

OUR MISSION

GROWING IN

168

PEOPLE
AT THE
BLUEGRASS
GOSPEL
SERVICE



FAITH...

80

RECEIVED ASHES ON
ASH WEDNESDAY



...SHARING

120

COOKIE JARS DONATED
TO THE FOOD PANTRY



CHRIST'S LOVE

32

MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS AT
YOUTH ON WEDNESDAY
(7 ADULT LEADERS)

17

HIGH SCHOOL KIDS AT
SENIOR HIGH ON
WEDNESDAY
(2 ADULT LEADERS)

TRINITY IN NUMBERS

Ladies
Lunch
Outs

12

Acts in the Talent
Showcase

22

People Took the
Marriage Course

24

Kids at the YOW Lock-In

39

Christmas Trees Sold

250

Pounds of Food
Collected at the YOW
Scavenger Hunt

1,084



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2015 Annual Report



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

15

BAPTISMS



Trinity Lutheran Church was honored to baptize 15 new brothers and sisters in Christ this past year!

FAITH AND FUN



201

AT VBS 2014

This past summer at vacation Bible school 2014: Weird Animals, Trinity welcomed 124 kids (including 5th Grade helpers) and 78 adult volunteers to join in our fun and faith building adventures!

GROWING IN FAITH

12

CONFIRMED



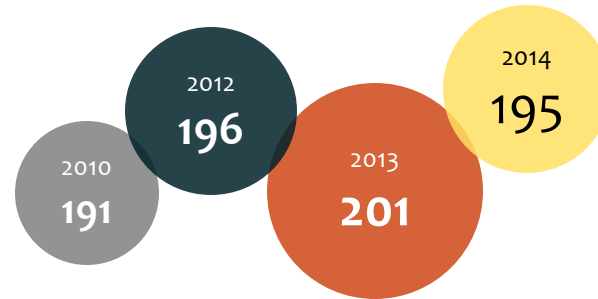
23

TOOK FIRST COMMUNION

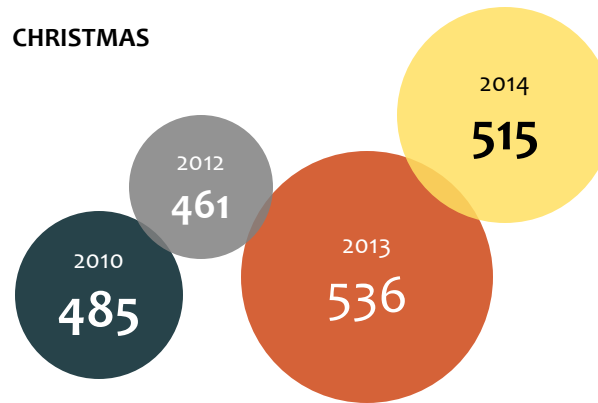


ATTENDANCE

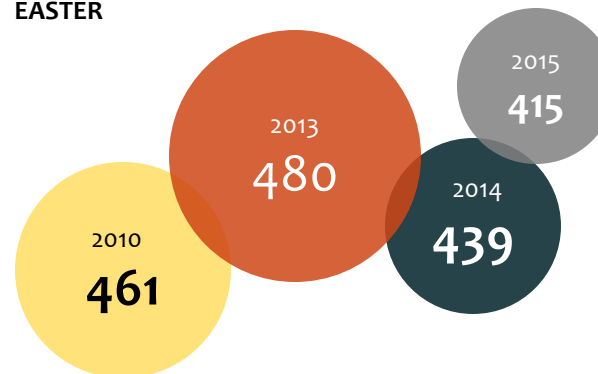
AVERAGE WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS



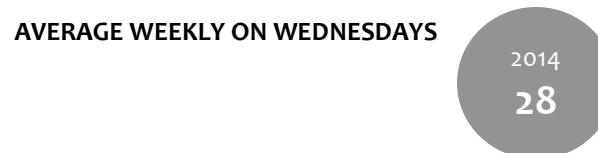
CHRISTMAS



EASTER



AVERAGE WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS



2014

BEHIND THE SCENES

AMOUNT OF GIVING TRINITY

Hoped for:

\$263,000

Actually Received:

\$250,000

AMOUNT TRINITY

Planned to Spend:

\$263,000

Actually Spent:

\$253,500

LOOKING AHEAD 2015

AMOUNT OF GIVING TRINITY

Anticipates:

\$253,000

AMOUNT OF SPENDING

Planned:

\$269,000

AMOUNT OF SAVINGS

Planned to be Used:

\$16,000



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ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA - SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015

