional meals and desserts were added by individuals and leftovers packaged from large gatherings. We received donations of food from members that we were able to use in our meals, too.

We launched our website in 2015 as well, www.mealsdomatter.org. This website allows for a national presence of this ministry and encourages and supports other organizations by sharing in detail how we do this ministry, and how they, too, can be the hands and feet of Christ in their world. We know of 4-5 other organizations that have or soon will be starting this ministry. In 2016 we will begin marketing our website locally and nationally in an effort to help more of those who are struggling by starting *Meals Do Matter* in many more organizations.

Cooking sessions are being planned for 2016 for every 8 - 10 weeks on various days and times of the week, or sooner if needed. Our first cook session of the 2016 was already held on January 10th with the confirmation and youth participating. They do a great job! Small groups who wish to cook meals on their own as a group will be encouraged and supported by the team.

Thank you to those who helped to fund this ministry for 2015: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Trinity's Mission Budget, and individual donors. This ministry requires a lot of helping hands to make it work. We thank all the hands that have helped: our team, the shoppers, the organizers, the label making, the article writing, the food prep, the meal assemblers, bakers, and those who take the meals to those in need!

By striving to be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world, we are attempting to live out our Mission: "You Matter to God: You Matter to Us." MDM is a natural extension of this mission. It lives out the mission from God for us to be the hands and feet of Christ. The words that make up our name demonstrate "action" along with empowering people to serve. The shared fellowship while working for Christ in the making of the meals and the delivering of the meals is what matters. It is the "doing" that matters! The gift of a delicious meal really does matter to people in this world who are hurting or struggling. Our meals are given to folks who are grieving, healing, hurting, struggling or stressed. About 95% of the meals went to non-members!



2015 MISSIONAL SERVICE REPORT

Financial support was provided to Lutheran Campus Ministry, Meals do Matter, Pan de Libros library in Juarez, Mexico, International Partners in Mission, TOWS, Gateway 180, ELCA World Hunger and the Walking Together mentoring ministry.

All year long food, school supplies and other needed items were collected for Circle of Concern. In addition, during Vacation Bible School, canned goods and school supplies were collected, and Trinity Preschool collected food for donation during Circle's Holiday Food Drive,

Preschoolers also collected boxes of gently used books and stuffed animals that were donated to a program called Ready To Learn, which provides books to underprivileged children in the St. Louis area.



We sponsored a Reverse Plate Offering during Lent and this mission outreach benefited Nurses for Newborns, Father's Support Center, Voices for Children, Crisis Nursery, ALIVE and St. Louis Fisher House.

Itch to Stitch made baby blankets for baptisms at Trinity and dozens of baby hats which were donated to Nurses for Newborns. Handmade adult hats and scarves went to Gateway 180. Prayer shawls were also made for anyone who needs one, inside or outside of Trinity.

SUNDAY SERVE gave Trinity community members of ALL ages the opportunity to participate in five service projects that supported the local St. Louis area.



The 6th Annual Fair Trade event featured several new vendors and sold over \$5000 worth of fair trade items!

The Season of Sharing drive for Lutheran Family & Children's Services collected over \$4000 worth of gift cards for needy families.

TOWS-The Ones Who Serve provided monthly meals for the homeless at New Life Evangelistic Center. Cell phones were collected and sent to Alive, the safe house to assist victims of domestic violence. Members of the Trinity community picked up over \$36,000 of donated bread at St. Louis Bread Co. and delivered it weekly to five different shelters for distribution.

In addition to making a monetary contribution, we supported members of the Trinity family who participated with other area churches at Good Shepherd in the Feed My Starving Children effort to prepare food assistance to those affected by hunger and starvation.

Trinity continues to support the Fair Trade Program by buying and serving Fair Trade tea and coffee at Trinity.

Thank you for your commitment to being the hands and feet of Jesus!

JANUARY 25, 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

119 Voting Members were in attendance, meeting the requirement for a quorum.

Pastor Jeff welcomed all and opened the meeting with prayer at 10:00 AM.

