

SECTION 1: PARISH REPORTS



PASTOR'S REPORT

Beloved of God,

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

Since our beginning, Trinity Lutheran Church has worked to make God's kingdom a reality at the corner of Mercer and Blackwell Streets here in Dover. Many congregations are facing challenges to their existence and we are no different, but we continue to share God's love in our community and farther afield. This year our community has faced some unique challenges, and we have responded as we always do with grace and generosity.

We responded early and substantially to aid the survivors of the fire in downtown Dover. Jeff Miller put on a coffee house with several bands playing in the PLC. The money we raised through this event and our free will offerings allowed us to support every family that was displaced with a substantial gift card for needed expenses, as well as laundry baskets, detergents and quarters. In addition, the extended Herrera family we adopted is now in permanent housing, well supplied with linens and kitchen tools, baby needs and furniture.

Early in the year, we were invited by the Synod to participate in a stewardship training program. Five of our members attended and became the core of a new stewardship team emphasizing generosity in our midst. It is good to be able to say our efforts so far have had some slight impact and we have exceeded our anticipated donations this year! Regular donations to the life of the congregation are not the only place we are being generous. At this point we are halfway through a capital campaign to raise money for air conditioning for the Parish Life Center and needed plaster work in the Nave.

Our biggest expression of generosity this year was not with our money but with our love. At our June meeting, we made a profound statement of love to our community in adopting our welcome statement. The faith journey of LGBTQIA+ folks is fraught with rejection, even in 2018. Our statement ensures that everyone, especially people who are frequently excluded, knows God loves them; and that they will hear that message at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Since we have made our welcome statement, I have heard from far too many people how they have been denied the Lord's Supper only because they are included in the LGBTQIA+ fold. We have made an important move in this statement. This is vital work and unfortunately, merely being welcoming is not enough. We must proclaim it. We must proclaim it publicly, repeatedly and with sincerity. It takes time and effort to overcome a lifetime of rejection and shame the church has inflicted.

This is an exciting time to be the church; scary, but exciting. Check out our reports and read of a year of faithful ministry. As you can see, we are poised to be God's people in Dover in new and meaningful ways. If you have not been here in a while, stop by and see what God is up to, in and through our congregation. A life of worship and service is deeply fulfilling. Join us in the year ahead as we explore how God is calling us to be loving and generous in Dover and the wider world.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred



Welcome Statement

All Are Welcome in This Place! The people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Dover, New Jersey, welcome you to our church community. We invite you to worship with us, enjoy the fellowship of a loving congregation and learn more about TLC and our Lutheran tradition.

We extend a loving welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, queer, confused, rich, comfortable or poor. We welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or quietly hum. We welcome those of all gender identities, ethnicities, races, political affiliations, immigration status and primary languages (Our service is in English). We welcome you if you are more Christian than Martin Luther, or haven't been to church since Confirmation. We welcome those who are questioning their faith, have not participated in organized religion, grew up in another tradition or religion, or are just looking to sit a while.

We welcome, with open arms, those who are over 60 but not yet grown up, and teenagers who are growing up way too fast. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte-sippers (though you'll need to settle for coffee here!), vegetarians, junk-food eaters and those who love a good Lutheran coffee hour. We embrace those who are in recovery (grape juice is offered at communion), or still addicted. We welcome you if you are having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organized religion. We offer a smiling welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, are recently unemployed, can't spell or are just here because Grandma made them come. We welcome those who are hearing impaired, have physical and mental health conditions and children, youth and adults with special needs.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved upon them as kids, or simply took the wrong train and ended up here by mistake! We welcome those who wish to be welcomed with an extended hand and listening ear, as well as folks who want to sit silently in a pew. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters, those who are hurting and those who are celebrating.

We welcome YOU!

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church of Dover. The little yellow church on the corner of Mercer and Blackwell Streets! Jesus Loves You!

"Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger. All are welcome, all are welcome in this place."

(Haugen, Marty, GIA Publications, Inc. 1994)

Trinity thanks the people of Coventry Cathedral and St. John's Episcopal Church. Your welcome statements inspired us.

Summary Statement

We, the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace, the fellowship of others, or a brief rest. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, immigration status or political affiliation. We lovingly welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socioeconomic status, church affiliation, no prior church experience, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in the delight of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST – ALL ARE WELCOME!

Trinity Lutheran Church has always been welcoming and inclusive, and in June our congregation overwhelmingly approved the adoption of our Welcome Statement to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. This was just the first step in our ongoing journey to welcome members of the LGBTQ community, as well as anyone seeking a new church home.

We've announced our welcome on Trinity's website, on the RIC roster, in our weekly bulletins, on a vibrant bulletin board and throughout the church. We had a "sweet celebration" in October, coinciding with "coming out day," to celebrate our work to date, provide some education and talk about how we will continue to grow in our welcoming journey.

We will soon be placing beautiful signs outside TLC to announce to all that we are a welcoming congregation. Look for more exciting things to happen in 2019! "All are welcome in this place!" Jill Ryan

MEMBERSHIP

In 2018 we removed five members through transfers, personal requests or death. As of December 31, 2018, there were 387 baptized members on the membership roll of TLC, of whom 314 are 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 2019.

Kathy McFarland and Barbara Terreri

COUNCIL REPORT

As 2018 comes to an end, I am reminded of the verse from Romans that reminds us, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28. In a time where the world often focuses on what hasn't been done or what has gone wrong, it's important for us to reflect on what has gone well in 2018.

In 2018, through the work of the Justice League, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Committee was formed and completed and implemented Trinity's new welcoming statement. This welcoming statement, while intended to welcome the LGBT community, is all-encompassing to represent everyone who is welcomed at Trinity. The committee's good work will continue throughout 2019 as the Justice League meets again to create another area of focus to tackle regarding social justice.

While 2017 ended with a leaky roof and a water-stained sanctuary ceiling, 2018 created a capital campaign to tackle these issues and additional maintenance issues around Trinity. As of the start of the year, the capital campaign was funded through donations and pledges amounting to more than \$60,000 of the \$75,000 proposed budget. These donations included a grant received by Faith Kitchen for \$7,500 and a donation from Morris-Essex Mental Health for \$5,000 towards the installation of air conditioning in the PLC. Many thanks to those who have donated, pledged and will continue to do so.

Creation of the Generosity Team, previously known as Stewardship, also occurred in 2018. This team attended workshops over three months and will continue their work at Trinity, focusing on saying "thank you" for moments of giving throughout the year. Also created this year was the Congregational Care Ministry, which formed and implemented an organized prayer chain, a meal ministry, a card ministry, a home communion ministry and a home visit ministry. These ministries continue to grow and are always welcoming to new members.

Beginning with Council members elected in 2018, new members were encouraged to participate in new ministries and committees throughout the year. Four new Council members included three never on Council before: Sandra Knowle,

Sharon Matchke, Key Darrow and Russ Pullis. Our officers from 2017 continued for another year: Kim Kleindienst, President; Maira Rogers, Vice President; Erin DeKorte, Secretary; John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer; and Bev Dominkowicz, Assistant Treasurer.

