



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**2025**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



## Trinity Staff – 2025

Pastor .....	Jeffrey M. Engholm <i>(retired May 2025)</i>
Interim Pastor .....	Paul Lutter
Children's Ministry Coordinator .....	Chelsea Farniok
Office & Communications Manager .....	Robyn Behrens
Financial Administrator .....	Mary Jech
Financial Secretary .....	Gail Cassidy
Worship Choir Director .....	Hannah Rosholt
Worship Band Leader .....	Penny Koets
Worship Accompanists .....	Joy Rundell, Karla Keller

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Watertown, Minnesota 168th Annual Meeting | Sunday, January 25, 2026

### Table of Contents

<b>Trinity Lutheran Church Staff .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Agenda .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Unapproved Minutes of Annual Meeting January 26, 2025 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Unapproved Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting October 5, 2025 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Current Committee Members / Ballot Roster .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Congregation Statistics .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Letter from Council President, Nancy Pickering .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ministry Reports, Pastor Paul Lutter .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Transition Team .....	13
Children's Ministry .....	14
Youth Ministry .....	15
Property and Technology .....	16
<b>Financial Reports</b>	
Trinity Treasurer's Reports .....	17
Proposed Spending Plan for 2026 .....	19
Trinity Church Foundation .....	20
Trinity Cemetery Board .....	21
Quilting Ministry .....	22
<b>Message from the Bishop of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod .....</b>	<b>23</b>

---

## **Annual Meeting Agenda**

### **Sunday, January 25, 2026 | 10:00 am**

---

#### **I. Call to Order – Nancy Pickering, Church Council President**

- a. Devotions – Pastor Paul Lutter

#### **II. Approval of 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

- a. January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- b. October 5, 2025 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

#### **III. Nominations**

- a. Nominating Committee Report
  - i. Presentation of Nominees - Nancy Pickering, Council President
- b. Voting

#### **IV. Reports Presented**

- a. Nancy Pickering, Church Council President
  - i. Thank you message from Church Council President
  - ii. Roll of the Saints of 2025 – Pastor Paul Lutter
- b. Mary Jech, Financial Administrator
  - i. 2025 Finance Review
- c. Audit Committee Results
  - i. 2025 Report presented by Audit Committee member
- d. Ministry Teams / Support Committees / Boards Reports as presented in the Annual Report

#### **V. Approval of Written Reports**

#### **VI. New Business**

- a. Approve Spending Plan for 2026 as submitted by Finance Support Committee and Church Council

#### **VII. Other Business**

- a. Unfinished Business – Motion to Ratify the Constitutional Amendments approved at the 2025 Congregational Meeting
- b. Report on the Election – Installation of new council members
- c. Motion to Adjourn

#### **VIII. Closing Litany – Pastor Paul Lutter**

---

## Unapproved Minutes of the Trinity Lutheran Church 167th Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26, 2025 | 10:00 am

---

The meeting, held in-person in the Worship Center, was called to order by President Nick Neaton. Pastor Jeff Engholm led opening devotions. A quorum was present for the meeting.

### **Approval of 2024 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

1. January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes presented  
Motion made to approve minutes as presented.  
*M/S/C – Brett Gens / Diane Johnson / carried*

### **Nominations:**

1. Nominating Committee Report
  - a. Presentation of Nominees – Nick Neaton, Council President
    - i. Church Council: Steve Boylan, Corky Ibeling, Tammy Vraspir, and Jim Sandquist (filling partial term)
    - ii. Nominating Committee: Shelly Becker, Scott Cassidy, Katy Jo Danielson, Jason Koets, Dave Olson, Ken Tufte
    - iii. Cemetery Board: Dave Hendricks, Hubie Widmer

No further nominations from the floor were made.  
Motion made to approve a unanimous ballot vote for all nominated positions  
*M/S/C – Jeff Neaton / Terri Gens / carried*

### **Reports:**

1. Nick Neaton, 2024 Church Council President
  - a. Thank you message from Nick Neaton, Council President
  - b. Role of the Saints 2024 – Pastor Jeff Engholm
2. Nick Neaton, 2024 Church Council President, presented for Mary Jech, Financial Administrator
  - a. Financial overview of 2024 as presented Sunday, January 19, 2025
3. Audit Committee Results
  - a. Results were presented by a signed letter from the Audit Committee, dated January 22, 2025, reporting that the books were found to be in order.  
Motion made to approve the Audit Committee Results  
*M/S/C – Joyce Harding / Hubie Widmer / carried*
4. Ministry Teams/Support Committees/Board Reports as presented in the Annual Report  
Motion made to approve written reports  
*M/S/C – Carl Hagelin / Roger Nelson / carried*