- I. Opening Devotion
- II. Approval of Minutes of the June 1, 2014 Annual Meeting
- III. Reports of the Pastor, Congregational Council, Committees and others
- IV. Elections
 - A. Congregational Council - 3 open positions for three-year terms
Current Nominees: TBD
 - B. Audit Committee - 1 position for a three-year term
Current Nominees: TBD
 - C. 2016 Synod Assembly Representatives (April 30-May 1, the Kalahari Resort - Wisconsin Dells) - 2 people
Current Nominees: TBD
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Presentation, discussion and approval of the Budget
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Closing Prayer



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES - SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014

The annual meeting was called to order by Lani Urbas, council president, on June 1, 2014 in the Gathering Space at 9:15 a.m. Pastor Mark Dressel opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the 2013 annual meeting were reviewed by those in attendance. Hearing no corrections, Steve Nass made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, followed by a second by Gary Martinson. Motion passed. Lani Urbas advised the attendees to review the committee reports on their own and if questions or comments, advise the council.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jamie Stock

Jamie reported that our income for this church year was \$258,067.94 – slightly down from last year, but this total does not include dedicated project monies (parking lot sealing and heater repair). Expenses for this church year totaled \$266,817.54, which includes the expense of the copy machine purchase (\$264,062.03 without that purchase). The expense total reflects/includes the following, in addition to normal expenditures: 1) copy machine, 2) flooring for the parsonage, 3) repair parking lot and sanctuary heater (special offering), 4) work-room computer purchase. In summary, the report shows a \$2,929.50 deficit, which includes the purchase of the copier. Without that purchase we would have shown an approximate positive of \$3000. The purchase of the copy machine will result in an approximate savings of \$8000 over a five year period. At this time, Trinity has a surplus of approximately \$58,000. The congregation thanked Jamie and Kim for their continued gift of expertise and time and thanked the congregation for its continued support of the operation and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.

ELECTIONS:

Church Council: The slate of nominees for the four open council positions (3 – 3 year terms and 1 – 1 year term) were: Tony Newton, Dan Zastrow and Carol Moehrke (3 year); Tracy Neupert (1 year). There were no nominations from the floor. Steve Nass made a motion to accept the nominations, seconded by Mae Laatsch. Motion passed.

Audit Committee: One position open – Kathy Bahner was nominated to fill that position. A motion to accept was made by Erik Bahner, seconded by Monica Hepp. Motion passed.

Synod Assembly: May 30/31, 2015 – Dan and Sara Havens were nominated, followed by a motion to accept that nomination by Steve Nass, seconded by Julia Wolfgram. Motion passed.

Budget Presentation:

The 2014/2015 budget presented by the council:

Projected Income: \$263,010.00 – a 1.9% increase.

Projected Expenses: \$263,363.15

These numbers reflect the following:

1. Reduced parsonage repair (last year – flooring)
2. Increase benevolence giving by \$1000 (total – 19,000)
3. Remove three lines from budget – Sunday School Service projects, Nursery, Family Promise
4. 4% increase for Pastor – exceeds synod guidelines
5. 4% salary increase for staff
6. Increase retirement benefit for office manger

Summary: The 2014/15 budget reflects a \$353.15 deficit.

Steven Busch made a motion to accept the budget as presented, followed by a second – Dan Zastrow. Motion passed.

Pastor Mark closed the meeting with prayer. Julia Wolfgram made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wayne Moehrke. Motion passed.

Submitted by:
Linda Disch



PASTORAL REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

Dear Friends:

As a Christian congregation, Trinity exists to help people make a positive, life-changing connection with God.

We strive to do this by growing in faith and sharing Christ's love.

A little over a year ago, our council members had a discussion about what our next step might be as a congregation. Looking at our own lives, we all knew people who did not come to church, and thus do not have the faith support that a congregation can offer. As Jesus tells us to make disciples of all nations, how could we expand our shared ministry to spiritually support more people? Our average yearly worship attendance has been virtually the same for the past 10 years, hovering between 190 and 200 people. Assuming we actually need to have contact with people to support them in their relationship with God, what is keeping us from expanding so that more of God's children have the faith support of a congregation? We talked about the possibility of adding more space. We also considered more staff or a different staffing configuration.

Shortly after this discussion, last June, the property next door came up for sale. Perhaps it was a sign from God that we should build. In order to physically expand the building, in addition to paying off around \$300,000 of existing mortgage, it would very convenient to have land to build on. We pursued a possible purchase even to the point of having a congregational meeting to authorize a bid. As it turned out, the housing market was competitive, and we were outbid by another party. They did turn out to be very nice neighbors. Still, it

was disappointing. After all, the thought of expanding the building had been exciting. But if God was closing a door, perhaps God would open a window.

