

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 17, 2016**

Council President Bill Davis called the meeting to order.

A sign up sheet was passed to all present and determined there was a quorum with 64 members in attendance.

Pastor John Backus led devotions.

Annual report corrections are:

Page 2 Rich Sandberg added as nomination for church council.

Page 2 Michelle Griswald added as nomination for the Endowment Committee.

Page 2 the membership as of December 31, 2015 is 368.

Page 12 Proposed budget should state 2016 Budget.

TWELCA financial report was not included in the reports but copies can be picked up in the narthex.

Proposed agenda and 2015 meeting minutes were presented. Moved to approve by Nancy Marty, seconded by Rodney Weed and motion approved.

With no nominations from the floor, Norm Major, Karna Kudirka, Rich Sandberg, Rodney Weed and Perry Adams for church council and Michelle Griswold, Steve Cramer and Nancy Marty for endowment committee were motioned to approve by Mary Clanton, seconded by John Johnson. Motion approved.

Pastor Liz gave the Pastor's report noting the prison stories and the 100th anniversary year.

Jean Johnson thanked all music groups for their commitment to the Trinity music program. She also acknowledged each of the 100th Anniversary Committee members and their contribution to the year-long celebration.

John Johnson noted appreciation for Jean Johnson and the music committee.

Standing committee reports were moved to approve by Kay Gayle, seconded by Edie Juhl and approved.

Financial reports noted that Trinity finished the year about \$16,000.00 in the red. Mrs. Bruce's estate gift of \$399,623.56 was received at Trinity in December. Council approved \$20,000.00 of that gift is given to Nebraska Synod for mission. Motion to approve financial reports was moved by Karna Kudirka, seconded by Norma Naby and approved.

2016 Budget is the same as the past three years. Motion to approve the budget by Mary Clanton, seconded. Discussion noted Ruth Wood has been hired and is working 5 hours per week on financial data input. Budget approved.

There was no old business.

New business: Motion Jim and Mary Duda attend 2016 Synod Assembly in Kearney June 2-4 as Trinity delegates, seconded and approved.

Paul Anderson thanked the staff for all that they do for Trinity and its members.

Meeting adjourned by Bill Davis at 10:22AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Marie Davis for Jessica Cassata

Proposed Budget 2017

Category	2017 Budget
Church Supplies	\$9,675
Office Supplies	\$5,400
Church Insurance	\$12,300
Mission Share	\$32,000
Travel	\$600
Music	\$1,000
Other/ Miscellaneous	\$2,500
Utilities	\$24,000
Maintenance/Repairs	\$17,000
Salaries & Benefits	\$255,525
Total	\$360,000

Church Statistics – 2016

Trinity Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016 – Cont'd

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

2450 · Mrs. Bruce Estate	379,623.56
2975 · Green Thumb	483.33
2725 · Capital Campaign	77,736.65
2990 · Community Outreach	
2997 · FAIR TRADE	106.00
2996 · PRISON MINISTRY	5,000.00
2995 · North Omaha Summer Arts	-80.00
2992 · Trinity Reads	-409.82
2991 · Lutheran Volunteer Corp	10,582.70
2990 · Community Outreach - Other	82.93
Total 2990 · Community Outreach	15,281.81
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	713.51
2200 · YOUTH	-1,070.43
2400 · ENDOWMENT FUND	152,124.44
2500 · - MUSIC	632.82
2650 · STATE WITHHOLDING	613.89
2700 · MEMORIAL FUND	44,301.60
2800 · IMPROVEMENT FUND	
2805 · PARSONAGE PROCEEDS	41,470.85
2800 · IMPROVEMENT FUND - Other	19,280.98
Total 2800 · IMPROVEMENT FUND	60,751.83
2950 · LYAMANYAKI PROJECT	3,229.72

Total Current Liabilities **734,422.73**

Total Liabilities **734,422.73**

Equity

3900 · NET WORTH 1,007,232.18

Net Income **-11,202.28**

Total Equity **996,029.90**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **1,730,452.63**

Membership

The membership of the congregation as of December 31, 2016, is 314.

