

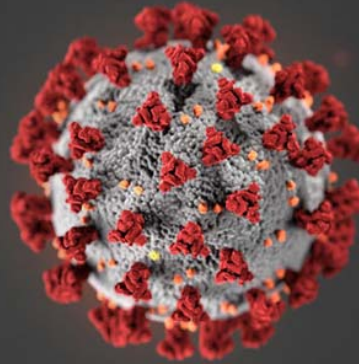


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1400 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI | www.trinityA2.org

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Welcome to Worship
on this Christmas Eve



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2020 ANNUAL REPORT



President's Report

Does anyone remember the time that was: when life was routine and normal, church on Sunday, meetings with other people, going out to eat, getting a haircut? Seems so long ago.

At this time a year ago we were doing all those things, then our collective lives were ripped apart by a plague that threw everything we knew out the window. For a time everything seemed hopeless. Then, emboldened by the power of the Almighty, the people of Trinity fought back.

Staff and volunteers learned quickly how to prepare meaningful online worship and social activities with the results being embraced by our community. In the process we found a new meaningful way to reach out and spread the word beyond the walls of our building, a way that hopefully will continue after the crisis passes.

Bonds between Lutheran parishes in our little part of the world have been strengthened by a communal effort to keep the word before the people.

At the beginning of the pandemic, a financial crisis was envisioned for Trinity. But,

here again, we stepped forward and through the incredible generosity of our members and the diligent pursuit of available grants by dedicated volunteers, Trinity was able to keep all staff on full payroll for the entire year of 2020 and we will finish the year with a budget surplus.

The staff of our TLC Adventure Preschool, one of the anchors of our community ministry, while unable to salvage the spring school session, worked diligently over the summer along with other volunteers to develop and implement a plan that allowed the preschool to safely open in the fall to a full capacity of eager young children.

Work in other outreach ministries has continued thanks to the persistence of dedicated volunteers. While the way the work is done has changed, the fact that we have been able to continue our outreach at a high level is remarkable.

Pastor Sara, with our deep gratitude and blessing, felt the divine need to utilize her talents to inspire a new group of believers at a different congregation and ended her relationship with Trinity at the end of 2020.

Trinity is blessed to have Sarah Altenburg as part of our staff employed on a part time basis

Our purpose is to serve God by loving the world as God loves us.

as our music minister. With the knowledge of her background and master's degree in youth and family ministry, and the sudden void in our ministry structure, Council offered and Sarah accepted the additional duties as Minister of Youth & Family at Trinity and has become a full time member of the staff.

Way back at the end of 2019, the Dig Down group finished their analysis of Trinity's current operations and presented their report of suggestions of how we should be structured to successfully equip and move the ministry forward in the future. Council received this report at the February retreat and began to unpack and understand the analysis presented. The lockdown has thrown up some roadblocks, but Council has continued to work through them and is now in the process of formulating new structures for governance and administration that should be a catalyst to enable the church to provide a suc-

cessful, meaningful ministry long into the future.

There are many people who have given countless hours in the battle to maintain Trinity's presence and relevance during this dark time and you are owed much more than a THANK YOU but rest assured that each and every one is uplifted and appreciated.

We are not anywhere close to ending this unparalleled time in our history but it does appear that there is hope and a light at the end of the dark tunnel. We will return and return stronger and more dedicated in our service to the works of the Lord. Until that day comes we need to be strong.

Peace!

Bob King

President, Trinity Lutheran Church Council

Pastor's Report

This is the pastor's report I never could have imagined writing. 2020 started out like any other ordinary year at Trinity. Then, in the week of March 9, everything changed. News of the spreading Coronavirus led us to cancel our noontime midweek worship and meal attended mostly by seniors. On Thursday of that same week, Bishop Don Kreiss of the Southeast Michigan Synod urged congregations not to meet in person. Due to the technological skills of Pastor Sara and Sarah Altenburg, our first Sunday morning worship video was created and shared for March 15. What we thought and hoped would be a matter of weeks, has stretched to the present causing all to work hard in discovering new ways to be church and further the work of Christ in a time of quarantine.

Prior to March, Zoom was something I thought cars did. Right away we learned it was the preferred meeting platform for churches. We purchased a license and immediately Church Council, Church in Society, Finance and Stewardship Committees were meeting and taking steps to keep the Church and Preschool solvent, active and safe.

Staff began working from home. Midweek, as well as Sunday services went online. From the beginning, we worked to include as many people as possible in creating the videos so that worshippers could see and hear one another and have the sense that we are still a congregation, worshipping together, albeit remotely. We chose to worship via video instead of over Zoom, because video provided superior musical

sound quality and allowed a more intimate feeling for worship than streaming from a nearly empty sanctuary.

