

November 2024 Volume 27, No. 11

Trinity Lutheran Church

A welcoming faith community
living together in God's love to
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

TIDINGS



Alternative Christmas Gift Fair

The Alternative Christmas Gift Fair is an opportunity to shop for Fair Trade gift items and to donate to local, national, and international non-profits. The main event will be **Sunday, December 8, from 8:45 am-12:30 pm**. Among the returning charities and fair trade vendors are Heifer Project, Trees Water People, and the Murulle Foundation. The Fair is put on by all three of the 301 Faith Partners. The Joint Social and Ecological Justice ministry sponsors the fair and is looking for volunteers to help with planning and on the day of the event. If you want to help, please contact Jim Frye, kiosk #52 or jim_work@comcast.net or 970-225-9490.

Turkey Round Up

301 Faith Partners Turkey Round Up is to collect turkeys for the Food Bank for Larimer County. Bring your rock-hard frozen turkeys to church on **Sunday, November 24 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm**. Please remember, only rock-hard frozen turkeys can be donated, if you are able to squeeze your turkey even a little bit- it is no longer frozen! So, it won't be safe to donate. Let's STUFF THE FOOD BANK! Give thanks by GIVING!

Lefse Making

All are welcome to come make Lefse, with real potatoes, cream, butter, and artisan flour on **Thursdays, November 7, 21, and December 19, from 10am-2pm** in the kitchen and fellowship hall. Amy Jo Martinson will make the dough the day before. You will be rolling out the dough, grilling it, putting into cloths to rest, and either eating or putting into bags! If you have any supplies, please bring them to help with making more faster. We do have 3 griddles and equipment for three stations. No charge. Any questions, please contact Amy Jo Martinson (kransekake.lefse@yahoo.com) at her home, which is where she sells Kransekake and Lefse out of her home. Thank you, Tusen Takk!

Save the Dates

November 17: Congregational Meeting

November 23: FOCOLU Habitat Build day

December 1-15: FFH at Trinity

December 4, 11, & 18: Advent Soup Supper & Holden Service

December 8: Alternative Giving Fair

Fall Clean Up

Join together for the annual Fall Cleanup Day on **Saturday, November 16, from 9 am-12 pm**. Please plan to bring your favorite rake, leaf-blower/leaf-vacuum, pruning shears, and/or other tools to clean up the church campus. If you would prefer to work inside OR if the weather is too bad to be outside, please plan to bring cleaning supplies and hand vacuums for interior room cleaning. Please contact Steve Dugger, Property Ministry at (970) 691-7469 with any questions.

Adult Forum

November 3: On this All Saints Sunday, we will have an open discussion about saints, living or dead, famous or obscure, who have been a blessing to us in our lives.

November 10: Discussion on Trinity's proposed 2025 Ministry Funds Plan

November 17: Adrienne Jurgenson will update us on the work of Safe Families for Children here in northern Colorado

November 24: We will learn about Jewish Voice for Peace, the largest progressive, Jewish, anti-Zionist organization in the world, and how Lutherans and others can support their work.

Donation Corner

Prayer Cards Small Group needs:

- 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer by November 16! They are working on a project for the Alternative Giving Fair. Any extras will be donated to another non-profit in need.

Quilting Small Group needs:

- We will still (and always!) collect donated fabric, Fabric, FABRIC.

Thrivent Action Teams: Are you an eligible Thrivent member and have choice dollars available to direct? There are a number of groups that count on the Thrivent Action Teams. Talk to Dcn. Katie.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



www.trinitylutheranfc.org

Phone: (970) 482-1226
After Hours Emergency:
(970)-400-7252

OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

WORSHIP TIMES
SAT: 5 PM | SUN: 10:30 AM

Senior Pastor: Rick Reiten
pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

Education & Family Minister
Deacon Katie Kline
katie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Admin: Deana Andrist
office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager: Brenda Moore
bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator
Amanda Backsen
amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Church Musician: Carrie Hansen
carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choir: Tessa Espinosa
choir@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Handbell: Jill Hunt
bells@trinitylutheranfc.org