Pastoral Acts

The pastoral acts of the congregation are as follows:

- Baptisms-3
- Confirmations -3
- Funerals-9
- Weddings-4

Attendance

- Sunday Services – 3,486
- Special Services – 621
- **Total All Services – 4,107**

Church Council

At the end of the year 2016, the following members of our congregation were serving on the church council: (Terms expire in January)

President – Bill Davis ('17)
 Vice President – Norm Major ('18)
 Secretary – Karna Kudirka ('18)
 Norma Nabity ('17)
 Rich Sandberg ('18)
 Rodney Weed ('18)
 Jessica Cassata ('17)
 Mary O'Neill ('17)
 Perry Adam ('18)

Nominations for Church Council

Nominating Committee:

Jessica Cassata
 Norma Nabity

Members for nomination:

Marty O'Neill
 Nancy Marty
 Heather Thompson
 Tom Dukes

Staff Reports

Interim Pastor Jim Holthus

I began serving as your ¾ time transition pastor the day after Labor Day. This is my second interim position as I was the ½ time transition pastor at the American Lutheran Church in Ashland from August of 2014-August 2015. Pastors John and Liz had retired in mid-August after serving here for seven years and have moved to the St. Louis area.

What are my priorities as your transition pastor? I believe that I am here to continue the pastoral ministries of the congregation (preach, teach, marry, baptize, visit and commune shut-ins, etc.); I am also here to be an observer and to form an observers' opinion on the past/present/future of this congregation. My opinion on some of these things may vary from the opinions of some members as they have the benefit of history and hindsight and I have only arrived recently.

Here are the realities as I see them: 1) Trinity Lutheran, like many other churches, has seen its' "glory years" come and go; 2) Like many other urban churches in Omaha and other cities, the majority of its members no longer live in the neighborhood surrounding the church but still feel a deep commitment to both the building and the ministry being done here; 3) Trinity no longer has a "critical mass" of children and youth necessary to attract others of a similar age group to come and be part of a sustained Sunday School—when we do have children attend they are normally the grandchildren of members or families visiting; 4) Trinity is a congregation with an older demographic—approximately ¾ of the members are between the ages of 40 and 80; 5) Trinity has a highly committed but shrinking pool of able-bodied volunteers who can sustain the many ministries and programs the congregation is committed to; 6) Due largely to the efforts of Pastor John and Pastor Liz and others, in recent years Trinity has made an intentional choice to find ways to both reach out into the neighborhood and find ways to partner with it—the Trinity Reads initiative is now happening at six local elementary schools in classrooms for first, second, and third graders and is staffed by church volunteers (and even our Nebraska Bishop Brian Maas has been known to take part and read to a classroom of kids!); 7) Trinity is also involved with local, regional and international organizations and ministries (Minne Lusa/Miller Park neighborhood association, Crossroads Connection Prison Ministry, Lyamanyaki Parish, etc.) in addition to our volunteer men's group that does many projects for our building and our quilting group which made over 80 quilts to donate last year; 8) We are also experimenting this fall with our church having a "booth" at the Minne Lusa Halloween boulevard parade for the first time, with doing a sign-up for a Free Bible Giveaway, and with offering Bible study on Tuesdays over the lunch hour; and an aikido group is offering class in our building for church members and neighborhood people starting in January; 9) Our music program continues to excel and the quality of our bell choirs and vocal choirs is superb and one reason we believe will bring visitors back into our church; 10) Trinity continues to have a well-rounded staff able to meet and coordinate events, activities, and ministries.

Trinity Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1003 · MISSION SAVINGS ACCOUNT	383,406.10
1005 · SAVINGS ACCOUNT	33,639.49
1004 · FIRST NATIONAL	52,207.88
1100 · MONEY MARKET-CHURCH IMPROVEMENT	50,034.75
1200 · MONEY MARKET-OTHER	26,179.38
1300 · MONEY MARKET-ENDOWMENT	151,624.44
1400 · PETTY CASH	25.00

Total Checking/Savings

697,117.04

Total Current Assets

697,117.04

Fixed Assets

1500 · CHURCH, ELEVATOR, AND CONTENTS	951,335.59
1600 · 6338 NORTH 30TH STREET	82,000.00

Total Fixed Assets

1,033,335.59

TOTAL ASSETS

1,730,452.63

Trinity Income and Expense 2015-2016 year over year comparison

Income	2015	2016
4400- CURRENT	330,292.71	259,688.18
4100- BULLETINS & ALTAR FLOWERS	2,966.00	3,247.52
4300- CHURCH RENTAL & MISC.	21,854.32	33,802.95
5000- SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED	2,721.14	686.50
Total Income	357,834.17	297,425.15
Expense		
6000- CHURCH SUPPLIES	13,829.44	11,887.63
6300- EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	108,368.75	68,595.45
6400- INSURANCE PROPERTY	10,693.75	11,715.50
6450- MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	13,228.93	15,858.11
6500- MISSION SHARE	51,029.27	25,825.01
6520- MUSIC	92.92	908.43
6530- OFFICE SUPPLIES	7,117.18	8,084.22
6540- OTHER EXPENSE	2,883.93	7,479.24
6800- SALARIES	140,554.50	134,646.26
6825- SPECIAL OFFERINGS	2,203.19	265.00
6900- TRAVEL	433.82	464.84
7900- UTILITIES	23,324.85	22,897.74
Total Expense	373,760.53	308,627.43
Net Income	-15,926.36	-11,202.28

