

SECTION 1: PARISH REPORTS



PASTOR'S REPORT

NEW PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016 (PARTIAL)

Grace and peace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What a joy it is to be able to write these words as your new pastor. I am at a bit of loss of what to say in a year-end report when I have been here for only 8 of the 52 weeks. Nonetheless, here you go.

We all have been blessed this year in so many ways. You have been faithfully served by a great cloud of witnesses. Specifically: your interim pastor Rev. Dan Schroeder, your council and officers, transition team, call committee members and the New Jersey Synod staff, specifically Rev Scott Schantzenbach are all worthy of our gratitude. Without any one of them, you would not have successfully completed your search process, and I would not have the good fortune to be your pastor.

Since arriving here in early November, I have worked to get to know how the congregation does all you do. We have successfully wrapped up advent and welcomed our new born king. I am now working on getting to know you all as individual children of God.

At our congregational meeting in December, we did two important things.

1. We adopted a spending plan that makes our mission priorities clear. Against the careful advice of our finance team, we together decided to increase our mission support. Mission support is money we send to the wider church to support ministries throughout the synod and around the world. By implication, we committed ourselves to provide that support through our faithful offerings. You will notice that the back of the bulletin now includes information on how we are doing. Look for it.
2. We elected a church council that will lead us in our ministry. Together we will continue the work of the congregation as we explore where God is calling us this year. Get to know this group; they will be calling on you.

Although routine, these are important tasks that need attending to. They are how we accomplish all the other more glamorous ministry we do together.

I look forward to our time together, to getting to know each of you, your passions for ministry and your desires for the congregation.

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, craft groups (Senior Crafters, lap robes)
Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes
SCS teachers, confirmation teachers and mentors
Adult Forum teachers, Bible Study leaders
SCS superintendents
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
Christian Education Team
Cradle Roll
Senior Ministry
Scholarship Committee
Usher, Reader and Greeter Coordinator
Prayer Partners
Shoppers for Food Cupboard and the Food Cupboard Coordinator
Coffee Hour Coordinator
Edna's Haven
Caregivers
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Scholarship Committee

Thank you!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
JANUARY	79*	106	133	150	131
FEBRUARY	119	74	141	187	174
MARCH	146	133	159	189	158
APRIL	92	85	198	185	195
MAY	99	124	155	151	136
JUNE	100	111	179	142	136
JULY	85	106	191	112	125
AUGUST	90	94	130	138	128
SEPTEMBER	101	85	126	151	145
OCTOBER	95	120	132	167	158
NOVEMBER	114	118	135	162	175
DECEMBER	85	106	117	157	150
AVERAGES	100	105	150	158	151

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
JANUARY	20	16	41	50	57
FEBRUARY	18	19	44	40	51
MARCH	25	25	40	45	51
APRIL	23	23	35	47	48
MAY	22	23	38	40	47
JUNE	0	0	0	0	0
JULY	0	0	0	0	0
AUGUST	0	0	0	0	0
SEPTEMBER	35	34	38	55	61
OCTOBER	25	30	32	46	50
NOVEMBER	30	32	39	47	44
DECEMBER	25	27	34	48	49
AVERAGES	22	25	38	47	51

(*Snow Storm – Church closed 1/24/16)

SPECIAL SERVICES

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
ADVENT THURSDAY	26	31	29	31	40
CHRISTMAS EVE	209	245	339	352	320
CHRISTMAS DAY	51	34	44	49	64
ASH WEDNESDAY	56	56	94	94	99
THURSDAYS IN LENT	25	31	38	36	43
MAUNDY THURSDAY	44	48	84	94	100
GOOD FRIDAY	72	94	105	114	95
EASTER	252	265	305	312	317
THANKSGIVING EVE	–	–	–	–	–
SCS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	–	65	160	–	–

LEADERSHIP 2016

Council Members and Officers

Jill Ryan	Vice President/Leadership Team
John Sienkiewicz	Treasurer
Beverly Dominkowitz	Assistant Treasurer
Thea Lubrecht	Financial Secretary
Sue Dean	Financial Secretary
Katie Serbeck	Secretary/Leadership Team
Maira Rogers	Faith Kitchen
Kim Kleindienst	Worship and Music
Erin DeKorte	Education
Suzanne Capps	Social Ministry
Cliff Rollins	Fellowship
Gary Tarantino	Health Cabinet
Scott Miller	Technology/Web Page
David O'Rourke	Property
Glenn Kruhm	Edna's Haven
Jill Ryan	Evangelism
Neil Holtzman	Education Ministry
Brieanne Richards	Call Committee

Staff

The Rev. Dan Schroeder	Interim Pastor, January 2016-October 23, 2016
The Rev. Fred E. Becker	New Pastor, beginning November 13, 2016
Kathy McFarland	Parish Church Administrator
Lynn Sienkiewicz	Parish Nurse
Jeffrey Miller	Bell Choir Director
Julie Sauder	Organist
Felipe Torres	Sexton
Ralph Gonzalez	Assistant Sexton

Chairpersons *not* on Council

Jane Chrashewsky – W/ELCA and Circles
Marion Holtzman, Sandra Dean and Jane Chrashewsky – Alternative Gift Fair
Marty Connor – Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes
Darleen Wawroski – Stewardship

Mutual Ministry Committee – Pastor Dan

Sue Dean
Barbara Terreri
Jim Remler
Nadine Cain
Dr. Jennifer Argenziano

Youth Group Leaders

Middle School – Charlene Rollins
High School – Katie Serbeck and Brieanne Richards

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

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

rites and Celebrations 2016

Marriages

Key Darrow and Haiyu Yin 12/24/16

First Communion

Cody Leisner 2/7/16
Cassidy Marfisi 2/7/16
Carl Wilson 2/7/16

Baptisms

Keira Elizabeth Coleman 1/10/16
Juliet Simone Rossi 3/27/16
Aubree Sloane 4/24/16

New Members

Wendy Lenox 5/1/16
Shelley Svoboda 5/1/16
Dawn Rothenburgh 8/14/16

Funerals/Memorials

Betty Jane Milliron 2/11/16
James Wilson Park 3/12/16
Raymond Dennig 4/11/16
*Muriel Jacqueline Delaney 6/24/16
Matthew Svoboda 8/25/16
*Faith Blethen 10/15/16

Affirmation of Baptism

Alysha Whittle 5/15/16
Tyler Scerbo 5/15/16

*church members

MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE

As part of our transition process this year, Trinity began to review its membership roll. As we prepared for calling a new permanent pastor, it was important that this roll accurately reflected the active membership of our congregation. Thus, the Transition Team, with approval from the Church Council, established a Membership Task Force to review Trinity's active membership roll to see whether it was a true reflection of the membership.

Our Constitution states, "Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following: a) death; b) resignation; c) transfer or release; d) disciplinary action by the Congregation Council; or e) removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the Bylaws." The Bylaws state, "Membership in this congregation shall be terminated for inactivity when an individual has: a) been inactive for two consecutive calendar years and no longer resides in the area, or b) been inactive for five consecutive calendar years, unless the pastor determines, with the concurrence of the Council, that the individual should be continued as an active member."