Finally, through the greatest of generosity, Trinity ended 2018 better than expected. While we entered the year expecting more than a \$28,000 deficit, I am happy to report we ended the year with a deficit of just over \$17,000. While we still have work to do, we have done a great job in being generous and living out God's charge to love our neighbor as ourselves. Thank you, thank you for being so generous.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President for the past two years. I look forward to all the new activities that will begin in 2019, and the challenges we will face and overcome together.

God's richest blessings to you all,
Kim Kleindienst, Council President 2018

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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, communion assistants, assisting ministers
- Chancel Choir and Bell 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
- Education Team
- 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
- 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 Pantry and the Food Pantry Coordinator
- Coffee Hour Coordinator
- Edna's Haven
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Scholarship Committee
- Thank you!

## **LEADERSHIP 2018**

### **Council Members and Officers**

|                     |                                                                  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kim Kleindienst     | President/Executive Team/Mutual Ministry                         |
| Maira Rogers        | Vice President/Executive Team/Personnel/Faith Kitchen/Fellowship |
| Erin DeKorte        | Secretary/Executive Team/Social Ministry/L4G                     |
| John Sienkiewicz    | Treasurer                                                        |
| Beverly Dominkowitz | Assistant Treasurer                                              |
| Sue Dean            | Financial Secretary                                              |
| Susanne Jackson     | Financial Secretary                                              |

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Suzanne Capps   | Social Ministry/Family Promise  |
| Key Darrow      | Property                        |
| Sandie Knowle   | Education/Congregational Care   |
| Gary Tarantino  | Property                        |
| Sharon Matschke | Generosity                      |
| Scott Miller    | Social Ministry/Senior Ministry |
| Russ Pullis     |                                 |
| Eileen Schult   | Health Cabinet                  |
| Sandy Sheridan  | Worship and Music               |
| Kevin Seidel    | Finance/Generosity              |

### **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            |

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

|           | <u>SUNDAY WORSHIP</u> |             |             |             |             | <u>SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL</u> |             |             |             |             |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|           | <u>2018</u>           | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2018</u>                 | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> |
| JANUARY   | 75                    | 86          | 79*         | 106         | 133         | 10                          | 16          | 20          | 16          | 41          |
| FEBRUARY  | **61                  | 87          | 119         | 74          | 141         | 12                          | 16          | 18          | 19          | 44          |
| MARCH     | 83                    | 93          | 146         | 133         | 159         | 12                          | 16          | 25          | 25          | 40          |
| APRIL     | 88                    | 118         | 92          | 85          | 198         | 10                          | 16          | 23          | 23          | 35          |
| MAY       | 88                    | 97          | 99          | 124         | 155         | 11                          | 12          | 22          | 23          | 38          |
| JUNE      | 93                    | 100         | 100         | 111         | 179         | 9                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| JULY      | ***61                 | 85          | 85          | 106         | 191         | 0                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| AUGUST    | ***67                 | 78          | 90          | 94          | 130         | 0                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| SEPTEMBER | 71                    | 83          | 101         | 85          | 126         | 15                          | 0           | 35          | 34          | 38          |
| OCTOBER   | 93                    | 81          | 95          | 120         | 132         | 14                          | 12          | 25          | 30          | 32          |
| NOVEMBER  | 76                    | 91          | 114         | 118         | 135         | 14                          | 9           | 30          | 32          | 39          |
| DECEMBER  | 91                    | 87          | 85          | 106         | 117         | 14                          | 12          | 25          | 27          | 34          |
| AVERAGES  | 79                    | 91          | 100         | 105         | 150         | 12                          | 13          | 22          | 25          | 38          |

(\*Snow storm – Church closed 1/24/16)

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

\*\*Snow storm – Church had no 8 a.m. worship service on 2/18/18)

\*\*\*Summer Worship (June 17 and 24, July, August and Sept. 2 and 9 – One service at 9:15 a.m. only)

### SPECIAL SERVICES

|                   | <u>2018</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ADVENT THURSDAY   | *           | 16          | 26          | 31          | 29          |
| BLUE CHRISTMAS    | 15          | 25          | 30          | 31          |             |
| CHRISTMAS EVE     | 166         | 144         | 209         | 245         | 339         |
| CHRISTMAS DAY     | 25          | 42          | 51          | 34          | 44          |
| ASH WEDNESDAY     | **64        | *23         | 56          | 56          | 94          |
| THURSDAYS IN LENT | 29          | 16          | 25          | 31          | 38          |
| MAUNDY THURSDAY   | 44          | **74        | 44          | 48          | 84          |
| GOOD FRIDAY       | 55          | 78          | 72          | 94          | 105         |
| EASTER VIGIL      | 20          | ***40       |             |             |             |
| EASTER            | 145         | 204         | 252         | 265         | 305         |
| SCS CHRISTMAS     | –           | –           | 65          | 160         | –           |
| PAGEANT           |             |             |             |             |             |

\*No Advent Thursday worship services held in 2018.

\*\*Ash Wednesday service held at Trinity Lutheran Church (25 St. John's Episcopal Church members attended.)

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

\*\*\*Second year of Saturday Easter Vigil worship service.

## **PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

|                    | <b><u>2018</u></b> | <b><u>2017</u></b> | <b><u>2016</u></b> | <b><u>2015</u></b> | <b><u>2014</u></b> | <b><u>2013</u></b> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Baptized           | 387                | 401                | 412                | 406                | 590                | 598                |
| Confirmed          | 314                | 312                | 317                | 338                | 389                | 392                |
| Average Attendance | 79                 | 91                 | 100                | 105                | 140                | 158                |

## **RITES AND CELEBRATIONS 2018**

### **Marriages**

Clifford Rollins and Dawn Rothenburgh March 24, 2018

### **Funerals/Memorials**

Wilbert Wenner October 27, 2018  
Dolores Strombach November 24, 2018  
Richard Sheridan December 31, 2018

### **First Communion**

Natalie Cook April 18, 2018

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

Michael Lubrecht May 20, 2018  
Amy Cook May 20, 2018

## **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Mutual Ministry Committee continued this year to bring new people into the committee that's designed to advise and support Pastor Fred. Many thanks to the members who have served for this year: Kim Kleindienst (Council representative), Lorraine Bollmann, Kelly Casario, Ken Kindberg and the newest member, Jody Seidel.

This Committee acts as a sounding board for Pastor Fred and 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. This year, the committee also offered an online evaluation form permitting the congregation members to be part of Pastor Fred's annual performance review. These results were collected and shared as part of his annual review.

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The Technology Committee completed the transition to a newly designed website and web provider (WIX). Our new website will continue to have the same URL (<http://www.tlcnj.org>) Hadleigh Kindberg worked with Pastor Fred on the new design and content. Our website will only be as good as the message we provide to our parishioners and website visitors. We are looking at ways to have folks to make online donations to our many ministries. Please feel free to e-mail Pastor Fred with any suggestions you may have, or any other feedback concerning the TLC website. We look forward to exploring new ways to further evangelize our TLC ministry to our local and global community.

Scott Miller, Chairperson

## **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

## **NEWSLETTER**

Kathy McFarland and Jane Chraschewsky serve as our editors, and Charlie Haas as our proofreader. Many volunteers assist with the newsletter's production. Jane 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, Donna and Russ Johnson, Carol Schwarz, Suzanne Capps, Nancy Boersema and Beverly Dominkowitz.

