



February 2026 Volume 29, No. 2

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

# TIDINGS

## New Member Info Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Trinity? Do you want to learn more about the church? You are invited to a conversation and lunch on **Sunday, February 22**, following worship. Please RSVP to [Deana](#), so we can get an idea of how many will be there. If you have any questions reach out Pastor Rick or Pastor Kaari.

## Installation of Pastor Kaari

With great joy and delight the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, invites you to the Installation of Pastor Kaari Nieuwlandt as Associate Pastor on **Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 3 pm** with a dessert reception to follow. Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is purple. We are asking the congregation to help supply desserts for the reception, sign up [HERE](#). Please avoid bananas and quinoa due to allergies.

## Trinity's Easter Brunch

The Faith Formation Committee and the friends and families of the Trinity youth are hosting Easter Brunch for ALL on Easter Sunday after the **10:30 am** worship service. More information will come out as we get closer to Easter (April 5).

## Adult Forum

**February 1:** Under construction!

**February 8:** Lisa Dunworth and Andy Sprain will update us on the work of Outreach Fort Collins, one of our ministry benevolence partners.

**February 15:** This shared Adult Forum will focus on the proposed SafeLots program, including information on the program in general and the work of our 301 Faith Partners SafeLots committee.

**February 22:** David Fuerst, Associate Vice President of Global Relationships and Resources for Lutheran World Relief will join us on Zoom to update us on the work of LWR.

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## Lenten Mid Week

Join us for **Taize at 6 pm followed by Soup Supper at 6:30 pm.** Join us on **Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25.** In the spirit of Lent, the meal will be simple, with just soup and bread. The service will be hybrid, using the same Zoom link as Trinity's weekend worship. To make these evenings run smoothly, we kindly ask everyone to help fill all the spots on our Sign-Up Genius link [HERE](#). We need all the helping hands we can get. Soup is especially needed, since we often run low!

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## Celebration Meeting

**Sunday, March 8 at 11:30 am** In the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. A quorum is needed. There will be a potluck, so bring a dish to share.

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## Ash Wednesday, February 18

For Ash Wednesday, there will be three opportunities to worship with the 301 Faith Partners. Everyone is welcome to any of these services.

**7 am St. Paul's | 12 pm Trinity | 7 pm Mary of Magdala**

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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 always collect donated fabric, Fabric, & more 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.

## 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)

**Associate Pastor:** Kaari Nieuwlandt  
[pastorkaari@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:pastorkaari@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:**  
[bells@trinitylutheranfc.org](mailto:bells@trinitylutheranfc.org)

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

**A/V Technician:** 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)

## Pastor's Ponderings ~

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup> for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

You may think that having a second pastor would cut my work in half (or at least lighten the load). But believe it or not, I have been busier since Pastor Kaari started. Now, that may be due to the season we are in, our people in the hospital or nursing home. It may be due to the boundaries I set up while being the only clergy for a few months. It also may be due to the onboarding of a new staff person, but sharing ministry does take more time than doing it myself. Having a colleague in the office increases communication, mutuality, and creative thinking, but also takes away efficiency. Having a second pastor, unfortunately, does not cut my work in half. (Though I was asked if now that Pastor Kaari was on board, if I would be going to half time. I'm not.)

Truth is when you called a second pastor, it was not in order to 'help me'. Pastor Kaari is called into her own ministry at Trinity with me. She isn't my assistant (thankfully, nobody has said this!) As Paul writes to the church in Philippi we are "in partnership in the gospel, from the first day until now." We are partners in this ministry. Sometimes, we will be at the same meetings. Sometimes, we will divide and conquer. This isn't the same amount of work being shared by two people, but instead an increased amount of ministry, care, connection, and prayer added to what already is happening. This is the benefit of having another clergy person; that our church people, visitors, partners churches, ministry teams, have more contact with a pastor. This does help of course, but the perspective is of added ministry, instead of reduced workload.