### **New Business:**

1. Approve the Spending Plan for 2025 as submitted by the Finance Support Committee and the Church Council – presented by Nick Neaton  
Motion made to approve the proposed 2025 Spending Plan  
*M/S/C – Jason Koets / Rodney Domjahn / carried*
2. Approve proposed change to the Trinity Lutheran Church constitutional provision C13.02, regarding the term limit of Nominating Committee members.  
Motion made to approve the proposed changes to the Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution.  
*M/S/C – Terri Gens / Dan Sieling / carried*
3. Approve proposed change to the Trinity Lutheran Church constitutional provision C12.05, regarding an increase in the church's contract limit for non-budgeted items.  
Motion made to approve the proposed changes to the Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution.  
*M/S/C – Jeff Neaton / Hubie Widmer / carried*

*(continued on next page)*

**Other Business:**

1. Unfinished business – There was no unfinished business.
2. Report on the Election – Installation of new church council members
3. Motion to adjourn

*M/S/C – Brett Gens / Emmett Behrens / carried*

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am

Closing prayer – Pastor Jeff Engholm

---

## Trinity Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting Minutes Sunday, October 5, 2025 | 10:15 am

---

*The sole purpose of this special congregational meeting  
was to discuss the future of the Trinity parsonage.*

Meeting called to order by Nancy Pickering at 10:15 am. Pastor Paul Lutter led opening devotions and prayer.

**Reports:**

1. **Property Committee:** Dan Sieling and Josh Gallus presented the report from the Property Committee (including a slideshow and handouts) along with its recommendation to remove the parsonage from the church property.
2. **Finance Committee:** Dan Sieling presented options from the Finance Committee for financing the removal of the parsonage.

**New Business:**

1. **Motion regarding Parsonage Removal** A motion was made that Trinity Lutheran Church accept the recommendation of the Property Committee and Church Council to take immediate steps to remove the parsonage from church property and authorize the necessary financing to complete the project.  
*M/S Terri Gens, Kevin Beck*

**Discussion:**

Time was allowed for several members who had questions for the Property and Finance Committees and for the people who have been maintaining the parsonage.

Motion to Close Debate and Vote

*M/S/C Jeff Neaton, Hubie Widmer, carried*

**Vote Results:** A quorum of at least 30 people with a simple majority vote was required. Paper ballots were distributed, collected, and counted by Church Council members. Fifty-seven votes were counted, with the majority in favor. *Motion carried.*

Motion to adjourn

*M/S/C Liz Hirsch, Lori Sieling, carried*

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am

Closing Prayer – Pastor Lutter

---

## 2025 Council, Committee & Board Members

\* Term ending

---

### **Church Council**

Nancy Pickering, President\*  
Steve Boylan, Vice President  
Tammy Vraspir, Secretary  
Jim Sandquist, Treasurer  
Corky Ibeling  
Dave Kind\*  
Nick Neaton  
Ryan Ress\*  
Nancy Stello

### **Nominating Committee**

*\*All terms ending*

Shelly Becker  
Scott Cassidy  
Katy Jo Danielson  
Jason Koets  
Dave Olson  
Ken Tufte

### **Cemetery Board**

Jeff Neaton, President\*  
Ed Salonek, Treasurer\*  
Brett Gens  
Dave Hendricks  
Gary Vanderbilt  
Hubie Widmer

### **Foundation Board**

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

---

## Names Submitted by Nominating Committee for 2026 Open Positions

---

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

### **Church Council**

***3-year term***

Kevin Beck  
Kari Olson  
Adam Rowan

### **Nominating Committee**

***1-year term***

Dave Durkin  
Allison Neaton  
Dave Olson  
Nancy Pickering  
Ryan Ress  
Ken Tufte

### **Cemetery Board**

***3-year term***

Jeff Neaton  
Ed Salonek

### **Foundation Board**

Mary Gallus  
Howard Gilles

---

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2025 Congregation Statistics

---

### Year End 2024

Total Baptized Members .....	598
Total Confirmed Members .....	488

### Members received during 2025

By baptism .....	6
Affirmed faith .....	2
By transfer .....	12
Statistical Adjustments .....	3

**Total .....** 23

### Members Removed during 2025

By death .....	3
Removed by transfer .....	3

**Total .....** -6

**Baptized members confirmed .....** 9

### Year End 2025

Total Baptized Members .....	617
Total Confirmed Members .....	504

**Associate Members in 2025 .....** 3

## Total voting members December 31, 2025: 289

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

---

### Members Baptized in 2025:

Liam Botz, Harrison Farniok, Lorelei Kuffenkam, Declan Kuffenkam,  
Rhett McCleary, Cora Schaupp, Leona Schaupp, August Vogel

### Members Deceased in 2025:

Geraldine Danielson, Leon Fritzke, Richard Stadtlander, Eleanor Mewaldt (associate member)



## Letter from the Church Council President

Nancy Pickering

Dear Trinity members,

What a full year 2025 was for our Trinity congregation! We had the usual activities, but also transitions to navigate. Here's a recap of some of our activities this past year.

