






Strengthening charitable causes to change the world through generosity

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Trinity Congregational Input Report

Compiled Analyses of Six Key Questions

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Question 1: Why do you attend worship?

1. Major Themes

- A. Spiritual Encounter: Connection with God through Word, Sacrament, prayer.
- B. Worship Experience: Sermons, music (choir/organ/contemporary), liturgy, weekly rhythms.
- C. Community: Fellowship, seeing friends, belonging.
- D. Renewal & Guidance: Being grounded for the week; encouragement for daily life.

2. Categories with Illustrative Quotes

- Worship & Word — “The sermons and music feed my soul.”
- Sacrament & Liturgy — “Weekly communion anchors me.”
- Community — “I come to be with my church family.”
- Renewal — “Worship resets my heart for the week ahead.”

3. Summary

Attendance is driven by spiritual nourishment in Word and Sacrament, enlivened by music and preaching, and reinforced by relationships that make worship a weekly anchor.

Question 2: What keeps you at Trinity?

1. Major Themes

- A. Relationships & Belonging: Long-term friendships; intergenerational ties.
- B. Worship & Pastors: Consistent preaching, meaningful music, welcoming leadership.
- C. Lutheran/ELCA Identity: Alignment with theology and practice; grace-centered welcome.
- D. Stability & Tradition: Familiar liturgy; continuity over years.

2. Categories with Illustrative Quotes

- Community & Home — “These people are my family.”
- Pastors & Music — “Preaching and choir keep me rooted.”
- ELCA Alignment — “Grace-forward theology resonates.”

3. Summary

Members stay because Trinity feels like home: relationships, strong worship life, pastoral care, and ELCA identity provide durable attachment.

Question 3: Why are you a member?

1. Major Themes

- A. Community/Family & Belonging; generational ties.
- B. Lifelong Lutheran Identity & ELCA alignment.
- C. Pastors, Preaching, Worship & Music.
- D. Mission/Outreach & Inclusivity (grace emphasis).
- E. Spiritual Growth & Fulfillment.
- F. Challenges/Reservations (tension around social issues).

2. Categories with Illustrative Quotes

- 1) Community & Belonging — “This is my family... you don’t leave family.”
- 2) Lifelong Lutheran — “I’ve been Lutheran all my life.”
- 3) Worship & Pastors — “The sermons speak to me. The music, the people.”
- 4) Mission & ELCA — “Diversity, equity and inclusion must be front and center.”
- 5) Spiritual Growth — “It fills my spirit and helps me follow Jesus.”
- 6) Reservations — “Where the church goes next year will decide if we remain.”

3. Summary

Membership is anchored in relationships, Lutheran/ELCA identity, worship and preaching, and a grace-forward mission; a minority voice raises concerns about cultural issues.

Question 4: Hopes and dreams for Trinity 10+ years from now

1. Major Themes

- A. Growth & Vitality (youth, young families, multiple pastors).
- B. Youth/Next Generations (mission trips, camps, pipelines for leadership).
- C. Faithfulness & Worship (Scripture-rooted vs. cultural drift).
- D. Inclusivity & Diversity (including LGBTQIA+).
- E. Community Outreach (visible impact, hub for service).
- F. Facilities & Programs (Wixom Lake, preschool/daycare, family life center).
- G. Unity & Transparency.

2. Categories with Illustrative Quotes

- Growth — “So many folks we need extra services and 2–3 pastors.”
- Youth — “Youth programs once again full of children of all ages.”
- Faithfulness — “Unwavering in teaching the Bible.”
- Inclusivity — “Increase LGBTQIA+ community and young families.”
- Outreach — “Hands and feet of Christ in action.”
- Facilities — “Finish the camp; family life center.”
- Culture — “We need a unified vision and less division.”

3. Summary

The 10+ year horizon centers on growth with youth vitality, clear theology, inclusive welcome, visible community service, refreshed facilities, and a unifying culture.

Question 5: What would you like to see Trinity doing in the next 3–5 years?

1. Major Themes

- A. Youth & Young Families (rebuild programs, mission trips, engaging events).
- B. Pastoral Leadership (associate pastor; balanced workloads; interns).
- C. Spiritual Formation (Bible-in-a-Year, Ignite, small groups).
- D. Outreach (poverty, elderly, disabled; public presence).
- E. Inclusivity (LGBTQ+, immigrants, all ages).
- F. Facilities (AC in sanctuary, organize spaces, camp revitalization).
- G. Culture/Organization (broader involvement, transparency, hospitality).
- H. Worship/Music (energize contemporary alongside traditional).

2. Categories with Illustrative Quotes

- Youth & Families — “More youth involvement with everything.”
- Staffing — “Hire an associate pastor; visit shut-ins more.”
- Formation — “More Bible study groups across interests.”
- Outreach — “Expand what we can do in outer towns.”
- Facilities — “Plan and refurbish Trinity Camp; install A/C.”
- Culture — “Same few do everything—broaden involvement.”

3. Summary

Over the next 3–5 years, members prioritize youth, staffing, formation, outreach, facilities upgrades, and a warmer, better-organized culture.

Question 6: If Trinity had unlimited time and resources, what ministry opportunities should we consider?

1. Major Themes

- A. Facilities & Infrastructure (gym/activity center, sanctuary renewal, senior housing, expanded preschool, camp).
- B. Youth & Families (daycare, afterschool, tutoring, transport, mission trips).
- C. Social Impact (housing, homelessness, food, health ministries, disaster relief).
- D. Seniors (assisted living, elder care, visitation).
- E. Inclusivity & Diversity (Reconciling in Christ, immigrants, LGBTQIA+).
- F. Staffing & Leadership (2–3 pastors, formation staff, social media).
- G. Worship & Engagement (music/drama, concerts, community events).

2. Categories with Illustrative Quotes

- Facilities — “Build a gymnasium/auditorium; full upgrade of camp.”
- Youth — “Cutting-edge youth programming; 5-day daycare.”
- Housing — “Partner with Habitat; tiny homes; transitional housing.”
- Seniors — “Assisted living tied to Trinity.”
- Inclusion — “Become a Reconciling Congregation.”
- Staffing — “Add pastors; expand formation staff.”

3. Summary

With unlimited resources, members picture Trinity as a Christ-centered hub for youth, housing, health, seniors, and community arts—supported by expanded staff and facilities.