There are choices that we can make. Even though there is an annual financial commitment required, is the "Omaha Together, One Community" group an organization that Trinity should consider joining? Right now, the only two ELCA congregations which are members of OTOC are Grace Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Church. Another option for Trinity is to consider whether or not becoming an intentional "Reconciled in Christ" congregation is part of our ministry. To become an RIC congregation means that we publicly go on record that we welcome LGBTQ people and affirm that they are created in the image of God.

This is a time for Trinity to be reflective. What "identity" do we want our congregation to have over the next ten to twenty years and is this a realistic goal that we can meet with the current demographics and number of members we have? What do we see as our place in north Omaha and our mission both TO and WITH the neighborhood? If we held an "Invite Your Neighbor to Church Sunday" we would welcome visitors—like most of our members--who would be driving several miles to worship with us, but would we also somehow be intentionally inviting the people in a six-block area around our building? We can change our sign out front as often as we like, but if we don't follow up with our presence and continuity, I don't think a new sign message every two weeks is going to be our lifeline.

I see this congregation as very welcoming when people choose to visit. I hope we can learn how to be just as inviting..... Can we mention our congregation to others and simply invite them by saying (to paraphrase John 1:46) "Just come and see for yourself!" Evangelism is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian, but few Lutherans are comfortable actually doing it. Perhaps this is something that could become a priority for our members?

One question for us to consider is this: when Pastor John and Pastor Liz retired, why were there so many neighborhood people who came to Trinity to honor them and wish them farewell? And why haven't most of those neighborhood people returned? I think that when we answer that question we might have a goal for the next ten to twenty years.

Julie Sandene – Worship Music Leader

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as organist/accompanist/praise band pianist since June of this year. I've enjoyed my role in interacting with various members of the congregation and creating music with our talented musicians.

The organ is in great shape and was tuned in November, 2016. We are so blessed to have this wonderful instrument. It is a joy to play.

We welcomed Chris Peck as our handbell/choir director and he is doing an outstanding job with our ringers and singers. He has also had some of his handbell music published. This is a great accomplishment and we are lucky to have his expertise for our groups.

For our service planning, we've been using an ELCA resource, "Sundays and Seasons" for hymn suggestions, psalms, readings, and instrumental selections. Our Christmas program and Christmas Eve services were based on Lessons and Carols services in "Sundays and Seasons". We will continue with this resource, as it is full of interesting ideas and alternatives.

I've found that being a church musician is more than playing the keyboards. There is the planning, setting up, lining up people for solo work and other tasks, all of which I enjoy.

I've enjoyed working with Pastor Holthus, as he is open to trying new things and supportive of our endeavors. We are always open to welcoming new musical talent for our groups.

Feel free to speak with me anytime.

Trinity Lutheran Church		
Women of the ELCA		
12/31/2016		
Beginning Balance		\$ 830.36
<u>Receipts</u>		
General meeting offering	\$ 253.00	
General meeting luncheon offering	\$ 179.45	
Circles	\$ 836.00	
Donations - Funerals	\$ 950.00	
Donations - Other	\$ 61.60	
Mosaic/Katie's Fund & Thank offering	\$ 225.00	
	\$ 2,505.05	\$ 3,335.41
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Speakers	\$ (150.00)	
Mosaic/Katie's Fund & Thank offering	\$ (225.00)	
NSWO/Spring & Autumn renewal	\$ (125.00)	
Travel Fund & Expressions	\$ (32.00)	
Courtesy - stamps & cards	\$ (5.00)	
NE Synod Women - Regular offering	\$ (544.50)	
Farewell gift - LVC Volunteer	\$ (100.00)	
Gather Magazine	\$ (45.00)	
Secretary's gift	\$ (100.00)	
Missions - listed below	\$ (1,000.00)	
	\$ (2,326.50)	\$ 1,008.91
Balance on 12/31/2016		\$ 1,008.91
<u>Missions</u>		
Lyamanyaki womens group	\$ 200.00	
Project Hope	\$ 200.00	
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 200.00	
N.L.O.M.	\$ 50.00	
Trinity Reads	\$ 100.00	
Trinity Youth	\$ 100.00	
Lutheran Center/NE Pantry	\$ 50.00	
Table Grace Café	\$ 100.00	
	\$ 1,000.00	