### Pastoral Search Process

Pastor Jeff Engholm retired on May 18 after ten years with us and Pastor Paul Lutter was installed as our Interim Pastor on July 27. Installation of the Pastoral Transition Team for a new pastor was on November 2 and their work to find a new pastor, the first step toward the search process, has begun with guidance from the Minneapolis Area Synod Office.

### Annual Programs

A list of a few of our fun activities during the year includes our now-familiar Underwear Drive, "Pack the Pews" Food Shelf drive, the Food Drive in March for Gather and Grow Food Shelf, a successful Vacation Bible School program and our Trunk-or-Treat community event. And then there's our "World's Smallest Marching Band" which participated in the annual Watertown "Rails to Trails" parade in July.

### Building Updates and Parsonage Transition

Painting and repair work in the sanctuary was completed in 2025, and plans are moving forward for needed repairs to the front exterior steps and roof – all while ending December with a positive operating fund balance. In October, the congregation prayerfully and thoughtfully voted to remove the parsonage, a beloved and meaningful part of Trinity's history, recognizing with gratitude and care that saying goodbye was difficult but necessary for the long-term stewardship of our property; the parsonage was respectfully razed in December.

### Thank You!

We couldn't accomplish all we do without the participation of our many members and staff. Thank you for your time, talents, financial stewardship, and willingness to volunteer in so many ways. You truly make our congregation "hum." I've been honored to serve as your Council President, and I look forward to what the future brings in 2026.

Nancy Pickering  
Trinity Church Council President





# 2025 Ministry Report

Interim Pastor Paul Lutter

**For everything there is a season and  
a time for every matter under heaven.**

*Eccl. 3:1*

In Ecclesiastes, the preacher wrote: *For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.* And what a year of seasons you've had! It's no small thing to say goodbye to a pastor, much less a *beloved* pastor who has walked with you in all kinds of seasons over the past ten years. There's gratitude, for sure, for the ways Pastor Jeff Engholm lived out his considerable gifts among you over the past ten years. Think back when he arrived and let your mind wander through all the things you've been through together. You are not the same congregation you were before he arrived. So many of the ways you show up as a congregation and in the community bear the marks of Jeff's ministry among and God's grace at work through you. I'm grateful for the ministry you all do – so gracious and full of heart and hospitality. Thanks be to God.

I'm so excited for the ministry God calls you to in this new season, in this time between called pastors, and in the season to come, once you call a new pastor and settle into a new life together. God is present and at work among you. In what follows, I want to invite you to consider all the ways God is at work in and with you all in the ministry you do so faithfully and well, so gracious and full of heart.



# Trinity in Action

There is always something happening at Trinity. This weekly overview breaks down our recurring ministries and events, organized by day, to give you a full picture of our shared life.

**Sunday mornings** are beautiful at Trinity Lutheran. Whether online or in person, members and guests who come to Trinity Lutheran will have the opportunity to worship. The sanctuary is beautiful every day of the week. But when Sunday comes, something special seems to unfold in the music played and sung, the voices of little ones that fill the air, the sounds of people confessing and praying, laughing and holding silent space for God to speak among us. When choirs sing, and the Worship Band plays, and children's moments take place, God is present and at work among us, speaking to us, but also listening to us as well. So many people are at work, behind the scenes and in front of them – Altar Guild, ushers, musicians, readers, communion servers, livestream and sound volunteers – there's so many through whom God is at work among us on Sunday mornings!

Sunday School meets following worship to hear more about God among us. The Sunday School leaders deserve our gratitude. Often, our Youth Ministry Team meets after worship. It's fun to be a part of those conversations, and to see the ways we seek to both equip and encourage the youth among us. Those who work with the Youth and Family Ministry Team are gifted and are a gift to this congregation. Thank you so much!

**Mondays** bring Trinity staff together, busily preparing for the week ahead. Twice a month, the Trinity Apostles gather for coffee, conversation, and to do some work around the church building and the church grounds. The Priscilla Circle gathers monthly for Bible study, but also to sing and pray.