## SECTION 2: PARISH LIFE



### PARISH NURSE REPORT

Parish Nursing/Health Ministry has been an important ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church for 22 years. Health Ministry has adapted to the ever-changing needs and membership of our congregation. Although we have had fewer formal programs, we strive to continue our focus of encouraging and supporting our members to be whole in body, mind and spirit.

I continued to work with Pastor Fred to identify the health needs in the congregation and to coordinate visits to members in need. We instituted a visiting partnership for pastoral home communion visits to ensure safe and meaningful home visits. I thank Pastor Fred for his continuing support, guidance and encouragement to me as Parish Nurse, and to the mission of Health Ministry.

As Parish Nurse, I continued to care for members through support, education and providing resources as needed, through phone calls, visits, emails, texts, one-on-one interactions, newsletter articles and grief booklets. I am confident and pleased that members were comfortable reaching out to me with their questions, needs and feedback.

Our Health Team continued to be an instrumental part of Health Ministry. Six active members have worked together with me to deliver our ministry's goals. Our five long-standing members:

Elaine Tarantino, Eileen Schult, Lorna Kelly, Carol Lieberman and Kelly Casario and our newest member is Kathy McFarland. You are the backbone to our ministry, and I offer my heartfelt thanks for all you do; I could not do it alone. A special thank you to Elaine Tarantino for tirelessly coordinating meals for members in need. Also, a special thank you to Eileen Schult for making Trinity's automated external defibrillator (AED) a reality by researching and purchasing it with designated funds, and for being our liaison to Council. We say goodbye to Carol Lieberman, as she retires. She has been a part of Health Ministry for 22 years and will be truly missed.

Health Ministry presented a new program this past fall, the "Walk to Bethlehem." It gave members the opportunity to exercise their bodies, minds and souls with an imaginary walk to Bethlehem in time for Christmas. Those who participated seemed to have fun increasing their activity while learning some facts about the countries we visited and reflecting on a weekly devotion and Bible verse.

I continued to network with the Faith Community Nurse Network, sponsored by the Atlantic Health System, and participated in several educational opportunities they offered.

Kathy McFarland continues to be an integral part of Health Ministry as administrative assistant of TLC. She tirelessly informs me of health needs in the congregation, sometimes daily, through phone calls, emails and texts. She provides me with constant support and encouragement, and for that I am truly thankful.

I look forward to continuing as your Parish Nurse. I am here to encourage each member to strive for wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Together we can do God's work in the world, but we need to achieve a sense of wellness first, and honor the physical, psychological, spiritual beings He has created.

Lynn Archer Sienkiewicz, RN  
TLC Parish Nurse

**PARISH NURSE**  
**HEALTH MINISTRY STATISTICS**

90 Blood Pressures taken on Sunday mornings  
(nurses usually available after each service)

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 9 January  | 8 July       |
| 6 February | 10 August    |
| 0 March    | 11 September |
| 6 April    | 5 October    |
| 9 May      | 8 November   |
| 9 June     | 9 December   |

April 18: Prepared and led Health Team meeting.

April 29, May 6, 13, 20: Prepared and set up information in Christian Learning Center for Mental Health Awareness.

May 8: Supervised combined Blood Drive at Saint John's Episcopal Church with nine units collected.

May 6: Organized and coordinated distribution of File of Life, after both services.

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

July 22: Prepared and led Health Team meeting.

August 12: Attended and participated in education and self-care retreat, "Healing for the Healer," sponsored by Atlantic Health at College of Saint Elizabeth.

September 23: Kickoff for 10-week Walk to Bethlehem program.

October: Automated External Defibrillator (AED) installed on wall by elevator

December 2: Wrapped up Walk to Bethlehem program. Well received by parishioners who chose to participate.

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 selves and family members.

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

Provided guidance and resources to members as needed.

Coordinated with Father Rod to sponsor Blood Drive at Saint John's Episcopal.

Wrote newsletter articles.

Health Team members wrote newsletter articles on monthly health topics.

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.

Worked with Elaine Tarantino to coordinate meals for TLC families in need.

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

Wrote and sent eight grief booklets as needed and per schedule.

Made contacts with community agencies for resources and services.

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

Eileen Schult researched, purchased and coordinated installation of new AED machine.

Worked extensively on Walk to Bethlehem program from September 23–December 2.

Implemented new visiting partnership for pastoral in-home communion visits.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

The Worship and Music Committee and pastor plan worship services throughout the year. There are myriad of items that fall under the auspices of this committee, including the following: service order; confessions and prayers (including the new form of the prayer list); seasonal litanies and liturgies; special worship services (Energizer Sunday, Reformation Sunday, Advent/Christmas services, Lenten/Easter services, etc.); worship assistants (such as acolytes, altar guild members, greeters, lectors, and ushers) and their vestments; altar paraments and banners; the maintenance of musical instruments (organ, pianos, hand bells); hymn selection; oversight of the choirs; special music; worship times; Merry Heart worship services; and the submission of applicable budget information to Council.

Interest continued in or returned to participation in the Cross Walk; worship with St. John's Episcopal Church members on Ash Wednesday; a 'Blue Christmas' service during Advent; learning of new or less-familiar hymns via "hymn of the month" during the summer services; periodic invitation to liturgical dancers to enhance worship services; and a request for continuing feedback from the congregation to this committee.

Some innovative ideas were rolled out this year, with some practices renovated: expanding lay leadership through recruiting assistant ministers, returning to glass (self-service to free acolytes to distribute grape juice) as opposed to plastic for Communion in an effort to be more eco-friendly and economical (as well as democratically choosing a more palatable wine), emphasizing generosity with special offertory prayers and pastoral "thank you's"; one service at 9:15 on Sundays with a second service 'Dinner Church' on Wednesdays at a restaurant during the summer months; establishing quiet time in the sanctuary by requesting that the ushers close the doors 15 minutes before the start of the service; revising/enhancing the website (including videos of choir anthems); establishing a guest musician fund; long-term planning with the Council and other committees; and reemphasizing bulletin recycling. Also, an important new subcommittee, called "The Liturgical Images Arts Team," has been formed and expanded from the previous Sanctuary Decorating Committee. Volunteers have included Donna Johnson, Katie Serbeck, George Seidel, Judy Miller, and others.

Kevin Seidel led the team during 2018. After a year-long sabbatical, Sheri Sauer has returned to co-chair this committee with Judy Miller for 2019. The members of the committee are Jessie Andrews, Rev. Fred Becker, David Bernauer, Judy Miller, Julie Sauder, Kevin Seidel, Sandy Sheridan, Lynn Sienkiewicz, and Barbara Terreri.

## **CHANCEL CHOIR**

The Chancel Choir sings on certain Sundays and special holidays during the church year. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. We begin the year on Energizer Sunday and end during June. Kevin Seidel is our director, and Julie Sauder is our piano/organ accompanist; (Sandy Sheridan substitutes for both.) The musical selections coordinate with the particular Sunday or season of the church year, and utilize various musical styles. We do not sing every Sunday, but periodically sing at either or both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

In the spring of 2018, we sang on five "regular" Sundays, a special "congregational meeting" Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. In the fall, we sang on three "regular" Sundays: Energizer Sunday, the 501st Celebration of The Reformation (Sunday), All Saints Sunday, the Annual Meeting Sunday (Lessons and Carols), one Sunday during Advent, Christmas Eve, and during a choir member's memorial service. During the year, guests' offerings featured flutes, clarinet, saxophone, harp, violin, cello, brass quintets, a women's anthem, a vocal trio (Roxbury High School students) with choir, bells/piano/congregation on a hymn for Reformation, a version of The Lord's Prayer called "Our Father" on Good Friday, and a jazz version of "Solemn Reproaches of the Cross" with Jessica Harrison, soprano. The choir periodically was joined by many Roxbury High School students, a retired teacher and "Sweet Adeline" singer-friend, and several Harmonium Choral Society friends. We also have had two new members in the men's sections, Jim and Gordon.

