



2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

TRINITY  **LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Faithful Living. Changing Lives.



Trinity Staff – 2023

Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children’s Ministry Coordinator	Hannah Rosholt
Children’s Ministry Assistant	Chelsea Farniok
Office & Communications Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Administrator	Mary Jech
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
Worship Band Leader	Penny Koets
Worship Accompanist	Joy Rundell

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Watertown, Minnesota 166th Annual Meeting | Sunday, January 28, 2024

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Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 10:00 am

I. Call to Order – Jason Koets, Church Council President

- a. Devotions – Pastor Jeffrey M. Engholm

II. Approval of 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes

- a. January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

III. Nominations

- a. Nominating Committee Report
 - i. Presentation of Nominees
- b. Voting

IV. Reports

- a. Jason Koets, Church Council President
 - i. Roll of the Saints of 2023 – Pastor Jeffrey M. Engholm
- b. Mary Jech, Financial Administrator
 - i. 2023 Finance Review
- c. Audit Committee Results
- d. Ministry Teams / Support Committees / Boards Reports

V. Approval of Written Reports

VI. New Business

- a. Approve Spending Plan for 2024 as submitted by Finance Support Committee and Church Council.
- b. Approve bringing Trinity's Constitution into conformity with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

VII. Other Business

- a. Unfinished Business
- b. Report on the Election – Installation of new council members
- c. Motion to Adjourn

VIII. Closing Litany – Pastor Jeffrey M. Engholm

Unapproved Minutes of the Trinity Lutheran Church 165th Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 10:00 am

The meeting, held in-person in the Worship Center and via Zoom, was called to order by President Jason Koets. Pastor Jeff Engholm led opening devotions. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Approval of 2022 Congressional Minutes

1. January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion made to approve minutes as printed
 - i. *M/S/C – Brett Gens / Hubie Widmer / carried*

Nominations:

1. Nominating Committee Report
 - a. Presentation of Nominees – Council President Jason Koets
 - i. Church Council: Nancy Pickering, Ryan Ress, Dave Kind
 - ii. Nominating Committee: Terri Gens, Jenny Haller, Sara Hallermann, Sarah Ress, Lori Sieling, Hubie Widmer
 - iii. Cemetery Board: Jeff Neaton, Ed Salonek
- Motion made to approve a unanimous ballot vote for all nominated position
M/S/C – Jeff Neaton / Terri Gens / carried

Reports:

1. Jason Koets, 2022 Church Council President
 - a. Role of the Saints 2022, Pastor Jeff Engholm
2. Mary Jech, Financial Administrator
 - a. Presented 2022 Financial Review
3. Audit Committee Results
 - a. Gina Phearman reported from the Auditing Committee that the books were found to be in order
4. Ministry Teams/Support Committees/Board Reports
 - a. Motion made to approve Written Reports
 - i. *M/S/C – Mary Jech / Diane Hayes / carried*

New Business:

1. Approve the Spending Plan for 2023 as submitted by the Finance Support Committee and the Church Council – presented by Mary Jech
 - a. Motion made to approve the proposed 2023 Spending Plan
 - i. *M/S/C – Liz Hirsch / Nathan Behrens / carried*

Other Business:

1. Unfinished business
 - a. Installation of new church council and committee members: All new council and committee members were installed
2. Motion to adjourn
 - a. *M/S/C – Brett Gens / Lori Sieling / Carried*

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am
Closing Prayer – Pastor Jeff Engholm

2023 Council, Committee & Board Members

Term ending is indicated with an asterisk

Church Council

Jason Koets, President
Nick Neaton, Vice President *
Nancy Stello, Secretary *
Nancy Pickering, Treasurer
Diane Holmes *
Corky Ibeling
Dave Kind
Ryan Ress
Tammy Vraspir

Cemetery Board

Jeff Neaton, President
Fred Thomson, Secretary *
Jim Sandquist, Treasurer *
Kevin Beck
Gary Harding
Ed Salonek

Nominating Committee

**All terms ending*

Terri Gens
Jenny Haller
Sara Hallermann
Sarah Ress
Lori Sieling
Hubie Widmer

Foundation Board

Ed Rundell, President
Heather Berscheit, Secretary
Dan Sieling, Treasurer *
Lindsay Guetzkow
Kevin Holmes
Jamie Isakson *

Names Submitted by Nominating Committee for 2024 Open Positions

Nominations for all positions may be made from the floor if so desired.