The window opened in early August with a new staffing opportunity. Our capable Youth on Wednesday (YOW) coordinator, Abby Hale, expressed a desire to teach Sunday School instead. In looking for a replacement, I knew Kara Smith-Laubenstein lived in town and had completed training to serve as a pastor in the Presbyterian tradition. I figured (accurately, it turned out) that she would be more than capable of helping Middle School age kids connect with Jesus. As I considered this, I realized that one of our members had given a \$5,000 gift to start a High School Youth Group. I called her (the donor) to propose a course of action. If we could use the gift to help pay Kara a stipend, and if Kara was willing to coordinate YOW and help with worship two weeks a month, I would try to start a High School Youth Group. Our dear member said yes, Kara said yes, and just like that we had more staff support. Add to this the wonderful, but all-too-brief, presence of Peter Franson who had served for many years as an ELCA pastor and we had quite the team. Sadly, in the fall, Peter was diagnosed with a fast-growing cancer. While we hoped he would recover, the disease claimed his life in January. Nevertheless, the congregation benefitted from Peter's teaching ministry and has enjoyed the services of the now newly-ordained Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein for the past year.

This has enabled us to maintain YOW and start Senior High on Wednesday (SHOW), which helps high school students and their families stay tied in with Trinity and with God. In doing this, we have ex-



PASTORAL REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

panded the congregation's ability to help people connect with God throughout their lives. In the coming year, our challenge will be to take advantage of this expanded capacity.

As we go about this, we do face a financial challenge. We have been intentionally saving for the past several years, anticipating the day when we would have either increased expenses or decreased giving. In the coming year it appears that we have both. Giving has been lower in this past year, in part related to the fact that we have lost several elderly members of our congregation who were strong financial supporters of the Trinity. It also happens this year that many of congregation's expenses are increasing. Telephone, database software, and newspaper calendar are all going up. Employee benefits also cost more. Any of these trends would be less than ideal, but together they are truly inconvenient.

On the good side, Trinity is filled with people who are capable, creative, knowledgeable, motivated and looking to use their gifts in God's service. We presently have a pastoral team with expanded ability. We also have an office administrator with over two and a half years of experience with the congregation. Since I have been here, we have never been better prepared to take advantage of the wind of the Holy Spirit blowing through our community.

The work of Christians in a congregation is like sailing. We don't make the wind that brings opportunities and people into our lives - God does that. But we can be better or worse prepared to take advantage of it. With our present level of savings and giving, it looks like we will have 3 years, 1095 days, to take the best ride we can be-

fore finances force us to make substantial changes: to worship with gusto, serve with spirit, pray with passion and interact with God more fully.

Along the way, I hope more of us will grow into being main supporters so that we can enthusiastically carry on ministry for the good of our children. Hopefully, also, the many good things going on here will encourage our friends to take part in the congregation and connect with God through this faith community.

If you are looking for reasons to love Trinity and to recommend it to your friends, remember all the things this congregation has to offer!

- Vacation Bible School
- Friendship Fair and Sunday School
- Sunday School Service Projects
- The Marriage Course
- Prospective Member Orientation
- Third Grade Bible Presentation
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- High School Graduation Blankets
- Cherub Choir, Youth Choir, and Adult Choir
- All God's Ringers, Youth Ringers, and Adult Hand Bell Choir
- Worship Band
- Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Advent and Lent
- Wine, Women, and Word
- Ladies' Lunch Out
- Food Pantry Collection and Scavenger hunt



PASTORAL REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

St. Mark's Friday Meal Service
Trinity's Christmas Tree Sale
Holiday Soup and Sandwich Luncheon
Trinity's Talent Showcase & Silent Auction
Hosting well child clinics and blood drives
A brand new Men's Bible Study
And more...

Thank you so much for your partnership in ministry. Trinity is the wonderful congregation that it is because of God's ever present support and because of your innovation, participation, and commitment to God. I am so very blessed to live and serve with you here in Lake Mills.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark Dressel



SHOW SKI TRIP

Dear Friends,

Taking part in YOW this year was a true joy for me. We worked together through two curricular books. We spent the first half of the year diving into the Old Testament and exploring how God was faithful to promises God made to Abraham and how those promises extend to us today as a part of God's chosen family.

We spent the New Year walking through Christ's journey from birth, to his ministry, to his death & resurrection. We ended the year being commissioned through Jesus' words to his disciples to "Go therefore!"

YOW was also a time of fellowship and community. We went to the Synod's "Confirmation Extravaganza" in the fall, hosted the chili supper in the winter, enjoyed time together at a lock-in in the Spring, and ended the year by collecting over 1,000 pounds of food for our local food pantry through the Food Scavenger Hunt. We are blessed to have the hearts and voices of these students in our congregation. We welcomed 12 new members into our numbers on Confirmation Sunday!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

PRESIDENT - LANI URBAS

I am not a person who “volunteers”. I do however, respond to the needs of others. Maybe it’s a part of my training as a Social Worker. Maybe, I have my job because of who I am inside. Either way, I do find myself working for the betterment of others. There are others, whose time and commitment to projects and programs I envy. They are my inspiration to be more than I am. Within our church I would identify Julia Wolfgram, Jamie Stock, Steve and Holly Busch, Betty Oertel, and Monica Hepp as people I look up to due to their quiet commitment to their choice to give to others, to our church. There are many others that easily could be named, but I’m less likely to cross paths with Sunday School teachers (my kids are all grown) or the “counting Ladies” who work every Monday or those who organize the funerals or our Fellowship treats etc..