**Tuesdays** welcome a group of faithful quilters who come together to sew quilts. These quilts will find their way in places local and beyond, to those we know and those we have never met. The quilts are given to every person baptized at Trinity and to our high school seniors at our Graduate Blessing service in the spring. When the youth did a Halloween food drive this past October, we brought quilts to the Food Shelf. These quilts were stored and will be given to those in need. When we arrived with them, those who work at the Food Shelf were so grateful. You should have seen the look of relief and joy on their faces. Just imagine how they were received by those who came to the Food Shelf for help.

**Wednesdays** are busy at Trinity. There's a prayer group that meets faithfully on Wednesdays for a half an hour. This group prays for members of the congregation and community, but also for others who have asked for prayer, and whose names and situations are placed on their hearts. An Adult Faith Formation study has been meeting on Wednesday afternoons. We've studied the life and theology of Martin Luther. Currently, we are headlong into the book of Jonah. There are many people who come to

these studies. Hopefully more opportunities for this kind of study might emerge. There's both a hunger and joy among those who gather to study and fellowship together.

Wednesday evenings are full of music at Trinity as well, with regular music rehearsals for the Handbell Choir, Worship Choir, and the Worship Band.

Confirmation classes meet each Wednesday during the school year to study God's Word and the Small Catechism. In recent weeks, we have looked at what it means to be a neighbor in Christ Jesus. I'm grateful for the adult leaders who help with confirmation – Lori Sieling, Josh Cherry, and Katy Jo Danielson. I love the conversations I hear between the kids and their guides. I'm also grateful for the members of the congregation who are Confirmation mentors during Advent and Lent, meeting with the students for casual faith conversations, and to those who work with the kids to provide congregational meals in those seasons. A special thanks to Lori Sieling and Gail and Scott Cassidy for their leadership. You may or may not know this, but once a month, kids from the Watertown area churches come together at Trinity on Wednesday morning for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes breakfast. I've not been there – too early for this pastor – but I hear that the numbers of kids who attend is large, and the impact of their gatherings is meaningful. Many thanks to Joy Rundell for her work with this group.



**Thursdays** throughout the month find groups gathering at Trinity. The Heavenly Housekeepers meet monthly to do light housekeeping jobs around the church, the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) meet monthly for programs, fellowship, and games. The Sunshine Ministry continues to deliver flowers, candy, or other treats to our homebound members and local nursing home residents. Each month, you'll also find a group of volunteers whose ministry it is to assemble the church newsletters for mailing.

**Fridays and Saturdays** often bring folks through our facility for a variety of things. Maybe a wedding or funeral, a baptism or a community event. Whatever the occasion, we are honored to provide a warm and welcoming space for our congregation and the wider community alike.

## And Beyond...

There are also many opportunities we have to come together as a congregation each year! There's the "Underwear Drive" in February, the "Food Drive" in March, a "Graduate Blessing" in May, the "Trick-or-Treat for the Food Shelf" and "Trunk-or-Treat" community event, the "Saint Lucia Tea Open House," and "Adopt a Family Gift Project." Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter are times when we gather for special worship services, meals, and events. Each spring finds Trinity members in the parking lot for "Drive Thru Prayers" during Holy Week. In the summer, Vacation Bible School brings together all kinds of fun and all kinds of opportunities to learn about the love of God in their lives. What a blessing it is to have those whose gifts lead them to lead this opportunity for the younger members of the congregation.

Our beautiful Trinity facility is often used by many groups. Alcoholics Anonymous, the local chapter of the BIO Girls, and a group from our congregation who comes together for coffee and fellowship several times a week.

We are active in the community, engaging in outreach to our neighbors at work, school, and play. In each experience and encounter, a chance conversation or a lingering opportunity to hear about one another's lives, God is present and active and doing a new thing among us.

In this season, one of the ways God's grace is at work among us is through a call process that will eventually lead you to welcoming a new pastor and turning the page to a new chapter in your life together. I'm grateful to our Transition Team, our Church Council, and to those whom the Council will appoint to serve as members of your Call Committee. I hope you pray for each one of these people – and for the congregation at a whole – as things unfold. This is a gifted congregation, that, as I've said, is full of heart and generosity. God will continue to do wonderful work in, with, and through you.





I am so grateful to serve among you as your Interim Pastor. It is a privilege to walk alongside you in this season, and to watch with you how God will lead and guide you as you prepare for all that is to come. It's a process, but one in which you can be sure God is not only present and active but delights in bringing you and your new pastor together. You are such a wonderful congregation, ready for what is to come.

I give such thanks for the Trinity staff (Robyn Behrens, Gail Cassidy, Chelsea Farniok, Mary Jech), music leaders (Karla Keller, Penny Koets, Hannah Rosholt, Joy Rundell), Trinity Council (Steve Boylan, Corky Ibeling, Nick Neaton, Nancy Pickering, Ryan Ress, Jim Sandquist, Nancy Stello, and Tammy Vraspir), and Trinity's committees and various Ministry Teams.