Church Council

3-year term

Diane Holmes
Nick Neaton
Nancy Stello

Cemetery Board

3-year term

Brett Gens
Gary Vanderbilt

Nominating Committee

1-year term

Shelly Becker
Nate Baluski
Scott Cassidy
Terri Gens
Jenny Haller
Sarah Ress

Trinity Foundation

6-year term

Jamie Isakson
Dan Sieling

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2023 Congregation Statistics

Year End 2022

Total Baptized Members	686
Total Confirmed Members	549

Members received during 2023

By baptism	12
Affirmed faith	14
By transfer	4

Total 30

Members Removed during 2023

By death	6
By transfer	4
Released by Request	6
Statistical Adjustment	2

Total -18

Baptized members confirmed 15

Year End 2023

Total Baptized Members	698
Total Confirmed Members	565

Associate Members in 2023 3

Total voting members December 31, 2023: 286

The constitution defines a voting member as a confirmed member who has **communed AND contributed** in the past year.

Members Baptized in 2023:

Paisley Duenow, Emery Erickson, Finley Erickson, Lucy Etzel, Jordyn Gohman, Kenzi Gohman, Madison Gohman, Wren Hill, Liam McCain, Lily McMahon, Ava Shakon, Gerald Vanderbilt, Colette Wersinger

Members Deceased in 2022:

Robert Brabec, Gwen Dalchow, Patrick Delaney, Glen Sandquist, Betsy Swanson, Richard Volkenant

Letter from the **Church Council President**

Dear Trinity members and friends,

Reflecting on all of the happenings at the church over the last year, I feel that we as a church are moving forward with old plans and new ideas. Some of the old plans that were finished were updating the electrical panel, replacing the dishwasher, fixing the bell tower, and replacing the damaged steeple. Some of the goals from past plans have not been met, and yet we are making progress on completing them. For example, next year at this time we'll be talking about making the final payments on the church mortgage. The church is also stepping into the future and making new plans by updating the audio/visual equipment to better reach an online congregation seeking God's word.

As we look forward to 2024 and the ongoing evolution happening within Trinity, I am putting my faith in the congregation to meet the new challenges, my faith in the church leaders to guide us, and my faith in God's plan for our world.

I would especially like to thank:

- Trinity members for continuing to share your time, talents, and financial gifts as well as for your trust and prayers.
- Trinity staff for your creativity, flexibility, and your guidance.
- Trinity Council for your thoughtful leadership, and your selflessness in giving of your time.

I am honored to have served as your Council President for the last two years and I am looking forward to seeing how Trinity moves into the future.

In thanks,

Jason Koets
Trinity Church Council President



Jason Koets
Church Council President

2023 Ministry Report

Jesus once said, **“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”** (*John 7:38*) One way to think of the “FLOW” of the river of living water is like this: “F.L.O.W.” meaning FELLOWSHIP, LEARNING, OUTREACH, and WORSHIP. Here are just some of the ways the Holy Spirit was flowing out of our hearts at Trinity this past year.

FELLOWSHIP

The most common way we gather for fellowship is on Sunday mornings after worship, when we gather each week for coffee, treats, and conversation. But we gather other times as well.

