



Trinity Lutheran Church
Annual Report
2026

Trinity Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 8, 2026

- Our Mission is to invite children, men and women and equip them to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Our Vision is that Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of disciples that actively welcomes, witnesses and invites all people in the name of Jesus Christ. Trinity Lutheran Church encourages a life of discipleship centered on study, worship and fellowship that results in prayer, service and stewardship.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Adoption of Agenda
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Acceptance of 2025 Congregation Minutes (verbal approval)
- Milestones in 2025
- Priorities for 2026 and Strategic Planning
- Phase 3 Roofing Project Plans and Funding
- Proposed Slate of Nominees
- 2025 Financial Highlights
- Proposed 2026 Mission Budget
- Voting on Slate of Nominees, 2026 Unified Budget and Phase 3 Roofing Project Funding
- Discussion
- Closing Prayer

***Council moves that this proposed agenda
be adopted. (Seeking a second)***

Call to Order

- ▶ Quorum Requirements:
 - ▶ 5% of Voting (Confirmed) Members
 - ▶ 51 Members must vote in person or absentee
 - ▶ Please sign the attendance roster
- ▶ Voting Members as of 1/1/2026: 1,015
 - ▶ Membership roster updated in 2024
- ▶ In accordance with the Trinity Constitution, voting is allowed only by confirmed members of Trinity Lutheran Church

Opening Prayer

Review and Acceptance of the Minutes from the 2025 Congregational Meeting

For the meeting held on 2/9/2025

Milestones in 2025

- Happy 82th Birthday Trinity!
- Wednesday IGNITE energy
- Women's Ministry restarted after 10 years
- Vicar Tim completes 1.5 years of 2-year program
- Melanie Longsway growing children's ministry
- Joe Johnson restarts youth ministry
- Completed phase 2 of the roof replacement
- Security cameras and access upgrades
- Technology, website, and audio-visual improvements
- Continue growth in attendance and kickoff of strategic planning process

Recognition of Staff and Volunteers

- Rev. Dr. Jeffery Gramza - Senior Pastor
- Vicar Tim Jordan – Seminary Intern
- Melanie Lonsway – Director of Children's Ministry
- Jonathan Lonsway – Director of Music Ministries
- Joe Johnson – Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
- Stacey Thurston – Church Secretary
- Sandy Schlesinger – Parish Administrator (volunteer)
- Katie Putzig – Bookkeeper/Accountant
- Cathy Bloomfield – Administrative Assistant
- Jeri Lynne Koenig – Administrative Assistant
- Nick Stark – Facilities Coordinator
- Arthur Stark – Church Custodian
- Lee Smith – Facilities (volunteer)
- Mya Quinones – Facilities
- Jamison Evans – Facilities
- Anthony Slayton - Facilities
- Marijean Fitzgerald – Director of True Spirit Singers
- Charlie Sly – Church Music Associate/Organist

Benevolence (Trinity Trust)

- Investments growth during the year from \$2,115,743 to \$2,278,967 (increase of \$163,224) after writing checks during year of \$101,267 (Funded 13 Requests)
 - Toni & Trish House General Support: \$25,000
 - Gateway Health Care: \$20,000
 - Bridge Food Center: \$15,000
 - Hope for the Forgotten: \$10,000
- 2026 Gifting Capacity Raised to \$115,000

Benevolence (2025 Unified Budget)

	2024	2025
Unified Benevolence		
Synod General Mission Support	\$70,000	\$70,000
Samaritas	\$16,200	\$16,200
Preschool Scholarships	\$4,000	
Boy Scouts / Venture Scouts		\$400
TOTAL UNIFIED BENEVOLENCE	\$90,200	\$86,600

Benevolence (2025 Dedicated Fund)

Dedicated Benevolence	2024	2025
Special Needs with referrals		
from Midland Area Community Network	\$28,864	\$33,300
ELCA World Hunger	\$8,173	\$10,896
ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief	\$3,485	\$5,991
Lutheran World Relief Quilts	\$35	\$500
Mobile Food Pantry	\$4,041	\$1,000
Thanksgiving Turkeys	\$7,500	\$9,000
Christmas Families	\$3,239	\$4,600
Van for Special Needs Family		\$15,000
Other	\$1,550	\$4,150
TOTAL DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE	\$56,887	\$84,437
COMBINED UNIFIED, DEDICATED and TRUST	\$217,553	\$272,304

Priorities for 2026

- Continue developing Children's, Youth and Young Adult ministries, and building upon IGNITE.
- Upgrades to Wixom Camp and finishing the third and final phase of the sanctuary roof replacement.
- Supporting the ongoing work and eventual recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Finding a new intern or additional clergy to support the church as Tim's internship concludes.

Strategic Planning Update

Phase 3 Roofing Project & Funding

Phase 1

- Flat roof around the sanctuary was approved in 2021
- Work delayed due to roofing supplies in 2021, thus completed in 2022

Phase 2

- Flat roof over all offices and gathering room (approx. 25 years old) completed in 2025
- Cost \$171,000 for a 20-year warranty

Phase 3 (to be done summer 2026)

- Replace slate shingles on sanctuary roof
- Recommend \$50,000 from Unified Budget Surplus and balance from Dedicated Fund Accounts

Trinity's 2025 Council

- Michael Rogers – President
- Carrie Schaller – Vice Pres.
- Peder Danielsen – Treasurer
- Dick Peterson - Secretary
- Pastor Jeffery Gramza
- Sandy Avery
- Pam Fagan
- Eldon Enger
- Glen Mutschler
- Kathy Allen

Members leaving council

Congregation Council

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
• Dawn Eby	2029	Pam Fagan	2027
• Jessica Miller	2029	Michael Rogers	2027
• Eric Stangland	2029	Carrie Schaller	2027
		Kathy Allen	2026
		Glen Mutscher	2026
		Dick Peterson	2026
		Pastor Gramza ex	-officio

Trust Fund Committee

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Eric Stangland	2028	Tom Howe	2027
Holly Hellebuyck	2028	Dave Romenesko	2027
		Scot Putzig	2026
		Helena Devore	2026

Memorial Garden Committee

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Donna Frawley	2028	Lorie Mault	2027
Nick Messing	2028	Krista Blaser	2026
		Lee Smith	2026

Pre-School Board

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Wendy Flory	2027	Amy Smith	2026
Sandy Avery	2027	Rose Zank	2026
Glen Mutschler	2027	Pastor Gramza	ex-officio
		Andrea Berchert	ex-officio

Asset Management Team

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Gary Warren	2028	Ted Brown	2026
Lee Smith	2028	Dan Pfreunder	2026
Kevin Blaser	2028	Sid Allen	2026
		Emily Lyons	2027
		Randy McGuirk	2027
		Joe Sova	2027

Nominating Committee

<u>Election Slate</u>	<u>Thru</u>
Bob Owens	2026
Jerry Hanfeld	2026
Chris Sabourin	2026
Kim Scott	2026
Tracy Messing	2026
Barb Grunder	2026

2025 Financial Report

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK
FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY . . .

2025 Consolidated Unified Fund Surplus

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 vs. Budget
Beginning Balance (Unified Fund Surplus)	\$ 515,484	\$ 701,111	\$ 939,890	
Donation/Rental Income	\$ 881,509	\$ 965,909	\$ 958,815	(\$6,185)
Expenses	\$ 859,972	\$ 1,078,822	\$ 1,117,976	\$4,976
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 21,537	(\$ 112,913)	(\$ 159,161)	
Investment Income (2023: Leonard Lane) (2025: Phase 2 Roof)	\$ 346,550 (\$182,461)	\$ 351,693	\$ 335,005 (\$100,000)	
Ending Balance (Unified Fund Surplus)	\$ 701,111	\$ 939,890	\$ 1,015,734	

2025 Unified Fund Expenses

Ministry Area	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Actual as % Difference from Budget
Benevolence	\$ 96,000	\$ 86,600	90%
Caring	\$ 22,000	\$ 19,280	88%
Christian Education	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,444	174%
Music	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,034	100%
Operations Total	\$ 240,000	\$ 253,955	106%
- Utilities	\$ 80,000	\$89,769	
- Technology	\$ 28,000	\$25,894	
- Copier	\$ 20,000	\$19,357	
- Maint. Services & Repair	\$ 40,000	\$39,870	
- Insurance	\$34,000	\$29,034	

2025 Unified Fund Expenses

Ministry Area	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Actual as % Difference from Budget
Resources Total	\$ 714,000	\$ 714,193	99%
Worship	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,959	99%
Youth	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,510	88%
Grand Total	\$ 1,113,000	\$ 1,117,976	100%

2025 Dedicated Balance Statement

	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2025
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,740,614	\$ 1,733,542	\$ 1,715,480
Income	\$484,082	\$259,399	\$416,654
Expenses	\$491,154	\$277,461	\$527,206
Surplus(Deficit)	(\$7,072)	(\$18,062)	(\$110,552)
Ending Balance	\$1,733,542	\$1,715,480	\$1,607,109

2025 Cash Flow Summary

	Full Year 2025
Unified Revenue	\$ 958,815
Unified Expenses	\$ 1,117,976
Unified Surplus	(\$ 159,161)
Dedicated Revenue	\$ 416,654
Dedicated Expenses	\$ 527,206
Dedicated Surplus	(\$110,552)
Investment Income	\$335,005
Cash Flow for 2025	\$76,292

2025 Balance Sheet

Assets	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2025
Cash and Securities	\$2,445,091	\$2,707,485	\$2,630,538
Church, Organ, Personal Property	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 6,400,000
Parsonage/Houses	\$ 965,000	\$ 965,000	\$ 965,000
Youth Center	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Wixom Lake Camp	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
St. Timothy Building	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total Assets	\$ 10,760,091	\$ 11,022,485	\$ 10,945,538
Trinity Trust Cash/Investments	\$1,761,000	\$2,115,743	\$2,278,937

Proposed 2026 Unified Fund Budget

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Proposed 2026 Budget	Change from 2025 Budget	Change from 2025 Actual
Benevolence	\$96,000	\$86,600	\$96,000	same	\$9,400
Caring	\$22,000	\$19,280	\$21,000	(\$1,000)	\$1,720
Education	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,444	\$ 13,000	\$7,000	\$2,556
Music	\$17,000	\$ 17,034	\$17,500	\$500	\$466
Operations	\$240,000	\$ 253,955	\$245,500	\$5,500	(\$8,455)
Resources	\$714,000	\$ 714,193	\$663,200	(\$50,800)	(\$50,993)
Worship	\$6,000	\$ 5,959	\$6,000	same	\$41
Youth	\$12,000	\$ 10,510	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$4,490
Total Expense	\$1,113,000	\$ 1,117,975	\$1,077,200	(\$35,800)	(\$40,775)

Proposed 2026 Unified Fund Budget w/ Percentages

	Proposed 2026 Budget	% of Budget
Income	\$960,000	
Benevolence	\$96,000	8.9%
Caring	\$21,000	1.9%
Education	\$ 13,000	1.2%
Music	\$17,500	1.6%
Operations	\$245,500	22.8%
Resources	\$663,200	61.6%
Worship	\$6,000	0.6%
Youth	\$15,000	1.4%
Total Expenses	\$1,077,200	100%
Surplus/(Loss)	(\$117,200)	

2026 Considerations

- ▶ Trinity's members were very supportive in donations this past year!
- ▶ Fantastic investment income (over \$335,000) in 2025
 - ▶ Investment returns similar to 2023 and 2024
- ▶ Operations
 - ▶ Replace the 3rd phase of the roof over the sanctuary (over \$100,000) this summer
 - ▶ Work at Wixom Lake to make usable for members
 - ▶ Install new carpet and flooring on main level
- ▶ Resources
 - ▶ Pursue additional resources based upon the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee
 - ▶ Budgeted Cost of Living Adjustment of 3.0%
 - ▶ Parsonage available for future staff

Motion on the Floor (Made & Seconded by Congregation Council)

The Congregation Council recommends to the congregation for approval, in its entirety:

- (1) 2026 unified mission budget of \$960,000 Giving, \$1,077,200 Expenses and Excess of \$117,200 from Unified Funds
- (2) Nominating committee slate as presented
- (3) Funding of 3rd stage roof project to have \$50,000 to come out of Unified Funds and balance from Dedicated Accounts, total not to exceed \$120,000

In accordance with our constitution, voting is allowed only by confirmed members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Congregation Discussion and Voting Results

Closing Prayer

Trinity Lutheran Church - 2025 Annual Meeting

2/9/25

Peder Danielson (Council President), started the meeting at 10 a.m. and conducted the opening Prayer.

Review of Mission and Vision

164 voting members represented in person or by absentee ballot, exceeding the quorum requirements of 66 (5% of confirmed members - 1324). 93 people were in attendance.

Carrie Schaller motioned to accept the agenda as it stands, Pam Fagan second. Motion carried unanimously.

Carrie Schaller motioned to accept the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting. Pam Fagan second. Motion carried unanimously.

Peder provided a review of the past year's milestones, including:

- Happy 81th Birthday Trinity!
- Wednesday IGNITE energy
- New Festival of Tables
- Vicar Tim as first intern in over 20 years
- Angela McHugh growing children's ministry
- Completed efforts to clear all basement tiles and fix water flow off roofs
- Security cameras and access upgrades
- Technology, website, and audio-visual improvements (approx. 700 viewers of livestreamed service per week)

Benevolence – trust now >\$2MM, with significant growth due to investments. Dedicated benevolence gifts money to local and global needs.

2025 Priorities Include:

- Continue to Build Upon IGNITE
 - Designed for a congregational wide assembly
 - Enhancing education of all ages
- Continue to engage children's programs
- Developing Youth Programming
 - Hire Youth and Young Adult Director
 - Enhancing Youth Education and Activities
- Reestablish use of Wixom Camp
- Additional technology, website, and audio-visual improvements

Review of Roofing Project in three phases

Nominating committee slate and Financials Reviewed

2025 Considerations:

- Trinity's members were very supportive in donations this past year
- Fantastic investment income (over \$375,000) in 2024
 - Investment returns similar to 2023
- Operations
 - Replace the 2nd phase of the roof this summer (over new section of building)
 - Work at Wixom Lake to make usable for members
 - Hired Nick Stark as Facility Coordinator to replace Gary Warren
- Resources

- Full year Children's Director, future Youth and Young Adults director and paid Facility Coordinator.
- Budgeted Cost of Living Adjustment of 3.0%
- Parsonage available for future staff

Three Motions:

1. 2025 unified mission budget of \$965,000 Giving, \$1,113,000 Expenses and Excess of \$148,000 from Unified Funds – **APPROVED** (Voting: 160 Yes, 2 No, 2 No vote)
2. Nominating committee slate as presented – **APPROVED** (Voting: 160 - Yes, 3 No, 1 No vote)
3. Funding of 2nd stage roof project to have \$100,000 come out of Unified Funds and balance from Dedicated Accounts – **APPROVED** (Voting: 163 Yes, 0 No, 1 No vote)

Questions/Discussion:

- Scot Putzig reviewed giving from the trust, not pulling from the principal
- Question about memorials – they are part of dedicated fund.
- Question about air handling units on the roof, in regards to the roofing project – they are maintained twice/year. The plan is to continue preventative and required maintenance. The asset committee should discuss their lifecycle.
- Question about online viewing – is there a way to add a giving option? The council will discuss
- Question about long term plan for youth center across the street
- ELCA – questions about Samaritas in the news – will there be a written response? Pastor Gramza to share official ELCA response
- Question about investment in the S&P 500
- Question about protection – data, privacy, etc. – Peder described background check system, audit & governance protection
- Clarification on David Romanesco spelling

Meeting concluded at 10:53 a.m. Pastor Gramza closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes submitted by Carrie Schaller, Council Secretary.

