Growing in Faith...Sharing Christ’s Love!  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# 2020 Annual Report

## 

## Welcome to Trinity’s Annual Report!

Included in this report are the [Annual Meeting Agenda](#hak7gstcx8hc), the [Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes](#luo04yf5n8r6), [Pastoral Report](#adb1lfl90w94), [Congregational Council & Committee Reports](#wxz95i9a8pir), the [Trinity Pines Annual Report](#hi6fo320s7qm) & [Official Acts](#u3316behdn01). Click on one of the links to be taken to that portion of the report or scroll through as your please.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, July 26, 2020

1. Opening Devotion
2. Approval of the Minutes of the June 9, 2019 Annual Meeting
3. Reports of the Pastor, Congregational Council, Committees and others
4. Elections
   1. Congregational Council - 3 open positions for three-year terms
      1. Current Nominees: Heidi Kabat, Eugene Syvrud, Michelle Morrow
      2. Audit Committee - 1 position for a three-year term
      3. Current Nominees: Kathy Bahner
   2. 2021 Synod Assembly Representatives (Date & Location TBD) - 2 people
      1. Current Nominees: Jamie Stock & Sue Hamilton
5. Treasurer’s Report
6. Presentation, discussion and approval of the Budget
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Project Renew Report
10. Closing Prayer

Annual Congregational Minutes

Sunday, June 9, 2019

1. The annual congregational meeting was called to order by Adam Smith, council president, on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 9:25 am in the Gathering Space of Trinity Lutheran Church. There were approximately 26 people in attendance.
2. Prayer was offered by Pastor Mark Dressel.
3. The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were reviewed by those in attendance and approved.
4. Reports by Council Members
   1. See Annual Report 2019
5. Elections
   1. The Church Council proposed Leah Fritsche, Tia Schoen, & Adam Smith for open (3) 3 years positions on Church Council. With no discussion, Drew Schoeneck motioned to approve. The motion was seconded. Motion was approved.
6. Adam Smith proposed Michelle Newton for (1) 3 year position on the Audit Committee. Discussion was held, and hearing no issues, Sue Hamilton motioned to approve the nomination. The motion was seconded and approved.
7. Adam Smith sought representatives for the 2020 Synod Assembly. Kathy Bahner nominated Jamie Stock and Sue Hamilton to attend. The motion was seconded and approved.
8. Treasurer’s Report (Jamie Stock)
   1. Report was reviewed. We came in under budget, we passed on $20,000 to the greater church. We retired a $5,000 Trinity note that went to pay off the mortgage debt. Set aside money for sabbatical and continue to save for the copier. We have a $60,000 surplus.
   2. Question from Jackie Erwin - Do you think we would have an easier time budgeting with more electronic giving? Giving is always erratic. There was a suggestion to add ETF to bulletins.
      1. Brad Rosecke - If we had all of our giving happen online, would we be paying a lot of fees? And is there a difference? Fees depend on the type of transaction, but yes, if there were more online giving, you’d have to assume more online fees.
   3. Discussion on Budget - We didn't make a ton of changes from last year. The budget is more of a spending plan. Things will go up and down - snow removal, postage. Proposing a small salary increase for the Office Manager and Pastor (keeps Pastor above synod guidelines).
   4. Motion to accept the budget was made and seconded. Motion was approved.
9. No Unfinished Business
10. No New Business
11. Project Renew (Dan Zastrow)
    1. Through April - total cost of the project $288,000, which does not include interest on the loan. Currently, brought in $255,000 of the pledged $300,000.
12. Vicar Sterling closed in prayer
13. Motion to Adjourn the meeting was made by Drew Schoeneck, seconded by Karen Peters. Adjourn at 9:56 am.

Pastoral Report for the 2019-2020 Year

Submitted by Pastor Mark Dressel

***“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with a hope.”***

***-Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV***

***“For we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”***

***-Romans 8:28, NRSV***

Dear Trinity Members and Friends,

It has been an unusual year. I write this report in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is hard to remember the things that happened when the 2019-2020 fiscal year began because it seems like so long ago.

The months following Trinity’s last annual meeting, in June 2019, were relatively normal.