Saturday Worship Leader
Clinton Ellerbe
saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org

AV Techician: Claire Pickerel
claire@trinitylutheranfc.org

Sunday School: Jennifer Reeve
childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org

Nursery Coordinator
Tiffany Klijewski
tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

TLC Preschool Director
Brenda Harju
brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Pastor's Ponderings: Sabbatical Summary -Part 2

The sabbatical is broken into three parts – “Rest” while hiking 14ers is the first part. The second is “Personal Learning.” My plan was to learn some construction skills – while operating as the GC (general contractor) at our build site in Hartsel, CO.

What I learned is our plans didn't work as expected.

What I learned is my communication skills are as important as my construction skills.

What I learned is I am not a GC.

Our company had already fabricated the exterior walls, from metal shipping containers, and they were delivered to our property. Setting the foundation and the containers on top, welding and sealing the windows and doors. What we anticipated to be complete by the end of June finished at the end of September. Typical? Yes, and frustrating because the work we planned to do ourselves at the cabin wasn't possible because of their contract with us. Now at the end of October we are still waiting for confirmation that everything we asked them to do has been finished.

The good news is the unexpected and unplanned learning. My goal to finish ten projects (mostly at the cabin), now became projects at home in Greeley. Painting, landscaping, cleaning – those menial tasks that turn meaningful. I had time to make a jewelry box with Anya and create a week of Daddy/daughter days.

I had space and time to work through my reading list – 10 books from my office shelf – another 10 novels on audio. I learned and re-learned the scared space a car provides for me and mental health on endless hours driving through Colorado.

This gift of time – the unplanned days – allowed me to be present to the frustration of the cabin build delays. Still stressful and frustration, but I was able to cope better without the additional burdens of being pastor. In an ironic way, I could be Christian better outside my pastoral role than in it.

Reflecting on the goals of this phase of the sabbatical, I wanted to build relationships with family, create experiences and memories together. While it didn't happen the way we planned it was successful personal learning, with memories and experiences that I wouldn't dream of changing.

Even if my construction skills haven't improved.

Thanks be to God. Pastor Rick

Third Quarter Benevolence

"Great News! We ended the 3rd quarter of 2024 with a positive balance of \$17,480. This amount represents the monies available to pay 3rd quarter congregational benevolence. Therefore, we were able to pay 7.5% on the 3rd quarter Ministry Offerings of \$88,643, or \$6,648. PLUS we paid the remaining 2.5% of 1st quarter congregational benevolence in the amount of \$2,283 for a total of \$8,931! As of the end of the 3rd quarter, the total congregational benevolence paid is \$20,174 which is 7.5% of the Ministry Offerings. In addition to congregational benevolence, we have also given \$1,916 to organizations in the Social & Eco Justice budget as well as Faith Formation's and Administration's. This brings total giving to \$22,090."

Small Groups

Quilting has been cutting, sewing, assembling and tying quilts for the past year. On Sunday, October 20 at the joint worship service, approximately 35 quilts were blessed. Two of those quilts will be given to the new Habitat for Humanity homeowners at their home dedication in January. The remaining quilts will be boxed and taken to Urban Servant Corps in Denver. From Denver, they will be shipped to St. Paul, MN where they will be packed onto shipping containers to go to wherever needed. Recently Lutheran World Relief decided to distribute quilts in the US (think Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton, wildfires, etc.) in addition to around the world. We are continually amazed at the generosity of the three congregations for donated fabric. We sincerely thank you. Lutheran World Relief thanks you. Those in need thank you! If you'd like to join us, please come; **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. Hope to see the old familiar as well as new faces.