And I want you to hear this from me: I'm so very grateful for everyone who contributes to our vibrant ministry in ways too numerous to count.

Since 1858, Trinity has served faithfully over the past 168 year, with a multitude of pastors, council members, committees, teachers, and many others working together to carry on God's work. As you move ahead, you will carry on the legacy, giving thanks to God for another season of grace. And there, in and through it all, the God who raised Jesus from death for us all, will be among you.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor

## Pastoral Transition Team

Allison Neaton, Transition Team Member

Trinity's Pastoral Transition Team was installed in November 2025. Since that time, the team has met nearly every week with Pastor Paul. The primary job of the transition team is to complete the Ministry Site Profile document using information gathered from all of you during the conversations led by Pastor Lutter last fall. The site profile document includes detailed information about our current community and congregation, challenges faced recently, and priorities for the near future. A big thank you to everyone who has expressed thoughts and dreams about Trinity's future.

We have made good progress on the Ministry Site Profile and our goal is to have it completed by mid-February. Once the document is completed, it will be reviewed by the church council before it is submitted to the synod office. At that point, a Call Committee made up of Trinity members, will work with the Minneapolis Area Synod office to begin the next step in calling a new pastor to our congregation.

### Team Members:

Robyn Behrens, Anna Goetz, Sara Hallermann,  
Diane Johnson, Thomas McMahon, Allison Neaton,  
Eileen Nelson, Denice Widmer

# Children's Ministry

Chelsea Farniok, Children's Ministry Coordinator

This year Children's Ministry has been filled with joy, growth, and meaningful moments as we centered our theme on *We Are All a Piece of God's Plan*. Our children learned that each of them is loved by God and has an important role in His story.

Sunday School continued to thrive with over 50 students registered, and every week our children gathered to learn about Jesus, His love, and how to live out their faith through Bible stories, music, and hands-on activities.

We celebrated several special events throughout the year. Vacation Bible School was a highlight and a very fun time for the children, full of excitement and faith-filled learning. Our annual Trunk-or-Treat community event was a huge success, blessed with great weather, strong participation, bounce houses, and plenty of treats.

Another meaningful highlight was a service project, where we partnered with The Sandwich Project of Minnesota. Together, we made sandwiches that were delivered to those in need in the Minneapolis area. We had a great turnout and received wonderful feedback on the event, reminding our children how important it is to help those in need. It was truly special to serve people in our community, and this is a project we will definitely be doing again.

One of the most special moments was when our Sunday School children led worship during the Children's Service, sharing their faith through fun new songs. A heartfelt thank you to Hannah Rosholt, Chelsey Kuffenkam, Nick Neaton, and Karla Keller for their leadership and dedication to helping with this.

We are grateful for our families, volunteers, and children who made this year unforgettable.



# Youth Ministry

Mary Gallus, Youth Ministry Team Member

In 2025, Trinity's Ministry continued to nurture faith, fellowship, and service among our youth in grades 6–12. Throughout the year, students gathered for fun activities, community service, and leadership opportunities within our congregation and in the community.

**January:** We kicked off the year with a fun-filled afternoon of snow tubing at Elm Creek Park in Maple Grove.

**February–March:** During Lent, youth enjoyed several informal game nights between the Lenten suppers and worship services, connecting through trivia and other games.

**April:** With excellent help from Trinity's youth, we coordinated the Palm Sunday Brunch, featuring cinnamon rolls, yogurt parfaits, and breakfast pizzas to support our congregation's fellowship.

**June:** A full bus of students traveled to Valley Fair for a day of rides, laughter, and fun. In addition, several high school students served as leaders and helpers during Vacation Bible School, sharing their faith with younger children.

**October:** Our second annual Bake Walk Fundraiser was a success, raising funds to support Sunday School programming. Later in the month, youth participated in the multi-church "Foodshelf Trick-or-Treat" event, collecting food and donations for the Gather and Grow Food Shelf of Watertown. Many of our youth also assisted with Trinity's popular Trunk-or-Treat event, which drew families from across the community.

**November:** In partnership with The Sandwich Project of Minnesota, Trinity's youth and members of all ages helped prepare 400 sandwiches for those experiencing food insecurity. In addition, Trinity's 6th–8th grade Confirmation students and chaperones served at Feed My Starving Children, packing meals for children in need around the world. It was a meaningful evening of teamwork and living out Christ's call to serve others.

**December:** Youth closed out the year by leading and assisting at Trinity's "Family Christmas Extravaganza"—an event filled with crafts, Minute-to-Win-It games, and holiday cheer for all ages.