Annual Report

Rev. Dr. Jeffery Gramza

February 2026

Looking back with Thankfulness

Trinity Lutheran Church stands on a deep and beautiful legacy of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving this community with love, courage, and generosity. For generations, God has used this congregation as a place where faith has been nurtured, lives have been shaped, and hope has been shared far beyond these walls. It is a gift to step into such a story, and to continue writing it together.

Liz and I remain profoundly grateful that you have called us to serve alongside you in this season of Trinity's life. From the very beginning, you welcomed us with warmth, grace, and trust. You have been a blessing to us, and we thank God daily for the privilege of walking this journey with you.

This past year has been a season of strengthening the foundation. We have invested deeply in developing our staff and nurturing the relationships that make ministry flourish. These gifted and dedicated individuals are not simply employees—they are ministry partners. Together, they form the backbone of the vibrant worship, pastoral care, education, and outreach that Trinity offers. Healthy, supported staff create the space for all of us to serve more faithfully and creatively.

We have also taken an important step into Trinity's future through our strategic planning process. With the help of a skilled consultant, we have listened carefully—both to voices within our congregation and to voices in the wider community. What we have heard has been deeply encouraging. Again and again, people spoke of Trinity's strong and faithful witness to Christ, of worship and music that inspire the soul, of meaningful ministry with children and youth, of generous outreach, and of the gift of beautiful, well-used facilities. These are signs of God's grace at work among us. As we continue this process, I am excited to discover together how the Holy Spirit is calling Trinity forward.

One of the great joys of this past year has been **Ignite**, our midweek gathering for food, learning, and shared ministry. Each week, 125–150 people gather to break bread together, and nearly 100 participate in classes for all ages. During Advent and Lent, Ignite also becomes a place where we also worship—singing, praying, and deepening our life together. None of this happens by accident. Special thanks to those who plan, those who prepare and serve the meals, those who donate resources, those who teach, those who assist, and those who stay to clean up. Ignite is truly a herculean ministry for Trinity, and it is worth every ounce of effort because it builds faith, strengthens relationships, and brings us together as the Body of Christ. I am deeply thankful for this precious opportunity to fellowship with you and to be present with you week after week as faith is formed in community.

Challenges to Address in the Coming Year

As strong and faithful as Trinity is, we are also in a season of important transition. Faithful leadership means naming both our blessings and our growing edges. Three key areas invite our prayerful attention in the coming year.

Playing Together

One of my favorite ministry sayings is, "*The congregation that plays together stays together.*" In a church with multiple worship services, it is easy to come, worship, and go—without ever truly connecting. In the coming

year, we will be creating and strengthening opportunities for relationships to grow: across generations, across worship services, and across the whole life of the congregation. Community is not an extra; it is part of how faith takes root and grows.

Pastoral Staffing and Discernment

In a relatively short period of time, this congregation said goodbye to three deeply loved pastors. That kind of change touches the heart of a church. It brings both gratitude and grief. For that reason, I have been intentional about not rushing into filling those roles too quickly. We needed time to grieve, to remember with thanksgiving, and to listen for where God is leading us now. At the same time, this season has created space for discernment—asking not only *who* we should call, but *what kind of gifts and leadership Trinity needs for the future*. As our strategic vision becomes clearer, we will be better equipped to call pastoral leaders who will serve the mission God is unfolding among us.

Stewardship and Financial Faithfulness

Trinity is blessed with strong financial resources. Generous members have given faithfully, skilled advisors steward our investments wisely, and our staff works diligently to use every dollar with care. These are tremendous gifts. Yet in a large congregation, it can become easy to assume that individual giving no longer matters. The truth is exactly the opposite. **Every gift matters**, not only because of what it funds, but because giving is a spiritual practice. It is how we acknowledge that all we have comes from God and that we joyfully return a portion for God's work in the world. As we continue our strategic planning, it would not be surprising to see a renewed emphasis on stewardship emerge—one that connects generosity not to obligation, but to gratitude, purpose, and shared mission.

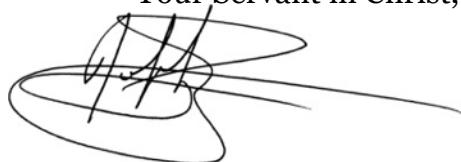
These challenges are not signs of weakness; they are signs that God is still shaping and stretching us. We stand at a moment of holy possibility, invited to grieve and heal, to listen and discern, to grow in generosity, and to deepen our welcome. None of this is work we do alone. We trust the Spirit who has guided Trinity through generations will continue to lead us now. With prayer, courage, and love for one another, we step into this next chapter confident that God is not finished with us yet and that the best days of ministry are still ahead.

A heart full of thanks!

I am deeply thankful for the extraordinary people who make Trinity what it is: the devoted staff who lead with skill and heart, the tireless volunteers who offer their time and gifts, and the many committees and ministry teams who lovingly care for this household of faith. Your faithfulness is a living testimony to Christ's work among us.

I am blessed to be a pastor. And I am truly honored to serve as *your* pastor. With gratitude for all that has been, and hope for all that is yet to come, I look forward to continuing this journey with you—trusting that God, who has been faithful in the past, will lead us faithfully into the future.

Your Servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John [illegible]" followed by a long, flowing cursive line.

Grace and peace to you, beloved siblings in Christ!

As I sit down to write this report in early January of 2026, I have been with you all at Trinity for a year-and-a-half. That leaves about 6 months of my pastoral internship. I am grateful for the time we have had together, and I look forward to continuing to be blessed by you.

I have had many highs with this congregations in the last year: the Lenten sermon series on the travels of St. Paul; VBS; confirmation camp; our summer Bible study on welcome and inclusivity; and, most recently, the Advent service of healing. It also has been an honor to walk with you through the start of our current visioning process, to hear your stories of what Trinity has been and to dream with you about what God might be calling you to be. On a more personal note, I want to thank you for your support and interest in helping me host my family here in Midland over Christmas.

But while these are highlights, there has been much richness in living out with you the daily, weekly, and monthly rhythms of this congregation. In worship, Bible study, and music rehearsals. In conversations with Pastor Jeff, the church staff, and all of you. Through births and baptisms, graduations and confirmations, weddings and the welcome of new members, retirements and commissionings, and deaths and funerals. Handshakes and hugs are another way to feel the heartbeat of this church and its people.