Our Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, is a community where we find fellowship, comfort, humor, grace and love. It is also a business. Trinity depends on both volunteers and paid staff to run. Both need to be reliable, dependable, know how to get a task done and both need to be smart. We are lucky at Trinity that we have lots of folks who fit those criteria and we’ve been blessed too.

As a business, we have lots of expenses and about ten years ago we built up our building and our staff on the hopes we would grow with leaps and bounds to bring in the additional income it would take to maintain those expenses. While it seemed we had so much growth, and there was hope of that, it didn’t materialize. Ten years ago we borrowed money from the bank each summer to meet the expenses of payroll and bills. Ten years ago we had no savings and we struggled, hoped

and prayed that we’d be able to keep the doors open. Eight years ago we tightened our belts, cut staff, cut every possible expense and made every possible effort to stay within an impossibly tight budget.

Things have gotten better but still are not optimal. We pay all of our bills, on time. We still closely watch our expenses. We have savings. We give back to the larger community. We have two full time staff who deserve to be fully compensated for their very hard and long days. But we need more.

We need you. We need you to volunteer in any way you can. It might be a one time thing or a longer term commitment. We need you. We need you to ask how you can help in case you don’t see a place for your talents or your time. We need you. We need you to help grow the church, to bring in your friends and family to become a member of our vital community. We need you to come to make God and Church a real priority in your life so that you can meet the needs of others. We also need your financial support – every week - so that our business can remain strong and you have a Church home that you can be proud of.

Lastly – I want to thank each of you for trusting me to serve you as your Council President for the past six years. It is time for me to step down. It is a time for you to consider stepping into a position on the Council, in the Sunday School room, in the kitchen or garden. Where ever your talents lead you, you are needed and wanted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lani Urbas



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

TREASURER - JAMIE STOCK

The 2014 – 2015 annual budget passed during the June 2014 annual meeting had an estimated income of \$263,010 and budgeted expenses of \$263,363. The council and congregation was hopeful that we could continue to grow spiritually and also continue to improve our financial position.

The financial results for the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year included \$249,979 of income paired with \$253,502 in expenses. This left us with a deficit during this fiscal year of \$3,523 which was covered by our current surplus from prior years. Although expenses did exceed income, the expenses were \$9,860 below the budgeted expenses for the fiscal year. We commend and thank the staff for their continued efforts to control the level of spending and using our fiscal resources wisely.

The month by month income and expenses can be found in Exhibit A and the month by month expense compared to budgeted expenses can be found in Exhibit B.

Financial highlights from the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year include:

- Funding staff salaries including benefits and operations well below budget
- Addition of Kara Smith-Laubenstein as Associate Minister and the Youth of Wednesday Coordinator due to gifted funds
- Passed on \$21,811 to the greater church from our operating budget and individual contributions
- Paid out one Trinity Note in the amount of \$2,000

- Paid \$2,275 in block income to the mortgage principle
- Added \$500 to the funds we are saving for a sabbatical for Pastor Mark
- Added \$1200 to the funds we are saving for the future purchase of a new copier
- Ended the year with an estimate surplus just under \$50,000
- Increased the net worth by almost \$34,000

We thank everyone for their generosity, volunteerism and continued commitment to the ministries of Trinity! As we continue into our new fiscal year, we are grateful that we continue to have some fiscal stability in a time when many other churches are struggling. However, the upcoming year will bring an increase in our expenses that we will struggle to meet at current giving levels. We pray that we continue to grow as a congregation both physically and spiritually and continued to be blessed with great volunteers and staff. As you evaluate your giving in the upcoming year, consider your blessings and all the great things that are going on here at Trinity and beyond our walls.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Stock

PLEASE REFER TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR EXHIBIT A AND EXHIBIT B



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

Exhibit A

Income vs Expense Summary			
	<u>Total</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Variance</u>
May	\$18,215.70	\$17,502.61	\$713.09
June	\$16,909.95	\$19,580.89	(\$2,670.94)
July	\$16,790.48	\$20,947.93	(\$4,157.45)
August	\$17,579.25	\$21,906.43	(\$4,327.18)
September	\$18,519.45	\$19,187.71	(\$668.26)
October	\$18,165.33	\$22,203.25	(\$4,037.92)
November	\$26,278.28	\$20,298.17	\$5,980.11
December	\$31,770.52	\$19,709.90	\$12,060.62
January	\$22,050.15	\$24,423.91	(\$2,373.76)
February	\$15,928.63	\$23,107.36	(\$7,178.73)
March	\$23,864.66	\$20,774.47	\$3,090.19
April	\$23,906.51	\$23,859.70	\$46.81
	\$249,978.91	\$253,502.33	(\$3,523.42)
Last Year*	\$258,062.91	\$266,817.54	(\$8,754.63)