In May 2015 the committee, consisting of Thea Lubrecht, Kathy McFarland and Barbara Terreri, began reviewing the membership rolls. As a result, on June 8, 2015 the Council approved the Task Force's recommendation to remove 37 members who were either baptized but not confirmed; baptized and past confirmation age; or had died. Council also approved the Task Force's recommendation that letters be sent to 116 inactive individuals and families to ask whether they considered themselves members of Trinity and would like to remain on our active roll. The first letter, with a stamped pre-addressed post card, was sent on June 24, 2015. Over a period of two months, 20 post cards were returned to Pastor Dan. On August 28, 2015 a second letter was sent to those who did not respond, advising them they would be removed from the active membership roll if we did not receive a response by October 12, 2015, but with the understanding they may re-activate their membership at any time.

On October 12, 2015, Council approved the Task Force's recommendation that 110 active members be removed from the TLC membership roll. As a result of the committee's review, a total of 148 baptized and/or baptized/confirmed members were removed from active membership. At the time of the Congregational Meeting on December 6, 2015, the active membership at Trinity Lutheran Church was 414 baptized members.

It is always difficult to remove an individual or a family from active membership in a congregation, but it is something that we must do on a yearly basis. Many of the families removed already had been living out of state for several years, some individuals had died and never were removed, some had transferred to other congregations, while others responded they no longer wanted to be considered active members.

Trinity is a vibrant congregation of worship and praise, service and ministry. We have much love, support and energy to offer members, but we also look to the hearts and minds, voices and hands of the membership to remain vital to Christ and to the world.

Any members still in the area who wish to reactivate their memberships in the future always will be welcomed with open arms.

Peace and Blessings,
Thea Lubrecht, Kathy McFarland and Barbara Terreri

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 in 2016 much quicker and easier.

In 2016 we added three new members and removed six adults and six children due to transfers, personal requests or death.

As of December 31, 2016, there were 414 baptized members on the membership roll of TLC, of whom 317 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 2017 with the addition of our permanent pastor, Fred Becker.

Peace and Blessings,
Kathy McFarland and Barbara Terreri

COUNCIL REPORT

⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Romans 12:6-8

If this passage doesn't define Trinity, I don't know what does! Every day, Trinity members touch the lives of others in both subtle and profound ways. God's loving presence is evident in the office, the Food Cupboard, Faith Kitchen, the Senior Building and throughout the community – all by your hands!

This was, indeed, a busy year for the Congregation Council! Much of that work was related to calling a pastor to share with us in ministry. We are so pleased that the Congregation called Pastor Fred Becker in September! Many thanks to the members of the Call Committee for your hard work and prayerful consideration. Thanks, once again, to the Transition Team for all the groundwork you did to pave the way for this process.

In addition, here are some highlights of Council's activities during 2016:

- Prayerfully considered and discussed, on a monthly basis, worship attendance and giving. We encourage all TLC members to come together each Sunday for worship and fellowship, and to enroll in electronic giving. It's a process that takes just a few minutes to set up, but then makes it so much easier to commit to your monthly pledge!
- Approval of new members.
- Review and acceptance of work of the Transition Team, including the development of the Ministry Site Profile, a key component of the call process.
- Creation of the "Help Wanted" board in the narthex – a fantastic way to get involved in the various ministries of TLC.
- Oversight of the organ refurbishment plan
 - Many thanks to all who contributed to the fund – achieving our goal of raising the full cost of the refurbishment!
- Many, many projects around the facility. Managing this aging building can be a challenge, but we thank God for the tireless efforts of the Property Committee and "Silver Foxes."
- Approval of two confirmands.
- Gratefully received donation from the Morris County Mental Health Association to provide air conditioning in the Parish Life Center.

- Provided guidance to the team reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Assured the transition of the role of Superintendent of Sunday School – with heartfelt appreciation for Sandie Knowle’s tenure and gratitude for Lynda Pullis’s willingness to serve!
- Approved the refurbishment of the handbells and purchase of new cases, to be funded through the MAT account.
- Renegotiated the agreement for maintenance and testing of the fire suppression and extinguishing system.
- Guided the re-energizing of the TLC committee structure and appointed Council liaisons to each committee.
- Managed the transition from our interim pastor, Dan Schroeder, to our called pastor, Fred Becker. We give thanks to God for both of these spiritual leaders, and to our Bishop and her staff for their support throughout this process.
- Consistent with the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws, the Council elected the following leaders for the 2017 calendar year:
 - Kim Kleindienst, President
 - Maira Rogers, Vice President
 - Erin DeKorte, Secretary
 - John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer
 - Beverly Dominkowitz, Assistant Treasurer
 - Susan Dean, Financial Secretary

I would like to thank the entire congregation for the beautiful gifts and kind words shared with Katie Serbeck and me at the annual meeting in recognition of the end of our tenure on Council. Your thoughtfulness, support and prayers throughout this time of transition have meant the world to us! And, to my Council colleagues and my leadership mentors, Barbara Terreri, Jim Remler and Sue Dean, – many thanks – you are all blessings!

As we welcome a new year, new Council leadership and a new pastor, my fervent prayer is that “the little yellow church on the corner of Blackwell and Mercer” continues to provide ministry, a safe haven and the Word of God for many years to come. The Love Continues!

Respectfully submitted,
 Jill Ryan, Vice President of Congregation Council (2016)

CONFIRMATION

On May 15, 2016, the Day of Pentecost, Alysha Whittle and Tyler Scerbo 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.

Sandie Knowle, Nadine Cain, and Sandy Dean helped to teach these classes with Pastor Dan Schroeder. Sandy Dean continued to teach classes in October, November and December with Pastor Fred Becker.

ALTAR GUILD

BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir had a productive year, adding several new members, but sadly seeing a few members leave the choir, due to moving, leaving the church or health issues. Scheduling conflicts did slow the choir's progress slightly in how often we performed this year. While we did tackle new and more difficult pieces than in the past, the Bell Choir took a break while the bells were sent out to be repaired, tuned and refurbished, putting a damper on our plans for what we hoped to play on Christmas Eve, though we are all very happy to have the bells looking and sounding as good as new! The refurbishing of the bells was a very productive part of this year, for which the choir and I are very grateful, and we look forward to getting back in the game in 2017, challenging ourselves with new music.

Jeff Miller
Bell Choir Director

CELEBRATION CHOIR

For the Spring season (January through June), the choir sang from two to seven times per month (including some 'double headers'), the latter during March for Lent and Holy Week. Our selections celebrated/observed Epiphany, the Transfiguration of our Lord, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, and several Sundays over the summer. Guest musicians included vocal soloists and instrumentalists (including flute, French horn, and four-hand piano accompaniments).