We invite all to our small group fellowship to share the Gospel and inspire our worship!

Sandra Sheridan

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Once again, we have had another exciting year, with only a few changes. The first change occurred July 8 when we decided to change the type of wine used for communion. We switched to a port wine and for three Sundays in July we to sampled three different brands. After the church service on July 22 the congregation participated in a wine tasting then voted; the overwhelming favorite was Taylor Port, which we have been using ever since.

The next change came around September: the return to using glass cups for communion. Previously we had been using disposable cups until it was determined they were not bio-degradable, so to protect the environment and save a little money, the glass cups.

Also in September changed the distribution of communion. The communion trays now sit on the credence table in the front of the church. Each communicant takes a cup before approaching the rail, and after they have communed they deposit used cup in the baskets located on the side aisles. By doing this it allows the acolyte to pour the grape juice to those communicants requesting juice instead of wine and the Assisting Minister pours the wine. This procedure seems to be working out very well.

During this past, year five members of our Committee had to resign for one reason or another. I would like to thank Nancy Boersema, Joan and Ralph Frick and Nancy and Skip Kazaba for their faithful service to this committee. I would also like to welcome Jill Ryan, our newest member. We look forward to having *you* join us in 2019. We have also added two alternate members who have agreed to help out when necessary: Jane Chraschewsky and Kathy McFarland. We still need volunteers, so if you think you would enjoy doing this, please contact me.

As part of the Altar Guild, we have four members who faithfully launder the linens. They are Lorraine Bollmann, Kathy McFarland, Lynn Sienkiewicz and Barbara Terreri.

Once again, I would like to thank the dedicated members who volunteer and commit their time to this very important ministry: 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, Donna Johnson, Sherri Jansen, Maira Rogers, Diane Eberly, Kim and Bruce Kleindienst, Beverly Dominkowitz, Melanie Edwards, Sandra Dean, Ann Gallagher, Angela Gehring, Jill Ryan and Sheri Sauer, and to our alternate members Jane Chraschewsky and Kathy McFarland. I'd also like to thank Lorraine Bollmann, Lynn Sienkiewicz and Kathy McFarland for their work in keeping the linens clean and pressed.

Barbara Terreri

## **BELL CHOIR**

2018 was a bit of a turbulent year for the Bell Choir. Members of the choir faced tragedy and loss, and we struggled a bit to keep to a schedule, but made significant progress in our musical ability as a group. We also were blessed to have the bells refurbished, and they sound even more beautiful than before.

Even in the face of difficulty, the Bell Choir pulled together to perform what felt was our best and most difficult piece yet on Christmas Eve. I'm immensely proud of how hard everyone worked and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish this next year!

Jeff Miller  
Bell Choir Director

## **EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY**

Members: Lynda Pullis, Sandra Dean, Neil Holtzman, Katie Serbeck, Jane Chraschewsky, Brieanne Richards, and Pastor Fred

### Faith Formation for Children, Youth, Families, and Friends – January through June 2018

Coordinator: Lynda Pullis

Theme: *This Changes Everything.*

We offered multiple opportunities for children, youth, families, and friends of all ages to gather for a variety of faith-based conversations and learning activities.

- Family Faith Formation, first Sunday of the month, 9:15-10:00 a.m.  
Children age 3 through Grade 2 and parents or significant adult
- Senior Youth Faith Formation, second Sunday of the month, 11:45–1:00 p.m.  
Youth in grades 7-12 gathered for lunch, games, conversation, and opportunities to grow in faith growth as we continued to relate with one another and with God! Youth attending the 2018 Youth Gathering were expected to participate each month.
- Junior Youth Faith Formation, third Sunday of the month, 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (parents were welcome) engaged more deeply with various Bible stories through games, activities, and thoughtful conversation.
- Hangin' with the Rev, third Sunday of the month, 9:30-10:15 a.m.  
High school youth (Grades 9-12) joined Pastor Fred on Sunday morning.
- First Thursday Faith Formation for All Ages, first Thursday of the month, 6:00–7:30 p.m.  
Everyone was invited to join us for dinner, conversation, and active, engaging faith experiences.

### Faith Formation for Children, Youth, Families, and Friends – October 2018

Coordinator: Lynda Pullis

- Lunch and Learn: For all youth in Grades 6–12  
Second Sunday of each month 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.
- Cross†Generational Engagement for all Ages: connecting children, youth, and adults with each other and with God! Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. throughout the church year. We discontinued the Sunday morning Cross Generational Engagement as of December 2018 (no participants)

Curriculum:

Vibrant Faith Ministries Intergenerational Faith Formation

The P.R.A.Y. Program:

- God and Church—for youth in grades 6-8
- God and Life—for youth in grades 9-12

Confirmation – Pastor Fred – Classes held for Michael Lubrecht and Amy Cook.

Senior High Youth – Katie Serbeck and Brieanne Richards – Youth Gathering

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering – Houston, Texas

The journey to Houston didn't start for our group on June 26. It took years of planning and fundraising to get to that day. Some of the fundraisers were Carol Crazy (like March Madness), a Bake Auction, shirt sales, Yankee Candles, etc. We were even able to send about \$2,000 worth of books to Houston for the Blast Off for Books! It is the congregation that helped make our trip possible and we thank you!

On June 26, we left Newark for Houston with two Gathering pros and seven newbies. We picked up two rental vehicles and were on our way to the JW Marriott Galleria, our home away from home. That night we would go to an Astros vs. Blue jay's baseball game! Wednesday, we went to Space Center Houston before we would take our first shuttle ride to

our nightly gatherings at NRG Stadium to listen to wonderful speakers and great music. Thursday, we had our interactive learning day where we spent time in the convention center visiting different kiosks. We enjoyed learning how people with disabilities see the church, playing games, and visiting the Lutheran Colleges. Friday, we had our Synod day where we made new friends from N.J., did a lot of singing and worshipped. Saturday was our service learning day. We spent our time with refugee children who were attending camp (PAIR) and received a bicycle at the end. Sunday, we attended closing worship. On July 2, we returned exhausted but filled with the idea that God's grace, love and hope changes everything for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

"We don't have to wait until we're all grown up to make an impact. We can be hope for the church and for all people. They need us." – Rebekah Bruesehoff

W/ELCA Bible Study met through 2018 with the last meeting in December. The group has disbanded and no longer will be meeting.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

The Adult Education team carried out an interesting and very informative program in Adult Forum this year. We began with a five-week series called *Five Gifts of Discipleship*, led by Pastor Fred. This helped us to examine our gifts and the ways in which we could use them as disciples.

