

SECTION 1: PARISH REPORTS



PASTOR'S REPORT

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What a joy to be able to write those words to you after a full year as your pastor! This past year was one of getting to know you, and you getting to know me. That has meant lots of learning. This process takes time, respect, love and a willingness to listen, but mostly love. And I am so glad to say we have had a lot of all of those things this past year.

This past year I have witnessed what you are looking for in a pastoral leadership, and my own leadership style has emerged in response to those needs. While leadership always looks different depending on the needs of the community, each of us has our own core characteristics. I hope at the end of the year that you have come to know me as one who can be relied on to be kind and honest. I have been accused of living out the joy of the Gospel, an accusation I will not deny. Sharing the Good News of our salvation in Jesus is a joy, to be sure.

One of the challenges facing any congregation is to involve new people in the ministries of the church. I have worked hard this year to expand involvement in the governance of the congregation. This year we elected several people to the Church Council who are serving their first term ever. The Mutual Ministry Committee and the newly formed Justice League of Trinity (We will pick a better name as soon as someone thinks of one) are largely composed of people who are new to leadership in the congregation. The point is not to usher out an old guard and replace them with new blood but to expand the number of voices and allow for different ministries to emerge while we examine and enhance the service ministries we do so well.

Changes in worship have been a delight to some and a cause of anxiety to others. The Worship and Music Team has worked hard to implement the desires for variety in worship that the congregation expressed in the surveys taken during the transition. We now rotate through five worship settings in our hymnal during the course of a year. Worship is a communal activity, yet each of us brings our own needs for praise confession and prayer. The goal is always to draw us into a holy activity in a holy space.

Our stewardship campaign this year was the first formal campaign in several years. The results were heartening and led to an ongoing discussion of how we will support the work of this congregation financially. We have encountered the down side of our old habits of designated giving and what that means for our ability to operate here in Dover as an organization. We have examined the vital impact that our very ability to open our doors has on the neighborhood and the people who depend on the support of this congregation for food, access to services and to see God's love for them daily. Our presence in Dover is made possible only through unrestricted gifts to the operating fund.

In 2017 we received a substantial bequest from the estate of Jacqueline Delaney, the kind of bequest that will let us respond to the needs of our community in a new way. The community around us is always changing. Our response must be equally flexible. Several of you have expressed the desire for a new ministry here at TLC. And I agree. I have lots of ideas, but what I think this new ministry should be will never be as good as the accumulated wisdom of you, the faithful members of TLC, working to discern where God is calling us.

Looking ahead, this is a walk we take together. I am not the church, I am the pastor. My job is to preach the word and administer the sacraments. My role is to help you listen to God's claim on your life, and to encourage you to respond to that call with all the tools you need to be a faithful and effective messenger of God's love in the world.

There is a wonderful hymn called "We Are the Church." The fourth verse sums the whole thing up nicely:

The church, it is the people
living out their lives,
called, enlightened, sanctified
for the work of Jesus Christ.

Refrain

We are the church,
the body of our Lord;
we are all God's children.
We have been restored.

I look forward to the year ahead: a year of growing into the ministry God is calling us all to do together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

Volunteers put their discipleship into practice at TLC every day. Hundreds of people serve:

Faith Kitchen meal makers and hosts
Family Promise meal makers and hosts
Altar Guild
Acolytes and communion assistants
Celebration Choir, Bell Choir and Pick-up Choir
Counters
Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
Financial Secretaries
MAT (Memorial and Thanksgiving) Fund
W/ELCA study circles
Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes
SCS teachers, confirmation teachers and mentors
Adult Forum teachers, Bible Study leaders
SCS superintendent
Office and Food Pantry volunteers, who answer the phones and the door, and pack and distribute groceries
Youth groups and leaders
Newsletter contributors, proofreaders, collators, mailers
Bulletin folders and collators
Ushers, readers, greeters, coffee set-up and clean-up
Parish Health Cabinet
Stewardship Team
Property Committee
Finance Team
Worship and Music Committee
Education Team Ministry
Cradle Roll
Senior Ministry
Scholarship Committee
Usher, Reader and Greeter Coordinator
Shoppers for Food Cupboard and the Food Cupboard Coordinator
Coffee Hour Coordinator
Edna's Haven
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Scholarship Committee

Thank you!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
JANUARY	86	79*	106	133	150
FEBRUARY	87	119	74	141	187
MARCH	93	146	133	159	189
APRIL	118	92	85	198	185
MAY	97	99	124	155	151
JUNE	100	100	111	179	142
JULY	85	85	106	191	112
AUGUST	78	90	94	130	138
SEPTEMBER	83	101	85	126	151
OCTOBER	81	95	120	132	167
NOVEMBER	91	114	118	135	162
DECEMBER	87	85	106	117	157
AVERAGES	91	100	105	150	158

(*Snow storm – Church closed 1/24/16)

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	16	20	16	41	50
	16	18	19	44	40
	16	25	25	40	45
	16	23	23	35	47
	12	22	23	38	40
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	35	34	38	55
	12	25	30	32	46
	9	30	32	39	47
	12	25	27	34	48
AVERAGES	13	22	25	38	47

(Classes began in Oct. instead of Sept. 2017)

SPECIAL SERVICES

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ADVENT THURSDAY	16	26	31	29	31
CHRISTMAS EVE	144	209	245	339	352
CHRISTMAS DAY	42	51	34	44	49
ASH WEDNESDAY	*23	56	56	94	94
THURSDAYS IN LENT	16	25	31	38	36
MAUNDY THURSDAY	**74	44	48	84	94
GOOD FRIDAY	78	72	94	105	114
EASTER VIGIL	***40				
EASTER	204	252	265	305	312
SCS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	–	65	160	–	–

*Ash Wednesday service held at St. John's Episcopal Church.

**First Communion celebration at the Maundy Thursday worship service.

***First year of Saturday Easter Vigil worship service.

LEADERSHIP 2017

Council Members and Officers

Kim Kleindienst	President/Executive Team/Mutual Ministry
Maira Rogers	Vice President/Executive Team/Personnel/Faith Kitchen
Erin DeKorte	Secretary/Executive Team/Education
John Sienkiewicz	Treasurer
Beverly Dominkowitz	Assistant Treasurer
Sue Dean	Financial Secretary
Susanne Jackson	Financial Secretary
Suzanne Capps	Social Ministry/Living for Giving
Glenn Kruhm	Edna's Haven
Cliff Rollins	Fellowship
Gary Tarantino	Property
Scott Miller	Technology/Web Page
Brienne Richards	Youth
Laura Scerbo	Edna's Haven
Eileen Schult	Health Cabinet
Sandy Sheridan	Worship and Music
Kevin Seidel	Finance

Staff

Kathy McFarland	Parish Church Administrator
Lynn Sienkiewicz	Parish Nurse
Jeffrey Miller	Bell Choir Director
Julie Sauder	Organist
Felipe Torres	Sexton
Ralph Gonzalez	Assistant Sexton

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Baptized	401	412	406	590	598	578
Confirmed	312	317	338	389	392	381
Average Attendance	91	100	105	140	158	151

rites and Celebrations 2017

Marriages

Dean Walgren and Wendy Hagensen 5/7/17

First Communion

Jaymie Casario 4/13/17
James Lubrecht 4/13/17

Baptisms

Maria Grace Richards 7/16/17
Jaxon Tyler Garrison 12/10/17

New Members

Ashley Garrison 12/10/17

Funerals/Memorials

Esther Louise Fritts 3/13/17
*Helen Bollmann 5/20/17
John Cain 12/30/17

Affirmation of Baptism

Kayla Bradley 6/4/17
Justin Bruno 6/4/17
Alyssa Casario 6/4/17
Micah DeKorte 6/4/17
Emily Jackson 6/4/17
Cory Edwards 6/4/17
Joshua Knowle 6/4/17

*Church member

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As part of TLC's two-year transition process, a Membership Task Force was established in 2014 to review the active membership roll and prepare an accurate roll of all active TLC members. That job was completed in 2015, thus making the review and update going forward much easier.

In 2017 we added three new members and removed 12 adults through transfers, personal requests or death. As of December 31, 2017, there were 401 baptized members on the membership roll of TLC, of whom 312 are active, confirmed voting members.

Trinity continues to be a vibrant congregation of worship and praise, service and ministry. We have much love, support and energy to offer members, and we look forward to an uplifting 2018.