For the Fall season, the choir joined the congregation in a joyful 'energizing' of September to begin the second half of the musical year. We sang to mark the transition - from the pastoral call meeting, to the departure of Pastor Dan (a special selection of his choice), to the welcoming of Pastor Fred, to the annual meeting of the congregation. We celebrated/observed Reformation Sunday, All Saint's Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, Advent, and Christmas Eve. More guest musicians included vocal soloists, a clarinetist, a cellist, a brass ensemble, and more four-hand piano accompaniments.

The choir returned to rehearsing weekly this year. We meet for an hour and a half and rehearse briefly before the service when we are about to sing. We have even ventured out of the choir loft for several of our anthems, one even sung a cappella! Our sincere appreciation to Julie Sauder, our talented/dedicated accompanist, to Kevin Seidel, our fearless/tireless director (who has wonderful taste in selecting anthems that have quality music and texts), Jody Seidel for carrying out organizational duties, and last but not least, our very loyal and hard-working choir members. Our numbers fluctuate in both directions due to health, travel, family obligations, etc., but we are always looking for new members. We hear terrific voices from within the congregation, and the invitation is always extended to all who would like to join us. Choir members find their participation very rewarding, enjoyable, and faith-building.

Sandy Sheridan, substitute director and accompanist

PICK-UP CHOIR

This year brought a new choir to Trinity, the Pick-Up Choir. Created in February, it allows individuals who cannot commit to weekly practices a more informal opportunity to sing in a group. This choir performs every fourth Sunday of the month. Members meet at 9:45 a.m. and then sing at the 10:30 a.m. service, encompassing practice and performance into the same day. This group, was started by Jeffrey Miller and Kim Kleindienst, has had as many as 24 members sing. Anyone is welcome, regardless of age or experience.

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 2016, 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

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

(January 2016–May 2016)

Sunday School – Sandra Knowle and Susanne Jackson – Co-Superintendents
Staff – Janet Bruno, Nadine Cain, and Lynn Lubrecht

(June 2016-December 2016)

Members: Erin DeKorte, Lynda Pullis, Sandra Dean, Neil Holtzman, Katie Serbeck, Jane Chraschewsky, Brianne Richards and Kim Kleindienst

Sunday School – Lynda Pullis – Superintendent
Staff – Janet Bruno and Lynn Lubrecht

1st Sunday of the Month – Cross+generational Sunday is open to everyone in the congregation and we do a different theme each month. One month, SCS is responsible for the lesson, and the following month, Adult Forum is responsible for the lesson.

2nd Sunday of the Month – "Normal" curriculum Sunday. Kids work on a lesson using the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum.

3rd Sunday of the Month – Stewardship Sunday. Every month we took on a different stewardship project to benefit others; this is open to the entire congregation.

4th Sunday of the Month – Game Sunday. The kids play Bible-based games to challenge their faith knowledge.

Open House to be planned

First day of Sunday Church School (SCS) – October 2; also, installation date for teachers and superintendent.

- October 2 – Good-bye and thank you celebration for Sandie Knowle.
- Curriculum used – *Seasons of the Spirit*.
- Taking younger children out of services for mini-SCS.
- SCS staff met twice to discuss curriculum and layout of calendar.
- Following same rotation on Sundays as last year.

Adult Forum – Neil Holtzman

- 1st day – September 18, 2016
- Calendar set for year with responsible parties assigned.
- Adult forum is responsible for Cross+generational lessons to be facilitated along with the SCS.
- More Bible studies planned

Confirmation – Sandy Dean

- Met September 18, 2016. Meets the third Sunday of the month.
- Two confirmation projects completed for Alternative Gift Fair.

Senior High Youth – Katie Serbeck and Brianne Richards

- Senior High room cleaned and painted.
- Fund raising for 2018 Youth gathering – shirts available for purchase.
- Future fund raising events to be discussed and planned.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Team – *Sandra Dean, Erin DeKorte, Charlie Haas, Kim and Bruce Kleindienst and Pastor Dan Schroeder*

Each year TLC awards scholarships lovingly given by TLC members. In 2016, these scholarships were offered:

- Charles Blethen Scholarship, given in memory of Charles Blethen by Faith Blethen, for students doing hands on or technical education after high school. No one applied for the scholarship this year.
- The Ottoson Music Scholarship, given in memory of Ruth Ottoson for a student continuing in the music field. This year, Brendan Siemer was the recipient.
- The TLC Education Scholarship, was given in memory of Frances Boethling, and in thanks to God for those who support TLC youth. This year it was awarded to Carly Leifken.
- The Dean Science Scholarship, was given by Sandra and Gary Dean to students continuing their education in the science field. This year, Alison Remler was the recipient.
- The DiPietro Scholarship, given by Sandra and Gary Dean in memory of Sandra's mother, Daynies DiPietro. No one applied for the scholarship this year.

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, stack 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 2016 volunteers who answer our call on a regular basis: Sandy Dean, Jane Chrashewsky, 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, Cliff Rollins, Bev Dominkowitz, Barbara Terreri, Earl Baderschneider, Teresa Baderschneider, Marie Matarazzo, Danielle Jackson, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. If we missed someone, please know we are sorry, and appreciate all that you do.

MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING

- JANUARY In memory of Gertrude Goddard by friends. Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of Janet Owen by Nancy and Wayne Gardiner.
Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of Richard Stager by friends.
- FEBRUARY In memory of Richard Stager by Chip and Gail Carpenter.
In memory of Gertrude Goddard by friends. Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of Doris Vessel, a former organist at Trinity, by Rev. Robert Schmeelcke.
Designated for the Organ Fund.
Money from MAT was used to purchase music.
In memory of Dorothy Hollenbach by her grandchildren, Brianna and Tyler Salerno.
In memory of Gertrude and Herb Goddard by Joel and Janet Grove.
Designated for the mailing of Valentine Boxes for the college students.
- MARCH In memory of James Park by Elizabeth Hoffman.
- MAY In memory of Josephine Lusardi by Joyce Litichevsky.
Designated for the Food Cupboard.
- JUNE In memory of Herb Goddard by June Gordon.
Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of father Henry Traphegan and father-in-law Franz Schlomen Sr by Dolores Strombach.
Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of my parents Carl and Frances Boethling by Louise Olshan.
Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of Cathy (Kate) Serbeck from the John W. Serbeck Fund.
Designated for local hunger.
In memory of Janet Owen by Jessie Andrews. Designated for the organ fund.
- JULY In memory of grandmother Ethel Kleinert and father Paul Kleinert who sang in the choir most of their lives by Nancee and George Seidel. Designated for Organ Fund.
In memory of Janet Owen by friends. Designated for the Organ Fund.
In memory of previous choir members: June Johnson, Phyllis Ahlers, Jane Johnson, Robert Swanson, Marion St. George and Janet Owen by Sandy and Dick Sheridan.
In memory of Jackie Delaney by Joan and Ralph Frick. Designated for the Organ Fund.
TLC Education Scholarship is given in thanks to God for those who support TLC youth.
Awarded to Carly Leifken.
The Dean Science Scholarship is given by Sandra Dean to students continuing their education in the science field. Awarded to Alison Remler.
The Ruth Ottoson Music Scholarship is given in memory of Ruth Ottoson for students continuing in the music field. Awarded to Brendan Siemer.
- AUGUST In memory of George Ebinger by John and Mary Sheplak.
- OCTOBER Money from the Goddard's memorials was used to purchase music.
In memory of John Kleindienst, father of Bruce Kleindienst, by Nancee and George Seidel.
In memory of Faith Blethen by Jane Chrashewsky. Designated for local hunger.
In memory of Faith Blethen by friends. Designated for the Sunday Church School.
In memory of John Kleindienst by Jane Chrashewsky. Designated for local hunger.
In memory of George Ebinger by Sandy Dean. Designated for the Food Pantry.