Through a variety of means we reached out to one another - asking if people were okay or needed any assistance. We set up a Covid relief fund to assist the economically vulnerable in our wider community. As always, the Trinity community was exceedingly generous providing thousands of dollars to be directed to local agencies supplying food, housing and emergency aid.

The shut down sparked by COVID-19 caused clergy to reach out to one another and Bishop Kreiss to launch weekly Zoom meetings with rostered leaders in our Synod. Those meetings now occur every other week, supplying resource information and support as we navigate our ways to ministry for which we were never trained.

With the death of George Floyd, your pastors and a number of Trinity members marched (always wearing masks) and collaborated with Washtenaw Conference ELCA pastors to lead "Dialogues on Race," a six-week series over Zoom that engaged more than 70 people. There we learned about and discussed the roots of racism in our country and avenues to address racial oppression and white supremacy.

When the Detroit Lutheran churches, whose members are predominantly of African descent, asked congregations in the Synod to refrain from worshipping in our buildings until it was safe for them to do so, Trinity's Council chose

to comply. Our worship remained 'online' as we found ways to connect over Zoom through weekly Coffee Half Hours, Senior Connection, Family Game Nights, Bible Studies, two Pastored Bible Studies (one on the book of Esther and one on the Sermon on the Mount), two Congregational Meetings, a Trinity Talent Show, a Cozy Christmas Chat event, and many small group meetings.

Baptismal and marriage preparation moved to Zoom. Four infants were baptized in the presence of small family gatherings and the events were streamed so that members could join via Zoom. Pastors officiated at two weddings - one outdoors and one in the worship space before a small family gathering.

Preschool staff worked tirelessly, supplying homemade educational videos for the conclusion of what would have been the Spring semester. Then over the summer they met to plan and prepare to meet state guidelines to safely reopen in the fall. All this happened while they were still in the process of being relicensed after the construction of the firewalls between upper and lower levels at church. The Council supported the Preschool, at first financially, so staff could continue to be paid, and then with the decision to reserve the use of the lower level of our building exclusively to Preschool use. (The later was necessary in order to obtain licensing to operate through the pandemic.)

Tremendous thanks is due to Valerie Brader who navigated both congregation and preschool through the governmental requirements and safety protocols. She wrote policies and protocols for building entrance and guided us through the application processes for grants for the Preschool and the Payroll Protection Plan erasing what would have been significant deficit spending and reduction of church reserves.

In Spring and early Summer, three members of our community died. Families postponed services until we will be able to meet again in person. We hold in prayer the families of Ruth Pfeil, Isabel Willekee and Tim Heller.

In the Fall we held several outdoor events: God's Work our Hands Sunday on September 13, All Saints Luminary Walk on November 8,

Chats Under the Canopy and monthly Communion Distribution under the Canopy.

In November, we were saddened to say goodbye to Pastor Sara who accepted a call to serve as pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia. It was difficult to say goodbye without gathering in usual ways. But the touching worship video on November 29, which included more than 40 people who contributed to worship that week—many of them expressing personal thanks for her ministry—meant a great deal to her. Later that day a line of cars with people saying goodbye stretched through the parking lot for more than an hour.

In December, Sarah Altenburg went from part time to full time. Her dual Masters degree in Music and in Youth and Family Ministry from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, in addition to her deep faith and generous spirit, well equip her to serve as Ministry of Music and Youth and Family ministries. Sarah now produces all of our worship videos. To say that she hit the ground running in December is an understatement!

Throughout this extraordinary year, members of Trinity have stepped forward to make a difference and have demonstrated how much their faith and this congregation mean to them. More than 100 people contributed to the making of two worship videos for Christmas Eve, the virtual Christmas Pageant and the Candlelight Service. Together, they have had 382 views on YouTube, which if you count for multiple viewers during some of those views, may likely represent one of our largest gatherings for Christmas Eve worship. In addition to those videos, 126 people received communion and joined the Drive In Christmas Eve worship, held in our parking lot. At the conclusion of that service, worshippers exited their cars, stood on the driver's side (to allow distance between households) and through their masks, sang Silent Night.

In spite of not being able to gather in person for nine and a half months, we concluded 2020 with much strength, courage and heart. With gratitude to the Holy Spirit working among us, we welcome the year that lies ahead of us.

Pastor Lori

Music/Youth & Family Report

We had just begun the rehearsals for our Good Friday cantata when worship was moved online. I had originally expected the move to be a short term situation, but it proved to last longer than I ever could have imagined. While 2020 presented many challenges, I am proud of how

Trinity responded and adapted to the challenges before us. And while I miss seeing everybody in person, I am excited about the way our reach has grown and the way we were able to connect with so many people throughout the year. I'd like to highlight a few things that happened at

Trinity that proved our ability to adapt in situations that we didn't see coming.