One place where workload has been 'reduced' is in preaching. Because we alternate preachers every other week, the preacher who has off doesn't have to be at Saturday worship. This is a benefit that my family and I have already felt. It is a gift! However, it really doesn't reduce the work for the week, it just allows time for something else to get done in place of preaching. Still, I am grateful to have a colleague to parter and share with in the preaching and the congregation will benefit from this as well.

Our congregation is staffed for growth, both now and into the future – and I strongly believe we will see the benefits of having two full-time clergy serving Trinity in partnership. Thank you for boldly supporting this staffing model! We step into the future alongside one another, with God leading the way.

Thanks be to God. Pastor Rick

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## 301 Faith Partner Shared Sunday

On **Sunday, February 15 at 10:30 am** we will have a shared service - with all four weekend services worshipping together. In past years Trinity's Saturday night service has not been included, and we miss a significant portion of our community. While always invited and encouraged, there will not be a Saturday service on February 14, making an intentional effort to bring all three communities together.

**9 am Shared Adult Forum:** will focus on the proposed SafeLots program, including information on the program in general and the work of our 301 Faith Partners SafeLots committee.

### 10:30 am Shared Worship

**11:45 am Shared Potluck:** Pull up a chair and share some food with our 301 Faith Partners at a joyful community potluck! Bring a favorite dish to pass, enjoy great conversation. Sign up [HERE](#) to bring food.



## Small Groups

**Sermon Discussion** Enjoy a discussion of the weekend sermon to share where we see God present in our lives. Join us most **Mondays at 12 pm** in Fireside Rm.

**Male Spirituality** Carrying on the work of Fr Richard Rohr and Illuman we will utilize the power of ritual, image, and story to expand the depth and breadth of love in ourselves to make a difference in the world, using a circle of structured sharing. Join us every **Monday at 6:30 pm** in Room 5.

**Bible Study** meets **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am** in Room 2 returning January 8. We are reading parts of Matthew and then will tackle Romans."

**301 Quilters** meets **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** in Room 2. If you'd like to join us, please come!!; NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. We're a fun and caring small group that has a purpose of aiding those in need.

**Trinity Readers** will meet on **Monday, February 2 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm to discuss *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* by Margareta Magnussons. Questions, call Cheryl Smith at 970-218-5750.

**Men's Breakfast** All men are welcome to join at the Breakfast Club (Ft. Collins) for discussion and fellowship on the **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (February 3) at 7:30 am**.

**Birdhouses** Join us on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (February 10) at 4:30 pm** in Room 2 to build and decorate bird houses and feeders to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Ages 8 and up invited!

**301 FP Get-Togethers** take place the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (February 12) at 3:30 pm**. We will gather at MYTHMAKER BREWING (1035 South Taft Hill Rd). We celebrate with both regular beer and non-alcoholic beer. But most of our celebrating is our informal no-pressure enjoy yourself with your friends atmosphere! We are all-inclusive! Menu-wise, Mythmaker offers only snacks, so feel free to bring your own snacks if you wish. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

**TGIF (One Friday a month at 6:30 pm)** - *Note*, Hosts can opt for a Friday of the month that works for them. Come, kick back, relax, and enjoy an evening connecting with others from the Trinity family and meet new faces! Bring yourself, an appetizer/dessert and a beverage you'd like or would like to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, please contact Liz Johnson or 402-320-3699.

**Friday, February 13:** Sara & Peter Mullarkey An RSVP to the host is appreciated but not necessary to attend.

**Pub Theology V.3** will meet **Thursday, February 19 at 5:30 pm** at Stodgy Brewing, 1802 Laporte Ave. We will explore a variety of texts and discuss how we live out our relationship with God and support each other along the way.

**JOY (Just Older Youth)** delights in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join for their next luncheon on **Monday, February 23 at 12 pm** for a time to gather and connect. Lunch will be Italian themed from Olive Garden with a price of \$15. To adequately prepare, RSVPs are needed **no later than Thursday, February 19** to [Amanda](#) or [HERE](#). You can pay day of via check/cash on [Online](#).