Looking ahead at 2026, I am grateful to have this congregation's support as I complete the final phases of my seminary journey. On January 29th, I will return to Ohio for my approval panel with my home synod's candidacy committee—this is the group of ELCA pastors and lay representatives who will make the formal vote on my readiness for ordination. My seminary graduation will then be on May 16th. My first call will come next, and I will share more with that process as it unfolds. I expect no problems with any of these events, but having walked together this far, I appreciate your prayers!

In the midst of these personal milestones for 2026, I also look forward to sharing with the congregation stories and reflections on my upcoming study trip to Egypt—both in one-on-one conversations and through this year's Lenten sermon series.

We have much to continue to share and celebrate together. Blessings on you all!

Vicar Tim Jordan

Music Ministry 2025 Annual Report

Submitted by Jonathan Lonsway, Director of Music Ministries

We have had a very full year in the musical life of the church! Our regular ensembles (Chancel Choir, True Spirit Singers and JuBELLation) continue to rehearse regularly and share their wonderful gifts with the congregation in worship. The Chancel Choir also continues to prepare special performances for area nursing homes. This year True Spirit also visited King's Daughters.

In Lent we experienced a truly moving and memorably experience in worship on Palm & Passion Sunday. Ron Warczinsky and I, along with the Chancel choir, members of True Spirit and many others presented "The Cry of the Whole Congregation" by Walter Wangerin. Many, many hours went into the preparation of that dramatic worship service (most of them by Ron and Barb). Thank you, both!

Last Summer we had fun singing with the kids at VBS. I also planned some special music for worship. This year I'll be working on more ways to keep us musically engaged during the summer months.

I continue to secure a brass ensemble for certain festivals, such as Easter and Reformation. This year we added Christmas Eve as well. We've developed a nice relationship with our regular brass players, and it is a privilege to work with them. I am grateful to have a budget to compensate them adequately.

Speaking of Christmas, we had a Christmas Cantata in December. The Chancel Choir and other members of Trinity formed the choir, with accompaniment by Patti, Charly, Chris Sabourin and members of JuBELLation. It was a wonderful worship service, and very well attended. Thank you to all the participants! The past few years we have been trying different things with the Christmas Eve worship services, styles and times. This year we offered two traditional services at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm. I believe we had nearly 900 in the sanctuary between the two services! We also offered a contemporary service at 9:00 pm, which was lightly attended. We will revisit at the end of this year to consider any further adjustments. In the 6:30 pm service I included an instrumental ensemble to play some hymn accompaniments and a selection for prelude. Having never done something like that before, I was pleasantly surprised to have almost 20 musicians of varying ages and abilities commit to this opportunity. In addition, I know of other musicians in the church who were unable to join due to holiday travel. I will be looking for other opportunities to get this group back together and making music.

On the administrative side, we have continued to care for our instruments, including regular tunings and maintenance for the pianos, and the same for the organ. A bit more maintenance than usual was required for the organ and the organ console, which is still experiencing issues. This wonderful instrument is starting to show its age as we approach the 50th anniversary of its installation in 1979. At the time it was the largest organ in Midland, and it would be a shame to see it continue into disrepair. I will be planning what maintenance is possible within our budget and working to understand how we can ensure the continued presence of this beautiful and historic instrument within our worship services.

Toward the end of the year, some occasional issues we had with some of our older wireless microphone systems became impossible to ignore. It was decided to replace four nearly 20-year old units with new

systems. We purchased and installed two in 2024 and are finishing up the project in early 2025. We also updated the very old and failing sound mixer in the Gathering Room with a new, inexpensive digital mixer.

To wrap up, 2024 was an exciting year for the worship and music ministries of the church and I am looking forward to more exciting opportunities in 2025. I am honored and privileged to service Trinity as your Director of Music Ministries. Thank you for welcoming me.

In Christ,

Jonathan Lonsway

January 13, 2026

Hello Trinity,

Thank you for hiring me as the Director of Children's Ministry! I have enjoyed getting to know many of you better and learning how my gifts best fit into our ministry together.

My first nine months were filled with costumes, bounce houses, lesson plans, music, crafts, organized chaos, and more! I hit the ground running this spring with planning Vacation Bible School. We had a total of 35 kids attend 4 nights of VBS with 40 volunteers.

The rest of the summer was filled with planning, recruiting volunteers, and a few events. Several families gathered at a splash pad for Popsicles in the Park in July; Joe and I teamed up for the Epic Water Gun Battle in August for all ages (most of the adults just watched, but it was a warm night to get wet and enjoy good food together); and Blessing of the Backpacks was the weekend before school started.

The fall brought weekly children's education programming on Wednesday nights for Ignite and Sunday morning Sunday School. We started in the beginning of the Old Testament with the Creation story and are now working our way through Moses and the Israelites. The same story is told for two weeks, and we explore God's word through science, crafts, games, and music. Wednesday nights we average eight kids, Sunday mornings average four kids, both ranging from 4 years old to 5th grade.

It has been exciting to see Ignite grow and be a solid staple on Wednesday nights. The kids are thrilled to be here, I love not having to cook on Wednesdays, and it is fun to watch the relationships grow. Thank you to all of the meal teams who make Wednesday dinner delicious and to everyone who donates desserts!

Kids Praise has continued at both Sunday morning services. We read a Bible story, do an activity to apply the lesson, and pray together. Kids Praise is a wonderful time for the younger kids to have space to do church on their level. I have fifteen volunteers who help with both services.

I have enjoyed helping Vicar Tim lead Preschool Chapel. The preschoolers love coming to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, and be in the chapel. We hosted a welcome lunch during the Preschool Open House and had great weather to play outside in a bounce house. Our church staff participated in Preschool Trick or Treating around the church for Halloween.

I am proud of the 18 kids who participated in our Christmas Pageant. We rehearsed for six weeks and shared "Uncertain Poor Shepherds" in all three church services on December 20 and 21. They all worked hard to learn their parts, and it was a privilege to lead them.

One of the challenges moving forward is having a core group of teachers to help grow Ignite and Sunday School. Our multi-age classes have helped strengthen relationships, with the older kids being role models for younger kids, while also leaving space for them to play. As we grow, it will be helpful to have the extra support to allow more opportunities for age-appropriate learning.

I am very grateful for everyone who has volunteered with the children's ministry this year – even if it is dropping off donations or helping in the kitchen, I appreciate you! An extra thank you to Mary Fullenwider for teaching Ignite, and to Arriana and Tanya Swantek for teaching Sunday School.

Thank you all for your prayers and support!

In Christ,

Melanie Lonsway

The Asset Management Committee oversees the maintenance and enhancement of Trinity's properties. In 2025, Lee Smith and Gary Warren co-chaired the committee, joined by Ted Brown Emily Lyons, Dan Pfreunder, Sid Allen, Randy McGuirk, Joe Sova and Kevin Blaser. The committee meets bi-monthly on odd-numbered months at 5:30pm on the Monday before the council meetings. All members are welcome to attend. Nick Stark and Lee Smith are our Facility Coordinators and Lee chairs the Asset Management Committee. Nick or Lee attends the Trinity Staff meetings.