We went online in mid-March and in less than a week we had created a worship video and a mid-week worship Holden Evening Prayer video. Because we had a basic knowledge of video editing skills, we were one of the first churches in the synod to offer a digital Holden Evening Prayer midweek service. Our service was used by multiple churches in the synod who wanted to provide a similar service, but didn't yet have the capability to do so.

Good Friday occurred on Friday, April 10. We had to set aside our original plans of doing a Good Friday choral cantata, but still provided a music based service for at home worship. This service involved vocalists, instrumentalists, and readers from our congregation. We had a Tenebrae type of experience where we extinguished candles on the screen. This special service reached people in multiple states that we would have normally not had the opportunity to worship with. For Easter Sunday, I created two Synod-wide virtual choirs that many Trinity members took part in.

Throughout the spring, my immediate family offered virtual hymn sings on Facebook, which were later converted to YouTube videos for the congregation. These hymn sings allowed for people to request songs and sing with my family as we gathered in our living room. These hymn sings reached people in other continents and connected our congregation with new people from as far as Africa.

Though the summer brought some rest, we were planning for the fall and trying to make plans to help people connect, even if we were still worshipping in our own homes. I was able to get more of our library into a digital format during this season of the church year. The goal is for the entire music library of Trinity to be digital by the year 2023. This will allow for access of all musical resources from anywhere in the world and will allow for easier planning and rehearsal purposes. We also began music based devotionals in the summer that focused on a single song in devotional, song, and prayer format.

During the fall, I began offering music segments in the Sunday School videos. We began planning a large scale virtual Advent cantata. These plans had to evolve as COVID-19 cases spiked in the area. In fact, if I could describe 2020 for me it would be adaptation and evolving plans.

We received news that Pastor Sara Freudenburg was accepting a new call in the month of November. Though everyone was sad to see her leave, we were all excited for her new position.

We put together a service of thanksgiving for Pastor Sara's ministry where over 15 different families participated and recorded videos. We were even able to involve a video from a family who were previous members but moved out of state, once again proving that we were reaching people that we didn't have the opportunity to reach previously.

Finally, we were very busy in December. We had a virtual Advent cantata that was shared by many people in the synod. We had people from other states, churches, and denominations participate in our cantata. We also did a virtual handbell choir for the first time. We did a virtual children's pageant for Christmas Eve. This pageant included music videos and acting videos by many of our families. We also did a candlelight Christmas Eve service that was offered in video format. These videos had a larger reach than a typical Christmas Eve service does for us! Brian Deames also took on the immense project of creating a silent night where our congregation sang together virtually, by collecting almost 50 videos and combining them into one big virtual choir.

Though 2020 presented large challenges to the church and the world around us, I feel like the Holy Spirit worked in this community as we adapted to digital worship and digital offerings. We are now worshipping with people that it would have never been possible to worship with before. I look forward to worshipping together in person, but am grateful that we discovered a new way to offer supplemental worship that can help us reach outside of the walls of our church.

In mid-December I accepted a new position at Trinity. I am now a full time staff member and my position changed to the Minister of Music and Youth and Family Ministry. I hold Master's degrees in both of these fields and knowing that I can now combine my two passions into one position is a dream come true. I am really grateful for the opportunity and have started to formulate some plans for the Youth and Family ministry program moving forward.

I hadn't ever thought that I would be a video editor in any sort of non-hobby capacity. I hadn't thought that I would be recording 2-5 songs a week for worship. I never expected to do a cantata in a digital format. Prior to March, I didn't even know how to split a screen into two images. I had never worked with the video editing software that we use. And while I don't know that I was quite prepared for the shift to digital ministry, I am grateful for the tools it required me to learn.

I look forward to the day that we can meet in person. I look forward to the day when I can conduct a choir in person. I look forward to the day I can watch people sing as I play songs in

worship. But I am also grateful. I feel like our community has learned quite a bit about what ministry can look like throughout the past ten months. I pray that everyone stays in good health so that we can all return together again when it is safe. Thank you for allowing my po-

sition to grow at Trinity. I can't wait to continue to move forward as a community as we continue to expand our reach to the greater community and world.

Sarah Altenburg



TLC ADVENTURE PRESCHOOL

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Preschool Report

In early 2020, our Trinity TLC Adventure Preschool student enrollment was full and everything in the preschool world was happy. Each new preschool day looked brighter than the day before. By mid-March, however, the pandemic hit our community and preschool came to an abrupt halt. On one level as Program Director, I felt as if I was letting our families down, even though I had no control of what was happening with COVID-19.