- The Trinity Apostles is a group of men who meet twice a month for coffee, conversation, and tackling maintenance projects on the property.
- The Heavenly Housekeepers meet once a month for cleaning projects around the building.
- Several times a year, Trinity’s Sunshine Ministry team delivers cards, treats, and/or gift bags to our homebound members.
- The Trinity OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) meet on the third Thursday of each month for coffee, games, and learning opportunities.
- Our Golden Agers (members over 70 years old) gather for a Maundy Thursday dinner and worship service, a mid-summer picnic and an Advent luncheon.
- Our Middle School and High School youth meet regularly throughout the year for fun, learning, and service events. Some of these events include a weekly Fellowship of Christian Athletes breakfast hosted by local churches, a morning “See You at the Pole” prayer at the high school in September, Feed My Starving Children, and even Valley Fair. We recently went snow tubing at Powder Ridge Ski Area and we’re looking forward to a mission trip to Duluth in the summer of 2024!
- Each year on Palm Sunday we have a special breakfast after worship while the younger ones take part in an Easter Egg Hunt.
- The annual St. Lucia Tea is a festival not only for our congregation, but for the entire community.

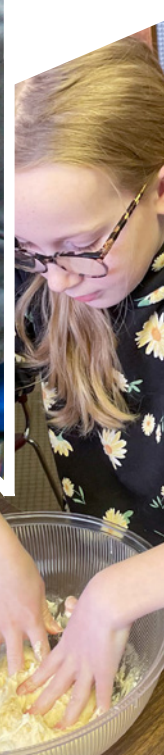


Jeffrey M. Engholm
Pastor

LEARNING

One could say that every Sunday morning we learn more about our faith through the hymns, prayers, and sermon at worship, but there are other learning opportunities we share in as well.

- Our Sunday School kids meet with many faithful volunteer leaders after worship each week for singing, praying, and growing in their faith.
- Our Confirmation students meet every Wednesday night to learn more about the Bible as well as our Lutheran heritage. During Advent and Lent, these students meet for one-on-one faith conversations with some of our adult Trinity members.
- Periodically the pastor leads a Bible study on Sunday mornings called “Digging Deeper”, a chance to “dig into” the readings for the week.
- The Priscilla Circle Bible Study meets once a month for singing, praying, and learning together.
- Trinity’s Vacation Bible School program has a long history of being a beacon of light, not only for our Trinity kids, but for many kids in the Watertown community.





OUTREACH

Everything that Trinity does is geared in two directions: we “reach in” as we try to help our own members, but we also “reach out” to the entire community as well.

- Each spring, we gather in the Trinity parking lot during Holy Week for “Drive Thru Prayers”, inviting passersby in for coffee and a prayer.
- Again this year, we collected underwear donations in partnership with the outreach ministry of Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis.
- We continue to hold an annual food drive during the Minnesota Foodshare Campaign in March.
- The Trinity youth worked with other area church youth groups in the annual Trick-or-Treat event for the Watertown Foodshelf.
- The Trinity Quilters assemble MANY quilts every year that are shared locally and globally.
- Trinity hosted the Community Thanksgiving Service last November in this annual celebration that unites several area congregations.
- We supported the Watertown-Mayer Elementary School by collecting a Noisy Offering in October for the Royals Room and purchasing Christmas gifts in December for the Adopt-a-Family program.
- Our building is used by other groups besides our own congregation. For instance, our facility is used regularly by Alcoholics Anonymous, a cooking club, and other assorted groups.
- When the Trinity steeple was removed over a year ago, we realized how it serves as part of outreach to all who see it. When it was replaced last April, we dedicated the new steeple to the glory of God.
- We are currently working on updating our internet capabilities in order to meet the growing demand for an online presence which reaches far beyond the four walls of our building.

WORSHIP

Sunday morning worship lies at the heart of everything we do as a church. There are many facets to making this happen, along with other worship opportunities.

- In addition to Sunday mornings, we also gather on Wednesday evenings in Advent and Lent for supper and worship.
- We have special services on Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.
- Our Worship Band and Gospel Band are an integral part of our Sunday morning services.
- Our Sunday School Choir and Worship Choir bring joy and enthusiasm to our services, along with other soloists and musicians.
- The Trinity Bell Choir continues to ring out with the love of God.
- The Altar Guild serves behind the scenes with their attention to detail regarding candles, communion, and all the other “hidden” pieces that keep worship flowing smoothly.