* We had the pleasure of working with Vicar Sterling Lynk as he completed the second half of his eighteen-month, half-time internship.
* Over the summer, we entered a float in the Town and Country Days parade.
* We sent high school students on a High School Summer Servant Event (Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program and LOVE, Inc., as well as a day at Great America).
* We held our annual Vacation Bible School, this year entitled “Roar!”
* As we moved into fall, we resumed Sunday School, Youth on Wednesday (YOW) and Senior High on Wednesday (SHOW).
* Adult choir, youth choir, hand bell choir, worship band and special musical offerings enhanced worship services.
* We hosted the Trinity Infinity family bike ride around the Rock Lake.
* We offered several Faith, Fellowship, and Football events.
* Wine, Women and Word stayed strong.
* Ladies’ Lunch Out continued to be popular.
* Trinity’s Dartball team had a fine year.
* Senior High on Wednesday (SHOW) hosted a Halloween Party for younger kids.
* High School Youth planning to go to the National Youth Gathering in 2021 held several fundraisers.
* We received New Members.
* We held our annual Christmas Tree Sale “Trees that Give,” in conjunction with Watson Ace Hardware, to raise money for the LM Food Pantry.
* We celebrated the Christmas season with a holiday Soup and Sandwich Luncheon.
* The choir sang an Advent Cantata.
* We offered a Blue Christmas worship service for people experiencing grief and sadness in the holiday season.
* We welcomed almost 500 people for Christmas Eve Worship.
* As we moved into 2020, we rejoiced as our fifth Graders completed First Communion Training.
* We offered a Lenten Series called the “Five Finger Gospel” on Wednesday evenings.
* We were looking forward to Holy Week when…

…the calendar turned to mid-March and it was becoming increasingly clear that COVID-19 was going to have a greater effect on our lives than a passing cold or flu strain. The NBA and NHL were no longer allowing fans into games and state governors were issuing orders limiting or eliminating public gatherings and were closing schools to in-person instruction.

* On March 22, Trinity moved to entirely online worship
* Streaming Ministry gained dramatically in importance as Wednesday evening and Sunday morning worship services were live-streamed from an empty sanctuary.
* Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship was replayed from previous years.
* Easter balloons were mailed to congregational members and Easter worship, on April 12, was live-streamed.
* We initiated an online sign-in system so people could let us know they were watching, and we began to show their names in worship so those worshiping at home would feel they were part of the worship community.
* Sunday School, YOW and SHOW held virtual meetings for Trinity Youth.
* As concerns about the pandemic continued, our Annual Meeting was postponed.
* Confirmation was postponed.
* Senior blankets were handed out individually, in the parking lot, and senior blessing was offered during online worship for students and parents at home.
* Sunday School and YOW leaders were thanked and blessed virtually.
* As we moved into May, we held drive-through communion after Sunday worship service and tried a Wednesday evening parking lot worship.
* We bid a fond farewell to Vicar Sterling on June 7, as he completed his internship. People were able to wish him well during drive-thru communion.
* Moving into July, we began offering limited in-person worship, asking people to sign up in advance, in addition to live-streamed worship. We are currently offering two worship services per Sunday with the early one being “masks required” and the later one being “masks optional but encouraged.” We have plenty of hand sanitizer, extra masks, open windows and a clear plastic shield between the song leaders and the congregation.
* Ladies Lunch Out has resumed meeting, with gatherings held outdoors on the Culver’s patio.
* We are currently planning to offer outdoor Vacation Bible School (with an online component), and are looking ahead to plans for Sunday School, YOW and SHOW (virtual and/or in-person).
* In hopeful news, as we close the Project Renew Capital Campaign, it appears that we have indeed been able to pay for the entire project during the allotted time! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed and special thanks to those who helped make a final push at the end!