Peace and Blessings,
Kathy McFarland and Barbara Terreri

COUNCIL REPORT

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."
Philippians 4:6-8.

Lutherans inevitably don't like change. We are comfortable with routine. We like where we sit in church, how we worship, and how we respond to the world around us. New thoughts and ideas are not always met with excitement and enthusiasm for change. But through change comes growth and a development of understanding about what is important to us as individuals and as a church. This year offered a great deal of opportunity for us to grow. Pastor Fred completed his first full year leading us at Trinity through a time in society where many are fearful and looking to the church for stability. Pastor Fred pushed us at times, to reach, to feel and to advocate for those within the church as well as those outside of it. New groups were started, and many were changed to work better within the structure of Trinity. These include the creation of two new groups, the Living for Giving Committee, as well as the Justice League. Other changes to Trinity came with the adoption of the updated and revised Constitution and Bylaws. Most notable was the creation of the role of the President of the Congregation, which is no longer filled by the rostered pastor. Modifications also came to existing committees, and new guidelines and procedures were established within the church. New ways of reaching the youth and families were created with the introduction of a new Sunday Church School schedule focusing on individual groups throughout the month. Cross-generational activities focused on youth and adults meeting and working together. Opportunities to become more involved in the community began, with shared worship services with St. John's Episcopal and United Methodist in Dover. Shared ministries between the congregations were also established, with St. John's focusing on medical equipment, while Trinity focused on food. Caring for others' safety and health was highlighted by offering active bystander training through the synod, as well as CPR training led by one of our own members. Outside of church, members participated in marches, letter-writing campaigns and social activism at every level.

New things continue to arrive at Trinity, as well. This summer, a new pictorial church directory was created, giving us all a chance to familiarize ourselves with each other. New paraments were dedicated in Advent and our new-and-improved organ was dedicated in October with a beautiful recital. This December even found us getting a new portion of roof over the sanctuary.

While worries about a large year-end deficit always concern us, this year the church was able to close the gap considerably, ending approximately \$6,000 ahead of where we projected. While still ending with a deficit, the congregation gave more than before, and the staff spent less than expected. Work will continue to bring these figures

closer together, with continued financial education and awareness for the congregation. This year, the responsibility of a Stewardship Campaign was taken on by Council members. Through personal testimonies and education, members were encouraged to increase their pledges, or pledge if they never had before. The efforts of this group will continue throughout the year as an ongoing effort to keep the congregation informed about Trinity's financial health.

Trinity's Council continues to meet collectively the second Monday of every month, while many members also regularly attend committee meetings, Bible studies and other events throughout the church. We continue to discuss ways to reach more people, offer opportunities for more input and give guidance to the committees that run behind the scenes of Trinity. We welcome your suggestions, concerns and input. Please feel free to contact any member of the Council if you have any concerns or questions. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this year. I am thankful for the opportunity to talk and visit with many of you. While 2018 promises to bring more changes to Trinity, I'm sure through prayer, conversation and action, we collectively can grow Trinity to be even bigger and better than ever!

Prayerfully yours,
Kim Kleindienst, Trinity Council President

ALTAR GUILD

What an exciting year this has been! We have made some changes in how the altar is prepared for Sunday worship every week, as well as for holidays and other special services. These changes necessitated several updates of the Altar Guild's responsibilities. In June, Pastor Fred and Barbara Terreri gathered as many of the volunteers as possible and explained the new responsibilities and showed them the procedure for preparing the altar.

We were also able to purchase some new linens for the altar, as some linens were worn and needed replacing. The following items were purchased in the spring:

- one "fair linen," the cloth that covers and always remains on the top of the altar.
- an undercloth (also known as "cere cloth") that is a piece of unbleached, natural linen dipped in wax. It prevents spills from damaging the top of the altar.
- a dozen purificators – the small napkin used to cleanse the rim of the chalice during the distribution of Holy Communion. These purificators were given by Lorraine Bollmann in memory of her mother, Helen Bollmann. Thank you, Lorraine.
- an urn pall to cover cremation ashes.

On December 10, 2017 the Committee, with Pastor Fred's help, pulled off one of the best surprises ever. To honor Joan Frick's retirement as coordinator of the Altar Guild and her 40-plus years of dedication to this ministry, a new set of blue paraments for the liturgical season of Advent were dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of Joan Frick.

Once again I thank Joan for her many years of dedication, and a big thank you to the 30 dedicated members who volunteer and commit one month a year to this ministry. Those members are Ralph and Joan Frick, Ashley Kindberg, Susanne Jackson, Judy Miller, Eileen Schult, Sharon Matschke, Carol Schwarz, Janet Bruno, Ron Knowle, Lauren Cook, Nadine Cain, Sue Dean, Barbara Terreri, Kelly Casario, Nancy Boersema, Donna Johnson, Sherri Jansen, Maira Rogers, Diane Eberly, Kim and Bruce Kleindienst, Beverly Dominkowitz, Melanie Edwards, Sandra Dean, Ann Gallagher, Skip and Nancy Kazaba, Angela Gehring and Sheri Sauer. I also thank JoAnn Argenziano, Lorraine Bollmann and Kathy McFarland for their work in keeping the linens clean and pressed.

Barbara Terreri

BELL CHOIR

I am extremely proud of the progress the Bell Choir has made this year. While at times it felt like the universe was working against us, the five loyal members of our Bell Choir have made significant progress with musicality and group cohesiveness. We worked hard on learning more difficult pieces than in years past, and we pushed through challenges by practicing regularly, sometimes even having two practices a week or practices that lasted over two hours.

While we worked very hard, we did face a few setbacks. 2017 was a tough year for all of Bell Choir, members who faced sickness, injury, death in the family, and other uncontrollable events that held us back from performing as much as we hoped to. Even on my part, I was very sick for weeks, from mid-December until just after the New Year, and we were forced to cancel our Christmas Eve performance, which would have featured one of our most difficult pieces yet. Shortly afterwards, we had to cancel a January performance at the senior building, due to deaths in the families of two of our members. Despite our pitfalls, I am proud of what the Bell Choir accomplished this year.

Our current plan is to resume practicing on Sunday, January 21, once all of our members are back home from their travels and available to practice. I also plan on continuing to reach out to the congregation in search of new Bell Choir members, as we would love to expand the choir. We will continue to apply to 2018 the same work ethic that we had last year, and I hope for a healthier and happier year for all of our members.

Jeff Miller
Bell Choir Director

CELEBRATION CHOIR

Music at Trinity invites all to participate and enjoy, as it fosters relationships and small group fellowship, and shares the Gospel and inspires our worship. The following is a list of Sundays and special services when the choir made a musical offering to the service:

Liturgy of Spirituals – in response to the annual recognition of the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with guest trumpet accompaniment Max Mordan.

Installation Liturgy – to help celebrate the installation of our new pastor, Pastor Fred Becker, with a special Offertory piece written by his father, John Becker.

Love Sunday – “God So Loved the World” – Praise Band – A fun revival, with guest musicians, Robin on guitar and Suzanne on bass.

Ash Wednesday – A musical contribution with Jeffrey's guitar accompaniment to our worship at St. John's Episcopal Church and its congregation.

Liturgy of Lenten Taize – A meditative service, “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

Palm Sunday – A lively Jamaican selection, “Your King is Coming to You”

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday – From “Give Me the Lowest Place,” to “Forsaken,” to rejoicing at the rising of Christ.

Pentecost Sunday

Energizer Sunday – a joyful reboot after summer

October 15th – “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Organ Dedication – in thanks to God and to those who made the gift of this wonderful instrument possible

October 29 – in celebration of 500 years

All Saints' Sunday

November 19

Annual meeting

Advent, December 17 – “Away in a Manger,” with Jeanine Erickson and Jenn Schroeder on flute accompaniment

Christmas Eve – “Night of Silence” and “Silent Night” on the new set of chimes

The choir and congregation appreciated the extra volunteers, including friends from teaching (Lynn), Harmonium Choral Society (Nancy), six students of the Roxbury High School music program, a brass quintet led by Rich Erickson, and four-hand piano selections (Julie and Sandy).

Very special thanks and great appreciation go to our dedicated director, Kevin Seidel, and skilled accompanist, Julie Sauder. Also, many thanks to our dedicated choir members: Jesse Andrews, Earl Baderschneider, Sue Leshner, Eileen Heinrich, Lynn Sienkiewicz, Jody Seidel, Sheri Sauer, Marion and Neil Holtzman, Scott and Judy Miller, Ginny Simms, Ken Kindberg, David Bernauer and Dick and Sandy Sheridan.