Many thanks

to the Trinity Staff (Robyn Behrens, Hannah Rosholt, Chelsea Farniok, Gail Cassidy, Mary Jech, Penny Koets, Joy Rundell), Trinity Council (Diane Holmes, Corky Ibeling, Dave Kind, Jason Koets, Nick Neaton, Nancy Pickering, Ryan Ress, Nancy Stello, Tammy Vraspir), Trinity Committees, Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation Huddle Guides, Youth Leaders, Choir Members, Band Members, Altar Guild, Trinity Apostles, Heavenly Housekeepers, Card Deliverers, Kitchen Servers, Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, and other leaders who help the Spirit of Christ flow through our congregation and out into the community. Thanks be to God!



Children's Ministry

Hannah Rosholt, Children's Ministry Coordinator

As Children's Ministry Coordinator, I am so grateful for the wonderful families who are open, flexible, and energized to continue building community at Trinity Lutheran Church. It's been a fun, full year for Children's Ministry at Trinity! Here are the highlights!

- **Spring 2023 (January-May)** We continued to hold Sunday School regularly with over 50 kids registered and a team of 20+ volunteer teachers and helpers! A children's choir of 10 children gathered many Wednesdays after school for singing, snacks, and fun! In May, kids gathered after school to create some pieces of art! Thanks to Robyn for sharing her creative leadership!

- **Summer 2023:** This year's VBS theme, *Stellar*, took place in outer space! We had a crew of wonderful adult and youth volunteers leading us through hands-on, exciting stations. This year we offered a family dinner before, and it was a great way for families to connect!
- **Fall / Winter 2023:** After a pause for the summer, Sunday School resumed in September! This fall I (Hannah) reduced my hours at church, because I began teaching elementary music again – here in Watertown! Chelsea Farniok stepped into the role of Children's Ministry Assistant. She has been a wonderful addition to the Trinity team. She does much of the hands-on preparation for Sunday School! Additionally, Nick Neaton has been helping out with music during Sunday School. Thanks to Chelsea, Nick, and our amazing parent volunteers, Sunday School is running smoothly!

We hosted our annual Trunk-or-Treat event in October and the Sunday School children helped lead worship for another great Children's Christmas service in December.

All through the year we encourage children to participate in worship on Sunday mornings, especially through our Children's Moments.



Youth Ministry

Shelly Becker, Youth Ministry Team Member

In 2023, Trinity's Youth Ministry focused on bringing together our youth for fellowship, fun, and community benefit. Most of the events were enjoyed by youth in grades 6 through 12. Events and activities included the following:

- **April 2023:** We volunteered at Feed My Starving Children where meals were packed for children and families in need.
- **June / July 2023:** We conveyed a full bus of students to Valley Fair for a sunny day of rides and water park fun. We also sent four Trinity youth to Camp Christikon, a Lutheran bible camp located in Montana, for a week of backpacking in God's beautiful creation with other youth from across the country.
- **October 2023:** We participated again this year in the "Foodshelf Trick-or-Treat", a multi-church event to gather food and funds for the benefit of the Watertown Food Shelf.
- **November 2023:** Youth in grades 9 through 12 gathered for a kick-off meeting and pizza dinner to discuss upcoming youth ministry events and activities. We also had our first Cake Walk Fundraiser, where we raised over \$200 for youth ministry expenses. We took another trip to Feed My Starving Children where meals were packed for children and families in need.

In addition to these specific events, the youth of Trinity often share their leadership gifts during worship by ushering, reading, working in the nursery, singing in our choirs, and playing in our bands.



Property Improvement Report

Dan Sieling, Property Committee Chair

The Property Committee has had a busy year, with several large projects completed.