**Chapter Two Book Group** is an open small group for 301 Faith Partners and the wider community, new participants are always welcome to join the casual discussion. No long-term commitment required! If you have trouble finding any of the books and would like Trinity to order a copy for the library, please let [Maddie Fairfax](#) know at any time. On break for December but join us on **Thursday, February 26 at 6 pm**.

## Small Groups cont....

**Little Pantry** We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent Donation Drive to help stock our pantry. Your generosity has made a meaningful impact in our community. During the colder months, maintaining a well-supplied pantry is essential to meeting the needs of those we serve. The Little Pantry Ministry conducts two donation drives each year during the Advent and Lenten seasons. As Lent approaches, we invite you to consider supporting our ministry through a donation. Your contribution helps ensure that we can continue this important mission of assisting those in our community who are most in need. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. God bless you, 301 Faith Partners Little Pantry Small Group

**Habitat for Humanity** helps build safe, secure, and affordable homes in the community. Our next Habitat Build Day is **Saturday, March 14 from 8 am-3ish pm**. No experience or skills needed. Contact [Steph Dugger](#) to volunteer/sign up. **Meet Brady** One of the two Families FoCo Churches will be building Habitat homes for! Brady is a Fort Collins history teacher who loves learning, traveling, and exploring historical places, especially when it means slowing down and taking in the story behind where he is. At home, he shares his life with his rescue dachshund, Tank, whose loyalty and larger-than-life personality bring daily comfort and companionship. When Brady learned he had been qualified to build and purchase a home through Habitat for Humanity, his first response was gratitude to God. "It brought me some of the first feelings of great excitement and optimism for the future I've felt in a long time," he shared. "Owning a home means peace of mind, stability, and knowing there is a place where I can plan for the future." Brady looks forward to celebrating holidays, welcoming neighbors, handing out candy on Halloween, and creating a home that feels warm and inviting. Most of all, this opportunity represents God's faithfulness and the chance to move forward with confidence, hope, and a strong foundation for what comes next.

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## Rocky Mountain Synod Book Group

*Christ in the Rubble* is the book; The Rev. Munther Isaac is the author. Please plan to join in learning and conversation. The book discussion will consider responses to the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the West Bank: our own, the world's and that of the Western Christian churches. We will be challenged by the author to ask, how we may accompany those affected and what actions are best in our advocacy for justice and healing in Palestine / Israel and here in the US?

You are invited to please order and read the book and plan to participate in as many of the four sessions as possible with RMS Sumud volunteers who will lead discussion via zoom on these Tuesdays in February and March at **7 pm: February 3, 17, March 3, & 17** Register for the series [HERE](#).

Author The Rev. Munther Isaac is a Lutheran Palestinian theologian who serves as pastor of [Church of Hope Lutheran in Ramallah](#) which is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). To read the December 2025 newsletter about the church body's ministry, click [HERE](#). To hear an interview with the author, click here [HERE](#) It was recorded in March 2025 by our friends at The United Church of Christ.

With questions about the book study sessions or RMS Sumud, please reach out to [Rebecca Aardahl](#) on behalf of the RMS Sumud Working Group.

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>1</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Hospitality 11:35 am Worship/Music	<b>2</b> 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion  6:30 pm Male Spirituality	<b>3</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast  6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
<b>8</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>9</b>  12 pm Sermon Discussion  6 pm Property 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	<b>10</b>  4:30 pm Birdhouse Bldg 6:30 pm Executive
<b>15</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Shared Worship 11:45 am Shared Potluck 11:45 am Faith Formation	<b>16</b> 12 pm Sermon Discussion  5:30 pm Trust 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	<b>17</b>  6:30 pm Council
<b>22 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:45 am New Member Class	<b>23</b> 12 pm JOY Luncheon 12 pm Sermon Discussion  6:30 pm Male Spirituality	<b>24</b>  5:30 pm FP Eco Justice



