



January 2025 Volume 28 No. 1

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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

# TIDINGS

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### **New Member Class and Welcome**

We have many new faces around Trinity and it is time for a new member class and welcome. If you are interested in being a member or interested in learning more about Trinity, you are invited to come to a class after worship on **Sunday, January 19 at Noon**. We will meet in Room 2 in the east hallway by the nursery. We will provide lunch! Please RSVP to Deana ([office@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranfc.org)) along with any dietary needs.

New members will be welcomed to the Trinity community on February 1 & 2.

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### **TLC Preschool**

We're all looking forward to a new start in a new year, but I wanted to thank those members of the congregation who have been so supportive of TLC Preschool through 2024. Whether it was through sponsoring scholarships for students, donating to our operating costs, buying a wreath or baked goods, or providing a need from The Giving Tree, we have been SO, SO immensely grateful for that support!

We have been working hard on our program and investing in the future of TLC Preschool. We'll be participating in the upcoming Preschool Fair and registration for next school year is right around the corner! Stay tuned, and we can't wait to update you!

God's Peace, Brenda Harju

## Adult Forum

**January 5:** What is special about Christianity? (Part 1) Come help us explore this question with Rev. Kimberly Salico-Dhiel.

**January 12:** What is special about Christianity? (Part 2) Come help us explore this question with Rev. Monte Johnson, Sharon Johnson's son.

**January 19:** Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21); what could that possibly mean for 2025? Come help us explore this question with James Gearhart.

**January 26:** Reconciling in Christ Sunday and our conversation will revolve around this topic.

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## Holiday Office Closure

The Trinity office will be **closed from December 24-January 1**; however, staff will still be working remotely if needed to complete their weekly tasks. Office voicemails and staff emails will be checked periodically, if there is an emergency or an immediate need, please call the after-hours emergency number 970-400-7252. This closure over the Christmas break allows Trinity staff time to spend with family and friends during the holiday season, coinciding with a slower business period. It also provides a chance for staff to rest and return to work refreshed in the new year.

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## Year End Contributions

Please get your 2024 donations in early! You will be able to put your donations in the offering plate the weekend of December 28 & 29 and they will count for 2024. For those of you with internet access, you can easily make your donation through our website at [trinitylutheranfc.org](http://trinitylutheranfc.org) (until midnight 12/31/24!). Do you use the Venmo platform? We are listed as @Trinity-LutheranFC. Do you prefer mail? As long as your donation is postmarked no later than 12/31/24, that will work also. Thank you!

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## Donation Corner

**Prayer Cards Small Group** needs:

- #5 - 1/2 invitation envelopes
- All color card-stock paper
- Any other scrap-booking paper or supplies, even stamps!

**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](http://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](mailto:pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Education & Family Minister**  
Deacon Katie Kline  
[katie@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:katie@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Office Admin:** Deana Andrist  
[office@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Financial Manager:** Brenda Moore  
[bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator**  
Amanda Backsen  
[amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Church Musician:** Carrie Hansen  
[carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Director of Choir:** Tessa Espinosa  
[choir@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:choir@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Director of Handbell:** Jill Hunt  
[bells@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:bells@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Saturday Worship Leader**  
Clinton Ellerbe  
[saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**AV Techician:** Claire Pickerel  
[claire@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:claire@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Sunday School:** Jennifer Reeve  
[childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org](mailto:childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org)

**Nursery Coordinator**  
Tiffany Klijewski  
[tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org)

**TLC Preschool Director**  
Brenda Harju  
[brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org)

## Minister's Message— A new year!

Looking back over the past year, what kind of a year was it for you? As I think about all that happened at Trinity, I think it was a good year, overall. We had a great “Season of Celebration”, for the first time in Trinity’s history, our pastor took a sabbatical, launched our second year of intentional small group ministry, met an ambitious goal for a stewardship campaign, and more. And all of this was in addition to the “normal” that we do as such, weekly worship, ministry teams, choir, bell choir, Confirmation, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, hosting Faith, Family, Hospitality, and more. Yes, I think it is fair to say that overall, 2024 was a good year at Trinity.