Sandy Sheridan, soprano, substitute director and accompanist

CONFIRMATION

On June 4, 2017, Kayla Bradley, Justin Bruno, Alyssa Casario, Micah DeKorte, Emily Jackson, Cory Edwards and Joshua Knowle affirmed their baptism and faith through the Rite of Confirmation.

The four-year process of instruction involves a set of requirements: retreats, classes, sermon notes, service and work hours, and a project. The basic foundations of our beliefs are covered in class: The Creeds, The Lord’s Prayer, Ten Commandments, the Liturgical year, Bible study, ethical decision-making, and how to live a Christ-based lifestyle.

Sandy Dean helped to teach these classes with Pastor Fred Becker.

PICK-UP CHOIR

Under the direction of Jeffrey Miller and Kim Kleindienst, the Pick-Up Choir offered opportunity for individuals interested in being part of a choir who could not commit to a weekly practice schedule. The premise behind the Pick-Up Choir was to practice and sing one Sunday a month. The members meet at 9:45 to practice and sing at the 10:30 service. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age or singing ability.

CRADLE ROLL

The Cradle Roll is a ministry to parents of children from birth to three years of age. During these first three years, letters are sent quarterly to the parents, giving information from a Christian perspective about the physical and social development of the child, and listing games and other activities for the child. He or she is remembered with a card on the anniversary of his or her baptism.

At the end of 2017, two children were on the Cradle Roll, a very helpful ministry to the parents that enables them to begin Christian education at home, even before the child starts Sunday Church School. It is the first step in the ongoing Christian education that continues throughout life.

Diane Eberly

PARISH NURSE REPORT

Health Ministry continues to be an active and supportive part of Trinity Lutheran's ministry as a whole. We encourage all members to take personal responsibility for their lifestyle choices, health management and wellness through all stages of life. Health ministry affirms that we are physical, psychological and spiritual beings with all three interconnected.

I worked closely with Pastor Fred this year to identify and meet the health care needs of the congregation as best we could. This was a new ministry for him as a pastor, and he embraced it with an open mind and open arms. I thank Pastor Fred for his support, guidance and encouragement of Health Ministry, and to me as Parish Nurse.

I continue to reach out to members of the congregation as the need arises to support, educate and provide resources. I provided this care through blood pressure screenings; communication on Sunday mornings as well as through phone calls, emails and texts; home, hospital and rehab visits; newsletter articles and grief booklets.

I took advantage of numerous opportunities for education and networking this year, mainly through Morristown Medical Center/Atlantic Health System. I continue to find additional support, resources and spiritual feeding through the Faith Community Nurse Network led by Gary Myers, Ph.D., M.Div., Manager of Faith and Health at MMC. I look forward to a continued relationship with this group.

Although the Health Ministry Team had only one formal meeting this year, we worked together throughout the year to provide the mission of Health Ministry. The need for formal programs has decreased, but we continued to provide physical, psychological and spiritual support through blood pressure screenings; a blood drive; a CPR course; distributing the File of Life and numerous newsletter articles. I thank Eileen Schult, Carol Lieberman, Elaine Tarantino, Lorna Kelly, Don Ballard and Kelly Casario for working with me to continue Health Ministry at TLC.

I thank Kathy McFarland for continually keeping me informed of health care needs in the congregation as she receives messages from members expressing those needs. Kathy is an instrumental part of the Health Ministry, and I thank her for her never-ending support and encouragement.

I encourage anyone with feedback or suggestions to contact me or a member of the Health Ministry Team. I feel blessed to be your Parish Nurse, and I will continue to encourage each member to strive for wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

Lynn Archer Sienkiewicz, RN

TLC Parish Nurse

PARISH NURSE
HEALTH MINISTRY STATISTICS

22 Grief booklets sent

3 January	1 July
2 February	1 August
2 March	3 September
4 April	0 October
2 May	0 November
2 June	2 December

90 Blood pressures taken on Sunday mornings
(Nurses usually available after each service)

4 January	8 July
9 February	3 August
8 March	9 September
6 April	10 October
8 May	7 November
13 June	5 December

March 7: Attended seminar on "Training for Seniors and Caregivers," sponsored by Atlantic Health.

March 9: Attended educational seminar, "Understanding Alzheimer's Disease," offered by Arbor Terrace, senior living center in Morris Plains.

April 4: Prepared and led Health Ministry Team meeting.

April 19: Attended seminar, "Care for the Caregivers," sponsored by Atlantic Health for Faith Community nurses.

May 2: Attended meeting of Faith Community Nurse Network (speaker on organ and tissue donation.)

May 7 and 14: Organized and coordinated distribution of File of Life, after both services.

May 10: Attended seminar at CCM on Medicare and Social Security.

May 17: Supervised combined Blood Drive at St. John's Episcopal Church, with 22 units collected.

May 19: Attended Humanistic Symposium at Overlook Hospital – "Arts, Mindfulness and Empathy in Medicine."

June 28: Attended and passed AHA CPR course, taught by TLC member, Doug Svoboda, at Dover firehouse (Aug 15 – Sept 15: Modified, leave of absence.)

Sept/Oct: Participated in webinar series on alternative Alzheimer's treatments.

Nov 6: Attended educational seminar on "Caring for the Dying", sponsored by Atlantic Health.

Nov 16: Attended four-hour educational workshop on "Scope of Practice in Faith Community Nursing," sponsored by Atlantic Health

Spoke with parishioners on Sunday mornings and during the week to discuss health needs and to provide support and resources.

Communicated with Pastor Fred to assess health care needs of congregation and coordinate visits.

Communicated with Kathy McFarland regarding health needs in congregation.

Communicated with parishioners regarding health needs of self and family members.

Communicated and prayed with members pre-op and post-op, as needed.

Provided guidance and resources to members as needed.

Wrote newsletter articles.

Organized and assisted with blood pressure screenings on Sunday mornings once a month.

Covered health care needs of congregation when Pastor Fred was out of town.

Visited parishioners in hospitals, rehabs or home.

Coordinated meals with Elaine Tarantino for TLC families in need.

Set up transportation for TLC members in need, when needed.

Wrote and sent grief booklets monthly.

Made contacts with community agencies for resources and services.

Worked with Health Ministry team to provide care and resources to members.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Members: Erin DeKorte, Lynda Pullis, Sandra Dean, Neil Holtzman, Katie Serbeck, Jane Chreshewsky, Brianne Richards, Pastor Fred

Church clean up based on fire inspection completed.

Youth/Young adult time-and-talent sheet completed for 2017-2018 church year.

Adult evening Bible study started. Women's Bible study – W/ELCA; Men's Bible study – M/ELCA. Joint Bible study for December 2017.

Day W/ELCA Bible Study continues to meet.

Sunday School – Lynda Pullis, Superintendent

- Thank you to Janet Bruno for serving on SCS.
- Dream Team formed July 2017 to discuss new church school format. Team came up with schedule to accommodate all ages to attend church school.
- September 24 – table set up to discuss new church school format.
- First day of church school for 2017-2018 season – Sunday October 1, with new format.

Confirmation 2017

- Curriculum – *Collaborate*: Lutheran Confirmation, published by Spark House. “ Unit 4 – Lutheran Living” was the focus for the 2016-2017 confirmation year.
- Seven confirmands were accepted into TLC membership on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017.
- First day for 2017-2018 – Thursday, October 19. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

Senior High Youth – Katie Serbeck and Brianne Richards

- Fundraising for 2018 Youth Gathering –
 - Pancake breakfast at Applebee's
 - Shirts available for purchase
 - Pie auction
 - “Hymn Madness” and “Carol Crazy”
 - Pizza sales (February–March 2018)
 - Yankee Candle sale

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the continued generosity of Trinity members, this committee continues to award scholarships to graduating seniors, and 2017 was not an exception. The following scholarships were awarded this year on Graduate Sunday:

Trinity Scholarship – Justina Jansen, Danielle Jackson, Maggie Rogers
Dean Science Scholarship – Emily Cook
Blethen Scholarship – Joe Vicente

Thanks to the members of this committee: Sandra Dean, Erin DeKorte, Charlie Haas, Kim and Bruce Kleindienst and Pastor Fred.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Each day, from Monday through Friday, two TLC volunteers work in the Food Pantry from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They answer the phone and the front door, fill and distribute bags of groceries, restock shelves, collate, perform mailings, fold and staple weekly bulletins, and many "other duties as needed." These tasks are all lovingly and faithfully completed by the TLC volunteers throughout the year, giving tremendous help to the office and staff.