- **Bell Tower / Steeple Repair:** The Trinity steeple was damaged by hail in 2019 and work to repair the steeple and the leaking bell tower roof beneath it began at the end of 2022. The bell tower roof repair was paid for with Trinity Capital Appeal funds and the steeple itself was paid for with the insurance settlement. The project was completed with the brand new steeple being placed in April 2023.
- **Electrical Panel Update:** Multiple electrical panels (that were original to the 1949 building) were replaced and brought up to code.
- **Audio / Visual Update:** In 2023, the Trinity congregation voted to approve an audio/visual update in the Worship Center. Work on this update will begin in 2024 and will include installing a new sound system, amplifiers, video cameras, software, training, and other items necessary to improve our sanctuary sound system and allow for the livestreaming of worship services. We are working with Farber Sound on this project at a cost of approximately \$93,000. The Trinity Foundation has offered to fund half of this initiative, with the remaining funds being donated by the congregation.

In addition to these projects, the Property Committee continued their faithful work of snow removal, lawn care and maintenance of the church and parsonage properties.



Trinity Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Financial Administrator, Mary Jech

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2023

We started the year with just over \$1,900 in the operating fund. Eight of the twelve months showed income less than expenses, so we quickly were operating in the red – borrowing money from our designated funds to pay monthly bills. At the end of November the operating fund was almost \$32,000 in the red, but with December offerings and additional donations, we made up a difference of over \$31,000 leaving the operating fund only \$511 in the red at the end of the year. Thank you!

In addition to congregational giving, we applied for and received a credit from the government, the Employee Retention Credit (ERC), in the amount of \$55,167.43. After paying the consultant fee and giving additional money toward benevolence, the balance being held in reserve is \$48,867.43.

Shortly after the annual meeting last year, someone from the congregation offered to give us an interest-free loan to pay off the mortgage held at Thrivent, which we paid off in March. Paying the internal loan back at the same rate we were paying to Thrivent (\$5000/month) will allow us to complete payments early in 2025.

Major expenses in 2023 include the repair of the steeple (insurance) and bell tower (capital project), roof repair not covered by insurance, and the electrical panel update. In October, the congregation voted to approve an A/V update that will allow us to livestream our services and have a better in-person and online presence. The foundation paid \$50,000 toward this project and the congregation will be responsible for the remaining \$43,000 needed for to complete the project. To date, just over \$21,000 has been given toward this project.

We are grateful for your continued faithful giving and faithful living!

OPERATING FUND YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY

Operating Fund – Beginning balance 01/01/2023	\$ 1,939.21
Operating Fund Year-to-Date receipts and Transfers In	\$ 394,335.92
Operating Fund Year-to-Date Expenses and Transfers Out	\$ 396,787.05
Operating Fund Year-to-Date Net Balance	-\$ 2,451.13
Operating Fund – Ending Balance 12/31/2023	-\$ 511.92

MORTGAGE LOAN

Original Loan Amount	\$ 1,300,000.00
Beginning balance 1/1/2023	\$ 150,012.25
Principal paid in 2023	\$ 78,630.17
Interest paid in 2023	\$ 1,382.08
Remaining balance at year end:	\$ 70,000.00

CASH SUMMARY (AS OF 12/31/2023)

Bremer Bank	
Operating Funds	\$ 95,077.15
Citizen's Alliance Bank	
Capital/Appeal/Building	\$ 116,571.09

Trinity Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Financial Administrator, Mary Jech

2023 INCOME / EXPENSES

INCOME

	YEAR 2023
Promises	\$350,363.20
Other Offerings	\$15,272.18
Other Income	\$28,700.54
Total Operating Income	\$394,335.92
Designated Funds	\$7,471.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$2,137.91
Special Gifts	\$58,757.85
Total Non-Operating Income	\$68,366.76
Capital Appeal/Building Fund Income	\$274,095.64
TOTAL INCOME	\$736,798.32

Notes:

Other offerings include:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Easter
- Thanksgiving