In October, we held a special luncheon in recognition of Reformation Day. At the program, we showed the film *Luther*. The program was very well attended and enjoyed by all. (The great food and the beer surely contributed to the festivities.)

In November, Sandy Dean led Forum on the topic of *Forensic Faith*, a series created by a former police officer who uses police detective methods to prove the case for Jesus.

In December, in preparation for Christmas, Donna Johnson led Forum through a series called *Who Needs Christmas?* Our materials led us to look at the reasons for Christmas with fresh eyes and new insights.

Please consider joining us in 2019! We'll be returning to *Forensic Faith*, conducting a series based on *The Shack*, presenting a program on transgender people, and using a Max Lucado study on anxiety and another on prayer.

We are planning a congregational retreat in the spring. Stay tuned for details.

Neil Holtzman

## **CONFIRMATION**

On May 20, 2018 Michael Lubrecht and Amy Cook 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.

## **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.

At the end of 2018, one child was 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.

Kathy McFarland

## **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 that are evident throughout the world. These stories are found in the monthly TLC Newsletter. Our year began a continuation of the aid to the hurricane victims of the three devastating storms suffered by the Caribbean and our southern states. In April, we provided factual information concerning children of the world and the number of them that live in poverty. Summer focused on how single and widowed women in Tanzania learned how to support themselves and their families with craft businesses. In the fall, the California wildfires and the aid needed by many who lost their homes were the huge headline. Later in the fall, Trinity initiated the Bishop's cow challenge for world hunger. At the end of the year, we reviewed Trinity's part in changing the world locally, communally and globally. 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

## **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 group's reading selections continue to be varied, and anyone can recommend a book. All TLC members and their friends are welcome. Thank you to Carol Schwarz for e-mailing our past and present members on the upcoming book selections and the meeting schedule.

2018 Attendees: Jane Chrashewsky, Linda Gallup, June Gordon, Carol Johnson, Donna Johnson, Kathy McFarland, Lynda Pullis, Carol Schwarz, Katie Serbeck, Elaine Tarantino, and Norma Teabo.

2018 Book List: *A Redbird Christmas* by Fanny Flagg, *The Glass Kitchen* by Linda Frances Lee, *The Still Life* by Louise Penny, *Two by Two* by Nicholas Spark, *The Harbinger* by Jonathan Cahn, *And Then There Was Me* by Sadaqa Johnson, *Little Fires* by Celeste Ng, *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate, *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff* by Christopher Moore, *A Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanne Goodman, *The Letter* by Kathryn Hughes and *The Cemetery Keeper's Wife* by Maryann McFadden.

Special Event: In December we had our first "Meet the Author" and book signing. Maryann McFadden joined us for a discussion of her book *The Cemetery Keeper's Wife*. She shared insight into her research for the novel based on the murder of Tillie Smith, a maid at Centenary College in Hackettstown in 1903. It was great how she wove the past and present together to solve the murder. (Remember, it is a novel.)

Jane Chrashewsky

## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

In February we packed Valentine boxes for Trinity's college students living at college. Individually wrapped snacks, drinks and food items were collected two weeks prior to packing. This year, 22 boxes were shipped. 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 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 was donated. Because of the declining interest, this project is being retired this year.

Jane Chrashewsky

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY**

This year saw the creation of a new ministry that combined several other ministries already functioning in the church, as well as a few new ones. These ministries were refocused and reformulated to better serve the congregation and the needs that may arise in their spiritual and physical care.

These newly organized ministries include the prayer chain, the meal ministry, a card ministry, a visitation ministry, a ride ministry, and a home communion ministry. These ministries are overseen by a few dedicated members, while many members participate in helping and supporting fellow TLC members. We continue to grow and evolve and find better ways of meeting the needs of our members.

Kim Kleindienst, Sandie Knowle, Lynn Sienkiewicz – Coordinators

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Fellowship Committee is chaired by Cliff Rollins. This committee organizes fun multi-generational activities both at church and outside of church. Some of the activities this year were bowling, game night, Easter breakfast, and an ice cream social. This committee is also instrumental in organizing Energizer Sunday. Thanks, Cliff, for all you do.

Maira Rogers  
Council Liaison

### SECTION 3: COMMUNITY REPORTS



#### **LIVING FOR GIVING (L4G)**

2018 was a great year in our congregation! We had many toys left over from Christmas which were donated to the Jersey Battered Women's Service. The year started out by collecting nonperishable items for "Souperbowl Sunday" for our food pantry. We collected over 450 cans! This year we decided to let go of "Love Sunday" to focus on other projects. We used our collection banks for our Lenten project this year, Vision Loss Alliance of Denville, we collected \$88. For Mother's Day, we collected \$905 for CWS blankets. In June, for Father's Day, we collected for Habitat for Humanity and donated a little over \$400. Over the summer we collected school supplies for East Dover Elementary School. In September, we participated in "God's Work. Our Hands," as usual. As with previous years, we did various activities: sort, count and pack school supplies; set up and clean up for our Energizer Sunday picnic; bake cookies; prepare a meal for Faith Kitchen; write out "thank you" cards; made scarves, etc. We completed the Time and Talent Sheets online this year and had a wonderful response. We took part in the Bishop's Challenge and have collected four cows so far because of generous donations and a baked goods auction. For Advent we collected for Dover Day Care who was very appreciative.

It is with the help of generous congregation members and Thrivent Action Teams that we are able to do so much! Thank you, as always, for your dedication to making the world around us a better place by giving of your time and your talents! Here is to an excellent 2019 to come!

Blessings,  
Katie Serbeck  
L4G Chairperson

#### **GENEROSITY TEAM**

In 2018, the Stewardship Team was officially rebranded as the "Generosity Team." Its members of this team include Pastor Fred, Kevin Seidel, Joe and Susanne Jackson, Nadine Cain and Sharon Matschke.

In the spring of 2018, Trinity was selected by the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod to attend a three-day workshop called "Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity." The program was funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation out of the Midwest to help congregations build upon already-existing strong stewardship foundations. The workshop helped to focus the group on the changing religious and giving landscape in our society, and how best we can be proactive in this new environment.

The team used the education from these workshops to create a fall Generosity Campaign. The program called, "Growing in Generosity; Rooted in Faith" highlighted how our call to discipleship includes a call to be generous. Generosity has many facets, and during the five-week campaign, we discussed each of these facets, and how to live a more generous life.

The team also piloted a new online giving program promoted by the ELCA called Tithely, created pew cards that those who give online can place in the offering plate and added a prayer during worship to help focus on the liturgical rite of the offering.

And finally, the team presented the congregational spending plan at the annual meeting as a "narrative budget." This included rebranding our spending plan as a "mission plan."

Kevin Seidel

## **DISASTER RESPONSE**

This year we were involved in many ways, as always. We collected donations to help victims of the hurricanes that struck the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

On the home front, with the guidance of Pastor Fred, we became involved with helping victims of the Dover fire. The Walking Brothers held a coffee concert to raise funds for those affected by the fire. We also adopted a family and helped them get settled in a new apartment with houseware items and cleaning supplies. Some of our members helped the family move.

Trinity can always be counted on when the need arises. Thanks to Thrivent we used Action Teams to accomplish this.