President Jim Wilhite welcomed everyone and presented the agenda for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2014 Annual Meeting – There were no corrections. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Hower presented the 2014 year end summary. He explained that due to unusually large HVAC expenses, snow removal, electricity expense, and phone system replacement, several reserves were used to cover the approximately 77k deficit at year end. (Approximately \$32,000 from the HVAC Appeal and HVAC-designated Invest in Trinity Campaign funds, 37,000 from Council Discretionary Fund and \$7,000 undesignated memorial funds were used.) Mike thanked Carol Bentley and the preschool staff for their approximately \$37,000 budget surplus, which helped with the Trinity 2014 year end.

Mike then presented the 2015 budget. It includes no raise for staff and also a cut in the contribution to the Central States Synod (from \$52k to 37k). The budget also includes exploring new methods to raise funds. They include eBay sales of large ticket items (items not suitable for garage sale). Members of the community would donate the items to TLC and receive a charitable contribution for the amount of the sale of their item. The Council is also looking into other creative forms of fund raising.

The Finance Team submitted the budget to Council, which approved it on January 15, 2014.

The Finance team moved that the proposed 2015 budget be accepted.

Discussion included the following comments:

Concern with cutting funding for the Central States Synod. Treasurer Mike Hower responded that the Council's intention is to make the first three quarterly payments to the synod, and if the money is there at the end of the year, the last quarterly payment will be made.

Concern that cutting the CSS funding affects valuable ministries such as Lutheran Campus Ministry, which has also been cut from Trinity's mission budget. Kate Donaldson, Missional Service MIT (Mission Implementation Team) Chair replied that the representative from LCM was at Trinity, and it was explained that Trinity mission funds could be allocated to them if they were willing to partner with Trinity. The representative was not interested in doing that, so LCM was removed from the Missional Service budget.

Validation that the Council has adjusted budgets in the past during the year, and Council can be trusted to do so again. Mike Hower agreed that it is Council's intention to reinstate funding to the CSS as soon as possible.

Question about the difference in the amount of the Youth budget. Mike Hower responded that last year the intergenerational trip was a big portion of the budget but is not in this year's budget. Also the youth gathering is not included this year.

After the discussion, Jim Wilhite called for a voice vote. The 2015 Budget was approved by voice vote and therefore adopted. Jim Wilhite thanked Mike Hower, the staff and the Finance Team (Renato Cataldo, Kathy Haferkamp, Morris Larson, Kelly Sturm, and Christie Tietjen) for their many, many hours of hard work on this budget and throughout the year!

Nominating Committee Presentation: Jim Wilhite introduced Lynn Sapp, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the slates for approval. Lynn first thanked the Nominating Committee members for their hard work: Dan Engle, Kevin Johnson, Elisa Thelen, Amy Jones and Ruth Rangel. She also thanked Jim Wilhite, Norm Hild, the current & outgoing members of Council, staff and all those who agreed to serve in 2015.

Nominating Committee Presentation of Slates: Lynn Sapp presented the following slates for approval:

Slate 1 – Council Officers and At Large Council Members

President Norm Hild will serve a one year term.
VP/President Elect Renato Cataldo has agreed to stand for election.
Secretary Todd Maloy has agreed to stand for election for the second year of a vacated term.
Treasurer Mike Hower will serve the first year of his second two year term.

At-Large Council Members:

Nancy Buffum has agreed to stand for election for a 1st two year term.
Christy DeWees has agreed to stand for election for a 1st two year term.
Cindy Gesme will serve the second year of her 1st two year term.
Eric Halter has agreed to stand for election for a 1st two year term.
Rob Harper will serve the second year of his 1st two year term.
Jerry Partlow will serve the first year of his 2nd two year term.
Eric Petersen will serve the first year of his 2nd two year term.
Kim Stewart has agreed to stand for election for a 1st two year term.

The motion from the Nominating Committee to approve Renato Cataldo, Todd Maloy, Nancy Buffum, Christy DeWees, Eric Halter & Kim Steward was approved by voice vote. Thank you to Jim Wilhite, Vicki Dohrmann, Lisa Hardebeck, Paula Mortenson and Bob LePoire for their service to Trinity as members of the Council!