Other income includes:

- Parsonage rent
- Church use fees
- Thrivent Choice
- Bremer Bank interest
- Insurance payments
- Refunded income

EXPENDITURES

Benevolence	\$31,379.02
Church Utilities, Upkeep and Insurance	\$81,969.44
Parsonage Utilities and Upkeep	\$2,791.97
Salaries	\$184,464.79
Educational Ministry	\$6,159.8
Other Operating Expense	\$90,022.03
Total Operating Expense	\$396,787.05
Designated fund payments	\$13,807.23
Special Gifts/Memorial transfers	\$25,363.48
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$39,170.71
Capital Appeal/Building Fund Expense	\$253,942.36
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$689,900.12

Benevolence includes:

- Mpls Synod
- Love Inc
- Food Shelf
- Lutheran Social Service
- Green Lake Bible Camp

Other operating expense includes:

- All support committee and ministry team budgeted amounts

2023 Budget Summary and 2024 Proposed Spending Plan

Looking ahead to 2024...

In putting together a spending plan for 2024 the following considerations were made:

- Slight increases in salaries.
- Minor increase in property tax on the parsonage.
- Significant increases in the property committee line due to projected increases in fuel, electricity and maintenance contracts.
- Significant increase in insurance due to new carrier and minor increases in other finance expenses (i.e. postage, bank charges, shipping, etc.)
- Identified ministry teams will share \$6,500 as requests are made.

Finance committee: Benevolence, church/parsonage insurance, and all salary and office related expenses.

Property: Church, utilities, church and parsonage maintenance.

	2023 SPENDING PLAN	2023 ACTUAL EXPENSES	2024 PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN
FINANCE	\$313,810.00	\$303,568.51	\$340,310.00
PROPERTY	\$69,850.00	\$70,062.77	\$78,500.00
TECHNOLOGY	\$3,000.00	\$2,218.76	\$3,000.00
CHILDREN'S	\$6,000.00	\$5,929.41	\$6,000.00
YOUTH	\$1,200.00	\$155.39	\$1,000.00
WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$5,500.00	\$2,981.28	\$4,000.00
OTHER Ministry Teams	\$5,000.00	\$6,448.22	\$6,500.00
STEWARDSHIP		\$157.59	\$200.00
OUTREACH		\$1,690.03	\$2,000.00
SOCIAL		\$625.18	\$600.00
HOSPITALITY		\$3,900.42	\$3,500.00
ADULT/PARISH HEALTH		\$75.00	\$200.00
SUBTOTAL	\$404,360.00	\$391,364.34	\$439,310.00
Capital Improvement	\$15,000.00	\$52,722.00	\$45,000.00
		<i>(Bell Tower)</i>	<i>(A/V Update)</i>
TOTAL	\$419,360.00	\$444,086.34	\$484,310.00

2023 EXPENSE SUMMARY

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$391,364.34
Total Expenses (excluding capital appeal)	\$435,957.76
Total Capital/Building Expense	\$253,942.36
Total Overall Expense	\$689,900.12

Foundation Board of Trustees

Submitted by Foundation Treasurer, Dan Sieling

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2023 - November 2023

INCOME

Interest - Bremer CD	\$	145.23
Dividend - Thrivent Money Market	\$	146.17
Dividend - Thrivent Moderate Allocation	\$	1,959.44
Dividend - LCF Growth	\$	345.74
Investment Income:	\$	2,596.58
Gift - Scholarships	\$	2,784.00
Income Received:	\$	5,380.58
Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$	10,744.89
Total Income:	\$	16,125.47

EXPENSES

Safe Deposit Rent	\$	30.00
Fund Administration Fee	\$	445.45
Church Windows Software	\$	0.00
Sound & Video Update Money to TLC	\$	50,000.00
General Expenses:	\$	50,475.45
Scholarships - General Fund	\$	2,450.00
Realized Expense:	\$	52,925.45
Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$	0.00
Total Expenses:	\$	52,925.45