*Includes capital purchase of a copy machine for \$11,684.13

Exhibit B

Expense vs Budget Summary			
	<u>Total</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Variance</u>
May	\$17,502.61	\$21,946.93	(\$4,444.32)
June	\$19,580.89	\$21,946.93	(\$2,366.04)
July	\$20,947.93	\$21,946.93	(\$999.00)
August	\$21,906.43	\$21,946.93	(\$40.50)
September	\$19,187.71	\$21,946.93	(\$2,759.22)
October	\$22,203.25	\$21,946.93	\$256.32
November	\$20,298.17	\$21,946.93	(\$1,648.76)
December	\$19,709.90	\$21,946.93	(\$2,237.03)
January	\$24,423.91	\$21,946.93	\$2,476.98
February	\$23,107.36	\$21,946.93	\$1,160.43
March	\$20,774.47	\$21,946.93	(\$1,172.46)
April	\$23,859.70	\$21,946.92	\$1,912.78
	\$253,502.33	\$263,363.15	(\$9,860.82)
Last Year	\$266,817.54	\$264,062.03	\$2,755.51



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

VICE PRESIDENT & SOCIAL CONCERNS CHAIR– MONICA HEPP

Dear Trinity friends,

Yet another year has passed and we continue to see changes around us. Changes in programming and services, changing faces in and around our church community, changing budgets and outlooks on the future. No matter what the changes are, one thing will remain constant. And that is our love for Christ who has brought us together in faith.

Change can be very scary in our lives. As I enter our church doors though, I always feel that sense of fear leave me. I knew 12 years ago when I brought my family to Trinity that this was going to be our new 'faith home'. A place where we were going to make new connections to others that wanted a relationship with Christ. I have seen many different things change in this short period of time and although we will have ups and downs, it is our commitment to Him who called us together and to each other that we see our plans through and make positive decisions for our faith community as a whole. Please thank God today for the changes in your life. Ask him to help you receive them as his way of growing us into what he wants us to be.

We were once again able to be a part of the Lake Mills Optimist Club's Adopt-A-Family Program. Through this program we had the opportunity to support two local families. Thank you to those that sponsored or were willing to sponsor. I hope to keep this going every year as people enjoy giving back to their community in this way.

Our Sunday School classes this past spring participated in the Buck-A-Chick program. This is sponsored through the ELCA Good Gifts Program. We were able to donate \$150 dollars which buys 150 baby chicks for families in need. Some families will use these chicks as a food source or take eggs to market as a source of income. Thank you to all who gave so generously. Teaching our kids to give back is so important these days. Please help instill this in your children. Way to go kids!!

In closing, remember that it takes ALL of us praying together, worshipping together, making decisions together, mourning together and supporting one another, to keep this 'faith home' thriving. There are so many wonderful groups at Trinity to join or be a part of, why not give it a try. You have nothing to lose and SO much to gain.

God bless,

Monica Hepp



ST. MARK'S SOUP KITCHEN



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE CHAIR– STEVEN BUSCH

Greetings,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Trinity Church Council for the past six years. Now that my term has come to an end, opportunities are created for others to become council members, expand their knowledge of Trinity's inner workings, experience new challenges, and be enriched for their efforts.

I have enjoyed focusing on helping our members and others in our community connect with God by inviting and welcoming them to worship at Trinity. As the Evangelism Chair, I was honored to assist Pastor Mark with the Prospective Member Orientation meetings which took place October of 2014, and April of 2015. This experience was most rewarding! The overwhelming positive response from those choosing to join the Trinity community, was that our members are very warm and welcoming. This is of very high importance in helping others connect with God! Let's keep this tradition going to enlarge the body of Trinity believers.

As a result of welcoming many new members to Trinity in the past two years, I presented the idea to have an updated Trinity Church directory. So with Pastor Mark's approval and Cate Urbas' diligence and great organizational skills, the new directory has come to fruition. They should be completed for distribution to members this summer.

The Men's Bible Study group, which I started in September of 2014, has spawned enlightening and deep discussions by the participating

members. It has become a great way for men to connect closer to God and through his word, together we are sharpening our Faith. We are currently meeting the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month, focusing on the book of Mark for this summer. This is for men of all ages and abilities. Feel free to join us and get involved. You will be glad you did.

In my continuing effort to keep making Trinity a vibrant and growing faith community, I encourage you to give of your time, effort and energy to get involved in the amazing activities God is doing here at Trinity. You will Grow in your Faith, while Sharing Christ's Love.