Thank you to the 2017 volunteers who volunteer on a regular basis: Sandy Dean, Jane Chraschewsky, Marion Holtzman, Mabel Roy, Charlie Haas, Suzanne Capps, Mike Capps, Russ Johnson, Donna Johnson, Ann Gallagher, Linda Gallup, Sheri Sauer, Ralph Frick, Elaine Tarantino, Gary Tarantino, Kim Kleindienst, Betty Shunk, Jessie Andrews, Mary Brown, Nancy Boersema, Carol Schwarz, Bev Dominkowitz, Barbara Terreri, Earl Baderschneider, Teresa Baderschneider, Marie Matarazzo, Danielle Jackson, Norma Teabo, Marion Moser and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. If we missed someone, please know we are sorry, and appreciate all that you do.

Kathy McFarland

MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING

JANUARY In memory of Jeanne Widmann by Nancee and George Seidel. Designated for special musicians.

MARCH In honor of the dedication and creativity of the Music Ministry at TLC. Designated for guest musicians.

APRIL In memory of Gertrude Goddard by Sheri Sauer. Designated for a piano cover.

In memory of Kate Serbeck by Sheri Sauer. Designated for the TLC Scholarship.

JUNE In memory of Helen Bollmann by Judith Erdmann.

In memory of Helen Bollmann by Linda Gallup and Mabel Roy. Designated for the Food Cupboard.

In memory of Helen Bollmann by friends. Designated for the Faith Kitchen.

- *TLC Education Scholarship*, given in thanks to God for those who support TLC youth. Awarded to Justina Janzen, Maggie Rogers and Joe Vicente.
- *Dean Science Scholarship*, given by Sandy Dean to students continuing their education in the Science field. Awarded to Emily Cook.
- *Charles Blethen Scholarship*, given in memory of Charles Blethen to a student going to a college or technical school. Awarded to Danielle Jackson.

AUGUST In memory of mother, Helen Bollmann, (communion purificators) by Lorraine Bollmann.

In honor of Bev Dominkowitz's birthday by Ed and Agnes Paterson. Designated for the Food Pantry.

SEPTEMBER In honor of Laura Scerbo's birthday by Maira Rogers. Designated for the Food Pantry.

- OCTOBER In memory of Oma and Opa Goddard, Gertrude and Herb Goddard, by Lori, Michael and Mickey Lamb.
In memory of Grandson Gregory by Joan and Ralph Frick. Designated for the 2018 TLC Youth Gathering
- DECEMBER In memory of daughter Brigitta Killinger by her parents. Designated for the Food Pantry.
In memory of Kate Serbeck by Sheri Sauer. Designated for Faith Kitchen.
In honor of Eliot Knight by John and Nancy Toner. Designated for the Food Pantry.

DISASTER RESPONSE

As in the previous years, there is not much to report. As a firefighter, Russ Johnson has kept in touch through his contacts with local community emergency management departments. We do not have the facilities to open a major shelter, should a disaster happen. However, the surrounding communities and their emergency management departments are very aware that we are ready and willing to offer any assistance necessary within our means, should one occur. The communities have both of our phone numbers, should a need arise. We have the means to prepare food and shelter, but not multiple bathroom or shower facilities. We also can network with other churches in the area, and with the state to help facilitate recovery from disasters.

Don Ballard and Russ Johnson
Trinity Lutheran Disaster Response Chairpersons

SECTION 2: OUTREACH



Alternative Gift Market

Supporting the Alternative Gift Market on November 12, 2017 was a wonderful outpouring of love and generosity. Eight charities offered donation opportunities. In addition, Marge Royle, a vendor from Bridge of Faith, had many fair trade items for purchase. Following is a summary:

<u>CHARITY</u>	<u>DONATION</u>
Doctors Without Borders	\$220.00
Edna's Haven	195.00
Faith Kitchen	91.00
God's Barnyard	250.00
Habitat for Humanity	160.05
Seeing Eye	128.00
SOS Pets, Inc.	20.00
Bridge of Faith	950.00
TLC Youth	<u>125.50</u>
TOTAL	\$2,139.55

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry in Trinity Lutheran Church has been assisting local families with non-perishable food for many years. In 2017, 1,475 bags of emergency groceries were distributed, only seven bags fewer than last year. Food donations came from Applegate Farms, Bridgewater; Becoming One Community Association, Dover; Dover Rotary, Ledgewood; Greenbriar Fox Ridge Volunteer Club, Wharton; Grace Episcopal Church, Madison; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockaway; Jersey Central Power and Light, Dover; King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes; Latino Market, Dover; St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church, Dover; Millbrook United Methodist Church, Randolph; Milton United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge; St. Matthew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Randolph; Connect for Community, Sparta; New Jersey State Nurses' Association, Morris Plains; North Dover Elementary School, Dover; Hope House, Dover; Optimum, Randolph; Halashon and Boca Group, Dover; Thrift Barns of Morris County, Denville; Sacred Heart Leisure Club, Dover; Specialty Surgical Center, Sparta; St. Clare's Hospital, Dover; Valley National Bank, Dover and individuals' donations as well. Fresh produce has been shared during the summer months by Jane Chrashewsky and the Rutgers Cooperative.

Eighty gift cards to ShopRite were distributed at Thanksgiving, and another 80 gift cards at Christmas.

Thank you to Linda Gallup for scheduling our volunteers, to Jane Chrashewsky for scheduling the shoppers, and to all our volunteers for their hard work in shopping and stocking our shelves. Thanks also to the office volunteers for packing and distributing grocery bags.

Kathy McFarland

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPERS

Trinity maintains a pantry stocked with basic food items, supported by donations and memorials from our congregation. We also get help from non-members, local schools, other churches, civic organizations and businesses that have food collections. Thanks to our members who promote the food pantry to their organizations.

Again this year Trinity received another generous gift of \$10,000 from the former Book Barn in Denville, formerly St. Clare's Auxiliary. Three of Trinity's members volunteer there and were instrumental in promoting the food pantry.

We are lucky to have two very dedicated groups of members who do the shopping for the food pantry. The first group, the 300 Club, receives a cash advance and shops as needed. Thanks to Sandra Dean, Marion and Neil Holtzman, and Donna and Russ Johnson.

The second group, the Super Sale Shoppers, shop during a scheduled week, as one team of three or four shoppers, each week and have a designed amount to spend. They purchase the best sale priced items and any items the pantry needs. Thanks to Carol Lieberman, Beverly Dominkowitz, Nancee Seidel, Elaine Tarantino, Ken and Ashley Kindberg, Maira Rogers, Charlene Rollins, Kelly and Kathy Spear, Sharon and Bob Matschke, Joan Frick, Mabel Roy, Carolyn Dickson, Barbara Terreri, Jill Ryan, Jim Little, Kathy McFarland and Marie Matarazzo.

The Super Sale Shoppers group is now in its tenth year. With little change our area's economy, the food pantry is still experiencing a steady flow of clients, many needing help for the first time. One large bag of groceries per client is provided every three weeks. Because of generous food contributions, we were able to give an extra "holiday bag" at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The e-mail network is the main line of communication with all the shoppers. They receive their schedules and any updates on the needs of the food cupboard via e-mail.

Jane Chrashewsky

FAITH KITCHEN

Each day Faith Kitchen brings new challenges and also brings the same old ones as well. The homeless are still trying to get by, the undocumented are uncertain of their future, the disabled are struggling, the dealers are still out there, and the day workers search for jobs that are not always plentiful. Some days here are deeply rewarding and some are tough. Some are filled with good deeds, appreciative smiles, cooperation and successful outcomes. Other days are filled with frustration, complaints, and generally feeling like we are in the way. It's sometimes glorious for both of us – Trinity and Faith Kitchen. It's also sometimes burdensome for both of us. We sometimes find ourselves in the way of your operation, your interactions, your service, your coffee gathering. You have made a sacrifice for us to be here. We hope and pray that we have carried this mission forward in a way that makes you proud. We want to make sure that we work hard to be worthy of the space you give us here. This is your church and you have shared it with us so graciously.