DIFFERENCE

-\$ 36,799.98

The Financial Report being submitted by the Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation for the annual report of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is "as of" November 30, 2023. At the time the annual report was published, the Year-End Financial Statements from InFaith Community Foundation and from Thrivent Financials were not available. The December 31, 2023 Financial Report for the Foundation will be made available at a future date upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Sieling
Trinity Lutheran Foundation Treasurer

Cemetery Board

Submitted by Cemetery Board Treasurer, James Sandquist

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

GENERAL FUND

	Beginning Balance	Gain/Loss	Interest & Dividends	Income	Disbmt	Ending Balance
Checking Account	\$1,343.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,169.47	\$13,462.20	\$10,050.44
Savings Account	\$2,387.81	\$0.00	\$4.78	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$2,392.59
Thrivent Global Stock Fund	\$21,575.43	\$4,235.22	\$441.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,251.74
Thrivent Large Cap Value Fund	\$25,714.30	\$2,836.35	\$401.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,952.49
Thrivent Income Fund	\$49,461.00	\$2,411.80	\$1,941.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53,814.70
Thrivent Lg Cap Growth Fund	\$16,596.22	\$6,818.53	\$831.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,245.89
Mission Term Select CD	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$629.99	\$0.00	\$20,629.99	\$10,000.00
Mission Term Select CD	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
General Fund Totals	\$147,077.93	\$26,301.90	\$4,250.74	\$22,239.47	\$34,162.19	\$165,707.85

PERPETUAL CARE FUND

	Beginning Balance	Gain/Loss	Interest & Dividends	Income	Disbmt	Ending Balance
Savings Account	\$6,131.99	\$0.00	\$11.20	\$774.00	\$6,578.00	\$339.19
Mission Term Select CD	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$27.17	\$0.00	\$27.17	\$1,000.00
Mission Term Investment CD	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	\$362.77	\$0.00	\$362.77	\$10,500.00
Thrivent Divs. Income Fund	\$35,244.66	\$566.28	\$1,440.26	\$3,250.00	\$0.00	\$40,501.20
Thrivent High Yield Fund	\$43,288.83	-\$135.10	\$2,498.65	\$3,250.00	\$0.00	\$48,902.38
Perpetual Care Fund Totals	\$96,165.48	\$431.18	\$4,340.05	\$7,274.00	\$6,967.97	\$101,242.77

COMBINED TOTALS	\$243,243.41	\$26,733.08	\$8,590.79	\$29,513.47	\$41,130.13	\$266,950.62
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Net Income/Loss						\$23,707.21
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Respectfully Submitted,

James Sandquist
Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery Treasurer

Complete details of Cemetery Board income and expenses is available upon request from the Trinity church office.

Quilting Ministry

Submitted by Quilting Ministry Treasurer, Sarah Barfknecht

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

Checking Account Balance 1/1/2023	\$2,606.62
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INCOME

Donations and Memorials	\$350.00
Interest	\$6.60

EXPENSES

No expenses in 2023	\$0.00
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Ending Balance 12/31/2023	\$2,963.22
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Message from the Bishop of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ,

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at mpls-synod.org/sign-up to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I reference a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at impact: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by impact? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an impactful difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Messages from our **Benevolence Partners**



Wash and make yourselves clean. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. *(Isaiah 1:16-17 NIV)* This vision from Isaiah is a call from our Lord for his people to change their ways. Every day, I talk to the oppressed, the fatherless, the widowed, the homeless, the hurting, and the material poor of the world. They feel abandoned by family, friends, and God. In 2023, Love INC Heartland has grown in our capacity to serve those very people.

Redemptive Compassion® is the philosophy we use as we serve people who are struggling. This philosophy touches on two types of compassion. The first is charity compassion; the other is development compassion. In simple terms, charity compassion is a handout, and developmental compassion is a hand-up. Please don't get me wrong – there is a place and a need for charity. However, charity compassion never really changes the status quo for anyone stuck in a cycle of generational poverty. At Love, INC we do our best to focus on developmental compassion.