Submitted in faith,

Steven Busch



THE MARRIAGE COURSE



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR– DAN ZASTROW

The past year has been eye opening to me in the fact that I have seen how giving and helpful people at Trinity really are. The day to day cleaning, minor maintenance and organization are done by people who give their time and talent generously. A good example of this was when I signed up for shoveling snow and had a number of people show up to help during one of the bigger snowfalls we had this past winter.

There have only been a few maintenance issues come up in the last year that have required outside services:

- One of the furnaces required a service call and minor maintenance.
- A drain in the Sacristy needed to be opened.
- Numerous bulbs, lamps and ballasts were replaced.
- The large refrigerator in the kitchen was serviced and a new compressor was installed.
- Abby Hale is working on getting a new Refrigerator donated to the church as a replacement for the “aged” one in the kitchen. (Thanks Abby and good luck!)

Feel free to let me know if you have any issues concerning maintenance that need to be addressed.

Respectfully,

Dan Zastrow

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR– TRACY MORSE

Greetings Trinity Members:

I was surprised and honored last May to be nominated to be on Trinity’s church council for this past fiscal year. I had just found out I was expecting, and moving to Madison to start a life there with my husband, Dan, but how could I say no to this opportunity and calling from my church family? After praying about it, I agreed to a one year term. The term went way too fast, and I wish I had more time to meet goals I had not yet met. I believe we are on the right path for success with the stewardship of Trinity. I was lucky to see our council in action-what an amazing team...all for faith and the sharing of His promise. This congregation is a very lucky group.

When asked which committee on the council I desired, I asked, “What does stewardship mean?” Pastor Mark said “Funny you ask.” ...and he even chuckled. When he explained it to me, I thought that doesn’t sound so bad....even if it meant me having to “ask people for money”. After all....this is Trinity Lutheran in Lake Mills. This is my “other family”. This is a lot of our member’s “other family”. This is where friendships are formed. This is where our children get baptized. This is where we pray together for hope and peace. This is where we worship and learn of God’s Promise of eternal life.

With this said, my focus this year was the annual stewardship drive, and online, electronic giving. I felt, personally, that electronic giving was an easy and convenient way for our pledges to be fulfilled, as technology is more prevalent in everyone’s lives. I, myself, started



COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE 2014-2015 YEAR

giving online, electronically, in 2013 and feel amazing when my quarterly statement comes and I have fulfilled the promise I made to helping Trinity stay on budget.

So, this year Pastor and I put together the stewardship drive letters and spent a couple of Sundays during the drive to help people with questions or concerns about online giving. I believe that people were surprised at how easy it was to give electronically. Since 2012, electronic giving has gone from 32 scheduled payments to 46 scheduled payments, and the amount given electronically went from \$66,927 in 2012 to \$72,138 in 2014. As these numbers continue to increase year after year, Trinity is more likely to stay on budget, adding to the churches many programs and even to the savings account. I pray that more members will find the ease and comfort in electronic giving and see how important it is to continue to give back the gifts that God has so willingly given all of us.

My hope for the future Stewardship Chair is to focus on the time, talents and treasures of our congregation. This year, we demonstrated that through the snow shoveling challenge, talent show, Christmas tree sales and even some private estate donations. God has given us all so much to be thankful for in our time, talents and treasurers that we owe it to ourselves and our church family to give back in whatever way we can. I pray the next council member can remind us that while the pledges are very important, we have more than what goes in our envelope to give, and the church needs more to remain this amazing place we come to worship our Father.

The Stewardship Council is always open to new ideas and ways that we can all give back to Trinity. All ideas are welcome!

God's Blessings,

Tracy Morse



THE STEWARDSHIP DRIVE



TRINITY PINES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2014 YEAR

Trinity Pines Retirement Center Inc. 2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

To the Voting Members of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church of Lake Mills and residents of Trinity Pines Retirement Center

The inspiration for Trinity Pines Retirement Center (The Pines) arose in the mid 1980s when the members of Trinity Lutheran Church sought a way to extend their mission to the community through the use of a vacant section of land adjacent to the church. Church members saw the need for a retirement facility to allow Lake Mills area residents to retire in the community where they had been living and remain close to their friends and family.

The Pines was established as a non-profit corporation. It's purpose is a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, to which it is affiliated, to provide older persons and persons with disabilities housing and services specially designed to meet their physical, social, psychological, and spiritual needs and to promote their health, security, happiness, and usefulness in longer living. The facility is open to all, regardless of church affiliation.

The Pines features a combination of 39 apartments with 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans, community dining room and kitchen, library, activity and craft space, laundry facilities on each floor, billiards room, exercise room, and underground heated parking. A ten member Board of Directors, with representatives from Trinity Lutheran Church, resident representation and the community, provides general oversight with operations under the direction of the Managing Director, Ann Lee.