Trinity Readers will meet on **Monday, November 4 at 9:30 am** to discuss the novel *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. The world wakes up one morning with a mysterious box waiting for each person. Inside the box is a piece of string representing your life span. Do you open your box? If you do, how do you live your life? Explore how eight characters respond. Looking ahead to December, our selection will be *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett, a novel about family love and the lives our parents led before they were our parents. Questions? Contact Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730. Questions? Contact Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730. Join us in person or via [Zoom](#). This is the new Zoom link.

TGIF Come and enjoy an evening of fun, conversation, and connecting at the home of Liz & Paul Johnson (3780 Carbondale St, Loveland) on **Friday, November 8 at 6:30 pm**. As a reminder water and some drinks are provided. Bring your own beverage an app/dessert to share. If you like to sign up to Host, please contact [Liz Johnson](#) or 402-320-3699.

Grace Tables continues on **Sunday, November 17**. Grace tables small groups have been going on since 2017, but we refresh every year as new folks join. We get together about once a month to share fellowship, a DVD study, and prayer. Currently, we meet in the church library on Sunday nights from **6:30-8 pm**. Interested? Call or text 970-310-3482 or email [Ron & Bonnie](#). Thanks – Ron & Bonnie Bend

Pub Theology 2.0 will meet on **Thursday, November 21 at 6 pm** at Prost Bier Garten. An open invitation for all to attend. Kentucky writer bell hooks (sic) writes “Rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation. Healing is an act of communion”. This evening’s conversation will finish Desmond Tutu’s No Future Without Forgiveness add his book, God is Not a Christian, and Other Provocations to the exploration of forgiveness and healing. Email [James Gearhart](#) for questions.

301 FP Fellowship Get-Togethers take place the **2nd Thursday of the month at 3:30 pm**, the location is picked closer to the date, so check the e-News. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

301 FP Prayer Group on break for November, join us again in December.

JOY delights in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join for their next luncheon in February. Look for more information in the future Tidings and e-News.

Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Co-Op Committee composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the 27 June 24 meeting the following items were discussed:

September Meeting:

Prayer Rug: The placement of the Turkish rug given to Trinity on their pilgrimage to Ephesus was discussed. It will hang over the fireplace in the Fireside room.

Social-Eco Justice Letter: A concern was raised with a letter supported by the Social-Eco Justice team asking people to sign it and support legislation to keep asylum seekers from being evicted from their homes. The letter had the 301 logo as well as that of the individual congregations but approval was not received to use the logos from the 301 Co-Op and the faith communities. Co-Op endorsed that the use of such logos must go through the Co-Op and the decision-making bodies of the individual faith communities before they can be used.

Blessing of Animals: The blessing of animals will occur on 6 Oct at 11:45 am. with participation from Fr. Jed Hodorh (retired priest from St. Paul's), Pastor Rick, and Mother Rosean.

Progressive Flag on Electronic Sign: An image of the progressive flag with the words "All Are Welcome at the Table" was presented to Co-Op. Co-Op agreed to add the text and image to the existing 301 Faith Partners slide.

Trinity Survey: Eric, Trinity council president, informed the Co-Op about the roll-out of the Trinity survey in September and items being asked on the survey. It was noted that the survey is NOT a vote, just a means to gauge the congregation's views.

Continuing Discussion: What we Share in Common: Discussion continued on commonalities and differences among the three faith communities. A document highlighting this discussion is in the planning stages with the goal is to distribute the document to the members of the faith communities.

October Meeting:

Electronic Digital Sign: There have been problems adding additional digital posts to highlight special events at the church. A Co-Op member will look at the contract and try to determine what is available for tech support to resolve this problem. Reminder: for events to go on the digital sign, the Co-Op needs to approve the use of the digital sign for the event.

Trinity Poll: Eric Jurgenson provided a brief update on the poll results.

Sharing Staff: Discussed how to share staff when there is a common event among the 301 Faith Partners. It was determined to discuss the issue with members of the staff from the three faith communities.

Poster: Social-Eco Justice Ministry asked if posters on bias from the Interfaith Community could be hung in the fellowship hall. Co-Op agreed to the request.