I call on you to reflect upon ways you can be a part of developmental compassion in someone's life. Ask God to help you see where you can meet them where they are and help them become who God has called them to be. Yes, this speaks to more than just the material needs of people. It is about the whole person. Thank you for being so supportive to Love INC, whether financially, in volunteering, or through prayer; it has blessed us in 2023.

In Christ,
Jim Holmlund, Executive Director
Love INC Heartland



Watertown Foodshelf

Watertown Foodshelf provides temporary food and personal care items to help alleviate hunger and poverty in a dignified and supportive manner. Since 1988, Watertown Foodshelf has been sustained by individuals, churches, businesses, civic groups, employer matches and corporations in and around Carver County.

In 2023, Watertown Foodshelf distributed 38,976 pounds of food and collected 22,160 pounds from donors. We purchase food from Second Harvest Heartland and Marketplace Foods. Monetary donations from our generous community (individuals, churches, local businesses, civic organizations) totaled just under \$48,000, affording us the opportunity to balance a 59% increase in food expenditures to support the demand for service.

An average of 56 households visited the Watertown Food Shelf each month, which equates to about 200 individuals (40% are children under the age of 17) and 3,250 pounds of food. In 2023, ninety six households visited the foodshelf for the first time.

We thank Trinity from the bottom of our hearts for your congregation's generosity, providing 618 pounds of food and \$1,712 in monetary donations through the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the Trick-or-Treat for the Food Shelf event, the holiday food basket gifts and your other regular giving and donations in 2023.

Thank you!
Lori Lilligren, Manager
Watertown Foodshelf



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is a movement of 25,000 – 2,500 employees, 10,000 volunteers, and 12,500 supporters – all of whom are critical to our successful support of the individuals and families seeking to change their lives through our services. I am pleased to share with you a sampling of what this movement has accomplished in the past couple of years.

In 2023, we celebrated the grand opening of the new LSS Bethany – Services for Children, Youth and Families in Duluth. This new facility touches lives throughout northeast Minnesota and beyond with safe emergency shelter for children, as well as new early intervention and prevention services. We also gathered at LSS' Camp Knutson in Crosslake for the groundbreaking of a new dormitory. Camp Knutson gives campers with identified needs a life-changing experience of community. The new camper cabin is designed to better-welcome campers who use wheelchairs and accommodate other needs.

LSS Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Services is one of the newer additions to LSS' continuum of services. Like all LSS services, this program creates new possibilities, such as connecting families with deaf mentors who help deaf individuals and their parents see possibilities instead of limitations.

LSS is strong, resilient, and growing – connecting more individuals and families with brighter futures and bigger possibilities than ever before. Our teams are looking forward to create even more effective and measurable outcomes for the lives we impact.

In gratitude,
Patrick Thueson, President
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota



What was true over 85 years ago when Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) was founded, still holds true today – God shows up in life-changing ways within our ministries! The facts of 2023:

- Summer program numbers increased by 314 participants!
- Retreat and conference numbers increased drastically!
- Event participation exploded in 2023 making things like our Dinner Theater, Quilt Auction, and community worships a sizable and significant joy in our program year!
- The total number of donors, number of individual gifts, and total dollar amount received all hit all time highs!

And along with all this excitement, we have even more to look forward to! Work has begun on The Village at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp. This over \$1 million dollar project as part of the Water's Edge Campaign will create a wildly vibrant space for the life-changing love of Jesus to be shared.

Overall income is projected to increase by \$300,000 over 2022, but expenses have increased as well. We underestimated the expense of the wild growth we experienced this year. Thank you to our many partners who are supporting our efforts to finish the year strong. Together, we have accomplished so much! Thank you for supporting GLLM through your participation, your volunteerism, your gifts, and your mission support.

Gratefully,
Travis Aufderheide, Executive Director
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

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