Russ Johnson and Don Ballard  
Disaster Response Chairpersons

## **ENERGIZER SUNDAY**

In the 1½ hours following our Energizer Sunday Service, 32 Trinity members became God's hands, working for our members, our community, and our physical church, giving more than 45 man-hours of service.

Following is a brief summary:

**Hedden Park**—The park was to be the site of our picnic, but with the miserable weather forecast and quick thinking from Cliff Rollins and L4G team, the picnic was relocated to the PLC. A robo call went out from Pastor Fred, so everyone would know of the change. The picnic was highly successful and enjoyed by all who attended.

**Cleaning walls** – The wall along the stairs to PLC was marked and dirty. Volunteers used Magic Erasers and lots of elbow grease to clean, not only the wall, but other walls and doors in Trinity.

**Card writing** – Room 101 was the scene of volunteers writing thank you, get well, and thinking of you cards. More than 25 cards were written. Some were delivered with Kind bars, some with cookies baked in the TLC kitchen. Others were sent out in the mail.

**Faith Kitchen Meal** – In the PLC, ham, salami, and cheese made the fixin's for 96 sandwiches to be served the following Tuesday at the TLC Faith Kitchen along with bags of chips and macaroni salad.

**Cookie Baking** – About 200 chocolate chip cookies were baked. Three batches were plated, wrapped in beautiful cellophane covered platters, and delivered to the police and fire headquarters in Dover and to the Senior building for their coffee klatch. Others were packed in containers and delivered to shut-ins or were shared with families who picked up a food bag at the food pantry.

**Fleece scarves** – Twenty-six scarves were cut and fringed. They will be given out to any one in need. If we have an overabundance of winter accessories, we will share them with other New Jersey congregations who support the needy. Not all the fleece was used, and a work session will be planned for an upcoming Sunday after the 10:30 service.

**Sunday School Materials** – These were evaluated, organized and boxed in one of the Sunday School rooms, which was then cleaned.

**Counting and Boxing of School Supplies** – School supplies were sorted, counted, and boxed then delivered to East Dover Elementary School the following Wednesday.

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Activity Pads–15            | Notebooks–396           |
| Colored Pencils–136 sets    | Paper–57 packs          |
| Construction Paper–50 packs | Pencils–1300            |
| Eraser Caps–200             | Pens–570                |
| Expomarkers–7               | Post It Notes–144 packs |
| Glue sticks and bottles–236 | Rulers–88               |
| Highlighters–26             | Scissors–28             |
| Index Cards–19 packs        | Sharpies–42             |
| Markers–600                 | Small storage bins–4    |
| Mechanical Pencils–76       | Stickers–1 package      |

There were also 17 backpacks filled with school supplies and one teacher desk file sent to the school. These tallies are posted on the long poster on the door to the library. Take a look.

Recording the moments – A roving photographer took some 80 pictures during all of the activities at Trinity.

## **GIFTS TO THE WORLD FROM TLC**

### **Benevolence Sharing beyond what is budgeted in the Spending Plan**

|           |                                                                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 85 gifts  | Advent Project – Dover Day Care Christmas gifts for the children            |
| Many      | Cans of food for the Food Pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday                     |
| Thousands | Labels to Navajo project                                                    |
| \$ 500    | Lenten Project – Foundation for the Blind                                   |
| \$ 1,057  | Monthly Fruit for Greystone Hospital collection                             |
| \$ 2,488  | Donations to the Faith Kitchen (30,661 meals served in 2018)                |
| \$14,100  | Local Hunger (TLC Food Pantry shared 1,396 bags of groceries with families) |
| Many      | Donations of canned goods to the Food Pantry/meals for the Faith Kitchen    |
| 22        | Care packages sent to college students (Valentine's Day)                    |
| 15        | Boxes of cookies sent to college students (October)                         |
| 5         | Prayer shawls for college students                                          |
| \$ 1,000  | Mother's Day – Blankets (Lutheran World Relief)                             |
| \$ 500    | Father's Day – "Habitat for Humanity"                                       |
| Many      | Summer Project – boxes of school supplies                                   |
| 7         | Quilts                                                                      |

## **FRUIT FOR GREYSTONE**

The Fruit for Greystone program at Trinity allows the patients at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital to receive additional fresh fruit that the state does not provide. The patients, and the administration, truly appreciate our support and thoughtfulness.

During 2018, Trinity collected \$1,057.00 during the following months:

|                 |                |                   |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| January – \$35  | May – \$ 96    | September – \$ 62 |
| February – \$56 | June – \$ 70   | October – \$ 96   |
| March – \$50    | July – \$ 97   | November – \$102  |
| April – \$69    | August – \$140 | December – \$184  |

This money allowed Greystone to purchase the following:

- 14 cases of red seedless grapes
- 2 cases of white seedless grapes
- 1 case of Ribier grapes
- 10 cases of strawberries

I have not received notification, as yet, as to what was purchased with our November and December money.

Please keep the patients at Greystone in your prayers. Thank you for your continued generosity during the year.

Joan Frick

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet twice a month, and this year was happy to have several new people join the group. While some members choose to meet together at my home in Rockaway, others work on their shawls on their own time. Whether together or not, this group is a lively bunch for whom wonderful conversation and support fills each gathering.

As in years past, the group continues to provide shawls to the graduating high school seniors. This year we gave out five shawls to graduates. Throughout the year we gave shawls on behalf of TLC to hospitalized, sick and grieving members. Many of the members expanded their recipients to friends, co-workers and family members. This year, we partnered with St. John's Episcopal Church in Dover and provided them with several prayer shawls to use within their congregation. Also, this year we continued providing shawls for the December's Blue Christmas Service. Many shawls were taken that day.

In total, this group has donated more than 75 shawls, with countless hours of crocheting and love into each one. New members are always welcome to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at my home in Rockaway. Happy stitching!

Kim Kleindienst

## **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH QUILTERS**

Although several quilts were completed this year, none were delivered to Lutheran World Relief. Instead, seven of the completed quilts were donated to the Dover fire survivors.

There is a scheduled "in gathering" of quilts in June of 2019 at a church in Perth Amboy so our goal will be to finish as many of the kits as we can before June. Anyone who is interested in helping should contact Sheri Sauer. Since 2012, Trinity has sent 216 quilts to LWR. Thank you to everyone who continues to chip in on this project, especially Jane Kraus, Joy Parisi, and Sue Leshar. Thank yous also go to those who prepared kits previously that we are still assembling: Lorraine Bollman, Mabel Roy, Nancy Boersma, Sandy Dean, Linda Gallup, Bev Dominkowitz, Marie Matarazzo, Katie Serbeck, and Ginny Simms.

## **SENIOR MINISTRY**

The Senior Ministry Committee planned exciting and well-attended events at the J.J. Rich Senior Building on East Blackwell Street. The events included our annual Epiphany Party in January, followed by Bingo with dessert and prizes in March, a travelogue on their Italy trip led by the Cook family in April, a barbeque in August and the Tricky Tray in October. We also brought Thanksgiving meals to the seniors from the Faith Kitchen. Our annual planning meeting is held in June.

Thanks to Mabel Roy for leading the Senior Ministry program for five years. I started to lead the program beginning in August. I want to thank everyone on the committee for their help: Jane Chrashewsky, Joan and Ralph Frick, Carol Schwarz, Gary and Elaine Tarantino, Joy Parisi, Nancy Boersema, Cindy Voskian and Samantha Dennig. Also, thanks to Suzanne Capps for making our sign-up posters advertising our events.