Trinity Church (3701 Jefferson)

Drain tile will be maintained on an annual basis. The sanitary sewer pump was upgraded to a submersible grinder and the storm drainage pump also upgraded to submersible. Quarterly roof inspection/drain cleaning is ongoing. Phase 3 sanctuary slate roof is scheduled for this spring replacing slate tiles with standing seam metal. Veterans Alarm will be installing four (4) additional security cameras with upgraded receiver this spring. Veterans Alarm also installed a panic button system for additional security. This will be upgraded with additional sirens and repeaters for extended range. Excavated west side wall of the memorial garden to add moisture barrier and sealant to alleviate water damage to inside wall and carpet in the preschool lobby area. Water filtration system was installed in the preschool in compliance with the new "Filter First" law. New carpet was installed in the basement of the preschool lobby areas and stairway. Eight heavy duty basement support jacks were installed in strategic locations to alleviate future structural settling.

Legacy Center (2417 Abbott)

Storage shed will be emptied and repairs will be made this spring. Main conference room lighting was fully updated with flush LED fixtures.

Wixom Lake Camp (5213 Wixom Drive)

The camp was inspected and will receive kitchen, roofing, flooring, plumbing and out-building upgrades.

Old Church (3700 Jefferson)

Additional tree removal was done. Basement moisture control was maintained. Landscaping and minor tile work is on-going. A portion of the lot (approx. 3000 ft²) is rented long term in addition to seasonal LPGA usage.

Vacant Parsonage (3711 Jefferson)

Property has been emptied and prepared for winter shutdown. Plumbing upgrades have been done. HVAC replacement and exterior improvements planned for 2026.

Jonathan Lonsway's Parsonage (3701 Cambridge)

New humidifier was installed in spring of 2025. New kitchen wiring is planned.

Charlie Sly's Parsonage (3608 Jefferson)

Drain tiles were cleaned and roots removed in the sanitary system.

Joe Johnson's Parsonage (3706 Leonard Lane)

Front and rear entry doors were repaired. The mission team completed some remodeling per the move-in requests.

Vicar Tim's Parsonage (206 W. St. Andrews)

Complete A/C system was installed in summer 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Stark and Lee Smith

Youth Ministries Annual Report 2025

It has been technically nine months since you hired me into this position, and seven months since Molly, Marissa and I moved back to Midland. What a year! It has been a wonderful opportunity to come back, meet new (and old) friends, and find a home and family here in the church. We are blessed and overjoyed at the kindness that Trinity has shown us, and we are excited and hopeful for what is to come.

This year has been one of fresh starts, bumpy beginnings, and finding out what sticks. Melanie and I have been hard at work trying to rebuild the youth program, but it was never going to happen overnight. With so many different things competing for their time and attention, from school to sports, band, clubs, and having a social life, it isn't any wonder that our youth have little (or no) time for church. For the last several years the program has been nonexistent, and so other things have taken its place in the lives of our youth. In my opinion the way to correct this is not to try and compete with those other activities, but to show up and support our youth in their lives, care about what they care about, and be a consistent and positive presence for them. As we do this they will naturally begin to prioritize church and youth group again. To that end, we have had a blast this year finding ways to show up for our students, such as going to concerts, plays, and games. But we also have created opportunities for them to have fun, be supportive of each other, and deepen their faith in Christ. I am finding that when we showed up for them, they showed up for us.

We started the summer with taking the middle schoolers to confirmation camp, a week long summer camp crammed with learning, fun, and blessed A/C units in the pastor's cabins. Over the summer, we had several youth gatherings that helped me get to know everyone, from kayaking down the Tittabawassee river and playing put-put golf, to cooking smores over a fire we slowly began to lay the foundations for our group. Starting in September we began to meet every week with the High School Youth Group, and every few weeks with Middle School Youth Group (outside of confirmation). We built relationships with one another, shared meals, and began to be more active in the church. We ran fundraisers, like CROP Walk and the annual Christmas Greens fundraiser (which the youth personally delivered). In November we took eleven students to CHARGE, an event put on by Living Water Ministries in Traverse City at the Great Wolf Lodge. This was a transformative experience for many of our students, and they have told me they can't wait to go again.

Into the new year we will be looking for more ways to serve in our community, as well as in the church, to deepen our faith, and grow together.

Grace and peace to you,

Joe Johnson

Director of Youth Ministry

2025 Trinity Lutheran Trust Fund Annual Report

The purpose of the Trinity Lutheran Church Trust Fund is to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to support Christian outreach and community support beyond the scope of Trinity's annual unified budget. The Trust Fund is separate from the general operating funds of the church. Church members and community individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit grant-funding requests for Trinity or non-Trinity charitable organizations or projects. The grant funding application form is available on Trinity's website, in the office mailbox, and upon request at the church office.

Gifts to the Trust Fund are invested to produce income, which in turn is used to fund charitable grant requests consistent with the mission of the Trust. The original principal of any Trust Fund gift remains intact, and only investment income from the gift is used for grant requests. The current investment strategy employs a mutual fund portfolio designed to produce both growth and income.

The Trustees for 2025 are:

Helena Devore
Scot Putzig
Henry Otto
Tom Howe
Eric Stangland
Dave Romenesko

Henry Otto will be terming out of his Trustee position in 2026. We thank him for his time, service, and dedication to the Trust on behalf of the congregation.

The Trustees met four times in 2025 and approved charitable grant funding requests totaling \$101,267.00 for the following organizations:

1. Trinity Lutheran Preschool - Scholarship Support (January)	\$1,500.00
2. Trinity Lutheran Adult Mission Team – Chair Lift Purchase	\$2,000.00
3. The Legacy Center for Community Success – Program Support	\$7,500.00
4. Toni & Trish House – Construction of Addition	\$25,000.00
5. The Arc of Midland – 2025 Bike Camp Program Support	\$2,500.00
6. Samaritas – Special Fund for Program Support	\$767.00
7. Trinity Lutheran Church – Special Fund for Office Equipment	\$500.00
8. Hope for the Forgotten - Program Support	\$10,000.00
9. Trinity Lutheran Preschool - Scholarship Support (August)	\$1,500.00
10. Bridge Food Center – Generator Purchase/Program Support	\$15,000.00
11. Grace Adventure Ministries – Trailer Purchase/Program Support	\$7,500.00
12. Children's Grief Center – Program Support	\$7,500.00
13. Gateway Health Care – Equipment Purchase/Program Support	\$20,000.00

The Trust Fund balance at the beginning of 2025 was \$2,115,743. The Trust Fund balance at the end of 2025 was \$2,278,936.76. The Trust Fund's potential projected estimated gifting capacity for the upcoming 2026 calendar year is approximately \$115,000.00. Trust Fund quarterly financial reports and meeting minutes are provided to Council and are available to any Trinity member for review. I am also available for any questions at sputzig@shinnerscook.com.

All the best,

Scot C. Putzig, Trust Board Chair

All - Saints Memorial Garden



Annual Report 2025

The cremains of additional people were interred in the Garden during 2025 with others prepaying for interment. For all people interred, an engraved brick is placed in the walkway, and an engraved leaf is placed on the “Tree of Life”, and their name is inscribed on the registry book.

The committee has continued the seasonal decoration of the Garden and decorating a Memorial Christmas Tree in the Coffee Café. A landscaping project to add steppingstones and new mulch occurred Summer 2025. Perennials and new pots have been added. The Trustees met twice this year and discussed purchasing another Memorial Tree in 2026.

The All-Saints Memorial Garden is open to Trinity members and the public. The garden can be viewed from the Sanctuary during inclement weather. This is for safety reasons.