As we begin 2025, we are offered the invitation that every new year brings: what is going to be different this year? In my recent devotions, I read “Prayer Seeds” by Joyce Rupp and in her reflection titled ‘Letting Go and Welcoming’ she writes:

*We stand at the threshold, looking back and looking ahead. This valuable process involves a deliberate letting go of the past and an intentional welcoming of future possibilities. We will make choices and decisions in the coming year that will create our reality. We live on a wounded planet and share life in a world of suggesting humanity. But we do not despair.*

This was the reflection I needed this year. Not only is this a time to think about new beginnings, but it is also a time for closure and letting go in order to create the needed space for those new beginnings. To create space for all the new things that this new year will bring. As we begin this new year, I am looking forward to returning to Trinity full-time and all that means. One of my ‘letting go and welcoming’ statements comes from this same reflection: *to let go of the old year’s troubles and unresolved burdens. To welcome the new year with hope and a sense of adventure.* What are you letting go of? What are you welcoming?

Deacon Katie, Education & Family Minister

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

Efficiency Works unites the energy and water efficiency offerings of Fort Collins Utilities, Loveland Water & Power, Estes Park Power & Communications, Longmont Power & Communications, and Platte River Power Authority. They offer rebates, efficiency assessment, retail products, and a service provider directory. Part of the assessment program is a free phone consultation. This would be useful when you are considering buying, for example, a new furnace or water heater. The consultant does not represent a dealer or installer and so can offer unbiased advice. To learn more, go to [EfficiencyWorks.org](https://EfficiencyWorks.org).

The JET meets as needed to plan educational events, bike to work day, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy. If you have any suggestions for future Eco-Tips, please email them to the Trinity church office. ([amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org)). Our next meeting is **Tuesday, January 28 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall. Please email any suggestions for future Eco-Tips to the Trinity church office.



## Small Groups

**Irish Elementary** WHY NOT TUTOR A YOUNG CHILD LEARNING TO READ? Are you interested in having a rewarding, making-a-difference experience? Please consider listening to a child who needs help with reading. We need reading tutors at Irish Elementary School. We currently have need of a tutor at **10:40 am on Wednesdays**. Although Irish is a bilingual school, you do not need to know Spanish to help. If you spend 30-45 minutes a week helping a child read, you'll be rewarded knowing that you've made a big difference in that child's life. Please email [Jo Anne Gearhart](#). Thank you.

**Quilting** join us weekly on **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** Have you ever thought that you might be interested in a book group, but the monthly selections of Trinity Readers is not quite right for you? Now it the time to offer your input! Trinity Readers will plan their schedule for 2025 at a meeting at **9:30 am on Monday, January 6**. Come and bring a suggestion for one fiction and one non-fiction book that we should consider for the upcoming months. (You can send your suggestions ahead of time to [Nadine Hunt](#) if you wish). We are going to do our planning while we enjoy brunch, so also bring a breakfast/brunch item to share – fruit, yogurt, muffins, etc. Questions? Contact Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730.

**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.

**TGIF** Come and enjoy an evening of fun, conversation, and connecting at the home of Rebecca Roland (4419 Goshawk Dr, Ft. Collins) on **Friday, January 10 at 6:30 pm**. As a reminder water and some drinks are provided. Bring your own beverage an app/dessert to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, please contact [Liz Johnson](#) or 402-320-3699.

**Good Grief Book Study** starts on **Saturday, January 11 at 10 am** and will run till May. *Good Grief* identifies ten stages of grief, recognizing that grief is complex and deeply personal. Whether mourning the death of a loved one, the end of a marriage, the loss of a job, or other difficult life changes, *Good Grief* is a proven steady companion in times of loss. This group will discuss one chapter of the book at each meeting. *Good Grief: A Companion for Every Loss*, is available at Amazon for \$4.99. If you have any questions contact [Patty Heyse](#) or [Stephen Zink](#).

**Grace Tables** 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, once a month on **Sunday nights from 6:30-8 pm**. Starting **January 12**, we'll dive into a DVD study with Max Lucado as he tours the Holy Land. You don't need to be a Bible scholar – just have a heart for God and a desire to connect with others. Call/text or email 970-310-3482 or [Ron & Bonnie](#). Thanks – Ron & Bonnie Bend | [Holy Land Tour Study](#)

**Pub Theology 2.0** resumes **Monday, January 20 at 5:30 pm** at the Moot House. Please note the shift to Monday evenings, a new venue, and a new starting time (to include Happy Hour)!! This group is open to everyone, including not only our 301 Faith Partners, but also, and especially, non-members... anyone willing and able to explore any and everything that is sacred/holy. As it has been said, "a person without depth may be considered shallow to the core". Having invested most of last year in the study of *What Christianity is Not*, we kick off this year with an exploration of the ordained Episcopal priest, Barbara Brown Taylor's 2019 book, *Holy Envy, Finding God in the Faith of Others*. Tentatively, we'll follow up with a study of Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose theology was a search for answer to the question "Who am I?", especially in relationship to Christ. Not a bad question for people of depth. The "assignment" for our first session is the first 3 chapters, only 60 pages.

