

## SECTION 1: PARISH REPORTS

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### PASTOR'S REPORT

*Dan, minister of the Word of God in Christ to the Church of Dover called Trinity: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever; Amen. I give thanks to God always for all of you and mention you constantly in my prayers, remembering before our God your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Such would be my greeting to you if this were the First Century, and if we were to be living in Asia Minor or Palestine or parts of what is now Greece. The sentiment that I offer here at the opening of the year of our Lord 2016 is the same. I do indeed give thanks every day for your diligence in ministry, your openness and attentiveness to worship, and in your genuine love for each other and those around you. You have, as a congregation, marched faithfully along the path of transition and have, with generally good humor, done the work that needs to be done to rediscover who you are, who you want to be, and who you will call to serve as your next pastor.

We are now at a critical and wonderful juncture in this sacred journey, as we take all the information that we have gathered and pass it on to the New Jersey Synod and Bishop Bartholomew so that we can work in unity to screen candidates and select the person who will most ably serve this church in the years to come. I must say that I was astounded that some 90 members of the church offered *fifty-one different* names when asked to suggest persons who could serve ably on our Call Committee. That committee is now formed and at work. We have said this many times, and will say it once more: The timing of events now is to a great degree out of our hands, as the Synod office will need to post our position, screen applicants, and offer a candidate or candidates to us in their own time frame.

My deep thanks to all who have stepped up with solid financial support for the church and for the countless areas of outreach that flow forth from this place. I also commend you and thank you for the hours and hours of time and the fine talents that have been offered and put to use here daily. Trinity has been blessed many times over by generous gifts of funding and in-kind donations to our ministries. Please know, though, that these gifts would not be coming to us if we were not recognized as a critical point of relief to those in need, near and far.

I have also been deeply impressed and moved by the congregation's willingness to step out in faith to improve our own lives and facilities, as well as the lives of those around us. Of greatest importance this year was the agreement to join with the state of New Jersey in upgrading our facility through the "Direct Install" program. This action will have a direct impact upon our utility bills for years to come. We have welcomed new directors here for both Edna's Haven and the Faith Kitchen. The brightening of our entryway has also made the church more welcoming. I have no doubt that we will have the same positive response to our newest endeavor, the much-needed repair of our sanctuary organ.

As I noted at the Congregational Meeting this past December, we sometimes lose sight of the fact that Trinity Church is a shining star in the New Jersey Synod and that only a tiny fraction of the congregations in New Jersey rise above us in mission and in support of the Synod and the Lutheran Church nationally and internationally. Let us own this fact and not hesitate to let others know that we are dedicated to the work of Christ here in Dover. Please encourage those whom you know to come and join us in our work!

To Jill Ryan and to our Council, I offer my deepest gratitude. I also give thanks daily for Kathy McFarland and for the employees of Trinity, as well as for all who are here regularly as volunteers.  
*The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

Rev. Daniel R. Schroeder  
Interim Pastor







Volunteers put their discipleship into practice at TLC every day. There are hundreds of people who serve:

Faith Kitchen meal makers/hosts

Family Promise meal makers/hosts

Altar Guild

Acolytes/communion assistants

Celebration Choir and Bell Choir

Counters

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer—John Sienkiewicz, Beverly Dominkowitz

Financial Secretary—Thea Lubrecht

MAT (Memorial and Thanksgiving) Fund—Nancee Seidel

W/ELCA study circles, craft groups (Senior Crafters, lap robes and prayer shawls)

Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes

SCS teachers, confirmation teachers/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/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

Usher/Reader/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!

## **PASTORAL STATISTICS**

### **Worship, Education, Committees**

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Worship Services           | 144    |
| Sermons                    | 60     |
| Confirmation hours         | 87     |
| Adult Study Hours          | 22     |
| Hospital Calls             | 72     |
| Home Visits                | 86     |
| Merry Heart Services       | 11     |
| Baptisms                   | 3      |
| Funerals/Memorial Services | 10     |
| Weddings                   | 0      |
| Home Communion             | 79     |
| Meeting                    |        |
| Youth                      | 13     |
| Synod                      | 11     |
| Community                  | 22     |
| Committee                  | 84     |
| Other/Impromptu            | 193    |
| Vacation Days / Sundays    | 25 / 4 |
| Continuing Education       | 12     |

### **Community and Synod Involvement**

NJ Synod Cluster Meetings (monthly)  
NJ Synod Bishop's Convocation  
NJ Synod Assembly  
Occasional Contact with Synod Staff  
Faith Kitchen Board  
Edna's Haven Board  
Connecting Dover  
Morris County COAD  
Services at Merry Heart  
Sr. Ministry Events at Dover Senior Center

### **Continuing Education**

Bishop's Convocation  
Boundary Training (UCC)  
Clergy Excellence Group Facilitator Training

### **Transition Related Work**

Worked with the Transition Team  
Addressed Transition in Sermons and Educational Offerings  
Worked with and on Congregational Survey  
Promoted Stewardship Work Toward Transition  
Call Committee Formed