Also, received these gifts in 2016 (\$200):

Steve & Jackie Cramer In Memory of: Harlene Prochnau, Donna Waters, and Will Hodges

Endowment Fund - 2016 Distributions

Name of Ministry	Amount	Date
Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Minis-	\$400	2/21/16
Oaks Indian Mission	\$200	2/21/16
Omaha North Post Prom	\$340	2/21/16
Travel Expense for Lyamanyaki	\$1000	2/21/16
Lutheran Service Corps	\$1,000	4/22/16
Nebraska Lutheran Campus Minis-	\$100	6/5/16
North Omaha Summer Arts	\$400	6/5/16
Baptisms - 1	\$50	10/28/16
Shipping Baskets of Promise Care	\$326	6/5/16
Trinity's Youth Mission Trip	\$1000	6/5/16
Travel Expense for Lyamanyaki	\$500	9/18/16
Followers of Christ Prison Ministry	\$500	9/18/16
Lyamanyaki Orphans	\$350	9/18/16
Trinity's Youth Fund	\$1000	9/18/16
Community Children Christmas	\$650	9/18/16

Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee Members 2016

Perry Adams – 2015-2017
Fran Buchholz – 2015-2017
Michelle Griswold – 2016-2018
Nancy Marty – 2016-2018
Steve Cramer, Chair – 2016-2018
Bill Davis – Financial Secretary

Chris Peck – Director of Handbells and Choir

I have enjoyed serving as the director of handbells and choir since August of this year. It has been a pleasure to meet many new people and working with so many wonderful musicians. My communication with other staff, congregation members, and other Trinity church musicians has been through email, text, and phone calls.

The handbells are in very good shape and the music library contains lots of great music and is very organized. I have had to do a few minor repairs on the handbells.

When I participated in the Mission Circus in October, I had the opportunity to visit with several folks and share news about the music ministry. In December, we hosted the River City Ringers for a concert, and hosted a Concert of Lessons and Carols, both of which were followed by a reception.

Chancel choir has been rehearsing weekly on Wednesday nights, while the bell choirs have been rehearsing on Monday nights. The choirs have generally sung and rung at the 8:45 services with an occasional 10:45 service added in.

We are always encouraging others to join us.

Thank you,
Chris Peck

Jarred Sturm – LVC Staffer

My name is Jarred Sturm and I am the Lutheran Volunteer Corps member here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Lutheran Volunteer Corps is a nonprofit organization that unites people in order to work for peace and justice across the nation. In addition to this, volunteers in LVC live together in an intentional community in different houses across the country, where we are encouraged to live simply and sustainably. I live in Hillstrom House where we have 10 volunteers living.

I am the Community Outreach Coordinator here at Trinity Lutheran Church. My main function is to work with the neighboring elementary schools with projects such as coat drives, holiday parties, and our big project, which is called Trinity Reads.

Trinity Reads is in 6 of the neighboring elementary schools, 1st through 3rd grade, 32 classrooms with around 650 students total. The volunteers read one book a month to, in front of, each of the classroom and afterwards the students get to take the book home with them.

We have been working with Miller Park Elementary closely involving their school parties and donations, but Minne Lusa Elementary has allowed us to work closely with them in these efforts this year, too.

My duty is to keep in contact with the schools and see what they need for the upcoming projects they have planned each month.

Along with these things, I am also responsible for setting up the church including Adult Education on Sunday, writing articles for both the Tidings and the Happenings, and many other things that I'm needed for at or around the church.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was created by the membership of Trinity at the 1997 annual meeting. The Endowment fund was initially funded by a gift from Richard C. Lundgren in the approximate amount of \$105,000. Based on the bylaws a specific amount of income generated is available to be distributed. The fund has distributed through 2015, **\$164,226** to a variety of organizations and individuals. The current value of the Fund is approximately **\$152,537**. It has spread Trinity's name and message of caring worldwide. During 2005 the Endowment Fund began opening savings funds in the amount of \$50 for each new congregational baptism thru a program of Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA called "Mission Future 4 KIDZ". This year the committee approved grants totaling **\$7,816** and they are listed here in this report.