The Board and Ann are committed to our mission and to balance the independent living needs of our residents with the need for a loving, caring community.

Occupancy of the Pines remained high in 2014 with a rate of over 95% at year- end. The current waiting list includes 13 prospective residents. However, there are immediate openings in 2 different one bedroom layouts as those on the waiting list are unable to take advantage of those openings for one reason or another. Please spread the word!

For 2014, income exceeded expenses thanks to the steady occupancy rate. The Board is pleased to have achieved this financial balance necessary to continue to serve our residents.

To better prepare and position The Pines for the future, the Board began a strategic planning process back in 2013, establishing goals to enhance and capitalize on the strengths of the organization and facility. A collaborative planning process that involved The Board's Building Committee including community representatives, resident surveys, and a resident decorating committee provided input to the project's architects, engineers, and designers. The resulting project has incorporated many of those ideas and needs from our residents.

The Individual apartments received upgrades to heating and cooling as well as new and improved lighting throughout. Kitchen cabinets, sinks, and counters are being replaced along with new flooring. New vanities and sinks are being provided in bathrooms. Residents were able to select finishes in kitchen and bathroom.



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An addition is being constructed to provide a more intimate home-like dining experience. The existing dining room is being remodeled with improved acoustics and lighting for multi-purpose use. A new lounge with fireplace and counter space is being developed on the first floor. Two new administrative offices is also included. On the second floor, the library will be reconfigured to allow multiple uses including a new large screen television. A new adjacent restroom will be constructed. The existing salon will be upgraded. The common areas will receive new and improved lighting and updated finishes. A new covered and illuminated walkway at the main entrance is under construction as is a new patio with arbor. New trees and related landscaping will be added with completion the project anticipated in March 2015.

An added benefit to the upgrades and improvements has been the “green” effort that Ann initiated. Rather than ending in a landfill, many of the items being replaced have been recycled and made available for reuse. Through a partnership with the Habitat for Humanity ReStore of Jefferson County, light fixtures, sinks faucets, ceiling fans and appliances have been donated. A local family will benefit from our old gas fireplace and an assisted living facility will give new life to our whirlpool tub.

The Managing Director and staff continue to develop and put in place nutritional, social, and educational programs for the benefit our residents. Again in 2014 there was a high utilization of the weekday meal program and the many activities available to both our residents and other members of the community. Recently about 40 youth from Trinity Lutheran Church visited to perform Christmas carols, serve

cookies and cocoa, and most importantly, spend time socializing with the residents. This annual event, as well as other activities are examples of the intergenerational fun that occurs at The Pines. It is a win – win. Through these programs social opportunities for our residents are improved and the community’s awareness of The Pines is enhanced.

To assist in the community’s awareness, this year we enlisted the help of a graphic designer to help create a brand new logo, marketing materials and web presence for The Pines. This refreshed branding and image will tie in nicely with the refreshed building and apartments. Like us on Facebook, to follow along weekly with the fun happenings which give a glimpse into the life of residents.

I encourage members of the congregation to become acquainted with this remarkable community asset that is an outreach of your ministry. Tours of the building will be available following the annual meeting or by contacting Ann Lee. See for yourself the exciting changes going on at the Pines!

Bob Dimperio
President, Board of Directors



OFFICIAL ACTS FOR THE 2014 YEAR

BAPTISMS (15)

February 26, 2014

Owen Nicholas Burling (born: 4/23/2008)
Sponsors: Joe Nolan, Morgan Nolan, & Katie Reinbold
Parents: Nick & Rachel Burling

April 13, 2014

Amelia Caroline Kiefer (born: 3/18/2014)
Sponsors: Taylor Kiefer and Tom & Sarah Tallman
Parents: Joe & Becky Kiefer

April 27, 2014

Eli Laurence Dock (born: 2/21/2014)
Sponsors: Samantha Jo Dock & David Stephens
Parents: Lucas & Angela Dock

June 1, 2014

Mason James Koele (born: 2/03/2014)
Sponsors: Eric Leonard and Tara & Mark Kowalski
Parents: Luke & Heidi Koele

July 13, 2014

Joseph Aiden Hornby-Jacobs
(born: 7/23/2005)
Sponsors: Ricky Bauer & Rac Gladney
Parents: Jeremiah Jacobs & Julie Hornby

September 7, 2014

Norah Lee Jordan (born: May 23, 2014)
Sponsors: Aaron Jordan & Erin Johns
Parents: Adam & Melissa Jordan

October 5, 2014

Laikyn Kay Flitcroft (born: May 13, 2014)
Sponsors: Marisa Voermans, Nate Blaubach, & Joe Flitcroft
Parents: Ben & Brittany Flitcroft

October 5, 2014

Henry Keith Peters (born: June 7, 2014)
Sponsors: Nathan & Olivia Peters
Parents: Aaron & Meghan Peters