Throughout the year, our youth also contributed their gifts in worship—serving as ushers, acolytes, readers, nursery helpers, musicians, and more. We are grateful for their energy, compassion, and growing leadership within our congregation.







# Property Improvement Report

Dan Sieling, Property Committee Chair

2025 was a busy year for the Property Committee. The committee would like to thank the groups that worked tirelessly behind the scenes; mowing, snow removal, weeding, shrub trimming, and all the other jobs that make our building and grounds look inviting.

## Major projects accomplished in 2025:

- Painting the sanctuary, balcony, and stairwell.
- Chip sealing and re-striping the south parking lot.
- Removal and disposal of 2 Ash Borer diseased trees.
- Razing and removal of the Trinity Parsonage.

## 2026 projects scheduled for completion:

- Final landscaping and seeding of the parsonage site, scheduled for this spring when weather allows.
- Removal and replacement of the front (south) steps, scheduled for this spring when weather allows.

## Other major items that need consideration as we move into 2026:

- Technology Upgrades: including one or more new computers for staff and a Wi-fi network upgrade.
- North parking lot needs significant upgrading or replacement.
- Church roof needs repair of a leak, and a long term plan for replacement of certain sections.

The Finance and Property Committees are hopeful that the congregation will continue their generous contributions to the Building Improvement Fund, just as they have in the past. These contributions are vital. They enable us to secure the necessary funds to perform maintenance at the appropriate time in order to minimize more costly projects in the future. Your contributions ultimately improve our facilities, ensuring our church remains a safe, welcoming, and functional space for our congregation and the wider community. Your ongoing support is not just an investment in our church's infrastructure, but also in our shared mission to serve and uplift others. Thank you for your support and generosity.



---

# Trinity Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Financial Administrator, Mary Jech

---

## FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2025

2025 had its share of good news and not so good news. The not so good news started right at the beginning of the year with a deficit in the operating fund of -\$14,835.29. The renter in the parsonage left in September so that income was gone. Seven of the twelve months, income was less than expenses adding to this deficit. By the end of November we were more that \$31,000 in the red. Then December came and we hoped and prayed for a good ending to the year. Prayers were answered! The faithful response by many to the end of year appeal and an unbelievable Christmas offering resulted in not only covering the negative balance of \$14,835 brought forth from 2024, but allowed Trinity's operating fund to end the year \$5,146 in the black.

We kept the lights on. We paid our staff. Benevolent giving to the Minneapolis Area Synod, Love INC Heartland, Lutheran Social Services, Gather and Grow Food Pantry, and Green Lake Lutheran Ministries continued every month. We collected underwear and cash for Central Lutheran's free store, coins for the Royals Room at the Watertown-Mayer Elementary School, and personal and paper products for Love INC's Fresh Start Program.

Capital projects included painting the sanctuary, chip sealing the south parking lot, and removing two diseased trees from the church property. In October, the congregation voted to remove the parsonage from the property, which was completed in December (paid for in early January 2026).

We are so grateful for your continued faithful living and faithful giving! Thanks be to God.

### OPERATING FUND YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY

<b>Operating Fund – Beginning balance 01/01/2025</b>	<b>-\$ 14,835.29</b>
Operating Fund 2025 Receipts and Transfers In	\$ 416,276.98
Operating Fund 2025 Expenses and Transfers Out	\$ 396,295.23
Operating 2025 Net Balance	\$ 19,981.75
<b>Operating Fund – Ending Balance 12/31/2025</b>	<b>\$ 5,146.46</b>

### 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

<b>Beginning balance 1/1/2025</b>	<b>\$ 67,665.76</b>
2025 Receipts	\$ 46,363.59
2025 Expenses	\$ 26,363.00
<b>Ending Balance 12/31/2025:</b>	<b>\$ 87,666.35</b>

### CASH SUMMARY (AS OF 12/31/2025)

Bremer Bank/Old National Bank	
Operating Funds	\$ 84,450.93
Citizen's Alliance Bank	
Capital/Appeal/Building	\$ 86,988.86

# Trinity Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Financial Administrator, Mary Jech

## 2025 INCOME / EXPENSES

### INCOME

	YEAR 2025
Promises	\$366,473.13
Other Offerings	\$20,755.28
Other Income	\$29,048.57
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$416,276.98</b>
Designated Funds	\$239.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$1,407.63
Special Gifts	\$4,288.22
<b>Total Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>\$5,934.85</b>
<b>Capital Appeal/Building Fund Income</b>	<b>\$46,363.59</b>