Neuro-Divergent Inclusion: Mary of Magdala raised attention to how best to include neuro-divergent individuals in worship service and in our faith communities. Co-Op members are tasked with thinking about this issue for the next meeting.

Property Committee Team: A member from St. Paul's will be stepping down from the property committee.

Route to the Tabernacle: It is difficult to reach the tabernacle in the sanctuary of Trinity Church. Some of the faith communities keep elements in the tabernacle for visitation. This discussion also brought up the lack of handicap signs on the west side of the church.

If you would like to receive a copy of the minutes of the Coop Meetings, please email your request to Deana at office@trinitylutheranfc.org. Respectfully submitted, Vicki Volbrecht, VP Trinity Council

NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
3 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	4 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property	5 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:30pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
10 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	11 12 pm Sermon Discussion 3 pm Trust	12 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 6:30 pm Executive
17 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship <i>Congregational Mtg</i> 11:30 am Fellowship 6:30 pm Grace Tables	18 12 pm Sermon Discussion	19 9:30 am Volunteer @ Irish Elem 6:30 pm Council
24 8:30am Turkey Round Up 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	25 12 pm Sermon Discussion	26

**PULL ME OUT! HANG ME UP!!
PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!**

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

November 2/3 Sherry Albertson-Clark / Paul Johnson
November 9/10 Vicki Volbrecht / Tessa Espinosa
November 16/17 / Emma Cleveringa
November 23/24 / Erik Elliott
Nov 30/Dec 1 /

Anniversaries

Barbara & Jim Montague 11/23
 Kelly & Andrew Dolan 11/27
 Ronda & Scott Simmons 11/30

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10 am Quilting Grp	2 12 pm Sweet Treats 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship
6 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	7 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Lefse Making	8 10 am Quilting Grp 6:30 pm TGIF	9 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship
13 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	14 9:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	15 10 am Quilting Grp	16 9 am Fall Clean Up 2 pm Prayer Cards 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship 6 pm Supper Symposium
20 12:40 pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	21 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Lefse Making 6 pm Pub Theology 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	22 10 am Quilting Grp	23 Habitat Build Day 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship
27	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29	30 5 pm Saturday Praise 5:45 pm Fellowship



Birthdays



Finnegan Berning	11/1	Rebecca Roland	11/12	Jon Remmers	11/18
Rob Schmidt	11/3	Justice Jackson	11/13	Macee Dugger	11/19
Garth Rogers	11/4	Sylvie Supinski	11/13	Lana Schueler	11/19
Scott Simmons	11/4	Brenda Moore	11/14	Sherry Albertson-Clark	11/22
Melanie Eber	11/5	Owen Sprain	11/15	Megan Brissey	11/22
Teresa Simske	11/6	Cheryl Backsen	11/16	Isla Zuniga	11/26
Paxton Walker	11/6	Ken Clark	11/16	Steph Mullenbach	11/28
Charlene Fuglestad	11/7	Don Garman	11/16	Jennifer Anderson	11/29
Joanne Sunset	11/8	Ben Drews	11/17	Dallen Simske	11/29
Becki Oscarson	11/9	Margaret Frye	11/17		

TLC Preschool

As the calendar turns to November, it brings with it thoughts of Thanksgiving. That includes turkey and pumpkin pie (of course!), but I also think of those things, large and small, that I know I am truly thankful for. A warm home, ample clothing, a working vehicle and food, both healthy and unhealthy, are always on the list. My son, who is smart and loving, is the very best thing that ever happened to me. I'm sad he lives further away now, but he's following a dream, which is exactly what he's supposed to do! I cherish my friends from all periods of my life, even back to high school. And the friends I'm able to surround myself with now are my village, who I know, without a doubt, have my back, as I have theirs, through whatever life chooses to throw at us.