Slate 2 – Nominating Committee

Jeff Haferkamp has agreed to stand for election for a two year term.
Amy Jones will serve the second year of a two year term.
Bobby Lyerla has agreed to stand for election for a two year term.
Ruth Rangel will serve the second year of a two year term.
Elisa Thelen will serve the second year of a two year term.
Emily Williams has agreed to stand for election for a two year term.

The motion from the Nominating Committee to approve Jeff Haferkamp, Bobby Lyerla and Emily Williams was approved by voice vote. Thank you to Dan Engle, Kevin Johnson, and Lynn Sapp for their service to Trinity as members of the Nominating Committee!

Slate 3 – Endowment Committee

Roger Thomas has agreed to stand for election.
Jim Wilhite, Sr. has agreed to stand for election.

The motion from the Nominating Committee to approve Roger Thomas and Jim Wilhite was approved by voice vote.

JANUARY 25, 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

continued

Slate 4 – Synod Assembly Delegates

Carl & Dot Kontak

Peggy Schaefer

The motion from the Nominating Committee to approve Carl & Dot Kontak & Peggy Schaefer was approved by voice vote. Thanks to Pierre & Margie Belleville and Norm & Sharon Hild who attended last year and to all who have served as Synod Delegates in the past. It was suggested that the delegates report back to the congregation following the Synod Assembly. Jim Wilhite agreed and advised the newly appointed delegates to please plan to do so in 2015.

New Business:

Endowment Committee Announcement: Harry Mueller, Endowment Committee Chair, explained the purpose of the Endowment Fund, established in 2009 to bolster and enhance the mission of TLC. With the prior discussion of Mission budget cuts, he reminded everyone that this is a good way to help support the mission budget.

The Endowment Fund is not intermingled with the budget. It is solely to supplement and increase mission work. In 2014 there is \$47,000 in the fund. Nothing can be used until it reaches \$100,000. The rules state that only 5% of the Endowment Fund principal can be used each year (once it reaches \$100,000), so the larger the fund is, the more money can be used for mission. There is currently a pledge for \$25,000 if an additional matching \$25,000 is raised. This would bring the total close to the \$100,000 mark in 2015.

Harry invited everyone at Trinity to attend a meeting on March 5 from 6-8 PM at Bellerive Country Club. If you are interested in growing mission work at Trinity and want to find out more about the Endowment Fund, please plan to attend.

Jim Wilhite thanked Harry Mueller and all the members of the Endowment Committee – Kent Melton, Jon Trettel, Bob Rasche, Steve Paquette, Jim Wilhite, and Norm Hild for their hard work!

Other Business: A request to speak from the floor was granted to Paul Lee. He stated that he would like a private place for people to voice their opinions/feelings about various aspects of Trinity's choice of direction. He also expressed his opinion that the call committee chair should not also be the person in charge if/when Pastor Jeff accepts another call. Peg Wehrenberg said that she would like to see data driven decisions from Council. Renato Cataldo, VP/President-Elect, responded that if the entire congregation participates, he will include more surveys in the coming year. Pat Irmischer asked a question about the process to select a pastor. Cathy Lessmann asked for the agenda for Council meetings to be publicized ahead of time.

Jim Wilhite encouraged everyone to read the printed Annual Report. Emily Williams would like to see the report handed out prior to the meeting. Jim Wilhite said that it has been an honor to serve as president of the Trinity Council this past year. He then introduced the new President, Norm Hild.

Norm Hild thanked Jim for his year of service. Norm applauded the Trinity community for their robust commitment to volunteerism, whether at LFCS, Gateway180, Wings of Hope, Circle of Concern or the many other volunteer opportunities that are available at TLC. He hopes to expand such volunteer efforts in the future. Norm plans to investigate non-traditional methods of fundraising such as eBay Sales, etc. to raise additional revenue. He added that it had been very helpful to be VP for a year with Jim Wilhite and asked for prayers of support and God's wisdom during his coming year of service.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM. A congregational brunch followed.