Between late March and late May, Nancy Baldus, Elizabeth Nelson and I collaboratively put our heads together so that we could creatively offer our families a different type of online preschool program. We offered Zoom, homemade teaching videos, virtual school at a preschool level; stories were read, daily routines were implemented and sharing time prevailed. The program consisted of theme-oriented lesson plans including project ideas that included directions, listing materials needed, coloring pages, listing links and websites for additional learning opportunities. This online program provided our TLC children and their teachers, time together and provided comfort for our children.

When the school year ended, the TLCAP teachers and staff members visited each and every TLC preschool family. We met outside and socially distanced ourselves as we dropped off cubby contents including: winter outerwear, extra clothing, and personal items. We also brought every child a story book, a memory book of TLC children's quotes, a developmental report card, and a TLC photo memory book. The TLCAP graduates received a small TLC celebration cake and a graduation yard sign.

We spent three days visiting each TLC Family and we were warmly welcomed by each family.

Once school was over for the 2019-2020 school year we immediately started our 2020-2021 school COVID-19 plan. Unfortunately, the COVID guidelines continued to change along with the unpredictability of the COVID virus itself. The teachers and I spent the majority of the summer preparing for the start of school. Student enrollment changed numerous times over the course of the summer. Late in August, we had seventeen students enrolled at TLCAP. We purchased four bins for every child so that they would have separate sensory bins, library bins, toy bins, and playdoh containers. Each child also had separate school tools such as crayons, markers, glue, etc., there would not be any sharing of supplies this school year.

This school year every child is met on the sidewalk and their temperature is taken. The parents are asked health questions related to COVID-19 and the children are escorted into the school by a teacher. Teachers are responsible for every child's lunch box, backpack, boots and all their outerwear. At the end of the day parents pick up their children on the sidewalk.

Despite the pandemic and reinventing the wheel this current school year, the teachers and I are very pleased with the school program that we have been able to offer. In December, the State of Michigan Department of Licensing came to our school to check out our preschool program. Fortunately, hard work does pay off because we received very high praises. The licensing consultant was very pleased with how well our children are wearing their masks throughout the day. We placed hooks on the backs of their

lunch and snack chairs and that is the only time that our TLC children take their masks off. She also commented that keeping windows open was beneficial and commented that she observed that a majority of our windows were open to some degree. She took photos throughout our school and she plans to share our COVID adaptations with other schools in the state.

A special thanks goes out to Sandy Schmoker who is always there when we need an extra hand. In addition, we would like to thank all the Trinity volunteers that oversee the church in leadership positions that have provided us with sound advice and support during the pandemic! A big thank-you to the Trinity congregation for

trusting us to share God's love to the local children in the community. Your encouragement and prayers have made a significant difference and have lifted our spirits!

Every week we continue to pray that we will be able to continue to offer our TLCAP program the following week and that everyone will remain safe and healthy! We have four months (seventeen weeks to go.) No matter what happens our faith remains strong and we look forward to the future!

Barbara Daniel
TLC Adventure Preschool
Teacher/Program Director

Church in Society Report

Members: Joyce Stein, Chair; Trudie Goff, Secretary; Dori Gapczynski; Linda Waltenberger; Pr. Lori Carey; Joel Nelson; Beverly Holen; Sharon Larmee

Church in Society stewards Trinity's financial and volunteer support of local and global efforts that minister to the hungry, homeless, outcast and oppressed. Church in Society reevaluates on an ongoing basis the current listings and descriptions of local agencies and initiatives to which our local benevolence funds are directed. Below is a summary of Trinity's social ministry initiatives in 2020, which Church in Society either coordinated or lent support.

Activities of 2020

Change in membership of committee: added Trudie Goff; stepping down Sandy Schmoker; we thank Sandy for her service.

Men's Rotating Shelter: hosted one week in February 2020.

Mitten Tree: collected over 150 mittens, scarfs, gloves for the Mitten Tree in December 2020 and donated them to the House by the Side of the Road.

Meal/Food Collections continued by placement of a deck box under our front canopy allowing us to receive contributions for meals delivered to Peace House in Ypsilanti, care package donations for students quarantined at U of M, and Mitten Tree donations.

Lutheran World Relief: our regular appeal for school backpacks was put on hold due to the pandemic. Ann Baird coordinated a donation of 7 backpacks along with Judi Willi preparing 69 quilts that had been assembled prior to the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 and delivered to the designated Synod drop off loca-

tion for shipment.

Alpha House: hosted the Alpha House Homeless Family Shelter for two weeks through donations of dinner meals, weekend hot breakfasts and donations of supplies to their pantry. In addition, donations were collected for 4 kids Christmas stockings valued at \$25 each.

Adult Forums Presented: school bullying; Facetime communication with Pastor Carrie Ballinger Smith, our missionary in Jerusalem; Shelter Volunteer Training/Orientation; Phebe Hospital; the work of Lutheran World Relief

Activities we were unable to participate in due to the Pandemic

CROP Walk; a request for donations made online in lieu of the Walk.