Every second Wednesday at the senior building there is a coffee klatch, led by Pastor Fred Becker, with helpers Jane Chrashewsky, Elaine Tarantino and Nancy Boersema, where they enjoy coffee, donuts and lively conversation along with receiving communion monthly from Pastor Fred.

Scott Miller  
Senior Ministry Coordinator

## **FOOD PANTRY**

Each day two TLC volunteers work in the Food Pantry from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They answer the phone, the front door, fill bags with groceries, stock shelves, collate, prepare mailings, fold weekly bulletins, and many "other duties as needed."

In 2018, 1,396 bags of groceries were distributed. Food donations came from Applegate Farms, Bridgewater; The Dover Rotary, Ledgewood; Greenbriar Fox Ridge Volunteer Club, Wharton; King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes; Latino Market, Dover; St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church, Dover; Millbrook United Methodist Church, Randolph; Grace Episcopal Church, Madison; St. Matthew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Randolph; Connect for Community, Sparta; Thrift Barns of Morris County, Denville; Sacred Heart Leisure Club, Dover; Specialty Surgery Center, Sparta; St. Clare's Hospital, Dover; Poplarwood Farm, Port Murray; Longmeadow Farm, Hope; Brook Hollow Farm, Franklin Lakes; Circle Brook Farm, Andover; Godlewsky Farms, Great Meadows; Denville Learning Experience, Denville; Picatinny Arsenal, Rockaway Democratic Committee, and many individual and family donations.

These tasks are all lovingly and faithfully completed by the TLC volunteers throughout the year which is a tremendous help to the office and staff.

Thank you to Linda Gallup for scheduling our volunteers and to Jane Chraschewsky for scheduling the shoppers who stock our shelves.

Thank you to the 2018 volunteers: Mabel Roy, Ralph Frick, Russ Johnson, Donna Johnson, Stacy Morgan, Marion Mozes, Carol Schwarz, Norma Teabo, Linda Gallup, Jessie Andrews, Sheri Sauer, Elaine Tarantino, Gary Tarantino, Suzanne Capps, Sandy Dean, Beverly Dominkowitz, Teresa Baderschneider, Earl Baderschneider, Marion Holtzman, Neil Holtzman, Liz Suk, Charlie Haas, Richard Palmer, Sharon Matchke, Kim Kleindienst, Nancy Boersema, Lorraine Bollman, Jane Kraus and Marie Matarazzo. If we missed someone, please know we are sorry, and appreciate all that you do.

Kathy McFarland

## **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 through facilitating the transition to permanent housing. Since 1988, Family Promise has supported over 1,500 individuals through their Emergency Shelter and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs. TLC has been a host congregation and is now a support congregation to Redeemer Lutheran Church approximately four times each year.

This year those volunteers who helped were recognized at "An Evening of Promise," held at Meadow Wood Manor in November. Trinity supported the Tricky Tray held that night, with two Paper Mill Playhouse tickets for *Holiday Inn* and a \$50 gift card for a local restaurant. A big thank you to Thrivent Financial's Action Team for supplying the funds needed. Also, thank you to the following volunteers who provided part of a meal or volunteered their help; Beverly Dominkowitz, Kathy McFarland, Suzanne and Mike Capps, Sandy Dean, Linda Gallup, Mabel Roy, Lorraine Bollmann, Joan and Ralph Frick, Sharon Matschke, Carol Schwarz and Jane Kraus.

Suzanne Capps

## **PANERA**

2018 was another rewarding year in Trinity's Panera pick-up program. Every other Sunday throughout the year, members of Trinity went to the Panera restaurant on Route 10 in Denville to pick up the bagels, Danish, cookies and bread left at the end of the day and package them for distribution thru Faith Kitchen, the Food Pantry and Edna's Haven. Trinity also began receiving donations from the Viking Bakery in Denville. Between these two sources, we have been able to provide these products to members of the community who might not otherwise been able to include them in their daily food diet. Thanks to all who gave of their time to provide this benefit.

Earl Baderschneider

## **FOOD PANTRY SHOPPERS**

Trinity maintains a pantry stocked with basic food items. The cupboard is 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 cupboard to their organizations.

Again, this year Trinity received another generous gift of \$10,000 from The Book Barn in Denville. Three of Trinity's members volunteer there and were instrumental in promoting the food pantry. We received food and a donation from T.J. Maxx. Every month the pantry receives food from Grace Episcopal Church, Madison. We received a Souper Bowl food collection from North Dover Elementary School. There were also several Thanksgiving food donations.

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

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

Two special shoppers buy only jelly and powdered milk. Marie Matarazzo buys the powdered milk and Beverly Dominkowitz orders one-pound jars of jelly from the Dollar Store.

The Super Sale Shopper group is now in its eleventh year. With little change in our area's economy, the food pantry continues to experience a steady flow of clients, many needing help for the first time. The number of grocery bags given out increased during 2018's last three months. One large bag of groceries per client is given every three weeks. This year we also gave away over 50 turkeys and bags of "fixings" for Thanksgiving dinners, plus several hams.

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

Jane Chraschewsky

## **MEAL OF THE MONTH**

TLC continued this past year to provide the meal every third Tuesday of the month. We planned the meal, shopped for the food, and prepared and served the meals. For most of the year, we collected money for the meals after the church services preceding the third Tuesday. At one point, we received a large donation toward the meals and did not continue collecting additional money.

During the winter months we served hot meals, and fresh fruit whenever available. During the summer months, due to the excessive heat upstairs in the Parish Life Center, we served cold meals such as tuna salad subs, etc.

For the past two or three years, those of us who volunteered on the second Tuesday contributed the money to buy the meal's ingredients, since no church funding was available to do so. We also prepared and served the meals.

We praise God for being with us and continuing to inspire us to this service.

Marion Holtzman

## **FAITH KITCHEN**

- Faith Kitchen Recap of 2018
- This past year we saw an overall decrease in the number of people coming for lunch. It wasn't a dramatic reduction, but it was a noticeable one. Many people in the serving groups have asked me why attendance has been lower than previous years. Of course, it is not possible to know for sure. When people ask me, I usually just smile and say, "We are not a restaurant, you know. Lower numbers are better!" I sort of chuckle at this, but actually I did mean it. We are not trying to get more customers. We are genuinely happy when there are fewer people in need. In the last six months or so, I did hear from a number of our lunch guests upstairs that they have been working. That is what we always hope and pray for!
- In addition to the fact that some folks are working, we noticed a slight difference in lunch attendance here, once the Morristown soup kitchen opened for breakfast. Folks can go there and eat breakfast, then stay indoors all day, have lunch, and stay indoors for the rest of the afternoon. Social services are available all day also. So the folks that could get to the Morristown area did so. The people that come here to Faith Kitchen truly need us to be here. Many do not have any other alternative and they rely on us for this meal. You know who they are. They are the familiar faces that have walked through our doors day after day, year after year. Faith Kitchen has been here for them for a long time, and hopefully we will be able to be here as long as they need us to be.
- Here's some numbers:
  - Average number of people served each day is 60
  - Average volunteers per month is 134
  - Total number of meals served for the year is 30,661
- So another year is behind us and as always, we are deeply grateful to Trinity for managing, cooking and serving on the regular monthly rotation and for planning and hosting a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner; for all the Panera Bread dessert runs; for doing the laundry; for the Viking Bakery pickups; for the repairs by the Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes; for the treasured Christmas sounds of David Eberly (Bill's brother) on the piano; Leo Yanas on guitar and singing; beautiful table centerpieces from the Girl Scouts; your purchase and distribution of holiday gifts for our lunch guests; and for everything else you so graciously do for us. Most of all, we are grateful to you for being the Faith Kitchen's host. You let us cook and serve in your precious Parish Life Center, and you give your time, energy and caring to those in need. We are blessed to be partnered with you in this food ministry. May God continue to light our way on this journey, guide and protect all those that lean on us for help, and keep them safe, comforted, fed and on a path to wellness.