I'm also so very grateful for a job I love here at Trinity. I've been blessed to have this position for 20 years now (so hard to believe as I type it), and I've been so blessed to work with amazing people, both on the preschool boards and church staff. I'm also very appreciative of the many members of the congregation who are so supportive of TLC Preschool! People are at the heart of what makes a job, and life in general, good, bad or simply tolerable. The approximately 362 children I've had the pleasure of teaching at TLC Preschool are the reason I started working in early childhood and are definitely the reason I've continued for so many years.

As many of you have heard, this is a harder year for TLC Preschool. Our enrollment dropped dramatically due to a combination of factors beyond our control. And yes, these issues were beyond our control and not a result of lack of skill, hard work or certifications in our program. Despite lower enrollment, TLC Preschool is moving forward and we're having a wonderful year with the students we have! It's fabulous for our families because their children are getting so much individualized attention and we're able to create some very fun activities because of the lower numbers. It truly feels like a family this year.

Unfortunately, because of the lower numbers, our budget is very stressed. The Christmas wreath fundraiser has been in full swing to help us with the budget and we appreciate those who have helped TLC Preschool out by purchasing a wreath from us. The fundraiser is wrapping up on November 3rd, so we don't know yet how successful the fundraiser has been but thank you to those who have participated!

Another way to help TLC Preschool is by participating in the CCCC (Colorado Childcare Contribution Credit) program. The Child Care Contribution Credit program seeks to increase the quality of childcare in Colorado. The state allows you to take a 50% tax credit (of your donation) on your state income taxes when you donate to a qualified childcare program like TLC Preschool. Forms will be showing up in the Tidings or are available from the church office.

Despite the recent challenges, I continue to be so thankful to be a part of an amazing program at Trinity! I'm grateful to Tiffany Klijewski for being an enthusiastic and reliable assistant, to all the members of the current TLC Preschool board for their commitment and hard work for the preschool, to past preschool board members and congregation members who continue their support of our mission at Trinity, to the great church staff who are always supportive and encouraging of the preschool, to parishioners from St. Paul's and Mary of Magdala who have been very supportive of TLC Preschool, and most especially to Pastor Rick and Deacon Katie who, despite so much on their respective plates, continue to support me and the TLC Preschool mission, and who always offer enthusiastic chapel times for us! You are all so loved and appreciated!

Blessings to all in this season of Thanksgiving, Brenda Harju, TLC Preschool Director

CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION FORM

Colorado Child Care Tax Credit Contribution Form

To: TLC Preschool
Phone: 970-482-1226
301 E. Stuart Street
Fort Collins, CO 80525



Please accept my contribution under the Colorado Child Care Contribution Act.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

The Colorado Tax Credit Certification Form DR1317 will be sent to the above address following the current calendar year. Should you need the form earlier, please contact the office. Make checks out to TLC Preschool.

TLC Preschool Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

Celebrate the season of giving by supporting TLC Preschool’s fundraiser. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to enhance our educational programs and increase enrollment and awareness of our early childhood learning program. It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas...with an aromatic combination of Noble Fir, berried juniper, incense cedar and touches of color with red, faux, holly berries and a red velvet water repellent bow, you cannot go wrong with one or BOTH wreaths!! They come in two sizes, 22” for \$25 or 28” for \$40 and are available for direct delivery and start arriving the week of Thanksgiving with guaranteed arrival no later than 2 weeks after Thanksgiving. Order at sherwoodfundraiser.com/tlcpreschoolfortcollins, once you select your wreath(s) and follow the page prompts you will get a thank you email with links to pay. There are three ways to pay for the wreaths: Venmo [HERE](#) (“Trinity-LutheranFC”), through the Preschool’s [Vanco website](#) (chose “other” with picture of the wreath), or cash/check in person. **Sales end Sunday, November 3!** Support TLC Preschool and buy a festive Christmas wreath today!