As we navigate these present trials, I am so very grateful for each and every one of you. Your graciousness and patience during truly difficult times has been a wonderful gift. I take comfort not only in your kindness but also in the assurance that God walks with us in times of trial. The Bible consistently tells of God’s love for God’s people in the midst of difficulties. For example, when the children of Israel were taken into exile, God acknowledged their heartache and the years they would spend in captivity. At the same time God reassured them of God’s love and eventual rescue through the prophet Jeremiah, saying***, “I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with a hope.”*** (Jer. 29:11) Much later, after Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christian community in Rome. The church there was struggling to integrate gentile believers into the faith community while the surrounding culture was not always friendly. He acknowledged the sufferings of this present time (Rom. 8:18), and creation’s bondage to decay (Rom 8:21), but still affirmed that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus (Rom. 838-39) and “***that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)***

I do not know how this pandemic will play out. Hopefully it will end sooner rather than later and life will return to some semblance of normal in the near future. Whether it does or it does not, I am confident in God’s love and plan for the church and for each of us. Blessings to each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark

Council & Committee Reports for the 2019-2020 Year

Submitted by Deanna Cannon, Kathy Bahner, & Michelle Newton, Audit Committee

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Council:

On July 8, 2020, the Audit Committee consisting of Deanna Cannon, Kathy Bahner, and Michelle Newton audited the financial records of Trinity Lutheran Church for the period of May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020.

The Audit Committee found the financial records of the church to be very well organized and in good order. We do not have any specific recommendations at this time.

Feel free to contact the Audit Committee members with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Deanna Cannon, Kathy Bahner, & Michelle Newton, Audit Committee

For other reports, please see attached documents.

Trinity Pines Annual Report for 2019

Submitted by Bob Dimperio, President, Board of Directors

The inspiration for Trinity Pines started in the mid-1980s when the members of Trinity Lutheran Church sought a way to extend their mission through the use of a vacant section of land adjacent to the church. Church members recognized the need for a senior living community to allow Lake Mills area residents to retire in the city where they had been living and remain close to their friends and family.

“The Pines” as it is nicknamed, was established as a non-profit corporation 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 community is open to all, aged 60 and up, regardless of church affiliation.

A nine member volunteer Board of Directors, with representatives from Trinity Lutheran Church, the community, and a resident representative 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.

Trinity Pines features a combination of 39 apartments with 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans, a beautiful community dining room and kitchen, sun room, hair salon, library, activity and craft space, screened-in patio, laundry facilities on each floor, pool table, exercise room, and underground heated parking.

The Pines continues to maintain a good financial position. While there was some turnover during the year, the vacated apartments were promptly rented or re-occupied. For 2019, the corporation experienced a positive cash flow.

We continued to pay close attention to the upkeep of our facility. The first phase of a three phase program to replace the patio doors in each apartment was accomplished this year. New energy efficient Anderson sliding doors were installed for seven residents. The second phase will be done in 2020. This summer, the back garden area received the attention it had been missing.

The Managing Director and staff continue to offer a wide array of social, educational, musical, and nutritional programs for the benefit of our residents. Multiple monthly social events, entertainment, and educational programs were offered. From Road Trips to Reflexology, there was high utilization of the many activities available. Through these different programs, social opportunities for our residents (and at times community members) are improved and the community’s awareness of The Pines is enhanced.

As a way to connect with others, the Trinity Pines Facebook page continues to be updated with weekly posts to engage our over 300 followers. Please take a moment to “Like” and “Follow” us to get a glimpse into the life of residents. While on our Facebook page, we encourage those who are familiar with us to please write a review. The Lake Mills Leader continues to publish the weekly “Tracking Trinity Pines” column, which is written by Sharon Kassube.

On the employee front, we recognize the longevity of key personnel with Sharon Kassube celebrating 17 years, Loretta Grossman and Howard Kunaschk both celebrating 15 years and Ann Lee, 7 years.

Looking at the age range of residents, our youngest is 61 and the eldest 96. There are 9 Nonagenarian members in our Club 90, which was started in 2014. What wonderful testaments to the benefits of communal living and socializing!

This annual report is a great time to acknowledge and thank all of the residents who volunteer their time and energy to help make living at Trinity Pines so enjoyable. From the various committees (i.e. Resident Council and Decorating Committee) to the individuals who do things like deliver daily newspapers, show the weekly movie, and help neighbors with rides, the participation and willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

Word of mouth is our absolute best form of advertising, so I encourage members of the Trinity Lutheran congregation to become more acquainted with this outstanding community asset. Tours of the building are available at your convenience by contacting Ann Lee or Loretta Grossman, our Office Assistant, who has called Trinity Pines home for over 20 years. We invite you to see for yourself how what we provide helps residents thrive!