DECEMBER In memory of mother Joyce Archer by Lynn Sienkiewicz. Designated to the refurbishing of the hand bells.
In memory of Bessie Dean by Lilo and Ernie Horeis. Designated for the Food Pantry.
In honor and memory of grandparents, Clara and Charlie Brown, Mary and Howard Dague, Wilhelmina and Paul Kleinert, and Erna and Gunther Seidel by Kevin and Jody Seidel.
Designated for a guest cellist.
In memory of Gertrude and Herb Goddard by Michael and Lori Lamb.
In memory of Frances Boethling by Sheri Sauer. Designated for the refurbishing of the bells.
In memory of parents Charles A. Haas, Jr. and Beatrice V. Haas, and grandparents Charles A. Haas, Sr., Rosemary Caffrey Haas, Emil F. Schmidt and Lena Gansz Schmidt by the Haas family.
Designated for the Food Pantry.
In memory of our daughter Brigitta Killinger by Hugo and Lilo Killinger.
Designated for the Food Pantry.
In honor of Jelena Alvanado by Barbara McShane. Designated for Edna's Haven.

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

PARISH NURSE REPORT

Parish Nursing and Health Ministry continue to be an integral part of Trinity Lutheran Church's mission. Health ministry encourages active participation of all members, and without that assistance, we would not be able to reach out in Christian love, caring and support to those with health care needs.

It has been a year of transition, and I continued to work closely with Pastor Dan to evaluate and meet the health care needs of the congregation until he left the end of October. I continued to communicate with Kathy about health care needs and met them, until Pastor Fred started in November. Pastor Fred and I met his first week to discuss expectations, needs and how we can best meet them together as a team.

Health Ministry offered two new programs this year: A Mental Health First Aid course; and a Senior Health Fair, spearheaded by Mabel Roy of senior ministry, and planned together. Both programs were well attended and received. We also continued with some programs that have been successful in the past: Blood Drives (twice this year), blood pressure screenings once or twice a month on Sunday mornings, and "The File of Life."

As parish nurse, I continued to reach out to members of the congregation using various media as well as personal visits to homes, hospitals and rehab centers. I offered prayer prior to surgery when needed and during personal visits. I was available for questions and as a resource, in person on Sunday mornings and by phone, text or e-mail during the week. I continued our Grief Book Ministry, with very positive feedback from those who received them.

Although the Health Ministry Team met only once this year, they were behind the scenes helping with programs and supporting the Health Ministry mission. I would like to thank our members: Eileen Schult, Carol Lieberman,

Elaine Tarantino, Lorna Kelly, Kelly Casario and Don Ballard. Health Ministry would not continue without your dedication and assistance.

I continued to be a part of the Faith Community Nurse Network, sponsored by Morristown Medical Center/Atlantic Health System. Through meetings and educational opportunities, I networked with other churches and health ministry teams and was fed spiritually, as well. I look forward to continuing a relationship with this group, as led by Gary Myers, PhD, MDiv, Manager of Faith and Health at MMC.

I want to thank Kathy for communicating the needs of the congregation to me as she receives them, and for personally and professionally supporting and encouraging me in health ministry. Kathy is an important asset of Health Ministry.

I would like to encourage anyone with feedback or suggestions to please contact me or any member of the Health Ministry Team. I look forward to continuing as TLC's parish nurse, and to encouraging each member to take personal responsibility for his or her lifestyle choices to achieve optimum health and well-being.

Lynn Archer Sienkiewicz, RN
TLC Parish Nurse

PARISH NURSE
HEALTH MINISTRY STATISTICS

458 Ministry Care contacts

26 Grief Booklets sent

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

112 Blood Pressures taken on Sunday mornings
(Nurses usually available after each service)

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

Prepared and led Health Ministry Team meeting on April 6.

Planned and coordinated Senior Health Fair, on April 11, with Mabel Roy from Senior Ministry.

Organized and coordinated distribution of "File of Life" at Senior Health Fair.

Home visits at John J. Rich Senior Building to assist residents with filling out "File of Life."

Organized and coordinated distribution of "File of Life" at Trinity in July and August.

Planned, coordinated and supervised blood drives on May 4 and October 19, with 37 total units collected.

Organized Mental Health First Aid course at Trinity Oct. 1 and 8; 17 members and friends were certified.

Attended meetings of Faith Community Nurse Network on May 3 and November 17.

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

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

Wrote newsletter articles.

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

Covered health care needs of congregation when Pastor Dan was out of town and prior to Pastor Fred's arrival.

Visited parishioners in hospitals, rehab centers or home.

Coordinated meals with Elaine Tarantino for TLC families in need.

Set up transportation for TLC members in need.

Wrote and sent Grief Booklets monthly.

Made contacts with community agencies for resources and services.

SECTION 2: OUTREACH



Alternative Gift Market

The TLC Alternative Gift Market was held on November 13, 2016, featuring a new vendor from Bridge of Faith offering four tables of mostly African crafts. Also represented were seven other local, regional or international charities. Two were sponsored by ninth grade confirmands as part of their confirmation projects. Following is an accounting of TLC's generosity:

<u>CHARITY</u>	<u>DONATION (\$)</u>
Doctors Without Borders	335
Edna's Haven	300
Faith Kitchen	445
God's Barnyard	280
Habitat for Humanity	130
Seeing Eye	220
SOS Pets, Inc.	178
Bridge of Faith	<u>1,229</u>
TOTAL	\$3,357

Faith Kitchen

2016 Faith Kitchen Year End Brief Report

<u>December numbers:</u> Meals: 3,134 Average # of people each day: 82 Average # of meals served each day: 116 Total # of Volunteers for the month: 233	<u>2016 YTD numbers:</u> Total Meals: 38,205 Average # of people each day: 79
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The 2016 year was a rough financial journey for Faith Kitchen. Donations were down and expenses had been overrun in 2014 and 2015, both leaving us in a challenging position. There was a point when Faith Kitchen was down to a minimal amount in our checking account and had a limited period of time left to be able to cover our expenses. It could well have been our final year. Then a blessing came. In the Bible, Matthew (6:31-32) teaches us: *"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"* For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all." In the final months of 2016, we were fortunate to receive a number of generous donations from individuals including some wonderful support from Trinity church members. We also landed some grants and we were able to run some collection drives to reduce our monthly expenses. We finished the year with about \$33,000 in our checking. That may sound like a lot of money (and it is) but our annual budget is about \$70,000 so we generally need to carry a decent amount in our checking account. We are greatly relieved though that at this point, we are at least on stable ground.