TLC 2024 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals

	September 2024	Year-To-Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 27,530	\$ 268,952
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	41,822
Building Use	588	8,689
Benevity Funds Released	2,850	13,004
Total Receipts:	35,548	332,467
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	\$ 25,646	\$ 221,862
Ministries	5,365	81,883
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	11,243
Total Expenditures:	31,011	314,988
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ 4,537	\$ 17,479
Total Checking/Savings as of 9/30/2024		\$ 164,592.78
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2023		\$ 166,656.00
Difference		\$ (2,063.22)

301 FP Joint Ecological Team (JET) ECO Tip of the Month

We are now in the critical period of casting our votes for the 2024 election. Many across Colorado and the U.S. are discerning choices on issues and candidates which will shape our future for years to come. As we perform our civic duty to vote, it is important to consider the environment. The following excerpts from ELCA documents provide some helpful guidance for us to consider.

The 2020 Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy states "Lutherans care about government because it is a gift from God intended for the safety and flourishing of human life. Yet too often and in too many ways, this gift has been abused. Over time Lutherans have learned that energetic civic engagement is part of their baptismal vocation, both as individuals and through the church's corporate witness. Such civic participation is not simply voluntary, idealistic, or altruistic. The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God's people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13:1-7). We have the responsibility to raise our voices and votes against misuse of government. Discipleship in a democracy takes many forms. Examples include: • informed and regular voting • participation in government efforts such as the census • attending public meetings • public service as a government employee or in public office • involvement with political parties and campaigns • advocacy about particular issues • volunteering for public-service organizations • community organizing for social change • nonviolent protest"

The 2023 Social Message on Earth's Climate Crisis also states "In the Holy Scriptures, God assigns a sacred responsibility to human beings: we are to care for and keep God's creation for future generations. The ELCA first addressed this calling three decades ago by pairing environmental justice with social justice in the 1993 Social Statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice. It also names climate change as a central environmental issue, one the ELCA has addressed to varying degrees. This social message is rooted in our duty to be responsible caretakers of God's creation. God assigns a sacred responsibility to human beings: we are to care for and keep God's creation for future generations. At the heart of this social message lies the claim that climate change presents humanity with a kairos moment; that is, a critical moment in time when God is leading us into decisive action.

Our Lutheran tradition says that God actively pursues the flourishing of life in human society in two ways—through the gospel and the law. As Redeemer of the world, God works through the church to proclaim the gospel and to promote mercy and reconciliation through proclamation of the word and administration of the sacraments. As Creator of the world, God uses civil authorities to restrain evil, establish a modicum of justice, and promote the common good through rule of law and use of reason. Given the systemic nature of the climate crisis, government and public policy are both key. Lutherans believe "government remains God's gift because it is intended to do what churches, families, individuals, and businesses cannot do on their own: protect and coordinate the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and creation. The litmus test for government action is whether our neighbor is being served and whether justice is being done."

Stewardship Campaign Update

There will be more information as we move forward, but currently we have 68 returned pledges with a total of **\$59,378 (increase)**. Thank you! You can still be part of this initiative as pledges are still welcome. Your generosity and commitment to God's ministry now in this place is evident. We are Trinity together.

Your Gifts In Action ~ ELCA World Hunger & Disaster Response

For 50 years ELCA World Hunger has addressed long-term hunger issues by supporting sustainable development projects of local congregations around the world. As many as 811 million people are undernourished. Your gift matters - in Ghana, the United States, Tanzania, and other countries. As church, our calling is not merely to minister to our neighbors but to bear witness to the “new thing” God is doing in our world, a new community God is making possible. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, gifts to ELCA World Hunger enable the ELCA to respond during critical moments such as these, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

In The Gambia, Anna participated in a cashew farming project supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. The project is one of several initiatives aimed at building food security and creating new opportunities for Gambians. In this project, women and girls from rural areas with high rates of poverty learn how to grow and market cashew nuts for income. With the additional money, Anna can afford food, clothing, school fees for her children, and investments in her growing business. Anna’s story is just one example of your generosity to ELCA World Hunger transforming a life and ushering in a future filled with hope.