### TOTAL INCOME

**\$468,575.42**

### EXPENDITURES

Benevolence	\$33,048.92
Church Utilities, Upkeep and Insurance	\$91,552.22
Parsonage Utilities and Upkeep	\$3,324.98
Salaries	\$186,386.15
Educational Ministry	\$4,605.40
Other Operating Expense	\$77,377.56
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$396,295.23</b>
Designated fund payments	\$3,321.54
Special Gifts/Memorial transfers	\$5,271.68
<b>Total Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,593.22</b>
<b>Capital Appeal/Building Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$26,362.81</b>

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**\$431,251.26**

#### 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

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

## 2025 Budget Summary and 2026 Proposed Spending Plan

### Looking ahead to 2026...

In putting together a spending plan for 2026 the following considerations were made:

- Slight increases in salaries.
- 1% increase in property insurance and a slight increase in property tax on the parsonage (payable in 2026)
- Identified ministry teams will share \$8,600 as requests are made.
- An additional line in the amount of \$15,000 was added for call committee expenses.

**Finance committee:** Benevolence, church insurance, parsonage property tax (payable in 2026), and all salary and office related expenses.

**Property:** Church utilities and maintenance.

	2025 SPENDING PLAN	2025 ACTUAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	2026 PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN
<b>FINANCE</b>	\$342,010.00	\$307,192.00	\$346,110.00
<b>PROPERTY</b>	\$90,200.00	\$64,644.00	\$78,900.00
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	\$5,200.00	\$2,001.00	\$4,200.00
<b>CHILDREN'S</b>	\$6,000.00	\$3,430.00	\$6,000.00
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	\$5,000.00	\$6,807.00	\$6,000.00
<b>OTHER Ministry Teams</b>	\$7,000.00	\$7,843.64	\$8,600.00
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>		\$114.47	
<b>OUTREACH</b>		\$1,438.49	
<b>SOCIAL</b>		\$798.00	
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>		\$4,316.27	
<b>ADULT/PARISH HEALTH</b>		\$363.82	
<b>YOUTH*</b>		\$811.69	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$455,410.00</b>	<b>\$391,917.00</b>	<b>\$458,410.00</b>
<b>Call Committee</b>			\$15,000.00
<b>Capital Improvement</b>	\$45,000.00	\$26,362.81	\$15,000.00
	(A/V Update)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500,410.00</b>	<b>\$418,279.81</b>	<b>\$473,410.00</b>

\* The Youth Activity Fund is used for youth activities. Curriculum is part of the Spending Plan.

### 2025 EXPENSE SUMMARY

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$ 391,917.00
Other Designated Expenses	\$ 12,971.00
Capital Improvement Expenses	\$ 26,363.00
Total Overall Expenses	\$ 431,251.00

---

## Foundation Board of Trustees

Submitted by Foundation Treasurer, Dan Sieling

---

### TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2025 - September 2025

#### INCOME

Interest - Old Nationsl Bank	\$ 1,916.15
Dividend - Thrivent Money Market	\$ 86.92
Dividend - Thrivent Moderate Allocation	\$ 1,599.43
Dividend - LCF Growth	\$ 0.00

**Investment Income: \$ 3,602.50**

Gift - Scholarships	\$ 300.00
---------------------	-----------

**Income Received: \$ 3,902.50**

Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$ 23,200.76
--------------------------------	--------------

**Total Income: \$ 27,103.26**

#### EXPENSES

Safe Deposit Rent	\$ 30.00
Fund Administration Fee	\$ 548.23

**General Expenses: \$ 578.23**

Scholarships - General Fund	\$ 1,300.00
-----------------------------	-------------

**Realized Expense: \$ 1,878.23**

Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$ 0.00
--------------------------------	---------

**Total Expenses: \$ 1,878.23**

**DIFFERENCE \$ +22,225.03**

The Financial Report being submitted by the Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation for the annual report of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is as of September 2025. 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, 2025 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, Ed Salonek

---

## TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2025 - December 2025

### INCOME

#### General Fund Income

Burial Lot Income	\$1,200.00	
Checking/Savings Interest Income	\$7.32	
Grave Staking Income	\$100.00	
Interest and Dividends Income		
Thrivent Global Stock Fund	\$3,006.84	
Thrivent Large Cap Value Fund	\$4,708.64	
Thrivent Income Fund	\$1,740.92	
Thrivent Large Cap Growth Fund	\$3,753.29	
Thrivent Global Stock Fund	\$3,161.94	
Thrivent Large Cap Value Fund	\$1,581.88	
Thrivent Income Fund	\$2,467.92	
Thrivent Large Cap Growth Fund	\$1,328.34	
Transfer from Perpetual Care CD - Int. and Fund Dividends	\$4,604.13	
Mission CD Interest Income	\$937.28	<b>\$28,598.50</b>