Faith Kitchen participated in the annual Trinity Church Alternative Gift Fair. Members of Trinity Church came upstairs after mass that day to do their annual giving. A number of organizations had a table set up, as did Faith Kitchen. We collected \$445 dollars of donations that day.

We had drafted a grant application to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) that required submission by a Lutheran Church on our behalf. Pastor Dan Schroeder formally submitted Faith Kitchen's grant application and we were awarded the \$2,000 dollars. The grant covers the expense of purchasing Awareness Bracelets for Faith Kitchen (FK) which will be distributed to members and friends of organizations that serve at FK for a free-will offering. In addition, we were awarded the grant from Bayer Corporation for \$6,240 dollars to cover our annual expense for milk. We also received a \$2,500 donation from Alcoa, \$500 from AAA, \$1,500 from Knights of Columbus, \$500 from Hanover Insurance and \$2,000 from the Ladies Auxillary from the old St. Clare's Hospital group.

Over the course of the year, we received financial support from Church of the Savior, First Memorial, First Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal, Holy Wisdom, King of Kings, Mine Hill Presbyterian, Redeemer, Rockaway Assembly of God, Sacred Heart, Samaritan's Resurrection, St. Cecilia's, St. Peter's Episcopal, St. Vincent, United Presbyterian, Temple Adeth Shalom, Trinity Lutheran, Word of Life and Zion Lutheran. We picked up new support this year in food and monetary donations from Missy's Main Street Café in Rockaway. We continued to receive year end donations from Knights of Columbus and gift cards from Frithiof Lodge and picked up gift card support from Rockaway River Country Club.

Our surprise of the year came from St. Clare's Book Barn. They gave Faith Kitchen a donation of \$14,000 of which we are deeply grateful for. We are also appreciative for the two Trinity members that volunteer their time at St. Clare's Book Barn and put in a good word for us. This donation came at a critical time and contributed to helping us get the organization to a better financial place.

The holidays were successful with the Trinity Lutheran Church team handling Thanksgiving and St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church team handling Christmas Eve Day. Both churches cooked and served a wonderful turkey meal with all the fixings and made the serving area very festive and special for our guests. We had 89 in attendance on Thanksgiving and 156 in attendance on Christmas Eve Day. On Thanksgiving Day, Trinity Lutheran Church also served up meals to

seniors at the Senior Center down the street. On Christmas Eve Day we had many presents that were donated which included sweatshirts, hats and gloves for the adults and toys, hats and gloves for the kids. Keeping with their tradition, members of Trinity Lutheran Church handled the distribution of the gifts to our lunch guests on Christmas Eve Day.

Another year has come and gone - and those of us who served at Faith Kitchen during 2016 were grateful for the opportunity given to serve others. As Peter (4:10) reminds us *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

It has been a year of service and a year of wonderful gifts and most definitely a year of God's grace. We are looking ahead to a great 2017!

Warmest,
Joanne Bleecker
Executive Director, Faith Kitchen

FOOD CUPBOARD

The Food Cupboard in Trinity Lutheran Church has been assisting local families with non-perishable food for many years. In 2016, 1,475 bags of emergency groceries were distributed, down from 2,000 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's the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Randolph; Connect for Community, Sparta; New Jersey State Nurse's 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 Chraschewsky 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 Chraschewsky 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 CUPBOARD SHOPPERS

Trinity maintains a Food Cupboard 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.

This year Trinity received another generous gift from the former St. Clare's Auxiliary, in the amount of \$10,000. Three of Trinity's members had volunteered at the hospital and were instrumental in promoting the Food Cupboard.

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 shops as needed. 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, one team of three or four shoppers each week, and have a designed amount to spend. These shoppers purchase the best sale-priced items and any items the cupboard needs. Thanks to Carol Lieberman, Beverly Dominkowitz, Brenden Siemer, Nancee Seidel, Elaine Tarantino, Ken and Ashley Kindberg, Maira Rogers, Charlene Rollins, Kelly and Kathy Spear, Sharon Matschke, Joan Frick, Jane Kraus, Mabel Roy, Carolyn Dickson, Barbara Terreri, Jill Ryan, Jim Little, Kathy McFarland and Marie Matarazzo.

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

The e-mail network is the main means of communication with all the shoppers, sending their schedules and any updates on the needs of the Food Cupboard.

Jane Chrashewsky

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. With a success rate of 80% Family Promise moved seven families (19 adults and 13 children) out of shelter.

Trinity once again provided support to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Succasunna during the months of January, March, May and September. A big thank you to Mabel Roy, Linda Gallup, Joan and Ralph Frick, Lorraine Bollmann, Charlene Rollins, Bev Dominkowitz, Carol Schwarz, Nancy Boersema, Kathy McFarland and Sandy Dean.

Volunteers who helped in 2016 and community partners were recognized at Family Promise's Evening of Promise on Thursday, May 5 at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. We supported their Tricky Tray at the annual dinner with a donation of a basket with a bath towel and rug set, a kitchen basket containing a NutriBullet, knives, bamboo cutting board and kitchen towels.

Suzanne Capps

MEAL OF THE MONTH

TLC continued to be responsible for providing meals on the third Tuesday of the month. At first, we were still 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 Chraschewsky serve as our editors, and Charlie Haas as our proofreader. Many volunteers assist with the newsletter's production. Jane Chraschewsky prints the newsletter and supervises the collating crew.

The collating crew 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.

PANERA

We started our fifth year of donations from Panera in 2016. In June we started bi-weekly bakery donations due to lack of volunteers. Sunday nights, unsold bagels, breads, pastries and cookies are picked up and packaged, to be used by Trinity's Food Pantry, Faith Kitchen, Edna's Haven and Hillside Manor during the week. These donations help the recipients obtain fresh baked goods that they might otherwise be unable to afford.

This has been made possible through the efforts of a group of individuals willing to make the trip on Sunday nights. This group includes Jane Chraschewsky, Bev Dominkowitz, Ralph and Joan Frick, Teresa and Earl Baderschneider, Sandy Dean and Kathy McFarland.

If you would be interested in helping out with this outreach program or obtain additional information, please see me at church or contact me at 973-887-3087 or the church office.