## Birthdays



Glenn Schneider	2/1	Ron Mullenbach	2/12	Katie Barron	2/24
Donna Dauner	2/2	Pastor Rick Reiten	2/12	Wally Jacobson	2/25
Levi Schmidt	2/2	Shelley Aust	2/13	Tristina Schmidt	2/25
Ron Smith	2/3	Ruth Dietz	2/14	Barbara Dunworth	2/27
Carolyn Biedermann	2/6	Blake Dugger	2/16	Jack Mullenbach	2/28
Cal Fairfax	2/6	Lindsay Reiten	2/16	Clinton Ellerbe	2/29
Renee Mize	2/6	Jo Anne Gearhart	2/20	Linda Hamilton	2/29
Nolan Dickson	2/9	Mary Ann Miller	2/21		
Ron Dunworth	2/12	Greg Brissey	2/22		



## Anniversaries



Jessica & Lindsay Peterson-Vecchio	2/13	Aida & Rob Schmidt	2/24
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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>4</b>  5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Bible Study  3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed	<b>6</b> 10 am Quilting	<b>7</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>11</b>  5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 3:30 pm FP Get Together 4 pm Spanish Intermed 4 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	<b>13</b> 10 am Quilting  6:30 pm TGIF	<b>14</b>
<b>18 Ash Wed</b>  12 pm Ash Wed Service 5:15 pm Bells 6:15 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Bible Study  3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 5:30 pm Pub Theology	<b>20</b> 10 am Quilting	<b>21</b> 12 pm Sweet Treats  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
<b>25</b>  5:15 pm Bells 6 pm Lenten Service 6:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Bible Study 3 pm Spanish Beg. 4 pm Spanish Intermed 6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration	<b>27</b> 10 am Quilting	<b>28</b>  5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Jan 31/Feb 1** Vicki Volbrecht / Delores Wisner  
**February 7/8** / Don Garman  
**February 14/15** / Margaret Wick  
**February 21/22** Vicki Volbrecht / Shelley Aust

Pull Me OUT! HANG ME up!!  
PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

## Your Gifts In Action ~ Global Refuge

[www.globalrefuge.org/](http://www.globalrefuge.org/) Since 1939, Global Refuge (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service – started in response to WWII European displacement) has made a difference in the lives of more than 800,000 people who have sought safety and hope in America's communities. This history reflects our own deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need.

With over eight decades of experience walking with New Americans, Global Refuge believes in the “long welcome.” This means we are providing more than just immediate support to immigrants and refugees, but standing alongside them as they rebuild their lives, navigate a new culture, find a new home, a new job, and a new sense of belonging and community.

New Americans contribute to a vibrant and resilient society, culturally, civically, and economically. We are committed to empowering our neighbors with support for employment, training, and hiring as they become leaders in their communities.

Global Refuge is a Trinity benevolence recipient. Details, action and donation opportunities at [www.globalrefuge.org/](http://www.globalrefuge.org/)

**When you give to Trinity, you give to Global Refuge!**

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### 301 FP JET ECO Tip of the Month

You hopefully are aware of the large Kans for Kids cage next to the east parking lot. This has been a successful fundraiser for the 301 Youth involving donations of aluminum cans. According to The Aluminum Association, aluminum cans are the most sustainable beverage package on virtually every measure. Aluminum cans have a higher recycling rate and more recycled content than competing package types. At 43%, they are the most recycled beverage container. Nearly 97% of aluminum cans are remade into new ones, and aluminum is by far the most valuable item per ton of all residential recycling. Learn more at: <https://www.aluminum.org/>

Thanks to Brenda Moore, Trinity Financial Coordinator, she reported that in 2025 we recycled 435 lbs. of cans for a total value of \$234.45 paid from Colorado Iron & Metal. So, please keep up the great work and bring your aluminum cans to church to help fill the bin even more in 2026!

The Joint Ecological Team (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 [Amanda](#) in the office. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall!