October 5, 2014

Bailey Noelle Ciesiolka
(born: December 27, 2007)
Sponsors: Aly McMurtrie & Eric Kessler
Parents: Jason & Kristina Ciesiolka

October 5, 2014

Brayden Michael Ciesiolka
(born: September 19, 2003)
Sponsors: Aly McMurtrie & Eric Kessler
Parents: Jason & Kristina Ciesiolka

October 19, 2014

Celia Lynn Weber (born: October 22, 2013)
Sponsors: Joe Weber
Parents: Mike & Carissa Weber

October 19, 2014

Jennifer Raeder (born: January 4, 1983)
Sponsors: Lahna Anhalt
Parents: Adult Baptism

November 2, 2014

Olivia Jo Billingham (born: May 27, 2013)
Sponsors: Chris & Samantha Berg
Parents: Randy & Andrea Billingham

November 16, 2014

Lorelai Ann Cook
(born: September 15, 2014)
Sponsors: Scott Erickson, Angie Kettner, & Laura Lundt
Parents: Anthony & Michelle Cook



OFFICIAL ACTS FOR THE 2014 YEAR

November 30, 2014

Dylan Jacob Wegner (born: April 4, 2014)
Sponsors: Robert Schultz III and Alexandra Stefan
Parents: Jacob and Casey Wegner

FUNERALS (11)

Donna M. Keiner

Born: January 25, 1947
Died: Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Funeral: January 11, 2014
Burial at Rock Lake Cemetery

William F. Hjorth

Born: December 15, 1946
Died: Saturday, February 1, 2014
Memorial Service: February 15, 2014

Wayne Key

Born: August 3, 1925
Died: Saturday, February 22, 2014
Memorial Service: February 27, 2014
Interment at Rock Lake Cemetery

Roger Allen

Born: February 8, 1926
Died: Sunday, April 27, 2014
Memorial Service: May 9, 2014
Interment at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove, WI

Casey Lejman

Born: December 12, 1926
Died: Saturday, May 17, 2014
Memorial Service: May 22, 2014

Dennis Porter

Born: October 12, 1946
Died: Sunday, June 1, 2014
Memorial Service: Nitardy Funeral Home, Cambridge, WI - June 7, 2014
Interment at Lake Ripley Cemetery, Town of Oakland, WI

Beatrice Voight

Born: October 17, 1935
Died: Saturday, August 16, 2014
Funeral Service: Lake Mills Moravian Church - August 21, 2014
Interment at Rock Lake Cemetery

Arthur (Art) Nickel

Born: December 11, 1932
Died: Friday, September 19, 2014
Funeral Service: September 23, 2014
Interment at Rock Lake Cemetery

Marlene Widish

Born: September 5, 1932
Died: Wednesday, October 1, 2014
Funeral Service: October 6, 2014
Interment at Rock Lake Cemetery

Robert Hubacher

Born: April 10, 1936
Died: Wednesday, December 3, 2014
Funeral Service: December 8, 2014
Interment at Rock Lake Cemetery

Robert (Bob) Crump

Born: March 30, 1925
Died: Tuesday, December 9, 2014
Funeral Service: December 13, 2014
Burial at East Koshkonong Lutheran Cemetery in Cambridge



OFFICIAL ACTS FOR THE 2014 YEAR

CONFIRMED (8)

April 27, 2014

Avarie Collman

Jeff & Polly Collman

Braden Ferry

Brad & Dawn Ferry

Thomas (Tommy) Gums

Bob & Jennifer Gums

Hayden Iverson

Jeff & Jennifer Iverson

Hannah Johnson

Dave & Karen Johnson

Blaise Kneuppel

Brad & Jodi Kneuppel

Ruby Stevens

Chris Nolan & Pat Stevens

Amelia Teeter

Jason & Linda Teeter

WEDDINGS (4)

March 28, 2014

Names: Kyle Jarlsberg & Kirsten Grasser

Trinity Lutheran Church

June 9, 2014

Names: Lani Urbas & Shirley Wickersham

Trinity Lutheran Church

October 4, 2014

Names: Megan Ganta & Kevin Dunneisen

Trinity Lutheran Church

November 28, 2014

Names: Daniel Morse & Tracy Neupert

Gate of Heaven - Madison, WI

Rev. Mark Dressel Officiating

NEW MEMBERS (24)

New members received on January 26, 2014

Bill Hjorth and Cindy Bauman

Don and Linda Grunewald

Peter Franson

Tom and Beth Williams (Teagen, Sydney)

New members received on May 11, 2014

Jason & Kristina Ciesiolka

Julie Hornby (Jesse & Joey)

Heidi Koele (Austin)

New members received on October 19, 2014

Shawn Jessie (Briana)

Adam & Jennifer Raeder

Ben & Brittany Flitcroft (Laikyn)

Naomi Golden