Below is a list of the gifts received for Memorial Day 2016 (\$415):

Name	Given in Memory of:
Christie Gehringer	In memory of Earl, Dorthea & Kurt Johnson
Rick and Karla Nejdil	In memory of our brothers and sister that passed.
Dixie Romey	In memory of Walt Romey
Sarah Kleckner	In Honor of Jean Johnson
Tonya Eilenstine	In memory of Anna Dutra
Marilyn & Richard Christensen	In memory of Louise Truitt
Fran Buchholz	In memory of Family
Leslie Kurtz	In memory of Ken Keller and Judy & Ron Mathews
Jane Wendland	General donation
Pastors Liz & John Backus	In memory of Pastor John's Parents
Perry & Barb Adams	In memory of our loved ones
	In memory of all Kleckner and Main families who have passed on.
Dale & Sarah Kleckner	In memory of Bernadine Seedschlag
Laura & Bill Lyles	In memory of John Kaiser
Laura & Bill Lyles	
Tom, Kathy & Jennifer Dukes	In memory of Jason Lech
Anonymous	Anonymous

Below is a list of the gifts received for All Saints Sunday 2016 (\$515):

Name	Given in Memory of:
Dixie Romey	Walter G. Romey
Tonya Eilensteine	Those who lost the battle with Alzheimers
Marilyn & Richard Christensen	Louise Truitt
Christie Gehringer	Earl, Dorthea, Kurt Jensen
Jessica Cassata	Judy Cassata
Rich & Karen Sandberg	Ward & Esther Sandberg, Sam & Judy Navarrete
Lawrence & Kristy Gilbert	A. Garlin Engler
Steven & Kay Gale	Earl Gale
Steve & Jackie Cramer	All Trinity members who have passed on in 2016
Steve & Carri Prusia	Thomas Andersen, Michael McAdams, Robert Prusia
Jon & Linda Roeder	Our loved ones
Roseann Clarke	Lorraine Palma

Memorials

We remember those who have died this past year. We name Winona Bergren, John Kaiser, Bernadine Seadschlag, David Tomerlin, Louise Truitt, Josephine Gintz, Janice Kruse, Harlene Prochnau, Donna Waters and Jim Swanson.

We celebrate and give thanks for the following use of Memorial Funds in 2016:

- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday in loving memory of Marie Thomas and Norman Borchman.
- Trinity Reads in loving memory of John Kaiser.
- Trinity Reads Film in loving memory of Enid Stanton and Mary Waters.
- Halloween on the Boulevard in loving memory of Donna Waters.
- Crossroads Connections Prison Ministry Dinner in loving memory of Harlene Prochnau.

We give thanks for these wonderful gifts that have enhanced our life as a worshipping community. Thanks to everyone who gives a gift in memory of a loved one. Please remember that these purchases are always approved by the council and the families are contacted when possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Carri Prusia

Cindy Hiltgen – Faith Community Nurse

This has been a challenging year for me, and I have appreciated your forbearance, understanding and prayers during my convalescence from my back issues. Fortunately, I was able to participate in many of the annual/recurrent events such as:

- Distribution of Fecal Occult Blood test kits for Colon Cancer screening
- Serving as a member of the Adult Education committee
- Assisting with Healing services
- Hosting Flu shot clinic
- Expanding my client base as I work individually with members and respond to their concerns.
- Medical equipment closet.

I have been able to work from home to continue others, such as:

- Providing monthly articles for the Tidings, bulletin inserts for the Happenings, and posting information and events of interest on bulletin boards.
- Provide resources for physician referrals, housing, medical, financial, and a host of other needs.

It is my plan to return to the office in January, at least one day a week, as my back allows. I am also planning to resume Blood Pressure monitoring on the second Sunday of each month, beginning in January. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can serve you in any way. My office hours will continue to be Mondays and Thursdays from 1-3p.m. They are posted in the both the Tidings monthly, and the Happenings weekly. I am available other times by appointment. Please call the office at Trinity or my cell phone (402-320-2760) if you need to reach me.

I cannot thank each of you enough for your support, participation and prayers which have continued to make this ministry successful. It has been a blessing to me to serve you in this way, and I look forward to continuing in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Hiltgen, RN
Faith Community Nurse

Ruth Wood - Financial Secretary

I began working as the Financial Secretary for Trinity in January of 2016. I received my initial training from Pastor John Backus and Church Treasurer Paul Anderson. My work takes roughly five hours a week, and entails a variety of bookkeeping skills.