Earl Baderschneider

GIFTS TO THE WORLD FROM TLC

Benevolence Sharing beyond what is budgeted in the Spending Plan

\$ 897.17	Advent Project – Helping flood victims in South Carolina – ELCA Disaster Relief
3,357.00	Alternative Gift Fair
140.00	Love Sunday – Birth Haven (also donated a breast pump, clothes, toilet paper, wipes, 2 monitors, four \$25. gift cards, 2 Boppy's, one cup)
\$ 393.00	Souper Bowl Sunday to the Food Cupboard
313	Cans of soup for the Food Cupboard
Thousands	Labels to Navajo project
\$ 675.95	Lenten Project – Morris Habitat for Humanity
95	Christmas gifts to Dover Daycare (child daycare center in Dover)
\$ 1,092.00	Monthly Fruit for Greystone Hospital collection
\$12,038.00	Donations to the Faith Kitchen (38,205 meals served in 2016)
\$17,908.00	Local Hunger (TLC Food Cupboard shared 1,475 bags of groceries with families)
Many	Donations of canned goods to the Food Cupboard/meals for the Faith Kitchen
\$ 4,000.00	Gift Certificates for Thanksgiving and Christmas
18	Care packages sent to college students (Valentine's Day)
22	Boxes of cookies sent to college students (October)
2	Lap robes distributed to TLC shut-ins and nursing homes, and four prayer shawls for college students
Many	Craft items, card and gifts sent to TLC "stuck-ins" and seniors (distributed monthly)
\$ 1,056.00	Mother's Day – Blankets (Lutheran World Relief)
\$ 2,619.00	Father's Day – Purchasing a pipe for the organ
Many	Summer Project – boxes of school supplies

THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION TEAMS

This year Thrivent Financial members continue to use Action Team money to complete many projects in and around TLC. Twenty-five Action Teams were conducted, worth more than \$6,250. These projects often benefitted organizations within Trinity, including the prayer shawl group, college students, choir, Youth Group and Sunday Church School. Our health cabinet used money to fund the Health Fair held at the Senior Building. Action Teams also benefitted outside organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Wise Animal Rescue and Lutheran World Relief. A good portion of Action Team money supported meals to people, through Faith Kitchen and 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.

Bruce and Kim Kleindienst

FRUIT FOR GREYSTONE

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. These included 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 EDUCATION

Once again Adult Forum offered timely and interesting Christian topics on a weekly basis. Our numbers remain steady at nearly a dozen regulars. There are always interesting topics and lively discussions. Additional participants would add to the information shared and would deepen everyone's experience. Consider joining us in Room 101 at the Sunday Church School time on Sunday.

This year in our programming, we have added a monthly Sunday morning session which we share with the Sunday Church School. We're still evaluating, but everyone's opinion seems to suggest that the joint sessions are valuable to both the youngsters and the adults.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the special mini-course presented by Pastor Bruce Davidson in early December. There were 17 participants, a wonderful turn out for a Saturday morning program. Pastor Bruce spoke about Luther's views on advent. Participants responded very favorably and Pastor Fred is investigating how we might best follow up in the spring. Stay tuned!

For the Adult Education Committee
Neil Holtzman

CALL COMMITTEE

The Trinity Call Committee was formed in January 2016 and consisted of six members, per synod policy. The committee began its work quickly with weekly meetings, designing interview questions and preparing for a candidate. The New Jersey Synod contacted us with a candidate on March 9, 2016. The Call Committee interviewed the candidate and recommended the candidate to the Church Council, which then met with the candidate and conducted a second interview. The evening concluded with discussion of compensation details and both the candidate and the Church Council were to discuss moving on to the next step. In the weeks following the Council interview, communication and research continued. After prayerful and careful deliberation, the Church Council determined that the candidate was not the best fit for Trinity, and chose to restart the call process. A second candidate recommendation was received from the Bishop's Office on June 14, 2016. The Call Committee interviewed the new candidate and recommended the candidate to the Church Council which met and interviewed the second candidate on August 18, 2016. The meeting concluded with both parties' decision to move on to the next step. On September 14, 2016 the candidate preached to the congregation. At a congregational meeting following worship on September 14, Pastor Fred Becker was offered the pastoral call at TLC. Pastor Fred began serving TLC on November 7, 2016 and his installation is scheduled for January 29, 2017.

Brieanne Richards

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Constitution and Bylaws Review Task Force has completed reviewing and updating both documents through the following:

1. Brought the Constitution up to date so it is in accordance with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly in September 2016.
2. Reformatted the layout and corrected typographical errors in both documents.
3. Reviewed and revised text pertaining to Officers of the Congregation, Congregation Council, Congregation Committees and Organizations within the Congregation.
4. Updated the Bylaws to reflect the changes made in the Constitution.

Our Congregation Council has approved the revised Constitution and Bylaws, so the next steps to finalize these documents are as follows:

- Distribute to the congregation 30 days in advance of a special congregational meeting.
- Call a special meeting of the congregation, tentatively in June 2017, to approve them.
- Ratify them without change at the December 2017 annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
The Constitution and Bylaws Revision Task Force (CBRTF)
Jody Seidel, Chairperson
June Gordon
Charlie Haas
Neil Holtzman
Ralph Frick, Transition Team Liason

SENIOR MINISTRY

2016 marked the 39th year Trinity has supported the residents of John J. Rich senior apartments at 215 East Blackwell Street in Dover. TLC Senior Ministry has provided educational and fun events for the enjoyment of all residents at the apartments.

I would like to thank the following Senior Ministry members for their support and caring during the 2016 year. Pastor Dan, Pastor Fred, Nancy Boersema, Jane Chraszewsky, Joan and Ralph Frick, Carol Johnson, Joy Parisi, Charlene Rollins, Carol Schwarz and Elaine and Gary Tarantino. A special thank you to Suzanne Capps, our creative poster maker, and Jane Chraszewsky for providing senior crafts. Thank you to all of the Trinity Church members who are ALWAYS there to help if needed.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2016

January	Annual Epiphany Party and Supper Coordinators: Carol Schwartz, Mabel Roy Jane Chraszewsky – gifts	36 residents, 12 TLC
February	Bingo and dessert Coordinator: Joan and Ralph Frick	34 residents, 8 TLC
March	Egg dyeing and dessert Coordinator: Carol Schwarz	17 residents, 7 TLC
April	Health Fair with snacks Coordinator: Lynn Sienkiewicz/M Roy	35 residents, 7 TLC
May	Movie with snacks Coordinator: Charlene Rollins	13 residents/2 TLC
June	Planning meeting for 2016-17 Coordinator: Mabel Roy	8 members
August	Annual BBQ/picnic Coordinator: Jane Chraszewsky/Carol Schwarz Committee	30 residents, 11 TLC
October	Halloween Party Coordinator: Linda Pullis and Sunday School Youth	18 residents, 2 TLC 5 Sunday school youth
2016 Average Attendance – 7 events	Residents 27 Trinity/Youth 8	

There are 60 residents living in the Blackwell Street apartments.

Senior Coffee Klatch – All residents are invited to monthly socials provided by Pastor Fred, Jane Chraszewsky, Nancy Boersema and Elaine Tarantino in the Community Room at the Blackwell Senior Building from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Refreshments are served in an informal gathering to encourage, trust, sociability and sharing. Twelve coffee hour socials were held in 2016 with an average of 12 in attending.