For those of you that always welcome and support us with open arms, we are deeply grateful for you. We appreciate your generosity – the use of the kitchen space, the storage areas to operate our soup kitchen, the wonderful Trinity groups that cook and serve a few times a month at Faith Kitchen, the donations from individual Trinity members, those that contribute to the Trinity Alternative Gift Fair and also the \$100/month donation from Trinity from September through June each year.

Most of all, thank you for that incredible banner that hangs outside the front of your church. On behalf of all of us at Faith Kitchen, we are deeply proud of you. What a beautiful statement of support, acceptance and love. You are a beacon of light in a world that tries to dampen our spirit and turn from each other. Each day, this banner is a reminder of how God wants us to treat each other. When I read though all the "Love Your Neighbor" statements, I am reminded that we have them all represented here – the Pierced and Tooted, the Muslims, the Latinos, the LGBTQ, the Disabled, the Addicted, the Immigrants, etc. It is because of your open minds and warm hearts that Faith Kitchen can operate here.

This past year was a blessing for Faith Kitchen compared with the financial struggle of last year and the year before. The economy is doing a little better so attendance at Faith Kitchen is down slightly. Some people are able to find work and so the need is not as great for as many. The holidays went smoothly and were wonderful here as always. The Thanksgiving turkey meal was done by Trinity and was full of all the delicious holiday fixings. Everyone enjoyed the meal and many meals were delivered by Trinity to the seniors at the John J. Rich Senior apartments. Christmas Day was handled by Temple Adath Shalom for service with First Presbyterian in Boonton providing the food. The attendance was down a little over previous years. I noticed what was missing here this year, was local families, those typically working. This year, they likely were working so there wasn't as great a need to come here for the holiday dinner and presents. That's a good thing. Also Dover Township has also made recent arrangements for other local events that involve giving gifts and things. So many people in the area have attended those things as well. The Faith Kitchen Board of Directors is actually discussing whether the holiday gift collection is necessary at all. We are a food ministry and should really focus on that. For example, if we decide to give gifts at all next year, I'd rather give everyone a ShopRite gift card during the holiday, or maybe buy each person a few dinners that do not need refrigeration like the Hormel meals or Lunchables.

Financially, Faith Kitchen is on stable ground. We apply for a grant each year to Bayer Corporation for milk. They once again awarded us a grant for milk and other things we need for \$7,500 dollars. We received \$14,000 dollars from St. Clare's Book Barn again this year which is absolutely wonderful. We applied for and were awarded a \$4,163 dollar grant from Catholic Health Services to pay for supplies during the year when Roman Catholic churches serve here. We applied for (with encouragement from Pastor Fred) and were awarded a grant for \$5,000 from the NJ Synod (ELCA). We applied for and were awarded a \$4,980 grant from Glaxo SmithKline. Over the course of the year we received support from various faith organizations with highest donations from: \$3,148 from Grace Episcopal, \$2,909 dollars from Zion Lutheran, \$1,365 dollars from Redeemer Lutheran, and \$1,080 from St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic. We also received strong support from local businesses and individuals with top donations: \$1,200 from McLoughlin with a matching donation from

his employer Merck, \$2,000 from Wendling, \$1,175 from K-RIC Builders, \$1,200 from Tarr and \$1,000 from Palla. We received \$2,500 from Knights of Columbus who have been supporting us each year. We had a fun and productive ShopRite fundraiser coordinated by Doreen and Andy Guzo that raised \$1,658 dollars.

We received \$2,000 in funds via Bruce Kleindienst from Thrivent in support of his Faith Kitchen Board position. The funds were sent to Faith Kitchen designated to purchase new tables for Trinity church. In addition to the new tables, there has been much work upstairs by Bruce and other members of Trinity to clean up the space and paint. Faith Kitchen reorganized their closets and purchased new trash cans and the stainless steel coffee cart. It's looking really nice upstairs and many people have given us positive feedback.

Some quick Faith Kitchen statistics for 2017:

December numbers:

Meals: 2,934

Average # of people each day: 86

Average # of meals served each day: 113

Total # of Volunteers for the month: 157

2017 YTD numbers:

Total Meals: 34,390

Average # of people each day: 70

So here's a wish for a great 2018 ahead. May we all continue to share this ministry together with the patience, joy, compassion and kindness with which it was originally intended. After all, it is the mission we both treasure.

Warmest,
Joanne Bleecker
Executive Director, Faith Kitchen

FAMILY PROMISE OF MORRIS COUNTY

Family Promise is a non-for-profit organization dedicated to ending the crisis of homelessness through direct service, community awareness and participation, the advocacy of responsible solutions, and facilitating the transition to permanent housing.

This year, Trinity once again provided support to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Succasunna during January, April, October and November. Thank you to Carol Schwarz, Linda Gallup, Mabel Roy, Sandy Dean, Nancy Boersema, Lorraine Bollmann, Bev Dominkowitz, Joan and Ralph Frick, Kathy McFarland, Mike Capps and Cody Leisner.

Those volunteers who helped in 2016 were recognized at Family Promise's Evening of Promise at Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph held in March. Trinity supported the Tricky Tray held that night with a donation of a wheeled cooler, beach towels and chairs to make for a "beach-themed" basket. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing Action Team dollars to buy those items.

Suzanne Capps

MEAL OF THE MONTH

TLC continued to be responsible for providing meals on the third Tuesday of each month. At first, we still were adjusting to not being able to prepare the meals at home. Instead, we listed all ingredients needed and asked 12 to 14 people to bring them to church on the Sunday before "our" Tuesday.

At that time, volunteers stay after church to assemble the casseroles. Recently, we began asking for \$10 donations, and I then buy everything at Costco. This has been working well, mostly because of our TLC family's generosity.

We still need more volunteers to prepare food on the preceding Sundays. Thank you to all who have contributed donations and helped prepare the meals.

Marion Holtzman

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter, called "The Latest Chapter of The Love Continues at TLC," now is being produced using MS-Word software. Kathy McFarland and Jane Chrashewsky serve as our editors, and Charlie Haas as our proofreader. Many volunteers assist with the newsletter's production. Jane Chrashewsky prints the newsletter and supervises the collating crew, which includes Ann Marie Stager, Ralph and Joan Frick, Gary and Sandy Dean, Elaine and Gary Tarantino, June Gordon, Liz Suk, Ginny Simms, Donna Johnson, Carol Schwarz, Berit Wenner, Betty Shunk, Suzanne Capps, Barbara and Bert Mueller, Nancy Boersema, Bill Eberly and Beverly Dominkowitz.

ENERGIZER SUNDAY

Following is a brief summary:

Hedden Park---Site of Energizer pot luck picnic.

Card Writing—Room 101 was the scene of volunteers writing thank you, get well, and thinking of you cards. More than thirty cards were written.

Faith Kitchen Meal Ham, salami, and cheese for 100 sandwiches were made to be served the following Tuesday along with macaroni salad, pickles, chips, and Oreos.

Cookie Baking---Chocolate chip cookies were being baked and packaged. Eighteen candy corn decorated sacks were filled and delivered to the senior building.

Linus Blankets--20 Linus fleece blankets were cut, fringed and tied. They were sent to two Florida nursery schools, one in Naples, one in Hollywood.

Potting and Delivering Mums Cleaning Flower Beds---Weeding and sprucing up Trinity flower-beds. Large planters were filled and delivered to the new Habitat houses in Dover as a welcome. Smaller potted mums went to some of Trinity's shut-ins.

Sunday School Materials---were evaluated, organized and boxed in one of the Sunday School rooms as well as cleaning the room.

Counting and Boxing of School Supplies---School supplies were sorted, counted, and boxed then delivered to East Dover Elementary School the following Tuesday. Here are the tallies:

--421 Notebooks	--27 Boxes of markers
--135 Boxes of crayons	--60 Post-It packs
--97 Pkgs of pencils	--22 Scissors
--26 Rulers	--21 Pocket folders
--55 Pkgs of pens	--20 Pkgs lined paper
--13 Pkgs construction paper	

Recording the moments—a roving photographer took pictures of all of the activities inside and outside Trinity.

PANERA

In 2018, Trinity will begin its seventh year of receiving food donations from Panera Bread on Route 10 in Denville. In the beginning, the donations, consisting of unsold breads, bagels, pastries and cookies, were picked up each Sunday evening and packaged and distributed to Food Pantry, Edna's Haven and Faith Kitchen for distribution on Mondays. In the last year, the pickup of items has been reduced to every other Sunday because the number of volunteers has decreased due to various reasons. I thank those members who have served in this service in the past, and the members who continue to serve. It is gratifying to see the smiles on the faces of those who receive the benefits of this program.