## Small Groups Continued . . .

**Chapter Two Book** will be back with a fresh start in 2025 to a monthly rhythm and in-person meetings. Join us **Thursday January 30 at 6 pm** in the Fireside Room to discuss *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese, this is a long one if you haven't read it yet and you'd like to join the conversation, I'd suggest starting this one sooner rather than later.

**301 FP Prayer Group** meets the **last Monday of the month at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room to pray for the 301 Partnership. If you have questions or comments please email or call [Pat Wiedower](#) or 619-994-2641.

**JOY** delights in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join for their next luncheon on **Monday, February 17**. Look for more information in the future Tidings and e-News.

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## From Pastor Rick

Dear Trinity –At the beginning of December I preached a sermon that included our welcome statement and how I feel welcomed in this statement as well, especially as Huntington's progresses. We all bring our diverse abilities to the Church, including physical, mental and developmental circumstances. Some diversity is apparent, some is hidden, and all our diverse ways are loved by God and welcome in this place. Thank you. - Pastor Rick

The following is the welcome in our bulletins.

To all who gather: We are Reconciling in Christ, which means we strive to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and to work for racial equity and to commit to anti-racist work.

We welcome believers, seekers, and the curious, regardless of religious background. God makes no distinction based on race; ethnicity; immigration status; economic status; physical, mental, or developmental circumstances; or other life circumstances. God loves and welcomes all people. Therefore, we welcome all people to the life of Christ at Trinity.

From Pastor Rick: This community affirms its welcome by accepting me in this place. Diagnosed with Huntington's (HD), my progressing symptoms and neurodiversity are displayed publicly. The uncontrolled movements (chorea) may limit my functionality, or appear in other ways; yet, it is an opportunity to learn and love alongside one another. HD is part of me, but I am not defined by the diagnosis. As for all of us, I am defined as child of God.

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## Your Gifts In Action ~ Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is a faith based, non-profit human services agency providing adoption, disaster relief, foster care, older adult guardianship, family support & education, and refugee & immigration services since 1948. We provide help and support to children and families during their most challenging times regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or age. At LFSRM, we believe that all people, from the newborn to the most elderly, are valued members of our community. With locations in Albuquerque, Billings, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Greeley, Las Cruces, Pueblo, and Salt Lake City, we partner with communities to meet the unmet needs affecting their most vulnerable populations. LFSRM strives to recognize areas in need and to find ways to serve those who have seemingly become invisible. Every day, hundreds of people turn to LFSRM for refuge, help and hope.

# JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>5</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>6</b> 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion  6 pm Property	<b>7</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast   5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
<b>12</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  6:30 pm Grace Tables	<b>13</b>  12 pm Sermon Discussion 3 pm Trust	<b>14</b>   6:30 pm Executive
<b>19</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Worship & Mus 12 pm New Member Class	<b>20</b>  12 pm Sermon Discussion  5:30 pm Pub Theology	<b>21</b>   6:30 pm Council
<b>26</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>27</b> 10:30 am 301 FP Prayer Group 12 pm Sermon Discussion	<b>28</b>   5:30 pm FP Eco Justice

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

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

January 4/5 / Soren Nicholson  
 January 11/12 / Margaret Wick  
 January 18/19 / Katie Crosby Barron  
 January 25/26 / Pat Wiedower

## Anniversaries

Corrine & Larry Hoffmann 1/1  
 Jeffery & Trina Garlo McCutcheon 1/1  
 Barb & Robert Keyser 1/15