In addition, Senior Ministry and TLC provided 38 meals to the residents on Thanksgiving Day. We look forward to 2017 with hope. Thank you all for your continued support.

Mabel Roy, Senior Ministry Coordinator

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Mutual Ministry Committee (MMC) was formerly known as the Personal Ministry Team. Some might be asking, "What is a Mutual Ministry Committee?" MMC's primary function is to keep the pastor and staff advised about conditions within the congregation, and to interpret to the congregation the ministry of the professional leaders and support staff. The Committee acts as a sounding board for the pastor and employed staff members, Council officers, the congregation's committees and ministry teams, and the congregation, thus affording everyone a direct avenue to discuss concerns or conflicts that may arise. The committee is accountable to, and reports directly to the Congregation Council. The committee is appointed jointly by the pastor and the president or vice president of the council. As of January 1, 2017, committee members are Kim Kleindienst (Council representative), Nadine Cain, Sue Dean, Jennifer Hoy, Jim Remler, Barbara Terreri and Pastor Fred Becker, an *ex-officio*, non-voting member of the Committee.

The Committee reviewed with all staff members their 2016 job description and compensation agreements. After the reviews, we submitted recommendations to the Finance Committee in preparation of the 2017 Budget. All updated job descriptions and the 2017 compensation agreements were completed for the Church Administrator, Bell Choir Director, Organist, Parish Nurse and the Sexton, and were executed by the pastor and staff member.

The Committee will officially welcome Pastor Fred at its first quarterly meeting in January.

I'd like to thank the committee for all their work and the time they devoted to the various tasks.

Peace and Blessings,
Barbara Terreri on behalf of the MMC

TRANSITION TEAM

With the call process started in 2016, the Transition Team wrapped up its work on preparing the church for a new minister. With several "housekeeping" items remaining to be done, the transition team delegated oversight of several issues to committees and task forces already established within the church. The major undertaking was completed by the Constitution and By-Laws Task Force, which resulted in rewriting and updating our old documents. This task force worked extremely diligently, updating old language and coordinating these two documents so they are cohesive and represent the work done here at Trinity. The major change in the documents was the addition of the position of President to the Congregational Council, removing that responsibility from the pastor. This change puts Trinity more in line with most ELCA congregations in the country. These changes will be voted on by the congregation at two Congregational Meetings in 2017.

On behalf of the Transition Team, thank you for all the support and input you have all given over the past two years. It was a pleasure guiding the congregation through the changes and transition to a new pastor.

Kim Kleindienst, Chairperson
Kevin Seidel
Barbara Terreri
Skip Kazaba
Ralph Frick
Caitlin Cain
Danielle Jackson

EDNA'S HAVEN

Edna's Haven had a busy year in 2016. We estimated 5,000 people came through our doors. With a steady visitor base of thirteen to seventeen in attendance daily, a core group of regulars has formed. With this core group, word-of-mouth has spread throughout Dover and into neighboring towns. We are receiving visitors referred to us by our regular client base.

Edna's Haven has continued to provide a safe and relaxed environment for anyone to come, enjoy a cup of coffee, and access our services. We provide targeted case management for a variety of services, some of which are as follows: St. Clare's Wellness and Recovery, Social Security, Office of Temporary Assistance, Zufall Health, Homeless Solutions, Pathways to Work, Wind of the Spirit Church, Milestone House, CARES, Veterans' Association, Community Hope, Hope House, Family Resource Network, Market Street Mission, Walmart, Shop Rite, Laundry Love, Homeless Solutions and Mental Health Association.

Edna's Haven has truly become a treatment crossroads in Dover. Three to five different agencies visit monthly for outreach purposes. CARES, a peer-to-peer support network for drug and alcohol, visits clients here regularly. In addition, Maria Lopez from Zufall Health visits twice a month for outreach and follow-up with clients. Case Managers from several agencies visit their clients, as well.

Through having a permanent presence in this town, we have established a good working relationship with the many non-profit agencies in the area. This allows for quick access to resources for our visitors, as well as a great capacity for following up on their progress. We have referred an estimated 1,000 visitors to services in the Morris County area. This summer, Mental Health Association donated money for two industrial portable air conditioners, cooling our program down during the very hot months of a New Jersey summer. Coupled with the donation of a refrigerator, we can provide cool bottles of water for our visitors.

We are still providing a movie day for our visitors on Wednesdays. Also, we now provide emergency rations of pre-made meal bags to clients who have no food. These bags are filled with a canned meal, fruit cup, granola bars, a bottle of water, utensils and napkins. We receive donations of bag lunches and fresh fruit once a month. We provide blankets and clothing for our visitors when needed. We always keep an eye out for specific items requested by guests. Edna's Haven now has a second regular volunteer who assists with visitors' needs. As a team, we greet the visitors, meet with them individually if needed, and coordinate services to ensure a well-balanced encounter. We remind our visitors that we are always here, so they can come back for further assistance and troubleshooting of any concerns they may have.

We are always appreciative of the endless support and spirit of cooperation and community we encounter here at Trinity Lutheran Church and the Mental Health Association. With a unified vision of service, Edna's Haven continues to be wonderful place for people to have their needs assessed and met on many levels, and have a constant and consistent support network available to them.

Sean Fortner BA
Program Coordinator of Edna's Haven Outreach

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Finance Team! We just finished our annual audit with the help of Kurt Heinrich and Nancy Kazaba, and as usual, there were no issues. I give a lot of credit to the Treasurer team of John Sienkiewicz and Beverly Dominkowitz, and Sue Dean, our financial secretary, for their time and talents that keep things running smoothly. Thanks for all you do!

Our year-end tally unfortunately came in a little lighter than expected. We closed the year with a deficit of roughly \$12,000, more than we hoped for. I am not too sure why this happened but we did not get the usual strong December we have come to expect. The good news is we now have all our "transition" behind us, and we look forward to Pastor Fred's and the Congregational Council's direction and leadership as we begin a new era.

Respectfully,
Jim Remler, Finance Committee Chair

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 Kim Kleindienst, Barbara Terreri, Jessie Andrews, Lynn Sienkiewicz, Kevin Seidel, Julie Sauder, Sandy Sherida, 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 was to address the repairs needed by our 80-year-old Wickes organ. Thanks to the awesome response from the congregation, and a very generous donation from the Goddard family, we are under contract with Peragallo to carry out the repairs and several upgrades in January 2017. Other significant events:

- a. Refurbishment and repair to all 3 octaves of the hand bells was completed by Malmark in early December. Special thanks to Lynn S. for researching and completing this task!
- b. Ongoing improvements to the bulletins; the goal is to make our worship services as easy to follow as we possibly can. Continued experience with the web services available from Sundays and Seasons are revealing more options.
- c. Ongoing attempts to balance the desire for variety in our worship services without making it overly confusing.
- d. Started a "pickup choir" in February which has been very popular. A recent service had 34 singers for the anthem!
- e. Research and evaluation into the problems with the upstairs piano. Repairs are planned for early 2017 and a protective cover will be purchased.
- f. WELCOMED PASTOR FRED!
- g. December "Soup Suppers" during Advent.
- h. Our second "Blue Christmas" service in December was well received and this year attracted a few folks from the community.