Earl Baderschneider

GIFTS TO THE WORLD FROM TLC

Benevolence Sharing beyond what is budgeted in the Spending Plan

75 gifts	Advent Project – Dover Day Care Christmas gifts for the children
\$ 2,139.55	Alternative Gift Fair
Many boxes	Love Sunday – Puzzles, coloring books, crayons, reading books donated to The Valerie Center and Goryeb Children's Hospital at Morristown Medical Center
Many	Cans of food for the Food Pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday
Thousands	Labels to Navajo project
\$ 1,101.43	Lenten Project – Refugee/Immigration Support
85	Christmas gifts to Dover Daycare (child daycare center in Dover)
\$ 994.00	Monthly Fruit for Greystone Hospital collection
\$ 3,473.00	Donations to the Faith Kitchen (34,390 meals served in 2017)
\$15,325.36	Local Hunger (TLC Food Pantry shared 1,475 bags of groceries with families)
Many	Donations of canned goods to the Food Pantry/meals for the Faith Kitchen
\$ 4,000.00	Gift Certificates for Thanksgiving and Christmas
22	Care packages sent to college students (Valentine's Day)
15	Boxes of cookies sent to college students (October)
1	Lap robe distributed to TLC member
5	Prayer shawls for college students
\$ 520.00	Mother's Day – Blankets (Lutheran World Relief)
\$ 495.00	Father's Day – "Honor Flight"
Many	Summer Project – boxes of school supplies

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Trinity continues to be Morris County's leader in the use of Action Teams for projects in and outside of Trinity. Last year, Trinity members used \$7,000 to enhance ministries within our church. Money was raised to obtain toiletries and socks for distribution, for programs at the senior building, and for beautifying the inside and outside of Trinity with flowers and paint. Action teams supported Habitat for Humanity, the Jesse Tedesco Memorial Run, Family Promise, Autism Education, and a local pet adoption group. Feeding people continued to be high on the list of teams which included Faith Kitchen and the TLC food pantry. Way to go, Trinity for using the funds that Thrivent Financial has set aside for such work.

Bruce and Kim Kleindienst

FRUIT FOR GREYSTONE

Donations have been sent to Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital for "Fruit for Greystone" since 1983. This money is collected on the first Sunday of the month after each worship service. While the state allocates money provide fresh fruit for the patients, our contributions give them an "extra treat" that they truly enjoy and appreciate.

During 2017, \$994 was sent to Greystone which, in turn, bought fresh fruit from Plainfield Fruit and Produce. The monthly donations from Trinity folk were as follows:

January	\$ 94
February	87
March	67
April	49
May	107
June	65
July	99
August	93
September	90
October	96
November	95
December	52

Many thanks for all your support during the year! Please keep Greystone's patients in your prayers.

Joan Frick

SECTION 3: COMMITTEE REPORTS



BALD EAGLES/SILVER FOXES

The Bald Eagles met on the third Thursday of every month. We attended to a variety of property issues and repair jobs including plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, brush trimming, cementing and cleaning jobs, as well as attending to the sump pumps. A lot was accomplished, thanks to the dedication of Bill Eberly, Russ Johnson, Elmar Heinrich and Marty Connor.

ADULT FORUM AND BIBLE STUDY

Once again this year, Adult Forum offered interesting and challenging topics each Sunday morning. We spent several weeks studying *Heaven Is for Real*, based on the book by that name.

We considered how and why *The Stars Tell the Story* during Advent.

In the new year, we look forward to *Adult Crossings*, a study that talks about God's journey with us. Later in the year we'll be considering the four gospels and the *Miracles of Jesus*.

If you're looking for an opportunity to develop spiritually, consider joining us some Sunday. Pastor Fred led several Bible studies for men in the fall of 2017. He also conducted one for both men and women, which was very well attended and, seemingly, enjoyed by all.

The Committee will consider more Bible studies for next year. If you have any ideas about projects or studies that might be helpful to you or others, please feel free to share them with me. We're wide open to new ideas.

Thanks so much for all on the Committee, especially to those who stepped forward and offered (or consented) to teaching, planning or otherwise supporting our adult education efforts.

Neil D. Holtzman
For the Adult Education Committee

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

In 2017, several new members joined the Mutual Ministry Committee to bring new people into the Committee designed to advise and support Pastor Fred. Many thanks to the members who have served for many years: Barbara Terreri, Nadine Cain, Jim Remler, Sue Dean, Jennifer Hoy and Jill Ryan. The new members are Kim Kleindienst (Council Representative), Lorraine Bollmann, Kelly Casario, Ken Kindberg and Gary Lieberman.

This committee acts as a sounding board for Pastor Fred, the employed staff members, Council officers, the congregation's committees and ministry teams, and the congregation, affording everyone a direct avenue to discuss concerns or conflicts that may arise. In the area of conflict resolution, the committee provides a forum where members and the congregation's employees may voice their concerns and reach a mutually acceptable settlement of these concerns.

LIVING FOR GIVING (L4G)

2017 held one major change for our team, the change of our name. Earlier we had been known as Stewardship, but with a change recommended, we went looking for a new name for ourselves. This also caused a change in what we do. We still have a focus on projects in the church, immediate community, and worldwide, but a newly formed Stewardship team has taken on the tasks of pledge cards and time-and-talent sheets.

Living for Giving, our new name, embodies what we do: We give! We started the year as usual with collecting canned goods on "Superbowl Sunday." We then continued our tradition of "Love Sunday," and this year, our giving went to the Valerie Center and Goryeb Children's Hospital at Morristown Medical Center, with items such as coloring books, crayons, puzzles and children's books. During Lent, we collected money for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. We continued our Mother's Day tradition of collecting money for blankets for Lutheran World Relief. For Father's Day, we did something a little different: We honored those who served in the United States military by donating money to the Honor Flight Network, which helps veterans to see the memorials that have been placed in their honor, mostly in Washington, D.C. We incorporated "Trinity Sunday" as a way to celebrate our congregation. Our summer project was one of Trinity's favorites, collecting supplies for East Dover Elementary School. In September on Energizer Sunday, we did several projects in and around church for "God's Work. Our Hands." In November, we had our Alternative Gift Fair, which was a great success. Our Advent project this year was the same as last, collecting toys for Dover Day Care. To round out the year, we handed out 160 \$25 gift cards to ShopRite to local residents including clients of the Faith Kitchen and Edna's Haven at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We had a wonderful, productive year and look forward to 2018! Thank you, as always, for your dedication to making the world around us a better place to live by giving of your time and your talents!

Blessings,
Katie Serbeck
L4G Chairperson

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes serve as TLC's *de facto* property committee. Russ Johnson, Marty Connor, Elmar Heinrich and Bill Eberly keep things working properly and do needed repairs throughout the church. In addition to the Foxes, other volunteers worked on many specific projects. *Thank you to all who pitched in this year.*

A few of this year's activities include the following:

- Fixing more than a dozen deficiencies noted in the fire inspection
- Mounting a large flat-screen TV for Edna's Haven
- Keeping the sump pumps functioning properly
- Replacing thermostats for the heating system
- Frequently repairing the portable air conditioners in Faith Kitchen
- Painting the library and PLC
- Changing the locks and re-keying the doors
- Replacing the roof
- Surveying the church to determine whether walls are shifting (Thank you Bruce Kleindienst)

Gary Tarantino
Property Liaison for the Church Council

SENIOR MINISTRY

2017 marked the 40th year that Trinity's Senior Ministry has supported the residents of John J. Rich senior apartments at 215 E. Blackwell Street in Dover. Trinity has provided educational and fun events for residents' enjoyment. I thank the following Senior Ministry members for their never-ending support during 2017 season: Pastor Fred, Nancy Boersema, Jane Chraschewsky, Samantha Dennig, Joan and Ralph Frick, Carol Johnson, Joy Parisi, Charlene Rollins, Carol Schwarz, Suzanne Capps, Elaine and Gary Tarantino and Cindy Voskian. A *special* thank you to the members of Trinity who supported us throughout the year by giving of their time and donations to our events.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2017

January	Annual Epiphany Party Mabel Roy, Carol Schwarz and Jane Chraschewsky	29 residents + 10 TLC
February	Bingo Ralph Frick/Joan Frick	19 residents + 6 TLC
March	Patty's Corned Beef Dinner Jane Chraschewsky, Charlene Rollins	41 residents + 10 TLC
April	Craft Night Ralph Frick and Nancy Boersema	15 residents + 8 TLC
May	Strawberry Festival Joan Frick, Mabel Roy	21 residents + 12 TLC
June	Planning Meeting	8 TLC members
August	Annual BBQ and Picnic Jane Chraschewsky, Carol Schwarz	34 residents + 10 TLC
October	Tricky Tray Joy Parisi, Elaine Tarantino	37 residents + 8 TLC
November	Thanksgiving trays for seniors	50 Residents + 2 TLC

Thank you to Pastor Fred, Jane Chraschewsky, Elaine Tarantino and Nancy Boersema who run the coffee klatch at the senior building once a month. They provide refreshments, discussion and support in an informal setting. Eleven coffee hour socials were held in 2017, with an average of 14 residents attending.