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>4</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>8</b> 10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem  5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 11 am FP Clergy Mtg 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Finance 6:15 pm 301 FP CoOp	<b>10</b> 10 am Quilting Grp  6:30 pm TGIF	<b>11</b> 10 am Good Grief 12 pm Sweet Treats  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>15</b> 10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>17</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>18</b> 2 pm Prayer Cards 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship 6 pm Supper Symposium
<b>22</b> 10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Bible Study  7 pm Immigration	<b>24</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	<b>25</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>29</b> 10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Bible Study  6 pm Chap 2 Readers	<b>31</b> 10 am Quilting Grp	



## Birthdays



Lois Smith	1/2	Ryan Andrist	1/11	Janet Garman	1/18
Delores Wisner	1/3	Susan Snyder	1/11	Alan Gebhardt	1/19
Amy Jo Martinson	1/5	Catherine Thompson	1/12	Heidi LoRash-	
Kelli Karst	1/6	Sara Flatley	1/13	Neuenschwander	1/22
Victoria Splittgerber	1/6	Tom Simmons	1/14	Steve Dugger	1/23
Ron Splittgerber	1/9	Dan Merz	1/15	Peggy Lynch	1/26
Kathryn Gauger	1/10	Kurt Faulkner	1/16	Don Heyse	1/28
Tim Gauger	1/10	Charlene Gaalswyk	1/16	Margaret Wick	1/29
Addison Mize	1/10	Susan Lamb	1/16	Pat Wiedower	1/30
Greg Schairer	1/10	Justin Dickson	1/18		

TLC 2024 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	November 2024	Year-To-Date
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Offerings	\$ 24,004	\$ 317,496
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	50,982
Building Use	1,349	12,012
Benevity Funds Released	-	14,404
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>29,933</b>	<b>394,894</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Operating and Support	\$ 24,635	\$ 270,773
Ministries	6,717	95,079
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	19,928
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>31,352</b>	<b>385,780</b>
<b>Receipts less Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ (1,419)</b>	<b>\$ 9,114</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 11/30/2024</b>		\$ 174,299.81
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2023</b>		\$ 166,656.00
<b>Difference</b>		\$ 7,643.81

## Trinity Council Meeting 22 Oct 2024

### Clergy & Ministry Reports

**Pastor Rick:** Pastor Rick passed the congregational meeting postcard around for review. Discussion followed on sending thank you notes to Trust and Jennifer Anderson for funding the repair of the organ. Pastor Rick presented “The Collective Covenant”. “The Collective” is a group of local churches serving as a think tank to sustain the LuMin campus ministry. LuMin is struggling financially due to cuts from the synod for their funding. Cheryl Smith made a motion to support the LuMin/CSU campus ministry collective and covenant. Vicki Volbrecht seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**Finance:** September finances ended with \$17,480 to the good, allowing the full amount to be paid for third quarter benevolence and paying the full amount for the first quarter benevolence. Trinity was only able to pay 5% of the first quarter benevolence, so the remaining 2.5% was paid in the third quarter. Vicki Volbrecht made a motion to approve the September finance report, motion seconded by Shelley Aust and unanimously approved.

**Social and Eco-Justice:** The ministry proposes to thank individuals for their service during the 12 years Trinity hosted FFH, particularly to Susan Lamb, Stephanie Dugger, and Nadine Hunt.

**Hospitality and Evangelism:** The business providing coffee for fellowship closed; the new source will be Boyer’s sustainable coffee from Sam’s Club. A new Trinity banner is being designed to be placed by the front door. The goal is for it to be similar in appearance to the banners of St. Paul’s and Mary of Magdala.

**Worship and Music:** The choir and the organist are having difficulty seeing the music in the sanctuary due to burned out bulbs. Some of the other bulbs are flickering. Claire, our AV tech, would like to rotate the speakers near the ceiling 5° so sound is better for people seated in the center of the sanctuary.



**Stewardship update:** At the time of the council meeting, pledges were \$59,378 higher than past pledges. These 68 pledges cover 76% of the budget. Information about pledges will be published in eNews, the Tidings, and noted at the beginning of church services.

**Ministry Fund Report:** The 2025 proposed ministry fund was presented to council. It was noted that 7% of the budget will go to benevolence; and with benevolence funds given by individual ministries within Trinity, the total benevolence given by Trinity will be approximately 7.7%. Vicki Volbrecht made a motion to approve presentation of the Ministry Fund Proposal at the November congregational meeting. Kathy Gauger seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Poll Report:** Results of poll given in September will be presented in the Tidings. Based on the results, council will present a proposal to the congregation regarding the partnership, lease terms, and Trinity priorities after the first of the year. Once the proposal is made public, small groups will be held to receive congregational feedback before being brought to the congregation for vote.