Bob Dimperio

President, Board of Directors

Presented January 28, 2020

Official Acts for the 2019 Year

Submitted by Cate Urbas, Office Administrator

## BAPTISMS (20)

**January 27, 2019**

Mary Grigson (born: 06/03/1971)

Sponsors: Mike & Linda Branzolewski

**January 27, 2019**

Conor Daubert (born: 01/27/2019)

Sponsors: Mike & Linda Branzolewski

Parents: Mary Grigson

**January 27, 2019**

Emma Daubert (born: 05/03/2008)

Sponsors: Mike & Linda Branzolewski

Parents: Mary Grigson

**January 27, 2019**

Sophia Skudlarczyk (born: DATE)

Sponsors: Kathi Pecor

Parents: Jon Skudlarczyk

**February 17, 2019**

Xavier Alexander Raeder (born: 07/20/2018)

Sponsors: Jonathan & Ashley Kelm

Parents: Jennifer & Adam Raeder

**April 7, 2019**

Thomas Lee Whiting (born: 10/29/1961)

Sponsors: Mark Anderson

**April 7, 2019**

Teagan Jade Whiting (born: 08/01/2016)

Sponsors: Brian McCosky & Taylor Balistreri

Parents: Nicholas Whiting & Tori Frutiger

**May 11, 2019**

Trevor Jarred Altreuter, Jr. (born: 12/17/2014)

Sponsors: Lori Hertel & Sammie Hrobsky

Parents: Kristina Beeney & Trevor Altreuter, Sr.

**May 11, 2019**

Alanah Marie Altreuter (born: 06/03/2013)

Sponsors: Erica Beeney & Tye Altreuter

Parents: Kristina Beeney & Trevor Altreuter, Sr.

**May 11, 2019**

Amarah Mae Altreuter (born: 11/07/2016)

Sponsors: Kimi Ness & Tabitha Altreuter

Parents: Kristina Beeney & Trevor Altreuter, Sr.

**June 9, 2019**

Jennifer Ann Winter (born: 02/02/1978)

Sponsors: John Winter & Lisa Van Handel

**June 9, 2019**

Katelyn Clare Winter (born: 10/09/2006)

Sponsors: John Winter & Lisa Van Handel

Parents: Jennifer & Mike Winter

**June 9, 2019**

Patricia Fontella Winter (born: 01/18/2008)

Sponsors: John Winter & Lisa Van Handel

Parents: Jennifer & Mike Winter

**June 23, 2019**

Lydia Rue (born: 05/05/2019)

Sponsors: Ethan Jaeger, Taylor Trewyn, Stephen Pooler

Parents: Brandon Rue & Desiree Pooler

**July 14, 2019**

Brooks Jameson Riedl (born: 04/21/2019)

Sponsors: Jonathon Hinrichs & Britney Baertschy

Parents: Hannah & James Riedl

**July 14, 2019**

Noah Isamu Russell (born: 01/23/2018)

Sponsors: Riley Knueppel & Billy Wallace

Parents: Nathan & Yuu Russell

**July 21, 2019**

Tessa Louise Nicole Smith (born: 04/11/2019)

Sponsors: Ashley Lane & Time Hillyer

Parents: Adam & Tanya Smith

**August 11, 2019**

Cashton Cody Hall (born: 11/30/2018)

Sponsors: Ryan & Paige Schmitt

Parents: Nathan & Raschelle Hall

**October 27, 2019**

Remi Harold Bargenquast (born: 08/19/2019)

Sponsors: Brittani Clark & Cole Tautges

Parents: Kelly & Tim Bargenquast

**November 24, 2019**

Jack Michael Mueller (born: 04/05/2019)

Sponsors: Angel Beck & Bill Mueller

Parents: Danelle & Mike Mueller

## WEDDINGS (5)

**May 18, 2019**

Names: Matthew Steindorf & Nicole Hill

Historic Pabst Brewery - Milwaukee, WI

**June 22, 2019**

Names: Gwen Uselman & Chase Schroeder

Trinity Lutheran Church

**June 29, 2019**

Names: Tom Schwarze & Amber Maloney

Township of Blue Mounds, Vicar Sterling Lynk presiding, Rev. Mark Dressel officiate