In closing, we are looking for a Trinity member to run the Senior Ministry in the upcoming 2017–2018 year. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Fred prior to the planning meeting in June 2018.

I have enjoyed my time working with the dedicated TLC members and with the seniors at the John J. Rich Building. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Mabel Roy
Senior Ministry Coordinator

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Team, in concert with Pastor, plans each worship service throughout the year. Hymns for each service, the order of each service, special confessions and prayers, selection of litanies appropriate for each season, special music, paraments for the altar, dramas, and coordination of choirs are all discussed throughout the year. Extra attention is given to the Easter and Christmas seasons when we coordinate the special flower orders and palms with the florist and decide on decorations for the sanctuary. The current Worship and Music members are Barbara Terreri, Jessie Andrews, Lynn Sienkiewicz, Kevin Seidel, Julie Sauder, Sandy Sheridan, and Sheri Sauer. Donna Johnson, Judy Miller, Katie Serbeck and many other volunteers assist with decorations. George Seidel supervises the construction of the Christmas tree each year with help from the Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes.

A great deal of the discussion and emphasis this year revolved around the refurbishing of our 80-year-old Wickes organ. The organ was removed January 4 from the sanctuary, and returned in June. The first service played on the new organ was in August and a fantastic dedication service was held on Oct 21. Other significant events:

- a. Ongoing attempts to balance the desire for variety in our worship services without making it overly confusing. We used several new liturgies this year including ELW setting 2, the Holden Evening Prayer service, and a Taize service in March. A joint Ash Wednesday service was held with St. John's Episcopal Church in Dover. We put 221 different hymns into the worship plans, with just 51 of those hymns sung more than once during the year. We also learned three new hymns in July, August and September with the "Hymn of the Month" idea. Advent services included a Chancel Drama and Liturgical Dancers to enhance our worship.
- b. The upstairs piano was restored, and a protective cover was ordered to prevent future damage. This piano will also be tuned regularly whenever the sanctuary piano is tuned.
- c. We "officially" installed our new Pastor in January with an incredible service including extra choir help from the Roxbury High School Chorus and a lot of special music!
- d. Purchased and dedicated new blue paraments for Advent and honored Joan Frick for her MULTIPLE years of leading the Altar Guild.
- e. Extensive work was done to update procedures for setting the altar including two training session for newer altar guild members (THANKS Barbara!).

We continue to seek for more ways to utilize lay leadership during worship services – ideas and suggestions are always welcome; please leave a note in the Worship and Music mailbox in room 101.

Sheri Sauer

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The faithful women of the Prayer Shawl Group continue to meet twice a month in the home of Kim Kleindienst and prayerfully crochet and bless prayer shawls for those in need inside and outside of the Trinity family. Shawls have blessed those undergoing surgery, losses and hardships, as well as having medical issues. This year again, the group provided shawls at the advent Blue Christmas Service in December. While the focus had previously been on providing shawls for graduating high school seniors, our smaller number of graduates has allowed us to expand our reach into the community. This winter, the Prayer Shawl Group has expanded to support two congregations in the community by providing prayer shawls to members of their churches who are in need. We hope in the coming year to expand the ministry to members of these congregations to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. New members are always welcome, and no experience is needed.

Kim Kleindienst

EDNA'S HAVEN

Edna's Haven is an outreach center housed and hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church. It is the result of a partnership between Trinity and the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris (MHAEM). Edna's Haven offers a refuge and resource center for the homeless and impoverished individuals, and is a welcome and comfortable place to visit.

Edna's Haven's operating hours are from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We offer a wide range of services at no cost to the individual, including computer access, resume building, printing and faxing, and case management services. We have added a movie day every Wednesday, as well as an All-Recovery meeting for addicts and those people affected by addiction. We provide clients with linkages to many different organizations including Social Security, the Family Resource Network, the Salvation Army, CARES, the Red Cross, the Office of Temporary Assistance, Homeless Solutions, Zufall Health, St. Clare's Behavioral Health, Turning Point drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation center, Eva's Village, Bergen Regional, The Bridge, NORWESCAP, and many other agencies. We also do referrals to the Mental Health Association for case management if clients fit the criteria.

We have had 3,900 people sign into Edna's Haven in 2017. Many are part of a regular crowd of 15 to 20 individuals. We have managed to reach 360 new individuals this year; as first-time visitors to Edna's Haven.

We link people to local services including food pantries, the Department of Motor Vehicles, Salvation Army, Roxbury Social Services, NJ Transit (via bus passes), Zufall Health, Milestone half-way house, local Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, clothing drives, Laundry Love, Valley National Bank and others. Edna's Haven is staffed by a part-time program coordinator who is trained to identify at-risk individuals who suffer from mental illness and provide the option of enrolling them in the HOMI (Homeless Outreach) and ICMS (Integrated Case Management Services) programs at the Mental Health Association. In addition, Edna's Haven also has two volunteers that assist with case management and other services.

Many professionals use Edna's Haven as a place to meet with clients. Zufall Health continues to come multiple times a month. We also have had Community Hope, Hope House, Catholic Charities, the Veterans' Administration, CARES, and Homeless Solutions as guests to explain their services and reach out to our visitors.

Referrals made by Edna's Haven staff are documented and tallied for a clear understanding of client staff interaction and services rendered. Below is a tally of these referrals.

EDNA'S HAVEN REFERRAL TOTALS 2017

Assurance Wireless Medical	5	Drug, Alcohol Recovery	54	Employment Search	70	Food Pantry	17
Housing search	49	Market Street Mission	32	Medicaid	18	Mental Health	11
Office of Temp. Asst.	51	Shelter 211	26	St. Clare's	34	Turning Point	31
Social Security	20	Zufall Dover	21				

Sean Fortner, BA

Program Coordinator of Edna's Haven Outreach

COUNTING TEAM

The counting team is responsible for recording the weekly contributions and allocating them to the designated funds specified by the contributor based on their envelope number or specific request. It is extremely helpful and saves time if your contributions are in your envelope or if necessary use the pew envelopes. Putting your check number on your envelope and your envelope number on your check is also very helpful.

Two team members count every Monday and record and deposit the contributions. The information is given to the Financial Secretary, Sue Dean or Susanne Jackson to enter into the Financial database.

I want to thank all the counters who volunteer their time. Without all our volunteers Trinity would not be who we are today. I also want to thank Mabel Roy for all the years she has been a counter. In 2018 she has another commitment on Mondays and will not be able to count. Thank you.

2017 Team members were:

Jane Chraschewsky	Carol Schwarz
Earl Baderschneider	Linda Gallup
Beverly Dominkowitz	Joy Parisi
Russ Johnson	Ben Parisi
Michael Capps	Mabel Roy
	Melanie Edwards

Beverly Dominkowitz, Coordinator

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH QUILTERS

In 2017 the TLC Quilters delivered 24 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, MD. These quilts were sent to Georgia in September. A total of 216 quilts have been sent from TLC to LWR in the last five years. By viewing the website www.LWR.org/get-involved/quilts/tracker you can enter TLC's Donor ID 108652, anyone can find out where our quilts are sent once they leave the warehouse. Our previous quilts were sent to Ukraine, Serbia and India. The handiwork of our TLC Quilters is having a direct effect on the world outside our borders. Amen!

