

Trinity Midland Feedback Summary

Question: What's not going so well?

1. Attendance & Membership

- Declining attendance, especially among youth, teens, and young families.
- Congregation is aging; not enough younger generations.
- Preschool families not engaging with Trinity.
- Desire for outreach to new members and inactive members.

2. Youth & Children's Ministry

- Need stronger Sunday School, confirmation, youth choirs, and high school programs.
- Generational divide: lack of middle generation to support children's ministry.
- Youth disengagement post-pandemic.
- Desire for children's voices in worship.
- Need fun, service-oriented, and multi-generational events.

3. Pastoral Leadership & Pastoral Care

- Concerns about how Pastor Danielle's departure was handled (poor communication, loss of trust).
- Some members miss prior pastors' style of teaching and warmth.
- Concern about pastoral care for shut-ins/nursing homes.
- Request for assistant pastor or parish administrator.

4. Communication & Transparency

- Council perceived as secretive, not transparent, withholding information.
- Confusion and frustration about decision-making processes.
- Committees formed quietly, membership unclear.
- Finances and vision process not communicated clearly.
- Calls for publishing council minutes and improved communication timing.

5. Worship & Music

- Mixed feedback on worship styles:
 - - Some want more upbeat contemporary music.
 - - Others concerned about too much contemporary creeping into traditional service.
 - - Desire for music that appeals across generations.
 - - Complaints about sound/microphone issues.
- Scheduling issue: not enough time between services for classes/fellowship.
- Three services seen as dividing the congregation.

6. Inclusivity & LGBTQ+ Issues

- Deep divide in congregation:
 - - Some celebrate LGBTQ+ inclusion and want more visible engagement (e.g. Pride festivals, affirming status).
 - - Others uncomfortable with rainbow signage or perceived overemphasis.
 - - Concern about balance between welcome and biblical teaching.

7. Fellowship, Volunteers & Engagement

- Hard to connect in groups; newcomers struggle to feel included.
- Lack of volunteers for worship, youth, and activities.
- Older members tired, younger members too busy.
- Missing multi-generational activities and small group options.
- Need for fellowship beyond worship (social events, free community meals).

8. Security, Property & Facilities

- Concerns about security during services (doors, safety team).
- Too many properties to manage (Wixon Lake, family life center, etc.).
- Underutilized or aging facilities.
- Kitchen misuse and lack of oversight.
- Website and online communication need improvement.

9. Spiritual & Theological Concerns

- Some feel Trinity and the ELCA are drifting from Lutheran doctrine.
- Concerns about secular or culturally driven focus.
- Calls for stronger grounding in Scripture and Lutheran teaching.
- Requests to return to traditional practices in worship and prayers.

10. Congregational Unity & Healing

- Lingering wounds over Pastor Danielle's departure.
- Some blame council, others feel Jeff is unfairly scapegoated.
- General sense of mistrust or division that needs reconciliation.