ELCA Disaster Response Fund addresses shorter-term help for emergencies around the world. In the Holy Land, gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response have equipped it to respond to this and other disasters. Gifts designated for “Middle East Crisis” will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by this crisis. As first steps in a long-term response, the Disaster Response Fund supports:

- ✦ Augusta Victoria Hospital, which procures medical supplies and provides accommodations for patients and staff unable to return to their homes in Gaza.
- ✦ The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, which provides emergency education support for families who have lost income because of the war and are unable to pay school fees.
- ✦ ACT Alliance, in partnership with Lutheran World Federation, responds to immediate needs for psychosocial support, shelter, household items, public health centers, and direct cash assistance for Palestinian communities in Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank.

When you give to Trinity, you give to World Hunger & Disaster Response

Little Pantry Small Group Update

First of all, The Little Pantry Small Group has welcomed 3 new members who signed up at the small group fair. We are happy to have them!

This summer, we received a Thrivent Action Grant for \$250 but those funds were quickly used up. If any Thrivent member reading this has yet to apply for the two grants which Thrivent allows every year and would like to help fund the pantry, please go ahead and apply. If you have any questions about the application process, please talk to me. Once you receive the grant, I am sure one of us in the small group would be happy to help you with the grocery shopping. Thanks so much to those of you who have made donations, either cash or by leaving non-perishables in the blue clothes basket near the back of the fellowship hall. We have received a good stock of ready-to-eat snack items. We have almost no canned goods in our stock currently. If you can help out with canned vegetables, soup, canned chili and pasta, that would be wonderful. Also proteins such as canned tuna or chicken and peanut butter are always needed.

Thanks for your concern for the welfare of our neighbors. You are appreciated. Marilyn Morrissey and the Little Pantry team

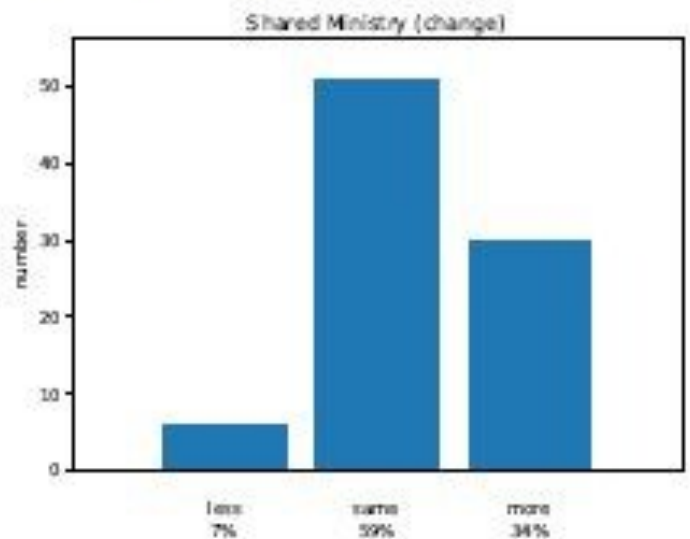
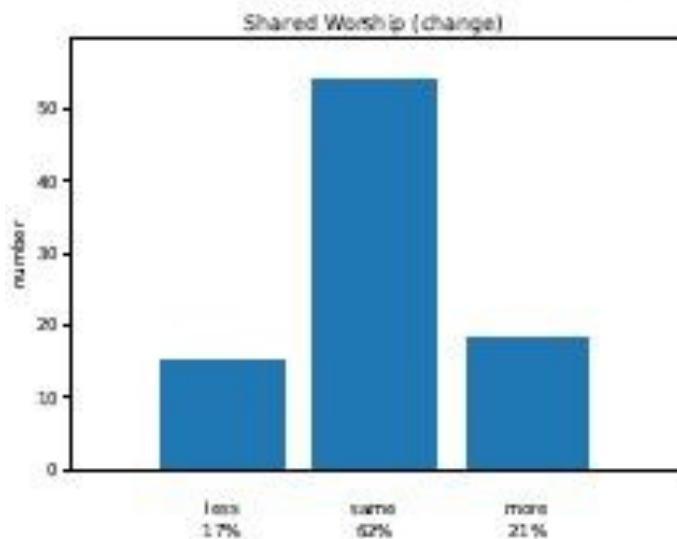
Results of Sept 2024 Opinion Poll

This congregational opinion poll was a successful gathering of a statistical portion of the congregation. It was not a binding vote. The Council expects to bring an official proposal for the consideration of the congregation in the near future.