Trustees for the All-Saints Memorial Garden for 2025/2026 are Krista Blaser, Lee Smith, Mary Fuentes, Nick Messing, Donna Frawley, Dick Peterson and Lorie Mault. Dick Peterson continues to serve as the sexton responsible for interring the cremains. He has performed this service since the inception of the Garden in 2009. Lee Smith is in training to help with this role.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Annual Report 2025

One out of every 11 people ---as many as 720 million--- in our world are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

We rolled up our sleeves this year reaching out to those around the world who struggle to provide for their families. World Hunger offerings collected at Trinity were \$11,164.70, compared to \$8,172.82 in 2024.

Your generosity extended to participating in Good Gifts. Your donations totaled \$32,000, compared to \$32,490 in 2024.

These totals do not include donations sent by individuals directly to ELCA World Hunger.

Thank you for your generous contributions. You have touched countless people around the world who have difficulty providing for their families.

Judy Enger, Hunger Contact

ELCA World Hunger

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 True Spirit Singers

We welcome new members who love to sing in a relaxed atmosphere of gospel music. Our anthems are always in English, not very difficult, and with piano accompaniment with the help of Charly at the piano. We usually sing at a worship service once a month, mostly at 5:00 on Saturday. Also, during Advent, Christmas and Holy Week we are likely to add special music. We have also sung at a senior living home.

Come join us on the second and forth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 in the music room. There is always room for more singers. We will always welcome you.

Marijean Fitzgerald, Director

XYZ 50+

Annual Report 2025

The eXtra Years of Zest (XYZ) 50+ group was active during 2025. We started the year with a program on Avoiding Financial Scams and then heard about What is Happening in the City of Midland. We took a tour of the Active Seniors area at the Midland Community Center and learned about available programs. After that we had lunch at A Taste of Midland.

June found us having lunch at The Midland Brewing Company. In July we attended a Loons Baseball game. In September we had a great time at Zehnder's eating a chicken dinner and listening to a Beach Boys tribute band.

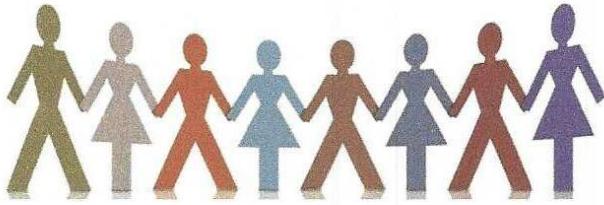
Our last program for the year was on Maintaining Balance and Preventing Falls. This was a great learning experience in how our brain works with our muscles and we practiced some exercises to help prevent falls.

A number of exciting programs are in the planning stage for 2026.

We would like to add some persons to our planning committee. We had three planning meetings in 2025, so it is not a large time commitment. If you are interested or have questions, contact any of the current members.

Planning Committee Members: Dick Lebsack, Sue Montesi, Lorna Strautman, Nancy Perry

Submitted by Nancy Perry



Senior CONNECTIONS...

This past October we marked a milestone for our “Senior CONNECTIONS” program as it was our 5th Anniversary of providing a packet of articles, puzzles or suggested activities that focused on different topics every month. Over the past five years 127 seniors 60+ in age have been participants in this program and 56 church members have been volunteers connecting to seniors via phone. As of January 1, 2026 we have 53 seniors and 19 fantastic volunteers that are active participants with the seniors in this program. Five of our participating seniors died in 2025, plus 12 discontinued participating in the program due to moving out of the area, leaving Trinity Lutheran Church or various declining health or personal reasons.

This monthly program was developed as a means of Trinity Lutheran Church staying connected with our socially isolated, lonely or physically challenged seniors 60+ in age. The percentages of seniors 60+ in age in the U.S. and Midland County populations as well as in our Trinity Lutheran Church congregation have all increased over the past two decades. This population shift and the COVID-19 pandemic were both catalysts for initiating this program.

Basic goals of this program are to:

- Strengthen the bonds and communications with our Trinity Lutheran Church senior 60+ members
- Encourage spirituality, faith, and our relationship with God for both participants and volunteers
- Reduce senior participant feelings of social isolation and/or loneliness by providing fellowship via regular phone conversations with the program volunteers
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of faith based, health oriented, and/or life experience topics to enrich the lives of our senior participants
- Promote the cognitive/mental and physical well-being of our senior church population

Every month a printed packet of 18-20 pages (plus the quarterly *Christ in Our Home* publication was included in January, April, July, and October) was mailed to each senior participant that focused on monthly topics and themes primarily relating to Christianity, our faith, aging physical and emotional health and wellness, events and topics of the seasons, and miscellaneous topics of interest. In 2025 every other month we also included a special article explaining special words in the Bible or about our faith. A few of the topics included in 2025 were: hope, the last 7 words of Christ on the Cross, the Ascension of Jesus, Pentecost & the Holy Spirit, wine and trees in the Bible, sheep and our Shepherd Jesus, Transfiguration, prayers and creeds, our eyes, aging, fireworks, avoiding scams, and Veteran’ Day. Additionally, every packet included a variety of puzzles, quizzes, or other activities to stimulate mental functioning. Posted monthly on the Trinity lobby bulletin board are copies of several of the pages of each month’s packet and extra packets are in a wire basket near the bulletin board for anyone to take. An email is sent every month to the volunteers who initiate phone conversations with our senior participants suggesting some questions related to the topics in the monthly packet, etc.

It has been a labor of love and our honor to provide the leadership for this program which we hope has encouraged spirituality, faith, and knowledge as well as enhanced for our senior participants their connection with God and Trinity Lutheran Church. Leadership for this program is provided by Sue Montesi who authors the monthly packet materials, and Betty Wallwey who coordinates senior participants and program volunteers who are providing monthly personal connections via phone conversations with our seniors.

Trinity Lutheran Quilters Annual Report

Trinity Quilters, a group of 12-16 women, continue to faithfully meet Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 to tie, assemble, sew, sort, cut, and iron fabric, but most of all to share in fellowship with one another.

For 2025 we have completed 165 quilts and 72 lap quilts. We boxed and shipped 84 quilts to LWR. We donated 5 quilts to the Toni and Trish House and 15 quilts to Midland Community Offenders. Eight were donated to various local needs. The Orphan Grain Train received 31 quilts and 35 lap quilts. We donated 12 quilts, 4 lap quilts, and 6 children quilts to The Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Bay City.

We donated 274 bed pads to Samaritas. Many thanks to Nancy Proskow who has donated her time to make the bed pads and to Charlotte Roth for delivering them to the Samaritas home.

We continually get fabric donations. We are thankful for the gifts. We can only use cotton or cotton blends. It is helpful if the pieces are $\frac{1}{4}$ yard or more. We also take sheets that are clean and not stained and are queen or king size. We are fortunate to get donated hospital blankets from a commercial laundry in Saginaw. These are used for quilt fillers. They give us about 20 bags so about 100 at a time (one truck load).

We have been blessed with the donation of over \$12,000 worth of fabric from Material Mart fabric store. It will be put to good use to make quilt tops and especially quilt backs.

We are so blessed.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Chaussee, Sheryl Daniels, and Charlotte Roth

OPEN DOOR 2025

Once again, as in prior years, it has been a joy to be able to serve those in need in our community through the ministry of the Open Door Soup Kitchen. We serve on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and have a crew of about 4 to 6 people each time that work from 9:30am-2:00pm. Our main responsibilities are to: prepare the noon meal, pack and prepare sack lunches, prep for the next day anything that is needed and serve the lunch.

Trinity received positive feedback from Open Door during 2025 for our prayers, generosity and faithful support. We contributed to the tangible difference made for the homeless and hungry who walk through their doors each day.