**July 13, 2019**

Names: Abbey MacWilliams & McKinly Jaeckel

Villa Buenocontro

**October 5, 2019**

Names: Jonathan Charles Vallier & Katie Theile

Trinity Lutheran Church

## FUNERALS (9)

**Lois R. Bendall**

Born: December 8, 1931

Died: Saturday, January 5, 2019

Funeral: January 12, 2019

at Trinity Lutheran Church

Interment at Rock Lake Cemetery

**Craig Allen Quest**

Born: April 28, 1977

Died: Thursday, February 21, 2019

Funeral: February 27, 2019

at Trinity Lutheran Church

Interment at Newville Cemetery

**Tracy Marie Morse**

Born: August 14, 1972

Died: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Memorial Services: Midvale Community Lutheran Church, co-presided by

Rev. Katie Baardseth & Rev. Mark Dressel

**Scott Wayne Sherry**

Born: January 26, 1969

Died: Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Funeral: April 30, 2019

at Trinity Lutheran Church

**Mary Ann Martinson**

Born: June 29, 1936

Died: Saturday, May 11, 2019

Funeral: May 16, 2019

at Trinity Lutheran Church

Interment at Aztalan-Milford Cemetery

**Dan V. Wrensch**

Born: July 18, 1951

Died: June 22, 2019

Memorial Services: June 26, 2019

at Trinity Lutheran Church

Interment at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove, WI

**Goldie Oleson**

Born: December 14, 1921

Died: September 12, 2019

Funeral: September 17, 2019,

Vicar Sterling Lynk presiding,

at Nitardy Funeral Home in Fort Atkinson, WI

Interment at Lakeview Cemetery

in Fort Atkinson, WI

**Charles M. Hyde**

Born: September 18, 1937

Died: November 9, 2019

Funeral: November 22, 2019 at Koepsell-Murray Funeral Home

in Beaver Dam, WI

Interment at Highland Memory Gardens

in Trenton, WI

**Lois Kindt**

Born: February 22, 1927

Died: November 23, 2019

Funeral: December 6, 2019

at Claussen Funeral Home in Lake Mills, WI

Interment at Evergreen Cemetery

in Johnson Creek, WI

## CONFIRMED (15)

#### 

#### May 12, 2019

**Benjamin Anhalt**

Parents: Tim & Renee Anhalt

**John Bade**

Parents: Stephanie & Mathew Bade

**Beau Buchholtz**

Parents: Kim & Chris Buchholtz

**Landon Dierkes**

Parents: Becky & Darien Dierkes

**Gibson Hale**

Parents: Abby & Brian Hale

**Andrew Hamilton**

Parents: Chris & Tracy Hamilton

**Kaleb Koester**

Parents: Kurt & Jenny Koester

**Olivia Olson**

Parents: Gary & Jennifer Olson

**Logan Patrick**

Parents: Chad & Dawn Patrick

**Tyler Stock**

Parents: Lance & Jamie Stock

**Lily Templin**

Parents: Mark & Luanne Jothen

**Trysten Thiede**

Parents: Amanda Hoppe

**Marissa Topel**

Parents: Jenny & Steve Topel

**Isabelle Topel**

Parents: Lisa Topel

**Aiden White**

Parents: Aaron & Kim White

## NEW MEMBERS (36)

#### New members received on January 27, 2019

Mary Grigson (Conor Daubert & Emma Daubert)

Hollie Miller

Jon Skudlarczyk & Gretchen Oleson (Sophia Skudlarczyk)

Matthew Steindorf & Nicole Hill (Josef Steindorf & Robert Steindorf)

Ryan & Karina Gosdeck

#### 

#### New members received on January 30, 2019

Gary & Connie Milbrath

#### New members received on June 2, 2019

Chase Schroeder & Gwen Uselman

Greg Polachek & Maribeth Conard

Mike & Jennifer Winter (Katie & Patricia)

Carla & John Hinrichs

Hannah Riedl (Brooks)

Linda Brennan-Whiting

New members received on November 10, 2019

Gwen & Garritt Boettcher (Gavin, Greylen, & Gretta)

Bob & Shearon Hale

Jean Schuenke