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### Sky Ranch

Would your child like to go to Sky Ranch this summer? Upper Elementary, Middle, and High School students are invited to Sky Ranch with other Trinity youth the week of **July 19-24**. Lower Elementary students can go either **June 14-19 or July 26-31**. Please register directly with Sky Ranch: [SUMMER CAMPS](#). You do not need a group hold code this year! Instead, please email [Pastor Kaari](#) when you register. Trinity will cover \$200 per camper! If you decide to go a different week (I know, schedules are complicated) please mark Trinity, Fort Collins on your registration and let Pastor Kaari know what week you've registered for. As always, scholarships are available, contact Pastor Kaari for more information. If you register before January 31, you receive an additional \$20 off from Sky Ranch.



## Lent 2026

Welcome to Lent. Well, almost! On February 18, Ash Wednesday, we will remember our own mortality and enter once more into the season of Lent. The first Christians observed Lent as a time of preparation for baptism and resurrection, when Baptisms happened once a year on the Easter Vigil. As the early Christian community celebrated Christ's resurrection, new Christians celebrated their new life in Christ through baptism. As baptism practices changed, so did the season of Lent. In the medieval times, Lent shifted to a penitential season, where people focused on personal sinfulness and repentance.

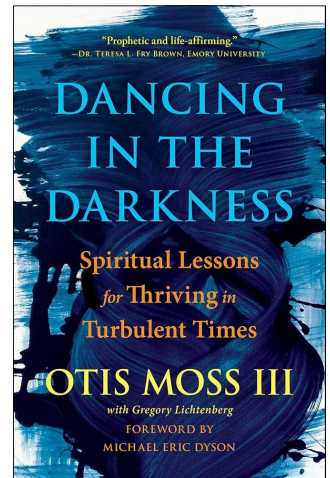
Today, we get bit of a mix. Each year, we are given the gift of a season to intentionally look at our lives, to refocus our personal and communal lives on Christ, and to look for the new life Christ promises that breaks into our lives each day.

At Trinity this year, we're going to spend the season of Lent exploring the theme "Dancing in the Darkness." The Narrative Lectionary that we are following takes us through the Gospel of John this spring, and we basically spend the six Sundays in Lent following the Holy Week story. We'll read about Jesus' journey to the cross, and the ways in which the ugliness of power and empire are revealed. At the same time, we'll see the beauty of God's love and God's vision for the world revealed. Both are true at the same time. The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III calls this holding the horror in one hand and the holy in the other. Or, he calls it Dancing in the Darkness- recognizing the horror of the world and yet still dancing in the midst of it.

Our theme is based on and draws its name from Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III's book, *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*. Though the theme is based on the book, you do not have to read the book to participate! However, if at any point you find you'd like to dive deeper, I invite you to take a look.

Here's what you can expect:

1. Sermons and worship will reflect on this theme- how do we Dance in the Darkness?
2. A collective prayer practice that we will join in together in worship.
3. Weekly devotionals/reflections/spiritual practices for you to engage in at home. How can what we experienced in worship also be a part of your weekly routine?



This theme is a challenge by choice theme- you can engage as much or as little as you like. Perhaps you just want to come to worship and hear the theme preached. Amazing way to engage! Perhaps you choose to participate in the communal prayer practice. Maybe you want a little bit more and choose to engage in the reflections and spiritual practices as a household or with other church members. Maybe you choose to read the book. However you choose to engage is good, and I can't wait to hear how you're connecting with the theme.

Holding the horror and the holy together with you, Pastor Kaari

TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	December 2025	Year-To-Date
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Offerings	\$ 63,535	\$ 426,822
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	54,960
Building Use	1,802	21,465
Benevity Funds Released	800	16,125
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>70,717</b>	<b>519,372</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Operating and Support	\$ 26,535	\$ 318,470
Ministries	15,224	117,772
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	13,083	33,803
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>54,842</b>	<b>470,045</b>
<b>Receipts less Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 15,875</b>	<b>\$ 49,327</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2025</b>		\$ 245,195.80
<b>Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024</b>		\$ 204,772.61
<b>Difference</b>		\$ 40,423.19

## Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Coop Committee, composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community, meeting monthly to discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the January 15, 2026 meeting, the following items were discussed:

It was proposed and agreed to discuss SafeLots at the February 15th shared Adult Forum that will precede the shared worship service that day. The discussion will be on the program in general, as well as an update on the work of the 301 Partners SafeLot committee.