TRINITY 2015 PARISH STATISTICAL REPORT

Members Received

Michael Hobgood
 Emily Hobgood
 Brynn Hobgood
 Reese Hobgood
 Brian Cooper
 Amanda Cooper
 Jennifer Espelien
 Zack Henderson
 Rebecca Henderson
 Claire Henderson
 Alexis Henderson
 Dustin Hudelson
 Amy Zambrano
 Alex Zambrano
 Adrien Zambrano
 Sophia Zambrano
 Zachary Zambrano



Confirmation

Erika Anstine
 Tommy Harper
 Danny Steinmeyer
 John Tidswell

Baptisms

Gary Cooper Taber
 Bennett Laurence Espelien
 Molly Lynn Schwartz
 Lennon Alice Johnson
 Olivia Hope Maupin
 Olive Mae Donaldson
 Sloane RYanne Maguire
 Noah Cooper Reno

Funerals

Nell Pinckert
 Ann Jones
 Shirley Hemman
 Virginia Passer



2015 Membership Report

	Baptized	Voting	Households
1/01/2015	676	546	402
Members Received	18	11	6
Adjustments	3	1	1
Confirmation		4	
Baptized Members	8		3
Removed/Transferred	25	18	11
Deceased	4	4	2
12/31/2015	676	540	399
Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 251			

TRINITY BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDING 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church - Balance Sheet Summary

	December 31 2015	December 31 2014	Change
ASSETS			
ELCA Endowment Investment	\$ 121,840	\$ 39,887	\$ 81,953
Jefferson Bank - Checking	\$ 216,492	\$ 257,600	\$ (41,108)
Mission Investment Fund of ELCA	\$ 30,421	\$ 28,244	\$ 2,177
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 368,753	\$ 325,731	\$ 43,022
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 4,658,002	\$ 4,658,002	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,026,754	\$ 4,983,733	\$ 43,022
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable & Credit Cards	\$ 314	\$ (88)	\$ 402
Dedicated Invest IN Trinity			
Dedicated -IIT-Cap Improv & Repa	\$ 150	\$ 2,507	\$ (2,357)
Dedicated - HVAC	\$ 4,429	\$ -	\$ 4,429
Invest In Trinity-Organ	\$ 40	\$ -	\$ 40
Invest In Trinity-Debt Reduction	\$ 273	\$ -	\$ 273
Invest In Trinity-Other	\$ 3,595	\$ -	\$ 3,595
Total Dedicated - Invest IN Trinity	\$ 8,487	\$ 2,507	\$ 5,980
Total Dedicated Cemetery	\$ 26,744	\$ 25,746	\$ 998
Dedicated- Fellowship/Care Min			
Organ Donations	\$ 2,846	\$ 69,691	\$ (66,845)
Choir Project	\$ 770	\$ -	\$ 770
Thrivent	\$ 3,401	\$ 1,510	\$ 1,891
Total Dedicated- Fellowship/Care Min	\$ 7,017	\$ 71,201	\$ (64,184)
Total Dedicated Endowment Fund	\$ 121,859	\$ 39,887	\$ 81,972
Total Dedicated- Memorials	\$ 27,066	\$ 25,533	\$ 1,533
Dedicated- Mission			
Misc. Mission	\$ 7,437	\$ 11,101	\$ (3,664)
Walking Together	\$ 18,901	\$ 19,567	\$ (666)
Pay It Forward Memorial	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ -
Total Dedicated Mission	\$ 31,688	\$ 36,018	\$ (4,330)
Total Dedicated Discretionary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Dedicated Preschool	\$ 94,221	\$ 80,601	\$ 13,620
Total Dedicated Office Operation	\$ 625	\$ -	\$ 625
Total Payroll WH State Tax	\$ (547)	\$ 38	\$ (585)
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 317,160	\$ 281,531	\$ 35,629
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 317,474	\$ 281,443	\$ 36,031
Long Term Liabilities			
Church Addition & Renovation (Loan for All	895,353	943,135	\$ (47,782)
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$ 895,353	\$ 943,135	\$ (47,782)
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,212,827	\$ 1,224,578	\$ (11,751)
Equity			
Equity	\$ 1,582,776	\$ 1,582,776	\$ -
Opening Bal Equity	\$ 1,170,926	\$ 1,170,926	\$ 0
Retained Earnings	\$ 1,005,455	\$ 834,903	\$ 170,552
Net Income	\$ 54,770	\$ 170,550	\$ (115,780)
Total Equity	\$ 3,813,927	\$ 3,759,155	\$ 54,772
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 5,026,754	\$ 4,983,733	\$ 43,021