Suggestions are always welcome; contact Sheri or leave a note in the Worship and Music mailbox in room 101.

Sheri Sauer

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This year our dedicated crocheters continued to provide prayer shawls for youth and adults in need of comfort. While providing shawls for graduating high school seniors, our members also provided comfort for those undergoing surgery, medical treatment and loss of a family member. For the first time, the prayer shawl group participated in the Advent Blue Christmas service by providing shawls for the participants to use during the service or take with them for someone that they knew could use comfort. The prayer shawl group meets twice monthly on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Kim Kleindienst's home in White Meadow Lake at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome to join. No previous crocheting experience needed.

Kim Kleindienst

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. This year featured were articles of aid and rescue from Hurricane Matthew, and severe spring storms which ravaged the mid-west and south, as well as supplying water for families in dry areas of California. The Trozzos were also the focus in an article about the missionary work that they continue to do in Malaysia. Our 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 stewardship 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

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 special request. It is extremely helpful to the counters if the contributor puts their check number on their envelope and their envelope number on their check. The team consists of 11 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 2016 we welcomed 2 new counters to our team, Melanie Edwards and Michael Capps. Volunteers are so important to the work we do at Trinity and I want to thank all our counters for the giving of their time and doing a great job. It is very much appreciated.

Team Members are:

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

Beverly Dominkowitz, Coordinator

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH QUILTERS

In November, 2016 the TLC Quilters delivered 30 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, MD. By viewing the website www.LWR.org/get-involved/quilts/tracker you can enter TLC's Donor ID 108652, we will be able to find out where those quilts are sent once they leave the warehouse. Our previous quilts were sent to Ukraine and Serbia. 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 are currently doing an inventory of supplies and cutting squares for future quilts. Talk to Sheri Sauer if you are interested in assembling quilts in 2017.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

The year 2016 was one of many changes for TLC. The stewardship team updated itself with new projects, revised some old favorites, and welcomed several new members. Our favorites included "Souper Bowl Sunday" and the collection of canned food, labels and funds to support our Food Cupboard, Faith Kitchen and the Navajo School. Another favorite, Mother's Day Blanket Sunday, saw the collection of funds for Lutheran World Relief to purchase blankets for those in need. Finally, we again collected school supplies for the East Dover Elementary School during the summer.

Our new projects were varied. We collected supplies for Birth Haven in Newton on "Love Sunday" in February. Our Lenten project was Habitat for Humanity, when supplies were purchased and hours were donated by our volunteers. On Father's Day, we asked the congregation to "purchase a pipe for Dad" to repair the church organ. Continuing our emphasis on service, Energizer Sunday was devoted to a variety of projects to benefit our members and neighbors. Of course, a picnic for fellowship followed.

To round out the year, we again concentrated on some favorite events. We held an Alternative Gift Fair in November, and collected Christmas gifts for the children of Dover Day Care and guests of Faith Kitchen. We also distributed many supermarket cards to our food cupboard clients.

Once again we are grateful for your stewardship and faithfulness, and look forward to next year.

God's blessings,
Darleen Wawroski
Chairperson

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee is changing our user base for authoring our website (<http://www.tlcnj.org>). Katie Serbeck, Kathy McFarland and I are part of this process, and soon we will be training Pastor Fred. We will be working with the Evangelism Committee to plan for a refreshing of the site. Our website will only be as good as the message we provide to our parishioners and website visitors. Please feel free to e-mail me at semiller@optonline.net 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 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 Berit Wenner for e-mailing our past and present members with upcoming book selections and the meeting schedule.

The 2016 attendees included Jane Chrashewsky, Linda Gallup, June Gordon, Carol Johnson, Donna Johnson, Karen Peters-Kruhm, Kathy McFarland, Lynda Pullis, Carol Schwarz and Berit Wenner.

During the year, we read *Sisterland* by Curtis Sittenfeld, *The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson, *The Girl You Left Behind* by JoJo Moyes, *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah, *The Last Anniversary* by Liane Moriarty, *Here She Lies* by Katie Kief, *The Girl in the Red Coat* by Kate Haner, *After You* by JoJo Moyes, *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman, *The Green Road* by Anne Enright, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morgan and *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler.

Jane Chrashewsky

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The W/ELCA service group meets the first Wednesday of the month, except for July and August. There is a faithful group of attendees and others, who come when they can. All women are welcome to join the group.

We make craft items that support the pastor's congregational and community ministries. This year we made an "Eternal Life" hanging, "Talk to the Shepherd" lamb, "Amazing Grace" ornament, an "Owl"leuia Easter sign, a Faith "Love Is" mobile, a "Harvest Blessing" sign," a "Jesus is the Reason" sign and a "Winter Welcome" sign.

In February we packed Valentine boxes for Trinity's college students living away from home. Individually wrapped snacks, drinks and food items were collected for two weeks prior to packing. This year, 18 boxes were shipped. The

Thrivent Action Team program contributed \$250 for shipping. In October we collected home-baked cookies from 25 TLC bakers. Six self-controlled packers carefully bagged and packed all the wonderful cookies. Twenty-two boxes were packed, with 21 shipped and one hand-delivered. Each student received a Thrivent Action Team t-shirt.

This year lap robes were given to a TLC member and to a senior at the John J. Rich Building.

W/ELCA has one circle meeting per month from September to June. The *Women at the Well* Circle meets the first Tuesday of the month. This year they used the Bible studies in *gather*, a magazine for Lutheran women, and "Christianity's family tree: What other Christians believe and why."

This year the W/ELCA Christmas tree project benefited of TLC's hygiene closet by purchasing socks. There were ten greetings on the tree and \$160 was donated.

Jane Chraschewsky

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL REPORTS



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted,
John Sienkiewicz

BEV'S INVESTMENT REPORT

2016 PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT

Opening Balance \$724.32

Income

Donations from Individuals	\$1,020.00
Transfer from Savings	\$1500.00

Expenses

Housing	\$519.00
Utilities	\$275.48
Shoes	\$330.00
Miscellaneous Aid	\$1895.57

Balance Dec 31, 2016 \$196.53

REPORT OF FINANCIAL AUDIT OF CONGREGATION RECORDS

Period covered by audit: Calendar year 2016

Audit Performed by: Audit Committee

Kurt Heinrich
Nancy Kazaba
Jim Remler

Assisted by

John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer
Beverly Dominkowitz, Assistant Treasurer
Sue Dean, Financial Secretary

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

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

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

Audit conducted: January 23, 2017

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

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 Email: tlcdovernj@yahoo.com

Rev. Dan Schroeder, Interim Pastor
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 Sunday Church School and Adult Forum
Nursery available at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Parking at Valley National Bank