**Congregational meeting:** Logistics: 1) Vicki Volbrecht has agreed to take minutes but would like a second person also taking minutes. Marilyn Morrissey will be approached by Eric to be the second note taker. 2) Shelley Aust will serve as timekeeper at the meeting. 3) and Cheryl Backsen and Cheryl Smith will tally votes. 4) Parliamentarian position still needs to be filled.

Slate of candidates for open Trinity ministry positions are:

Vice President: Paul Johnson; Property: Soren Nichol森; Secretary (1 yr): Marilyn Morrissey (to complete the two-year term of Rebecca Roland); Treasurer: Renee Mize; Evangelism & Hospitality: Linda Cavazos

Pre-School Board: Trina Garlo, Katie Barron, Patty Heyse; Trust: Bill Foos, Lori Schmidt; Nominating Committee: Steve Dugger, Debbie Schwartz, Erik Elliott, Don Heyse, Nadine Hunt; Financial Review: Susan Lamb; Synod Assembly: Margaret Wick, Dan Merz

Vicki Volbrecht moved to bring forward the slate of candidates at the November congregational meeting. Motion seconded by Cheryl Backsen and unanimously approved.

Agenda items (not necessarily in order at the congregational meeting): 1) Approval of the Ministry Fund Proposal with two clergy. 2) Once the ministry fund is approved, a motion can be made to offer Deacon Katie the opportunity to return full-time as Deacon of Trinity. If the motion is approved, the process to follow is that executive committee will work with the clergy to determine how Pastor Rick and Deacon Katie, assuming she accepts the offer, want to divide their jobs and evaluate what their priorities will be in relation to the priorities of Trinity, 3) Vote on the slate of candidates for open positions in the Trinity ministry. 4) Thank you from Social and Eco-Justice to Trinity members for 12-years of service to FFH.

It was noted that we do not have congregational meeting minutes from Rebecca Roland and most likely will not have them for the November meeting since she will not be returning to Fort Collins until the end of November. Cheryl Backsen will text Rebecca to see if she can acquire the minutes.

Cheryl Smith will coordinate refreshments for the congregational meeting.

Council December party: In lieu of a council meeting, a gathering will be held with old and incoming council members. Tentative date for the gathering is Tuesday, 17 December, using a TGIF format.

Vicki Volbrecht made motion to adjourn the meeting. Shelley Aust seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

# Trinity Church Council Meeting 19 Nov 2024

## Ministry Reports

Pastor Rick: Carrie Hansen, the organist, has asked if the Music Teachers Association can use Trinity's space on 8 Mar from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Besides the building usage fee, given the number of people that will be attending, there will need to be a clean-up charge. A small group will work with Deana to negotiate usage.

Deacon Katie: Deacon Katie officially submitted her resignation from the synod effective 13 Dec 2024.

Vice-President Report: Vicki Volbrecht made the council aware that Co-Op has discussed a Safe Parking program at Trinity and how core values should be used to determine who can use Trinity's building.

Eric Jurgenson, the president arrived, and the vice-president turned over the meeting to the president.

Social/Eco-Justice: Interfaith Council will host Our Neighbor's Faith at Trinity for tours and meeting people from Trinity, St. Paul's, and Mary of Magdala at future date.

Faith Formation: There is an upcoming meeting to organize an intergenerational winter event.

Worship & Music: Discussion continued on the light bulbs above the choir seats. A person will need to be hired to change the bulbs.

Property: Nineteen people from the three different faith communities participated in the November clean-up day. Property has calls out to contractors about changing light bulbs in the sanctuary, including those above the choir seats.

Hospitality & Evangelism: Discussion continued on the new Trinity welcome banner to be placed in the narthex. Motion was made by Cheryl Smith and seconded by Shelley Aust to approve the design for the Trinity welcome banner. Motion unanimously approved.

Finance: Offerings are behind. They currently cover only 77% of the total budget and need to cover 84% of the budget. Trinity will need to receive ~\$86,000 in November and December to meet budget. Motion made by Vicki Volbrecht to accept the finance report, seconded by Shelley Aust, and unanimously approved.