In the past year, I have come to understand the nuances of our churches financial needs, as well as individual givers preferences. I have come to really appreciate the work of our volunteer counters, our Treasurer, head of Council, and church Secretary. Together we maintain a high level of oversight and accuracy.

My regular responsibilities include:

- Recording donations by giver for accurate statements
- Recording bank deposits
- Managing automatic giving through Thrivent
- Paying bills, staff, and reimbursements
- Generating reports for the head of council and communicating with various committee members
- Maintain a high level of accuracy in the accounting software QuickBooks through bank reconciliation, and with treasure and head of council's oversight.

My goal for the next year is to become more available and approachable within the church to increase transparency. I have enjoyed the opportunity to know the church and its members better and look forward to fulfilling the role of Financial Secretary in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Wood

Trinity WELCA

Trinity Women of the ELCA provides support for world-wide, national, and Nebraska Synodical ministries as well as ministries here at Trinity. Some of these ministries include Lutheran World Relief, the Lyamanyaki Women's Group, Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Project Hope, Trinity Youth Group and several others.

Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon on the first Thursday of March, September, and December. A luncheon is served, followed by a guest speaker or special program and a short business meeting. This year's programs were: March - Chris Czerwinski from AARP Fraud Watch Division; September - Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dogs; December - Bell Tree and Piano Music by Dawn Beckwell and Julie Sandene. At our December meeting we also prepared containers of cookies to be delivered to our shut-in Trinity members. On November 8, our TWELCA hosted the Lutheran Women of Omaha at a noon luncheon.

All members of Trinity are invited and encouraged to attend our General Meetings. There are also three women's circles of TWELCA that meet once a month for Bible study and fellowship. Ladies are welcome to attend as many or as few of these meetings as they wish. More information can be found on the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bitcon

Stewardship Committee

In 2016 the Stewardship Team took our campaign outside our doors and onto our lawn. On October 9, we held our Mission Circus on the front lawn. We sent postcards to about 400 of our neighbors who live in our community.

Displays were set up by the Trinity Reads Program, Green Thumb Group, Lyamanyaki, Solomon Girls, Capital Campaign, Music Program, Youth Mission Trip, Men at Work, Willing Workers, TWELCA and the Minne Lusa/Miller Park Neighborhood Association. It was great to see all of our mission ministries displayed at once. We also had a table offering a chance to receive a "Free Bible".

After visiting the different mission tables, we could have fellowship while enjoying bagels, coffee and juice. We finished up the day with one service celebrating all the work we do here at Trinity. These missions are made possible by the offerings of the congregation.

Five weeks later November 13, Pledge Sunday took place at both services where members made their pledges for 2017. As the pledges continue to trickle in, your Stewardship Team will continue to be the committee that helps Trinity continue taking its missions outside our doors and into the local and global community.

Respectfully submitted,
Stewardship Team

Carri Prusia – Parish Secretary

It has been my honor to join the staff of Trinity Lutheran Church as the Parish Secretary beginning February of 2016. Immediately upon my hire it was clear this church needed a good secretary who could bring consistency and organization to the congregation and parish office.

I am largely responsible for the smooth operation of the church office. This includes guiding the LVC Staff in the duties of their position, handling church offerings and subsequent deposits, ordering supplies, ensuring coordination of outside vendor work is completed in a timely and satisfactory manner and just being that all around girl Friday where one contact can answer many questions and provide guidance to the right person or persons.

Much of my time in 2016 has been spent cleaning up our membership database, reinventing our monthly newsletter, organizing services in the way of bulletin's and the weekly 'Happenings' information piece. These publications are important as they inform the congregation of what is going on at the church. A great deal of time was spent completely re-creating the website. The website is updated regularly with new pictures and the newsletter each month. This is an important tool for those web savvy folks.

When the current Pastors decided to retire in August while it was a surprise, it was not a time to get weak in the knees. This is the time to embrace change and open yourself to the new challenges you will face. I feel like I have handled this change well and have kept the 'business as normal' attitude to ensure that the operations of the church office are not interrupted while the search for new Pastor(s) begins.

Many new duties have come my way and I am welcoming each new learning experience. I am looking forward to many more years to come with Trinity Lutheran Church.