All are welcome to join us. No real skills are needed, plus it is a great time of fellowship among the workers. And we are always blessed over the summer months to have some of our youth also join us along with our faithful seasoned workers. If you would like to help, you can sign up at church on the sign up board next to the Nursery area or call the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Smith at (989) 415-5020.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Smith

Trinity Lutheran Preschool

December 2025

We are honored, but also humbled to share with you that we are celebrating our **60th Anniversary**. Since our doors opened in the early days of 1965, we have offered high quality early education opportunities for ages 2-5 year olds within the Midland community and surrounding areas. Looking back throughout the years, it's amazing to see the changes in early childhood education and how it has gained not only in popularity, but necessity. Families rely on our program to not only introduce the building blocks of learning, but also the necessity of humility, kindness, empathy, and grace. We teach the golden rule, "Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you", reminding children to show respect, gratitude, and love to their peers in everyday life. By teaching our youth to listen and accept others, it builds the foundation which allows them to be great in the hearts of others.

As we reflect on the past 60 years, our program remains rock solid. We practice core objectives every day, offering high quality experiences with caring adults in a fun and safe environment. We believe children should explore new concepts and learn from these new experiences, while developing a love for learning and achieving their goals. Without the support of a devoted staff and the support of our community, this would not be possible. Trinity Lutheran Preschool continues to uphold its legacy as being one of the most reputable and honorable preschools in the Midland Community. We are considered the cornerstone of early childhood education for those we serve. Our history does not only lie on the shoulders of those who currently open our door each day, but those who came before us with the vision and desire to see the program succeed. Years of hard work, effort, and dedication created this program into what it is today. We are the caretakers of the vision created so long ago.

Sixty years has allowed us to interact and serve thousands of families. We have faced many, many obstacles throughout the years - but just as many victories. We have faced a worldwide pandemic, massive flooding, sickness, poverty, and death. But in retrospect, we have also celebrated births, adoptions, marriages, graduations, and baptisms. We have supported families who are uncertain with everyday obstacles and offered guidance in everyday life. These encounters are part of what we experience each day - the good and the bad. We celebrate together in the everyday achievements we experience in our classroom and with our families. And we continue to celebrate this as the children become adults, bringing 2nd generations to our program seeking the same foundation they were taught - Humility. Kindness. Empathy. Grace.

A lot has happened in 60 years. The staff within the preschool consists of team members, Andrea Berchert (23yrs), Terri Sauve (30yrs), Michelle Youngstrom (16yrs), Cindy Cummings (5yrs), and Debora Zigoris (5yrs). We believe each day we open our door; we make a positive impact on humanity. We have made great strides for the future of this outreach program, which reflects our commitment to the families in Midland and the surrounding communities. We do something good each day for those we serve and without the dedicated preschool staff and congregation, none of this would be possible.

Thank you, and cheers to another 60 years.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SPECIAL NEEDS (BENEVOLENCE) SUPPORT – 2025

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

James 1:17

Kathy Allen and Pam Fagan serve as volunteer co-leads for Trinity Lutheran's Community Benevolence Support program. Referrals for support come from local agencies, Midland's Health & Human Services organizations, our Pastors, congregational members and/or via direct requests for support from individuals and families. Each request is carefully reviewed and verified based on documented procedures consistent with those used by other support organizations across our community. In 2025, over 300 referrals or requests for support from Trinity were received with 256 individuals or families for items such as rent, energy, and/or utility bills, food and other household supplies, transportation (gas), etc.

2025 Support and Donations Provided for Local Community Special Needs	Support Provided
Direct Support Provided to Local Individuals & Families	\$33,300
Affordable Housing Alliance Donation	\$750
Midland Community Former Offenders Advocacy and Rehabilitation (McFOAR) Donation	\$800
Midland Home to Stay Donation	\$1,000
Midland County Food Assistance Network Donation	\$1,000
Toni & Trish House Donation	\$500
Support for a Van for a Local Family in Need	\$15,000
“Project Connect” Personal Care Kits	\$300
Turkeys & Pies for Thanksgiving Baskets	\$9,300
Foster Families Christmas Donation (VIS Midland County DHHS)	\$500
Direct Support for Christmas Families	\$4,600
Total Support Provided for Local Community Special Needs in 2025	\$67,050

Additional community support activities in 2025 include:

- Trinity hosts monthly Community Assistance meetings that include representatives from 80 different agencies and churches in the Midland area. Discussions include an overview of community trends and needs, available resources and “best practices” in addressing requests for support.
- In September Trinity sponsored and hosted “Project Connect” which is focused on helping individuals who are or at risk of being homeless. In addition to hosting the event and the aligned Mobile Food Pantry, Trinity assembled personal care kits that were given out at this event.
- In September we coordinated support with a local auto dealership to enable a local family to obtain a handicap-enabled van for transportation of their 15-year-old son who is wheelchair-bound due to spinal cancer.

- In November we gathered donations for turkeys and pies for annual Thanksgiving baskets distributed to Midland families. This year we partnered with LaLonde's to donate 300 turkeys – a new record!
- In December we provided Christmas gifts for 21 families in our community.

In summary, TRINITY IS A **VERY GENEROUS CONGREGATION!** Our collective donations each year to our dedicated Special Needs fund for community support provide the ability to help local individuals and families in need throughout the year. We should be proud of our work together to help the less fortunate in our community – well done!

After many years of not having a Women's Ministry at Trinity, 2025 was the year we successfully launched it again! We began our ministry in September with a Mixer on "How to make an appetizing Chacuterie Board" led by Brooke of Eastman Party Store. We had approximately 55 women attend....it was standing room only! Each participant received a beautiful board to take home as a momento with a cross on it. A true success and so many women thanked us for the fellowship they had missed for so many years.

Our next event was a Women's Retreat in October at Courtyard Marriot in Bay City. We had almost 30 women participate. Our speaker was Jeanne Grevlos, who had an amazing talk on wrestling with God, praying with colors and the power of our attitude and mental health with a story about "The Bent over Woman" in the Bible. This day and a half included fellowship, shared meals, a goody bag for each participant and new found friendships! Once again a success.

In December we had an Ornament Exchange with over 50 women. The Women's Ministry team provided assorted soups, chacuterie board, breads and cookies. Laughter echoed through out the Gathering Room and again fellowship and Faith were discussed.

Our final activity was the Festival of Tables with 30 plus participants. A delicious lunch, beautifully decorated tables to kick off the Holidays and conversation and fellowship were present.

We are planning two more activities for the early part of 2026. It has been a very successful and joyful ministry. Our board is composed of Jen Mishic, Amy Danielsen, Tara Crower, Rayana Larson, Liz Gramstra and Jessica Miller.

Fellowship Committee Annual Report

The Fellowship Committee exists to ensure food and beverage services are provided for church events such as meals for worship, funerals, banquets, receptions, and special events. We ensure our kitchen provides safe and healthy food for everyone including those who have dietary restrictions. Those working in the kitchen are held to the rules and regulations of *ServSafe* protocol to ensure food safety. There are several subcommittees under our auspices:

- Ignite Fellowship
- Funeral Fellowship
- Worship Fellowship (Advent and Lenten meals)
- Special Event Fellowship (Installations, Jazz & Jambalaya, Easter Breakfast)
- Reception Fellowship (Meet and Greet for new staff, Farewell to staff leaving)
- Youth Fellowship (Confirmation and High School Senior Reception)

We have had a very successful year of fellowship for our church family! All our events are received with great enthusiasm from our Trinity family, and we are grateful for that support! Our numbers range from 50 participants (small receptions) to 350+ (Easter Breakfast).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Maynard and Judy Chaussee for their leadership in making funeral luncheons delicious and meaningful. Thank you to Holly Hellebuyck and Ellen Myers for leading us through well organized Advent and Lenten meals. We also appreciate the countless volunteers who donate their time and food, office staff who help with publicity for our events, and all of you who join your church family around a table!