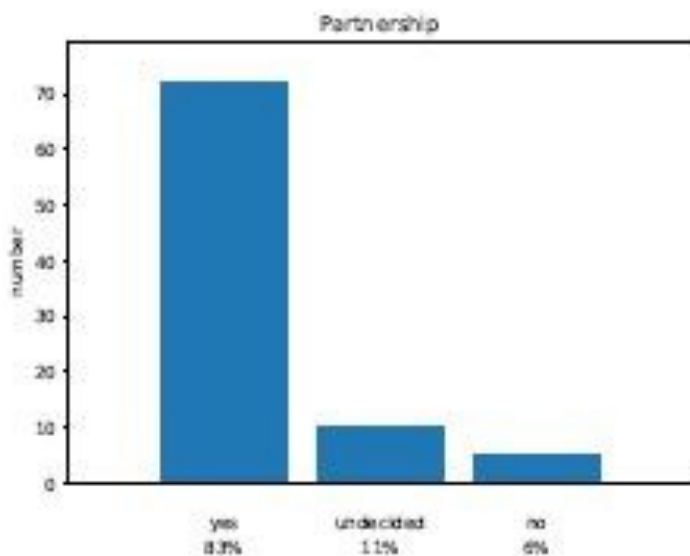
A strong majority (83%) are in favor of continuing to have a shared space relationship and a majority (68%) are in favor of a lease term longer than 2 years. The levels of Shared Worship and Shared Ministry seem to be satisfactory to most (no broad change is desired). And we have a good distribution of results pertaining to ministry passion that can guide thinking in paths forward. Many of these results may seem intuitive to us, but we have now collected the opinions all at one time, place, and manner.

Names were required for responses to be included in the poll results. There were only two nameless entries. Entries completed by a couple were doubled since the poll is a per member polling. There were four such entries.

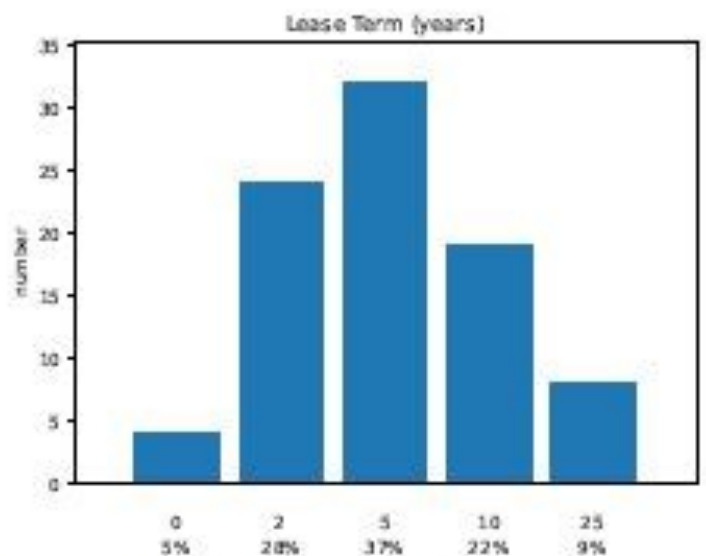
If you would like to receive a longer reminding you of the original wording of the poll and how responses were combined for Trinity's Priorities, please request that report with an email to office@trinitylutheranfc.org.



- Majority of congregation supports keeping shared worship and shared ministry the same.



- 83% of the congregation supports the partnership.



- 68% of the congregation supports a lease 5yrs or longer.