## Designated Gift

A gift of \$2000 was offered to retrofit the women's bathroom door to make it handicap accessible. Women with accessibility needs have become stuck inside the women's bathroom and have had to wait for someone to come into the bathroom to let them out. It was noted also that the space in the women's bathroom is very tight for individuals with accessibility needs. The donor agreed that the money could instead be used to retrofit the all-inclusive/accessible bathroom. There is more space in the all-inclusive/accessible bathroom; and if a person requires assistance from another person, the bathroom can accommodate both individuals. Besides purchasing an automatic door opener, it still needs to be determined how to get electricity to operate the door opener. Motion was made by Vicki Volbrecht to accept the \$2000 designated gift to retrofit the all-inclusive/accessible bathroom with funds to be deposited in a "restricted" building fund and the donor to be kept apprised of the progress of the retrofit. Motion was seconded by Cheryl Smith and unanimously approved.

## Handicap Parking

Individuals are having problems finding handicap parking spaces and sometimes have left church rather than attend worship service because of the lack of handicap parking spaces. The question is whether to reseal and restripe the parking lot, including increasing the number of handicap parking spaces and painted handicap parking stalls, and/or add signs. There are handicap parking signs on the east side of the church, but none on the west side, where striping and paint are very faint. It is difficult for individuals to know that there is handicap parking on the west side of the building. Until the parking lot can be resealed and restriped, signs will be erected on the west side to indicate the handicap parking stalls.

## Updated Gift Policy

Renee presented the new updated gift policy. Motion was made by Vicki Volbrecht to approve the updated gift policy and seconded by Cheryl Backsen. Motion unanimously approved.

## October Council Minutes

The October council minutes were not sent out to council for review, so the motion to approve the minutes was tabled. March congregational minutes as well as the November congregational minutes will be sent to the new incoming secretary, Marilyn Morrissey, so they can be approved at the next congregational meeting.

## Poll Outcome & Moving Forward

At the congregational meeting it was noted that there would be small group meetings for the proposals brought to the congregation regarding the lease terms and ministry proposals. It was determined that small groups would occur after Saturday and Sunday worship services with perhaps one on-line group meeting and a Sunday forum.

Lease proposal: The initial proposal based on the poll results is to pursue a five-year lease. Other items related to this proposal were to discuss: 1) this option with St. Paul's and Mary of Magdala at a Co-Op meeting, 2) differences between a two-year versus a five-year lease, 3) how often and much to increase building usage fees, 4) consulting an attorney for the five-year lease, and 5) whether worship times would remain the same.

New ministry initiatives: The discussion centered more around questions than answers. How does Trinity grow? What does it mean to grow—more people? What does Trinity want to grow into? Somehow need to grow the budget at least at a cost-of-living level and need something to sustain the budget. How can the use of the building be increased? How can youth ministry be increased for teenagers?

## Council Christmas Party

Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, 17 Dec, at 6:30 p.m. at Eric Jurgenson's house for current and incoming council members plus one. Vicki Volbrecht moved to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl Backsen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at ~8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Volbrecht, Vice-President

## **Jewish Voice for Peace Northern Colorado**

Jewish Voice for Peace Northern Colorado and our Joint Social and Eco Justice Ministries are inviting you to join us in our Fellowship Hall for a Shabbat potluck at 6 pm on **Friday, January 17**.

On this Shabbat, the weekly Jewish day of rest and worship, we welcome you to join us in solidarity with Palestinian liberation, in community with anti-zionist allies and Jews, and in centering liberation for all. We will start the evening with a brief introduction of Jewish Voice for Peace and by welcoming the sabbath with three short prayers. Afterwards, we will share in a potluck-style meal and come together in casual conversation and community.

Attendees are encouraged to visit our [Shabbat Potluck sign up sheet](#) to indicate which dish(es) you would like to bring. We ask that you bring a personal set of cutlery, dishes, and drinking vessels, and there will be supplies provided if you are unable to do so. We also encourage attendees to mask at all times except while eating for the health and wellness of all community members.

Throughout the event, you will have the opportunity to donate to Grassroots International's Palestine Relief Fund. Proceeds will be used to carry out emergency response work in providing food, water, supplies, medical care, and human rights advocacy for Palestinians.

We are deeply grateful to Trinity Lutheran Church for welcoming us into this space of connection and shared joy. We hope you can make it!



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