Gratefully,
Carri Prusia

Standing Committee Reports

Building for the Next Century Campaign Capital Campaign

In the spring of 2014, Trinity Lutheran Church began a capital campaign to raise funds needed for repairs and updates to our building, as well as to further current and future mission projects. The campaign was called Building for the Next Century, and our goal to raise \$300,000 in pledges was a huge one! Much planning, many meetings, and lots of discussion took place before our Commitment Sunday on May 18. Our synodical leader, Pastor Karen Soli, preached at our services and we held a congregational dinner while pledges were being tallied. Many of us were overwhelmed when it was announced that our pledges not only met, but exceeded, our goal! In fact, pledges totaled nearly \$350,000!

The pledges made to Building for the Next Century were intended to be paid in three years. Since that time, some members have chosen to pay their pledges on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis. Some paid their pledge in full so that the needed repairs to our building could begin. Many of these projects have been completed (the roof replacement being the main one). There are still projects to be completed.

Those who have not completed their pledges are encouraged to do so by June 1, 2017. We praise God for His provision for us individually and as a congregation!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Marty

Standards Committee

The 2016 Standards Committee members were Pastor John Backus, Helen Brasch, Bill Davis, Rose Marie Davis and Rich Sandberg. Pastor John retired and the committee has requested Trinity Parish Secretary, Carri Prusia, to be on the committee effective December 2016. The Standards Committee meets monthly unless building use issues need to be addressed sooner.

The Standards Committee administers oversight of basic standards for everyone who uses the church facility and will assist them with any support prior to and when they are in the building.

2016 property agreements were:

- A new agreement for 2016 was approved and executed with the Ruth K Solomon Girls Center. Trinity hosted over 100 girls from June 20th through July 29th.
- A.A. meets Saturday mornings from 10:10 to 11:10AM.
- CA meets Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm and Saturday from 11 to noon.
- CA held 2 fundraisers during 2016.
- North Omaha Summer Arts/Women's Writing met Wednesdays June 1 through July 29th.
- Trinity was a stopping point for the North Omaha Summer Arts Crawl.
- Lutheran Service Corps Spaghetti Feed was held at Trinity.
- There were 4 prison ministry worship and meals held at Trinity.
- There were 5 additional private gatherings by individual members of Trinity.

Gamble's Cleaning Service was hired in September to clean the church. They were replaced in December with Marsden Cleaning Service. Marsden is proving to be more in line with the church cleaning needs.

Wedding fees were set in December for all future weddings held at Trinity. Member weddings are \$400.00. NON-member weddings are \$600.00.

A reminder for anyone interested in renting the facility, the first step is to contact the office and sign an agreement reserving the date at least 2 weeks prior to the use date (no exceptions). A one-time use fee of \$25.00 for members of Trinity and \$75.00 for non-members is payable at the time the agreement is signed and the reservation is made. A Standard's Committee member must sign and approve this agreement. Anyone that has not used the facility previously must complete a kitchen training session.

Respectfully submitted
Rose Marie Davis

Property Committee

The work on the roof is finally complete. The new capstones have been installed, the damaged concrete replaced and landscaping repairs are underway. Although we may not get the sod down until spring.

Work continues related to the water leaking into the church lounge, quilting room and men's work area. Much time was spent doing prep work in those areas so the water proofing work itself could be professionally done. Now that that has happened we are in the process of repairing what was torn apart in those rooms. It is expected that this will take some time to complete.

Repairs were made to the parking lot lights and the lighted sign in front of the church.

The vent from the boiler into the chimney was leaking and repair/replacement was made there.

The fellowship hall ceiling tiles were all replaced.

Work that remains to be done includes parking lot resurfacing, repairs to the sprinkler system that was damaged during roof work, repair of fellowship hall floor and repair or replacement of the front doors.

While it was necessary to hire some of the work done, much of it was done and continues to be done by the Monday and Thursday men's work group.

Special thanks to this group for help, not only on the major projects but the day to day work like setting up and taking down tables, fertilizing the lawn, maintaining the boiler, minor electrical and plumbing work and countless other chores including decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. Approximately 766 hours have been logged, by these men at work, for the 2016 year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Sandberg

Green Thumb

The year was bountiful at the Green Thumb Garden! We shared our bounty most Sundays during the growing season in the Narthex at church. Some of the fresh produce was served at a Prison Ministry dinner. Produce was delivered to Table Grace and Project Hope. We also encouraged picking this year. Whether it was salad or squashes, the word could be put out on Facebook or Nextdoor.com to those in the area to get some produce that was ready to be enjoyed.