Don't Shop Alone Monthly Food/Goods Collections after March 10th were paused.

Summer Friday Food Gatherers distribution.

Summer breakfast cereal collection.

Lutheran World Relief quilting and school supply collections were paused after March

Monetary Donations Collected and Distributed in 2020

Peace Neighborhood Center's Angel Tree: collected a total of **\$6320** to support 36 families over the Christmas Holidays through the purchase of gift cards.

Samaritas Unaccompanied Minor Refugee Program: collected **\$700** in gift cards.

Covid-19 Relief Funds: after the start of the Pandemic in March 2020 a separate donation appeal was made throughout the year to support vulnerable social and benevolence programs impacted by Covid-19. A total of **\$7,064** was

collected and from those funds the following programs were supported:

Trinity participated with a group of other churches and donated **\$3000** towards the purchase of a van for the **Delonis Shelter Program**;

\$750 was donated to the **Washtenaw Shelter Program** for the purchase of bus tokens for those homeless men in the Rotating Shelter program;

\$514 was donated to **Hope Clinic**;

\$2000 was donated to **Peace Neighborhood Center** for food assistance;

\$800 in remaining funds were used towards needs of the **home and food insecure** such as grocery gift cards, hotel rooms and meals.

Directed Social Ministry Giving from General Offering for Benevolence in 2020

Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$8000
Peace Neighborhood Center	\$5000
Missionary Support	\$1000
RAAH	\$ 375
Total Disbursed	\$14,375

2019 Endowment Earnings (\$2231) distributed in 2020

Between the Lines Ad	\$400
Trinity Good Shepherd Fund	\$500
Trinity Warming Center Dec 2019	\$500
Washtenaw Roundtable	\$200
Meshak Lawyer fees	\$218.33
ICPJ	\$300
Total Disbursed	\$2118.33

Additional Specific Appeals (separate from Directed Social Ministry Funds)

COVID Relief Funds	\$7064
Peace Neighborhood Angel Tree	\$6320
Samaritas Refugee Foster Kids	\$ 700

Christmas Offering

Journey of Faith	\$ 790
Lutheran Church of Hope, Ramallah	\$ 790
World Hunger (Fill the Jar)	

online direct member donations to ELCA

Ground Cover News

online direct member donations

Total Disbursed **\$15,664**

Combined Total disbursements: \$32,157.33

Pastoral Acts & Statistical Report

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms performed:

03-15-2020	Ethan Aaron Beard
06-28-2020	Arlo Jeffrey Althaus
08-22-2020	Grayson Marr Holland
08-30-2020	Samantha Elke Kim-Malcolmson

Confirmation

10-25-2020	Liam Meurer, Norah LeCloux, Lucas Nor
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Funerals performed: *none*

Weddings performed:

09-03-2020	Ronald Johnson & Karissa Canfield
10-17-2020	April Awalt & Ron Quattlebaum

Members removed by Death

04-02-2020	Ruth Pfeil
04-07-2020	Tim Heller
04-17-2020	Isabel Wiileke
09-09-2020	Marion Karvonen
12-20-2020	Dan Schoof

Worship Attendance Statistics by Service

January to Mid-March (pre-quarantine)

Sunday 8:30am:	59
Sunday 11:00am:	65
Average Weekly Attendance:	123

Mid-March to Year-End (quarantine)

Weekly YouTube Views:	<i>unclear</i>
Christmas Eve Outdoor Communion Service:	126

Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting

February 2, 2020

I. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Lori Carey.
The meeting was called to order by Council President Bob King.

II. Presentation and Adoption of the 2019 Annual Report

Council President Bob King pointed out significant elements of the 2019 Annual Report.
MSC to approve the Annual Report as presented.

Thanks to the outgoing members of the Church Council:

Jim Epperson
Dani Johnson

III. Introduction and Election of Council Members for 2020

MSC to elect by acclamation the Council Members for 2020:

April Awalt, Treasurer
Pastor Lori Carey
Dick Davis
Pastor Sara Freudenburg
Glen Greenlee, Vice-President
Bob King, President
Chris Lund, Secretary
Sue Sprowls

IV. Recognition of Service – Pastors Lori Carey and Sara Freudenburg

- A. Glen Greenlee
- B. Sunday School Teachers
- C. Quin Johnson

V. Stewardship Pledges and Forecasted Offering – Glen Greenlee

Glen Greenlee led the congregation in reviewing pledges to date and the general offering forecast for the coming year.