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Danielsen and Jen Mishic, Co-Chairs of Fellowship Committee

STEPHEN MINISTRY REPORT 2025

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

Stephen Ministers are members of Trinity who receive 50+ hours of training to provide high quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to members of Trinity experiencing challenges in life including grief, loneliness, illness, hospitalization, job loss, divorce, or many other life challenges. They listen, care, encourage and provide spiritual and emotional support.

There are currently 21 trained and active Stephen Ministers within our congregation with six (including 2 added in 2025) who have received additional training to serve as Stephen Leaders. Since 1982 Trinity has trained well over 120 Stephen Ministers!

In addition to facilitating new or on-going one-to-one caring relationships, Trinity's Stephen Ministry program included the following activities in 2025:

- Supported completion of training for two new Stephen Ministry Leaders and on-going continuing education for support for Trinity's team of Stephen Ministers.
- Provided 19 sets of grief support books (a set of 4) to those in our congregation who have recently experienced the death of a loved one.
- Provided leadership and prayerful support within the special Advent healing service.
- Team members were available for prayer, care, and comfort in the Hearth Room to those needing this extra support after the services each Saturday and Sunday.
- Provided a financial grant in support of a new Stephen Ministry within a Saginaw congregation.
- Provided support to the Toni & Trish House in Auburn, MI.
- Provide financial assistance to a family in need at Christmas.

The Stephen Ministry team meets on the third Tuesday of each month for continuing education and review of assignments. All care receivers are anonymous participants, so great care is taken by the Stephen Ministry team to make sure privacy is maintained.

In 2026, plans included expanding our commitment to healing services, providing training for additional Stephen Ministers as needed and continuing our mission to listen with compassion and pray for those needing support.

Trinity's Stephen Ministry Leadership Team:

Kathy Allen	Kathy Skogan
John Burk	Heather Wolters
Rayana Larson	

Report of activities of the Mission Team for 2025

The team participated in the Rock the Block program sponsored by Midland County Habitat.

This year the location was Coleman during 15 and 16 July. Team members replaced a deck, which involved removing old deck boards, cutting and installing new deck boards, and replacing damaged railing. A handrail was also installed on the front porch and steps, which involved digging holes to install posts and attaching the railing to the posts.

Seven team members participated over two days. Approximately 90 hours of labor were provided.

The team repaired a water damaged floor in the home of a Trinity member.

The water damage was caused by a leaking pipe under the mobile home.

A plumber was hired to repair the leaking water pipe.

The water damaged floor was removed in a small room and part of the hallway.

Some of the water damaged floor joists were repaired.

A new subfloor was installed.

A team member assisted the homeowner with the selection of new flooring material.

The new flooring was purchased and installed by Lowes.

Four Team members participated and donated approximately 48 hours of labor.

The cost of materials and hired labor was \$1,290.76, which was charged to the Adult Disaster Team designated fund.

Repairs to Jefferson Avenue parsonage.

A team member provided minor repairs to drywall in two rooms.

A broken sink in an upstairs bathroom was removed. A new sink was purchased and installed.

The wood sills on about 20 windows showed fading and wear. All wood sills were refinished.

Total time donated for all activities was about 20 hours.

Consultation with a Trinity member about improving access to home.

A trinity member asked for assistance building a ramp to allow easy access to the home. It was determined that a ramp was not practical in the space provided. The best solution was a lift that could be installed in the garage. A lift was located and purchased.

Ultimately, the lift was not needed.

So, Trinity owns a lift that can be used for future situations where a lift is needed.

Compiled by Eldon Enger 15 Dec 2025

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Total Membership January 1, 2025	1167	1017
Accessions during 2025	4	17
Youth Confirmed		6
Losses during 2025		
By Death		17
By Transfer		8
Inactive and Statistical Adjustment +		
Total Membership January 1, 2026	1171	1015

Total number of weekend worship services conducted – 154
 (includes Saturday, Sunday, Easter, and Christmas)

Average attendance per week – 424
 (2024-575)

Total number of special services conducted – 15

(Includes Ash Wednesday, evening Lent, midday Lent, Living Last Supper, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Men's Retreat, Women's Retreat, Thanksgiving eve service, Advent, and New Year's Eve)

Number of households – 621
 (2024-660)

Number of marriages performed - 3
 (2024-1)

Number of funerals – 20
 (17 member and 3 non-member)
 (2024-25)
 (18 member and 7 non-member)

Number of baptisms – 4
 (4 children and 0 adult)
 (2024-13)
 (12 children and 1 adult)

Dear Trinity Family,

It has been an honor to serve as Church Council President this past year. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our staff and members in advancing Christ's mission through active engagement in our community. Under Pastor Jeff's leadership, we have continued to grow and thrive. His commitment to fostering meaningful relationships—both within Trinity and throughout Midland—is evident every day and has strengthened our role as a vital presence in the community.

One of the most exciting developments continues to be the success of our IGNITE Wednesday programming, which has become a wonderful way for us to reconnect. The weekly meal at 5:15 p.m., followed by education hour, offers new opportunities for fellowship and learning. This ministry brings renewed energy to Trinity and is open to everyone—members, visitors, and people of all ages. Please join us and invite friends and family! A heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers who make IGNITE possible.

We also continue revitalizing our Children's and Youth ministries. This important work takes time and commitment, but Melaney and Joe have already made a remarkable impact. Their enthusiasm shines through in events like the Christmas Pageant and the growing number of youth activities throughout the year. I am confident these ministries will continue to flourish in 2026.

As Vicar Tim's internship nears its conclusion, let us appreciate his remaining months with us. We are grateful for his contributions and hopeful to welcome a new intern or clergy member to support Pastor Jeff in the future.

Thanks to your generosity, Trinity remains in a strong financial position. While giving was slightly below expectations and expenses a bit higher, strong investment performance has resulted in a notable Unified Fund surplus. Your continued support sustains our mission.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to our amazing staff: Lee Smith (volunteer), Gary Warren, Stacy Thurston, Cathy Bloomfield, Jeri Lynne Koenig, Marijean Fitzgerald, Charlie Sly, Jonathan Lonsway, Nick Stark, Arthur Stark, Mya Quinones, Jamison Evans, Anthony Slayton, Sandy Schlesinger (volunteer), Katie Putzig, Melanie Lonsway, Joe Johnson, Vicar Tim, and Pastor Jeffery Gramza.

Looking ahead to 2026, our priorities include:

- Continue developing Children's, Youth and Young Adult ministries, and building upon IGNITE.
- Upgrades to Wixom Camp and finishing the third and final phase of the sanctuary roof replacement.
- Supporting the ongoing work and eventual recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Finding a new intern or additional clergy to support the church as Tim's internship concludes.

These initiatives represent just a portion of what's ahead. Much happens behind the scenes thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers who make Trinity special. Thank you to everyone who shares their time, talents, and resources.

Blessings,

Michael Rogers
Trinity Council President

PS – For those who may not know me well, you can usually find me at the early service, towards the back left of the sanctuary, with my wife (Linden) and our three kids (Auden 5, Kieran 2.5, and Mina 2.5)