Warmest,  
Joanne Bleecker  
Executive Director, Faith Kitchen

## SECTION 4: BUILDING AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

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Memorials and Thanksgiving Fund

- JANUARY** –Blue Advent paraments given in honor of Joan Frick for her service to the Altar Guild.
–From the estate of Helen Bollmann – for all the church meant to her.
–Given in memory of mother Elsa Leivonen by Flora and Lewis Guerin.
- MAY**
JUNE –Given in memory of Rita Adams by Nancee and George Seidel.
–Given in memory of Rita Adams by Donna and Russ Johnson.
–Given in memory of dads and granddads by Elaine and Gary Tarantino.
–Designated for Living 4 Giving – given in memory of Cathy Serbeck by John Serbeck.
Designated for roof repair.

TLC Education Scholarship

Given in thanks to God for those who support TLC youth. Awarded to Elizabeth Vicente.

Dean Science Scholarship

Given by Sandra Dean to students continuing their education in the science-related field.
Awarded to Elizabeth Vicente.

The Daynies DiPietro Scholarship

Given by Sandra Dean in memory of her mother
Awarded to: Marisa McCaffrey

- JULY** –Given in memory of Norma Sauer by Jill Ryan and Marisa McCaffrey.
Designated for Worship and Music.
–Given in memory of Norma Sauer by Nancee and George Seidel.
Designated for Worship and Music.

- AUGUST** –Given in memory of parents and grandparents by Sheri Sauer.
Designated for the roof repairs and capital spending and deficit reduction.

- OCTOBER** –Given in memory of Wil Wenner by Nancee and George Seidel.
Designated for the new speaker system.
–Given in memory of husband Wil Wenner by Berit Wenner.

- NOVEMBER** –Given in honor of Sheri Sauer by Donna and Russ Johnson.
–Given in memory of Wil Wenner by Carol Schwarz.
Designated to the Capital Appeal.
–Given in memory of husband Wil by Berit Wenner.
–Given in memory of Dick Sheridan by Nancee and George Seidel.
Designated for special musicians.

- DECEMBER** –Given in memory of Aunt Marion DeMeester by Nancy Boersema.
Designated for the Food Pantry.
–Given in memory of Dick Sheridan by Louise and Sam Olshan.
Designated for the vocal choir.
–Given in memory of Dick Sheridan by family and friends.
–Given in memory of and in honor of the women of Trinity Lutheran Church by Trinity W/ELCA.
Designated for the speaker system.
–Given in honor of sister Lynn Weiss by Bob Kirchgessner.
Designated for the Food Pantry.
–Given in memory of parents Charles and Beatrice, my brother Bob, and my sister Sue by Charles Haas.
Designated for the Hygiene Cupboard and music/guest musicians.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you John Sienkiewicz (Treasurer), Beverly Dominkowitz (Assistant Treasurer), Sue Dean and Susanne Jackson (Co-Finance Secretaries) for their time and talents with ensuring our church is fiscally responsible, compliant and financially well run. The time they give is tremendous. Thank you!

The audit of the 2018 books was completed on January 21, 2019. The Audit Team of David Bernauer, Kurt Heinrich and Kevin Seidel confirmed that the financial records are in order and meet the guidelines and expectations of the New Jersey Synod.

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. It is extremely helpful to the counters if the contributor uses their envelopes, puts the check number on the envelope and the envelope number on the check. If you misplaced your envelopes, please use the generic Pew Envelope. The team consists of ten volunteers and each week two volunteers count the offering. The offering information is given to the Financial Secretary, Sue Dean, who enters the information into our financial database.

In 2018 Mabel Roy "retired" from our group. The group definitely misses her. The ten volunteers work as a team and sometimes adjust their time so that both counters can count at the same time on a specific day. Their time and effort are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Team Members are:

Jane Chraschewsky
Beverly Dominkowitz
Russ Johnson
Mike Capps

Carol Schwarz
Joy Parisi
Ben Parisi

Earl Baderschneider
Melanie Edwards
Linda Gallup

Beverly Dominkowitz, Coordinator

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Thanks to a last minute December push, Trinity did an awesome job of using more of our Thrivent Financial Action Teams. Thrivent members used over \$14,000 of funds to support projects within Trinity, as well as projects close to their own hearts. These projects often benefited organizations within Trinity, including the prayer shawl group, college students, choir and youth. Action Teams also benefited outside organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Wise Animal Rescue, and Lutheran World Relief. A good deal of Action Team money supported meals to people, through Faith Kitchen as well as the Dover Senior Building. The Stewardship Team used many action teams to support their work, including God's Work Our Hands and Energizer Sunday. Finally, some members used their action teams to support individual events benefitting personal charitable projects. Great job, Trinity!

Bruce and Kim Kleindienst

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the continued generosity of Trinity members, this committee continues to award scholarships to graduating seniors, and 2018 was not an exception. The following scholarships were awarded this year on Graduate Sunday:

Trinity Scholarship – Elizabeth Vicente
Daynies DiPietro – Marisa McCaffrey
Dean Science Scholarship – Elizabeth Vicente

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

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. A special thanks to them for the many hours they worked, and for the materials they supplied. In addition, Key Darrow and Gary Tarantino handle property issues that require Council attention, typically bids and contracts for major projects. Other volunteers worked on specific projects. Thank you to all who pitched in this year.

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

- Replacing the fire door at the end of the outside ramp
- Dealing with the failure of the backup generator
- Replacing ceiling tiles and drywall
- Keeping the sump pumps functioning properly
- Replacing thermostats for the heating system
- Frequently repairing the portable air conditioners in Faith Kitchen
- Obtaining bids for painting the inside of the church and repairing plaster
- Obtaining bids for installing new air conditioning in the PLC
- Obtaining bids for a replacement sound system

Gary Tarantino
Property Liaison for the Church Council

BALD EAGLES/SILVER FOXES

The Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes met on the third Thursday of every month. They 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.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

2018 PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT

Opening Balance \$198.99

Income

Donations from Individuals	\$1,248.00
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Expenses

Housing	\$1,212.00
Transportation	644.00
Medical	\$265.00
Food	591.00
Miscellaneous Aid	\$1,304.00

Balance December 31, 2018	\$189.99
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REPORT OF FINANCIAL AUDIT OF CONGREGATION RECORDS

Period covered by audit: Calendar year 2018

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 21, 2019

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ANNUAL REPORT

2018



TRINITY

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