Once again, this year we had neighborhood plots next door to the Green Thumb Garden. There were about ten gardeners this year. It is always fun to see them working, say "hi," and check out what they are growing. We had a new garden neighbor "move in" this year. With the help of Big Garden, Nelson Mandela started some raised bed gardens this year. The kids learned about growing and using their bounty.

Spring cleanup is a way we can help get ready for Easter. We got mulch donated by Trish Glass. Picking up trash, raking, and laying down fresh mulch can really spruce up the church for the holiday visitors. We used the mulch again in the fall when we re-mulched a path in the neighborhood plots.

There's a lot of gardening going on at 30th & Curtis. If you haven't been before, be sure to check it out this summer. Or check it out virtually by joining our Facebook group (Green Thumb Garden).

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Thompson

Trinity Recycles

This past year was another good year for recycling. Our recycling efforts provided the 5-step program for the church, plants for the Northside of the church, starter plants for the garden and other miscellaneous horticulture supplies. Our main recycling items are aluminum cans and plastic soda bottles (8 oz. – 2 liter). We also continue to sell Savings Sidekicks coupon books making \$200-\$300 each year.

The support of the congregation allows Green Thumb to be independent from the church funding by having our own account. Thank you to all who have support us. Remember it pays to recycle.

Happy New Year
John Nabity

Lyamanyaki

2016 was a big year for our partnership with Lyamanyaki Lutheran Parish in Tanzania. In October we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our partnership.

We invited Pastor Kennedy Kisanga and Mr. and Mrs. Marinago to come to Trinity for about two weeks in October. All three of them arrived in Omaha the evening of Saturday, October 1. Our celebration was on Sunday the 2nd and Pastor Kennedy preached at both the 8:45 AM and 10:45 AM services. They did a Q&A during Adult Education and we celebrated with a Pot Luck at the end of the 2nd service. They were with several members of Trinity until they left on October 12 to go back home.

The Lyamanyaki Committee is thankful to the eight families that hosted Pastor Kennedy and Mr. and Mrs. Maringo in their homes, as well as the many other Trinity members who took the group for tours and visits around town.

We are important to their church by providing financial help to the orphans, chicken project and the milk project – they are just as important to us with opening our eyes and showing us how God is working in Tanzania.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Cassata

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee of the Church Council is responsible for coordinating various activities that take place in the life of the church throughout the year. This includes a Blessing of the Animals where ten dogs were blessed by Pastor Jim. Treats for the humans and their pets were provided.

God's Work, Our Hands is an annual event in conjunction with the ELCA nationwide. The church was cleaned inside and out, cards were sent to shut-ins, cookies and water were given to passer-byes on all four corners of 30th and Redick, and bingo was played at two area retirement centers. We also assisted with Jean Johnson's retirement party and the new member luncheon.

None of this would have been possible without the wonderful members of the Trinity family stepping forth to help.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room on Earth." Mohammed Ali
Gratefully submitted,
Norma Nabity and Marty O'Neill

Crossroads Connection Prison Ministry

Prison ministry drivers, worship leaders and food servers help our incarcerated sisters and brothers know that the church cares for them. Four times each year this group gathers in Trinity's walls to worship and eat with their families. We share this responsibility with our ministry partners at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Millard.

Mary Duda is responsible for arranging for drivers, each week, to ensure the incarcerated sisters and brothers are transported to the various churches offering services. We are grateful for Mary's commitment to ensure transportation drivers are available and communicating this information back to Crossroads Prison Ministry personnel.

A new committee is being formed to work on policy and procedures in regards to the mission. This will enable Trinity to broaden the scope of work with this important ministry. Currently the committee is led by Carri Prusia and members are Norma Nabity and Helen Brasch.

Trinity Reads Program

Trinity Lutheran Church is geographically located in the inner city of Omaha. Since many of the schools in our neighborhood face many challenges, our then Pastor John Backus, in 2009 started to read in one second grade classroom in one school with a local men's group which was volunteering at the school. Once the men's group had left the school for another project, Pastor John continued to read. One of the unique things about his reading was that when he came to read to the classroom he would not only read but bring a copy of the book for each student to take home with them. For some students that book is the first book they have of their very own. Since the year 2009 our program has grown significantly. Currently for the 2016-2017 school year we are reading in 6 schools, 32 classrooms and to approximately 650 students. We read once per month from September-May during the school year. It is a rewarding program for both the volunteer readers from our congregation and the students we read to. Karna Kudirka is the administrator of this important mission.