TRINITY 2016 PROPOSED SUMMARY BUDGET

Total		2016 Budget	2015 Budget	2016 (Worse) / Better
Total	Pledges	645,000	796,000	(151,000)
Total	Fund Raiser & Loose	21,000	80,800	(59,800)
Total	Other Income & Rental	40,000	39,500	500
Total	Total Children Ministry	4,100	2,500	1,600
Total	Preschool	323,595	275,005	48,590
Total	Youth	3,965	4,125	(160)
Total Receipts		1,040,610	1,201,280	(160,670)
Total Fund Raising Events Expense		1,000	1,000	-
Total Community Outreach		2,600	5,700	3,100
Total Administration		214,626	231,025	16,399
Total Adult Spiritual Growth		147,801	151,829	4,028
Total Children's Spiritual Growth		42,232	39,282	(2,950)
Total Facility		137,100	140,000	2,900
Total Mission - Central States Synod		37,500	36,038	(1,462)
Total Mission - Other		36,300	36,300	-
Total Mission - Trip		1,500	1,000	(500)
Total Walking Together Expense		85,000	10,000	(75,000)
Total Walking Together - Grants & Donations		(64,950)	-	64,950
Total MOPS Program		3,100	3,500	400
Total Mission - ALL		98,450	86,838	(11,612)
Total Preschool (Carol Bentley)		268,613	244,143	(24,470)
Total Worship/Music Accounts		123,120	166,143	43,023
Total Youth Spiritual Growth		19,632	55,579	35,947
Total Interest Expense		30,547	32,475	1,928
Total Expense		1,085,721	1,153,221	67,500
Total Net Income		(45,111)	48,059	(93,170)
Total Debt Service		49,565	47,559	(2,006)
Total Income after Debt Service		(94,676)	500	(95,176)

TRINITY 2016 Nominating Report

Slate 1 Council Officers and At-Large Members

President Renato Cataldo will serve a one-year term
VP/President Elect Todd Maloy has agreed to stand for election
Secretary Richard Leimgruber will stand for a two-year term
Treasurer Mike Hower will serve the second year of his second term

At-Large Members Cindy Gesme will stand for a second two-year term
Becky Luethy has agreed to stand for a two-year term
(Nancy Buffum, Eric Halter, Rob Harper, Mike Hower, Jerry Partlow, Eric Petersen, and Kim Stewart will continue)

Slate 2 Nominating Committee (Need Six persons)

Jeff Haferkamp will serve his second year of a two-year term
Bobby Lyerla will serve his second of a two-year term
Emily Williams will serve her second of a two-year term.
Gene Kerr has agreed to stand for a two-year term
Phyllis Baker has agreed to stand for a two-year term
Barb Trettel has agreed to stand for a two-year term

Slate 3 Endowment Committee

Steve Paquette has agreed to continue through 2016
Roger Thomas has agreed to continue through 2017
Jim Wilhite has agreed to serve through 2017
Ruth Rangel has agreed to a one-year term through 2016*
Jeff Haferkamp has agreed to a three-year term through 2018
Ron Jones has agreed to serve a three-year term through 2018
One Council Member serves on the Endowment Committee

*Article IX of the Endowment Fund document States that two Members shall be elected at each Congregational Meeting. However, since three members are going off, they will be short one member. Therefore, they have requested three nominees for this year only.

Slate 4 Synod Assembly Delegates

Larry & Linda Lemke and Ron Jones have agreed to serve.