A committee with representation of all 3 congregations has been formed to prepare for the possible implementation of the SafeLots program. They plan to canvas the neighborhood on February 7th, to provide information and answer questions our neighbors may have.

We reviewed Welcome & Safety guidelines for greeters and ushers to follow in order to enhance our congregations' safety and hospitality.

We discussed the grocery store gift cards that each congregation donates for those in need. It was agreed that some would be designated for SafeLots guests if that program is realized here.

The September, 2020 301 Faith Partners working agreement and draft covenant was reviewed.

The Community Reading Circle offer from Christian Century magazine that was brought up at last November's meeting is not being implemented due to lack of participants.

The next meeting will be February 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council

## **Council Meeting Highlights November 18 Council Meeting**

Attendees: Pastor Rick, Shelley Aust, Kathy Gauger, Cheryl Backsen, Eric Jurgenson, Linda Cavazos, Renee Mize, Paul Johnson, Soren Nicholson, Marilyn Morrissey

Jim Rose was recommended to Trust to replace Jeff McCutcheon. Paul motioned. Cheryl seconded. Approved.

The financial report was approved. Marilyn motioned. Shelley seconded. Approved.

We discussed the treasurer position and financial ministry chair. The plan discussed with Joey Prows is that he would serve as financial chair and Nyla agreed to serve as treasurer. Pastor Rick sent him information to review. We will wait for his response after he is clear on the duties. It is a one-year position. Renee reviewed the constitution and determined this adjustment and appointment is constitutional. Once Joey reviews and accepts, council can approve through email. Eric intends to talk to him. Pastor wondered if we could go back to the original 12 persons asked to serve as financial ministry chair, letting them know that the treasurer is not part of the job, if Joey's answer indicates we should.

We have 3 representatives for SafeLots to be on the initial launch team: Rhonda Simmons, Steve Backsen, Andrienne Jurgenson. Our partners both have 2 people, last time Pastor checked. Pastor Rick said constitutionally, we can call a congregational meeting in February or March to ask congregation to approve SafeLots to begin here.

Soren brought up the posting of signs and posters which are being taped just about anywhere. Pastor Rick noted the process is to check with Amanda or Deana before posting anything. Perhaps we need to publicize that people need to ask. The office could put signs on the bulletin to check first. The office could have a box in the narthex for people to drop flyers they want posted, announced in Tidings, as well as communicating with the partners. Soren also suggested we could put permanent holders on the doors. Or we could use bulletin boards and an easel that we already have. Pastor Rick said we could put them on the screens in the fellowship hall during coffee hour.

Eric brought up that he still wants the ministry chair position descriptions emailed to him, to pass on to the next chair. The nominating committee could also use these descriptions to share with possible candidates. Renee suggested that the constitution and the partner letters of agreements need to be given to the new council members. Renee noted we have a gift policy that is published on website. Cheryl suggested some might need assistance with the electronic reporting or help understanding the financial reports. Other policy documents are in a binder in the office, including trust documents.

We need to plan a constitutional revision to update to correspond to the latest ELCA synod template. There are required changes that are minor and non-controversial, and others not required but suggested. Eric thinks, at the same time we should clean up our constitution and take out ambiguities and contradictions. Kathy commented that there are things we must change because it is church-wide and there are by-laws and parts that are not impacted by the ELCA change. Eric would like to identify people who might work on these revisions. Eric would like to be on it. There was consensus that he should be on it. We worked on a list of names for Eric to contact. He suggested we could read it and send him suggestions. Renee has already done so.

Cheryl noted that SPE has given us \$100 toward the advocacy signs.

We discussed doing a Christmas get-together instead of a meeting and include the two new council members. Eric is willing to do a TGIF-style at his house. He suggested the 2nd Tuesday. Pastor Rick noted Pastor Kaari could join us if it is after the 15th. We decided on the 9th at 6pm, at Eric. It is for council members, spouses, kids, current and new council members.

Respectfully submitted Council Secretary



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