VI. Amendment to Capital Campaign Expenditure

Roger Harms moved (second by Valerie Brader) to increase the authorized expenditure from the All Are Welcome Campaign by \$29,500, for a total of \$602,500. MSC (Andy Lakatos, Glen Greenlee) to increase this expenditure by another \$1,000 in order to provide changing tables for the bathrooms, bringing the amended total of an increase by \$30,500 for a total of \$603,500. The motion carried.

VII. Presentation and Adoption of 2020 Budget

April Awalt presented the Treasurer's Report for 2019 and the Budget for 2020.
MSC (Bonnie Reece, Sue Walters) to accept the Budget as presented.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25PM.

Minutes of the 2020 Election Meeting

November 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order on Zoom by President Bob King at 11:05 a.m.

After recognizing outgoing Council members Dick Davis and Sue Sprowls and thanking them for their service, Bob additionally recognized those continuing to serve: Glen Greenlee, Michelle Hayes, Chris Lund and Brian Farley. Bob and April Quattlebaum's terms on Council were ending, but they stood for re-election for 1 year terms each. Cathy Welch agreed to serve another 3 year term on Gifts and Investments.

As no one else had volunteered to run for Council, and Council felt that they could operate for the coming year with only 6 members as the Dig Down process wraps up. Valerie Brader moved that the nominations be closed; Kathy Spindler seconded.

Elected: **Bob King**, April **Quattlebaum** to Council (1-year terms)
Cathy Welch to Gifts and Investments for a second 3-year term.

After the elections, Pr. Lori moved that the meeting be adjourned and all were invited to stay on the call for coffee half hour. Bob King seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

2021 Annual Budget Meeting Agenda

February 7, 2021

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members
- III. Introduction of Council Members for 2021
- IV. Presentation and Adoption of the 2020 Annual Report
- V. Review of 2020 Financial Status
- VI. Review of 2021 Stewardship Campaign
- VII. Presentation and Adoption of 2021 Budget
- VIII. Recognition of Service Awards
- IX. New Business
- X. Adjournment

Treasurer's Report

2020 has been an interesting year – filled with concerns, careful attitudes and ending with many blessings.

When things closed down, Trinity adjusted and made some decisions. One was to try and save where we could and to continue to pay our staff, including the preschool staff, as if things hadn't shut down. The decision was made not to put money into the accrual funds (savings for future events like building repairs or sabbaticals), cut expenses as much as reasonable possible, not put the money set aside for the building loan, and cut back about \$6,000 of our benevolence to local charities, so that we were prepared for what might happen during the rest of the year.

About this time the government offered the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) loan/grant that could be forgiven if the funds were appropriately spent on payroll expenses and a couple of other areas. Trinity applied for the PPP loan/grant knowing that we could meet the requirements and seek forgiveness, and that this would allow us to continue to pay all staff. Trinity received approximately \$88,000 from the PPP. While Trinity has met the requirements, the money from the PPP is still sitting on our records as a liability because our bank has not offered the opportunity to formally apply for forgiveness. When that opportunity becomes available, we are confident that Trinity will then be able to officially recognize that \$88K as income.

By the end of the second quarter, we were seeing approximately 25% less revenue than those same months in the previous year. Assuming that would continue and no football parking, etc. revenue would come in, we projected a deficit at the end of the year. Because of wise stewardship over the years, we communicated to the congregation that we expected it would be a tough year but Trinity could weather it.

For all of the third quarter our giving and expenses stayed in the same range. That picture started to change when the preschool staff found two grants that TLC was able to apply for – one for \$4,500 and one for \$20,000 that they received. Then, towards the end of November and in December, giving increased to almost double what we were seeing in previous months. These were unexpected blessings, and allowed Trinity to finish the year with a sizeable surplus.

Since Trinity is unexpectedly experiencing the surplus, a recommendation was made to council to spend the surplus in the following manner:

- \$6,000 in benevolence that was cut earlier in the year
- \$14,000 in additional benevolence (essentially doubling our COVID year giving)
- \$20,000 to the North Entrance project that was approved at the 2020 annual meeting that was cut from the budget earlier in the year
- \$20,000 to the property accrual fund for 2020
- \$20,000 to the property accrual fund for 2021

Treasurer's Report (cont.)

The property accrual fund is Trinity's fund for future large repairs or maintenance projects to the building – like a new roof. It's our rainy day fund that, hopefully, won't be a literal rainy day fund. This fund has not received the recommended annual funding by the Property and Building Committee due to past tight years. This is an excellent opportunity to provide it with a strong start to building that account.

Our final loan amount for the North Entrance Project (All Our Welcome campaign) was \$329,305.67. In the first quarter we made a \$17,000 payment against our Synod pledge. In addition to our ongoing monthly payments against our loan, in the third quarter we made an additional \$41,000 payment which brings our outstanding principal balance to approximately \$264,000. We plan to make another large payment toward the loan in 2021.