#### Perpetual Care Income

Savings Interest Income	\$1.78	
Perpetual Care Collected	\$0.00	
Interest Income - Mission CD 16578	\$363.82	
Interest Income - Mission CD 270014	\$41.96	
Thrivent Diversified Income plus Fund Gains/(Loss) - Cash	\$627.91	
Thrivent High Yield Funds Gains/(Loss) - Cash	-\$1,923.38	
Thrivent Diversified Income Plus Fund Gain/(Loss) - Reinvested	\$1,638.51	
Thrivent High Yield Fund Gains/(Loss)- Reinvested	\$2,973.79	
Thrivent High Yield Fund - Purchases	\$0.00	<b>\$3,724.39</b>

**TOTAL INCOME      \$32,322.89**

Perpetual Care Disbursements	\$0.00
------------------------------	--------

### EXPENSES

Insurance	\$0.00
Memorial Plants, Equipment, Supplies	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Mowing	\$8,319.92
Safe Deposit Box	\$25.00
Grave Opening	\$0.00
TLC Staking Fee	\$0.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES      \$8,344.92**

**NET INCOME/(LOSS)      \$+23,977.97**

---

## Quilting Ministry

Submitted by Quilting Ministry Treasurer, Sarah Barfknecht

---

### TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Checking Account Balance 1/1/2025	\$2,860.90
-----------------------------------	------------

#### INCOME

Donations and Memorials	\$295.00
-------------------------	----------

Interest	\$2.35
----------	--------

EXPENSES	\$0.00
----------	--------

Ending Balance 12/31/2025	\$3,158.25
---------------------------	------------

---

# 2025 Annual Report

*"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14, 26)*

This report to the worshipping communities of the Minneapolis Area Synod is an opportunity to look back on 2025, and to look ahead to the year to come. Most of all, it is an opportunity to name and celebrate some of the ways the Holy Spirit continues to enliven God's church and our shared life as Church Together. We give thanks to you and your congregation for your partnership in this ministry we share, and for your Mission Support, financial commitments that fuel Synod ministry as well as the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Together we accompany one another in times of challenge and joy, seeking the common good as we bear witness to the love of God that makes possible our love of neighbor. Below are a few highlights of 2025.

## Our Shared Life

- In May, we lived out the theme Church Together at the annual Synod Assembly
- We hosted two Tool Kit workshops in 2025, one in March and one in November
- We started a monthly virtual learning series called Learn Together Over Lunch
- We gathered rostered ministers for two Ministerium events and the Bishop's Theological Conference
- The deans of the conferences hosted regular conference meetings and the Conference Assemblies in February
- Leaders grew in their work through Peer Groups and Power and Boundaries Workshops
- There were several other gatherings of Synod leaders: Children, Youth and Family leaders, Leaders of Color, Retired Pastors and Deacons, Communicators, and more
- Global partnerships were strengthened in 2025. Archbishop Musa Filibus from the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria visited in October and a few people from our Synod visited the Leipzig District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saxony in September
- The new ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry was installed in October at Central Lutheran, Minneapolis
- Lay and rostered leaders have been exploring new partnerships, creative building use, and how best to steward resources
- Our Executive Committee and Synod Council are restructuring how we fund ministry together, with a focus on more support for our New Start and Strategic communities
- The Resurrection Fund began in 2017. Seeded by money received at the Holy Closure of congregations, the fund makes possible a wide array of ministry across the Synod, including a new round of Imagination Grants beginning in 2026
- Following the adoption of a resolution on Immigration at Synod Assembly, an Immigration Task Force was formed to guide our action, and a Welcome Fund was created to channel support related to immigration

Daily I see Jesus at work in and through you, dear Synod. Thank you for your dedication, for trusting me and our staff during the tender times, and for daring to boldly live into your faith and baptismal identity.

## Transitions in our Synod Staff

In 2025, Karen Ohm and Peg Ihinger retired, and we adjusted the portfolios for many of the Synod staff.

Early in the year we welcomed six new staff members: Sarah Maslowski (CYF Connector), Liz Farmer (Assistant to the Bishop for Administration), Karen Alexander (Administrator for Candidacy, Roster, and Call Process), Pastor Jen Collins (Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality), Pastor Ryan Fletcher (Director for Evangelical Mission), and Juan Gonzalez (Director of Family Faith).



With these changes comes much learning and growth, and some intentional changes to our processes. I'm excited about our team and the gifts we bring individually and collectively. Thanks for your patience as we grow into this new season.

You are in our prayers. God bless us with grace for this day and courage for tomorrow.  
In Christ, Bishop Jen Nagel



WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA | [WWW.TRIN.ORG](http://WWW.TRIN.ORG)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America