Thanks to all who contributed to the ongoing quilt project: Joy Parisi, Sheri Sauer, Jane Kraus, Nancy Boersema, Lorraine Bollmann, Sandy Dean, Linda Gallup, Marion Johnson, Sue Leshner, Bev Dominkowitz, Marie Matarazzo, Ben Parisi, Mabel Roy, Katie Serbeck and Ginny Simms. We currently have several kits available – each kit has all the materials needed to assemble one quilt. Talk to Sheri Sauer if you are interested in assembling quilts in 2018.

SHUT-INS

During the past year, announcements have been made during worship services regarding shut-ins' birthdays. The congregation was asked to send cards and best wishes to recognize these special days.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Finance Team! We finished the annual audit and we had no issues with the financial information as presented. We want to thank John Sienkiewicz (Treasurer), Beverly Dominkowitz (Assistant Treasurer), Sue Dean and Susanne Jackson (Co-Finance Secretaries) for their time and talents with the day-to-day challenges of making everything "tie-out" and run smoothly. Special thanks to the Audit Team of Kurt Heinrich and Kevin Seidel for perusing the books with me (keeping John and Bev on their toes.) Thank you all!

As expected, the year-end actual expenses outweighed income by approximately (\$12,000.) A gracious gift at the end of the year, spurred by the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, reduced that deficit to (\$1,200.) But as a result of that pre-paid contribution, we will be behind for the 2018 year.

As a note for 2018...For anyone that would like to lower their income in 2018 by contributing via your IRA, it must go from the IRA trustee to TLC, not to you and you write a check. That is an effective way to give if you would not get a deduction via the new tax laws.

Please always consider Trinity in your plans for giving and we look forward to a prosperous and blessed new year!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kazaba, Finance Committee

MISSION INTERPRETERS

The goal of the mission interpreters continues is to serve as an informational bridge connecting TLC with the ministries and mission of the ELCA. This is done by telling stories of God's amazing grace evident throughout the world. These stories are found in the monthly TLC Newsletter. Our year began with a letter of hope from Bishop Eaton reaffirming the promise of the ELCA dedication to world needs. This year featured were articles of aid and rescue from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria and the devastation they caused. We also received updates of the Trozzo's missionary work in Malaysia in March and June. Feeding primary school children in Peru was looked into in April and urban hunger took the spotlight in May with the reporting of volunteers, with the help of the ELCA, planting an urban farm in Muskegon, MI. Trinity's own mission stories were topics reported in a couple of mission interpreter articles. Our Energizer God's Work Our Hands project was one of them, as well as the Alternative Gift Market. Both of these will be addressed in other areas of the annual report. We continue here at Trinity with daily feeding of those in need, collecting books and toys to nurture children, as well as looking for opportunities to serve the community and the church at large. More of these stories can be found in the Living for Giving report. May we pray that God continues all of these endeavors using our hands in the world AND may we do so with joy and enthusiasm.

Sandra Dean
Mission Interpreter

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee is in the process of moving to a new website provider in addition to giving our website a new look. Our new website will continue to have the same URL (<http://www.tlcnj.org>). Hadleigh Kindberg has been working with Pastor Fred on the new design and content. We anticipate cutting over to our new service provider (WIX) by February 1. Our website will only be as good as the message we provide to our parishioners and website visitors. Please feel free to e-mail Pastor Fred with any suggestions you may have, or any other feedback concerning the TLC website. I look forward to exploring new ways to further evangelize our TLC ministry to our local and global community.

Scott Miller, Chairperson

GARDEN OF READIN'

The Garden of Readin' meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and enjoys a spirited discussion of the month's book. The groups' reading selections continues to be varied and anyone can recommend a book. All TLC members and their friends are welcome. Thank you to Berit Wenner and Carol Schwarz for e-mailing our past and present members on the upcoming book selections and the meeting schedule.

2017 Attendees: Jane Chrashewsky, Linda Gallup, June Gordon, Carol Johnson,, Donna Johnson, Karen Peters-Kruhm, Kathy McFarland, Lynda Pullis, Carol Schwartz, Katie Serbeck, Elaine Tarantino, and Berit Wenner.

2017 Book List: *The Last Mile* by David Baldacci, *We Are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas, *Lion* by Saroo Brierley, *The Last Mile* by David Baldacci, *Crimes Against a Book Club* by Kathy Cooperman., *The Dog Who Came to Stay: a Memoir* by Hal Borland, *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *The Stars are Fire* by Anita Shreves.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

In February we packed Valentine boxes for Trinity's college students living at college. Individual wrapped snacks, drinks and food items were collected two weeks prior to packing. This year 22 boxes were shipped. Thrivent Action Team t-shirts were included in each box. A grant of \$250 from the Thrivent Action Team program paid for the postage.

In October we collected home-baked cookies from 12 of TLC's bakers, many of whom baked several batches of cookies. Seven self-controlled packers carefully bagged and packed all the wonderful cookies. Fifteen boxes were packed and delivered to the post office by two helpers. A \$250.00 grant from Thrivent Action Team paid for the shipping. Each student received a Thrivent Action Team T-shirt.

W/ELCA has one circle meeting once a month from September to June. The *Women at the Well* circle meets the first Tuesday in the month. This year they used the study "*You're Already Amazing: Embracing who you are becoming, and all God created you to be.*"

This year the W/ELCA Christmas tree project was for the benefit of TLC's hygiene closet. The money collected will purchase socks for the closet. There were five greetings on the tree and \$115.00 was donated. Because of the declining interest, this project is being retired this year.

Jane Chrashewsky

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL REPORTS

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**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

Respectfully submitted,  
John Sienkiewicz

# BEV'S INVESTMENT REPORT

## **2017 PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT**

Opening Balance \$196.53

### Income

Donations from Individuals \$3,370.00

### Expenses

Housing \$2,146.00

Transportation 541.00

Medical \$160.00

Miscellaneous Aid \$1,609.00

Balance December 31, 2017 \$198.99

## **REPORT OF FINANCIAL AUDIT OF CONGREGATION RECORDS**

Period covered by audit: Calendar year 2017

Audit Performed by: Audit Committee

Kurt Heinrich

Nancy Kazaba

Kevin Seidel

Assisted by

John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer

Beverly Dominkowitz, Assistant Treasurer

Records Audited: Congregational Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Trinity Women of the ELCA  
Church Record of Ministerial Acts  
Insurance Policies

Audit Included: Checking accounts, investment accounts, check registries, ledger records, and other records for disbursements.

Audit results: All funds are being appropriately recorded, processed and disbursed.

Audit conducted: January 15, 2018

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

| 2017 CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT BALANCES |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Account                            | Balance      |
| Current Expenses                   | \$281,464.00 |
| Initial Offering                   | \$269.00     |
| The Lutheran                       | \$239.00     |
| Religious Holidays                 | \$9,293.00   |
| Flowers                            | \$1,345.00   |
| Flowers - Easter                   | \$640.00     |
| Flowers - Christmas                | \$695.00     |
| Sunday School                      | \$25.00      |
| Zion / Outreach Ministry           | \$2,153.00   |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund        | \$3,070.00   |
| Senior Ministry                    | \$250.00     |
| Miscellaneous                      | \$508.00     |
| Memorial Fund                      | \$3,360.00   |
| Local Hunger - Food Cupboard       | \$15,325.36  |
| Faith Kitchen                      | \$12,802.82  |
| Thanksgiving/Christmas Sharing     | \$3,115.00   |
| Edna's Haven                       | \$450.07     |
| Other Designated Funds             | \$104,004.64 |
| Lenten Project                     | \$1,101.43   |
| Blankets/Mother's Day              | \$520.00     |
| Father's Day Project               | \$495.00     |
| Disaster Response                  | \$2,939.00   |
| Youth Gathering                    | \$9,096.50   |
| Thrivent Choice                    | \$6,026.00   |
| Organ Fund                         | \$7.00       |
| TOTAL                              | \$459,193.82 |

Susan Dean  
 Susanne Jackson  
 Financial Secretaries

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# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

123 East Blackwell Street      Dover, NJ 07801  
Church Office: 973-366-2821      Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Website: [www.tlcnj.org](http://www.tlcnj.org)      Email: [tlcdovernj@gmail.com](mailto:tlcdovernj@gmail.com)

Rev. Frederick E. Becker  
Kathy McFarland, Church Administrator  
Lynn Sienkiewicz, Parish Nurse  
Jeffrey Miller, Bell Choir Director  
Julie Sauder, Organist  
Felipe Torres, Sexton  
Ralph Gonzalez, Part-time Sexton

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
9:20 Adult Forum  
Nursery available at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
Parking at Valley National Bank