2021 still has a lot of unknowns and made creating a budget a difficult challenge. There are many unknowns still with Covid but there are some silver linings starting to appear. In facing that challenge two budgets (a careful budget and a blessing budget) are presented to the congregation for approval. The careful budget relies only on our giving for income and assumes maintaining a tight hold on spending. This year and the Dig Down process have shown that there are some changes in staffing that are needed to better serve Trinity. The careful budget assumes that some of those changes will continue to take place.

The extra blessings budget assumes that the building will reopen and football parking will happen. In addition to increasing our income, expenses are also increased to fully meet the demands of the building usage, additional funds are provided to benevolence and areas were increased to meet unknown needs and changes that will arise with coming back to the building.

We are asking the congregation to accept both budgets and to allow council to switch from the careful budget to the extra blessings budget if and when it feels comfortable doing so – when things like the building reopening, things begin to return to normal, and/or giving experiences another unexpectedly strong year. We don't know what the future holds but with these two budgets, the careful stewardship of staff and council, and looking to God, Trinity is an amazingly good place to handle whatever comes our way. We give thanks to God and all of you for making that happen.

Respectively Submitted,

April Quattlebaum

Treasurer

BUDGET PROPOSAL AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	2021 Budget Careful (BC21)	2021 Budget Extra Blessings (BE21)	2020 Actual (A20)	2020 Budget (B20)	A20-B20
Income					
GENERAL OFFERING	\$ 520,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 546,475	\$ 520,800	\$ 25,675
EVENT PARKING		\$ 25,000	\$ 500	\$ 35,700	\$ (35,200)
OTHER INCOME		\$ 2,000	\$ 8,232	\$ 10,000	\$ (1,768)
Grand Total	\$ 520,000	\$ 552,000	\$ 555,207	\$ 566,500	\$ (11,293)
Expenses					
41-STAFF	\$ 331,612	\$ 337,212	\$ 329,958	\$ 344,222	\$ (14,264)
43-OPERATIONS	\$ 65,412	\$ 72,485	\$ 49,627	\$ 65,883	\$ (16,256)
45-GOVERNANCE (inc Synod)	\$ 30,518	\$ 32,800	\$ 25,117	\$ 46,800	\$ (21,683)
51-WORSHIP	\$ 3,110	\$ 3,110	\$ 2,080	\$ 3,110	\$ (1,030)
53-MUSIC	\$ 3,700	\$ 5,735	\$ 2,026	\$ 5,735	\$ (3,709)
55-CARING MINISTRY	\$ 370	\$ 370	\$ -	\$ 370	\$ (370)
61-HOSPITALITY	\$ 500	\$ 4,000	\$ 303	\$ 4,000	\$ (3,697)
63-SERVICE & MISSION	\$ 12,000	\$ 19,760	\$ 14,000	\$ 19,760	\$ (5,760)
65-SMALL GROUP	-	\$ 650	\$ (207)	\$ 650	\$ (857)
71-YOUTH & FAMILY	\$ 1,700	\$ 4,800	\$ 1,605	\$ 4,800	\$ (3,195)
73-ADULT LEARNING	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 235	\$ 500	\$ (265)
81-DISCIPLESHIP	\$ 805	\$ 805	\$ 317	\$ 805	\$ (488)
82-INVITATION	\$ 690	\$ 690	\$ 183	\$ 690	\$ (507)
85-PROPERTY	\$ 48,943	\$ 48,943	\$ 31,769	\$ 48,800	\$ (17,031)
86-PROPERTY ACCRUAL	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ (2,000)
85-TECHNOLOGY	\$ 20,140	\$ 20,140	\$ 16,738	\$ 18,375	\$ (1,637)
Grand Total	\$ 520,000.00	\$ 552,000.00	\$ 473,751.14	\$ 566,499.95	\$ (92,748.81)
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,456.00	\$ -	\$ 81,456.00

Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/20

	For Year End 12/31/20	For Year End 12/31/19
Assets		
Cash		
General	426,542	245,410
Capital Campaign	173,767	164,126
Petty Cash/Misc	415	408
Investment Funds		
Thrivent Funds	<u>309,070</u>	<u>273,450</u>
Total Cash & Investments	909,793	683,393
Building and Land		
Organ/Furniture	3,578,409	3,578,409
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,374,965)</u>	<u>(1,273,682)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>2,571,009</u>	<u>2,672,292</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>3,480,802</u></u>	<u><u>3,355,685</u></u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	402	4,825
MIF Loan Payable	263,282	329,306
Payroll Loan (PPP)	88,894	-
ELCA Payable	-	3,203
Designated Gifts	292,329	283,429
Undesignated Gifts	24,215	17,204
Investment Funds	309,070	273,449
Preschool Funds	23,704	22,156
Total Liabilities	1,001,896	933,571
Equity		
Congregational Equity	2,397,450	2,384,692
Net Income (Gain/(Loss))	<u>81,456</u>	<u>37,421</u>
Total Equity	2,478,906	2,422,113
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u><u>3,480,802</u></u>	<u><u>3,355,685</u></u>

Gifts & Investment Mission Report

The Gift and Investment Mission monitors and oversees Trinity's investments and makes recommendations to the Church Council for use of the funds. Trinity continues to maintain a Custodial Account Relationship with Thrivent Trust Company. The Gift and Investment Mission members are Anne Baird, Valerie Brader, Brian Deames and Cathy Welch.

Here is a summary of the money held at Thrivent and activity through December 31, 2020:

Fund Names	Beginning Balance (1/1/2020)	Additions/ Contributions	Withdrawals/ Distributions	Dividends & Interest	Total Fees Charged	Capital Gains/ Losses	Ending Balance (12/31/2020)
Advanced Education Fund	57,937.67	-	-	1,271.24	168.40	5,215.71	64,593.02
Haisch Fund	25,313.13	-	-	555.41	73.58	2,278.74	28,220.86
General Endowment Fund (GEF)	176,885.50	379.00	-	3,889.40	515.10	16,003.98	197,672.98
Church Reserves Fund	16,668.43	-	-	365.73	48.45	1,500.53	18,583.14
Total	276,804.73	379.00	-	6,081.78	805.53	24,998.96	309,070.00

In accordance with our Bylaws, earnings on the General Endowment Fund are to be calculated and then 30% of the earnings are allocated to benevolence and the remaining 70% is directed at Council's discretion. The 2020 General Endowment Fund (GEF) earnings were \$5,819.3. This means that \$2,458 has been given to Church in Society to determine distribution. Of the remaining \$5,735, \$1,000 was allocated for bonuses to the Preschool staff in recognition of the extra work that went into COVID response and the remaining \$4,735 will be left in the General Endowment Fund.

Also in accordance with our Bylaws, undesignated gifts we receive during the year are to be allocated 10% to benevolence, 10% to the General Endowment Fund and 80% is directed by Council. In 2020 we received \$6,850. So \$685 will be given to Church in Society to determine distribution, \$685 will be sent to Thrivent to be deposited in the General Endowment Fund and Council chose to leave the \$5,480 in the undesignated fund for future use.

Gifts and Designated Fund Activity 2020

	01/01/2020 Opening Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	12/31/2020 Closing Balance
Designated Gifts/Funds				
Outreach				
Good Shepherd Fund	2,043	16,125	8,520	9,648
Service & Mission	1,013	3,143	400	3,756
Breakfast before Food Gatherers Distribution	122	-	-	122
Christmas Offering	2,000	1,580	-	3,580
Thanksgiving Offering	25	-	-	25
Samaritas	58	340	300	98
Global World Hunger Bank	5	169	-	174
Mission A2	332	-	-	332
Phebe Hospital Offering	553	-	-	553
Alpha House/IHN Offering	35	365	300	100
Habitat for Humanity Offering	5	-	-	5
World Hunger Offering	676	663	-	1,339
ELCA - Cookies for Critters	805	-	800	5
Total - Outreach	7,672	22,385	10,320	19,737
Trinity Programs				
Hospitality/Bits & Bites	1,687	139	-	1,826
Organ Repair Fund	592	-	592	0
Music Department	1,557	-	-	1,557
Senior Ministry Fund	158	-	-	158
Youth & Family Program	39	-	-	39
Quilting Group Fund	422	-	335	87
Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund	45	-	-	45
Library Fund	45	-	-	45
Women's Retreat	590	-	-	590
Visitation Fund	119	-	-	119
Total - Trinity Programs	5,254	139	927	4,466
Building and Administrative Funds				
North Entrance Project	184,501	114,314	115,680	183,135
Property and Facilities	58,072	3,320	0	61,392
Technology	6,421	-	4,331	2,090
Sabbatical/Staffing Accrual	14,000	-	-	14,000
Audit Accrual Fund	5,445	-	-	5,445
Member Benevolence	35	-	-	35
National Youth Gathering	1,192	-	-	1,192
Youth Assistance	187	-	-	187
Senior Transportation	650	-	-	650
Total - Building and Administrative	270,503	117,634	120,011	268,126
Total Designated Gifts/Funds	283,429	140,158	131,258	292,329
Undesignated Gifts/Funds				
Scrip Income/Church Share	387	224	-	611
Donations	16,816	6,850	63	23,603
Total Trinity Unrestricted Gifts	17,204	7,074	63	24,215
Total - Trinity Gifts & Designated Funds	300,632	147,232	131,321	316,543