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

|           | <u>SUNDAY WORSHIP</u> |             |             |             |             | <u>SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL</u> |             |             |             |             |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|           | <u>2015</u>           | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2015</u>                 | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
| JANUARY   | 106                   | 133         | 150         | 131         | 158         | 16                          | 41          | 50          | 57          | 63          |
| FEBRUARY  | 74                    | 141         | 187         | 174         | 166         | 19                          | 44          | 40          | 51          | 62          |
| MARCH     | 133                   | 159         | 189         | 158         | 193         | 25                          | 40          | 45          | 51          | 55          |
| APRIL     | 85                    | 198         | 185         | 195         | 216         | 23                          | 35          | 47          | 48          | 59          |
| MAY       | 124                   | 155         | 151         | 136         | 135         | 23                          | 38          | 40          | 47          | 48          |
| JUNE      | 111                   | 179         | 142         | 136         | 178         | 0                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| JULY      | 106                   | 191         | 112         | 125         | 121         | 0                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| AUGUST    | 94                    | 130         | 138         | 128         | 139         | 0                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| SEPTEMBER | 85                    | 126         | 151         | 145         | 143         | 34                          | 38          | 55          | 61          | 63          |
| OCTOBER   | 120                   | 132         | 167         | 158         | 153         | 30                          | 32          | 46          | 50          | 63          |
| NOVEMBER  | 118                   | 135         | 162         | 175         | 179         | 32                          | 39          | 47          | 44          | 59          |
| DECEMBER  | 106                   | 117         | 157         | 150         | 168         | 27                          | 34          | 48          | 49          | 58          |
| AVERAGES  | 105                   | 150         | 158         | 151         | 163         | 25                          | 38          | 47          | 51          | 59          |

### SPECIAL SERVICES

|                       | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ADVENT THURSDAY       | 31          | 29          | 31          | 40          | 38          |
| CHRISTMAS EVE         | 245         | 339         | 352         | 320         | 357         |
| CHRISTMAS DAY         | 34          | 44          | 49          | 64          | 33          |
| ASH WEDNESDAY         | 56          | 94          | 94          | 99          | 106         |
| THURSDAYS IN LENT     | 31          | 38          | 36          | 43          | 38          |
| MAUNDY THURSDAY       | 48          | 84          | 94          | 100         | 102         |
| GOOD FRIDAY           | 94          | 105         | 114         | 95          | 101         |
| EASTER                | 265         | 305         | 312         | 317         | 347         |
| THANKSGIVING EVE      |             | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| SCS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT | -           | 65          | 160         |             |             |

## LEADERSHIP 2015

### Council Members and Officers

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jill Ryan           | Vice President/Leadership Team |
| John Sienkiewicz    | Treasurer                      |
| Beverly Dominkowitz | Assistant Treasurer            |
| Thea Lubrecht       | Financial Secretary            |
| Katie Serbeck       | Secretary/Leadership Team      |
| Scott Miller        | Technology                     |
| Darleen Wawroski    | Stewardship                    |
| David O'Rourke      | Property                       |
| Jamie McFarland     | Edna's Haven                   |
| Ken Kindberg        |                                |
| Jill Ryan           | Evangelism                     |
| Neil Holtzman       | Education Ministry             |
| Dean Walgren        |                                |

### Staff

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Rev. Dan Schroeder | Interim Pastor              |
| Kathy McFarland        | Parish Church Administrator |
| Lynn Sienkiewicz       | Parish Nurse                |
| Jeffrey Miller         | Bell Choir Director         |
| Julie Sauder           | Organist                    |
| Felipe Torres          | Sexton                      |
| Kevin McFarland        | Assistant Sexton            |

### Chairpersons *not* on Council

Jane Chraszewsky – WELCA and Circles  
Marion Holtzman, Sandra Dean and Jane Chraszewsky – Alternative Gift Fair  
Marty Connor – Bald Eagles and Silver Foxes  
Scott Miller – Technology/Web Page

### Mutual Ministry Committee – Pastor Dan

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

### Youth Group Leaders

Middle School – Charlene Rollins  
High School – Katie Serbeck, Caitlin Cain and Brieanne Richards  
10 Commandos – Parents



## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

|                    | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Baptized           | 406         | 590         | 598         | 578         | 580         |
| Confirmed          | 338         | 389         | 392         | 381         | 389         |
| Average Attendance | 105         | 140         | 158         | 151         | 163         |

## rites and Celebrations 2015

### Marriages

Jackie Hesselink and Kevin McFarland 2/7/15  
Amanda Stager and Christopher Whitt 5/3/15

### First Communion

Melanie Casario 2/15/15  
Samantha Dennig 2/15/15  
Kurt Wenner 2/15/15

### Baptisms

Ethan Joseph Hoy 3/29/15  
Cassandra McGlinch 4/26/15  
Katie McGlinch 4/26/15

### New Members

Glenn Brock 6/28/15  
Katie McGlinch 6/28/15  
Nancy Svoboda 6/28/15  
Douglas Svoboda 6/28/15  
Audrey Scribner 6/28/15  
Denise Dougherty 6/28/15  
Ann Gallagher 10/18/15

### Funerals/Memorials

Jeanette Nielsen 2/14/15  
Hazel Kirchmayer 4/24/15  
Gary Evan Dean 6/7/15  
Geraldine Pebly 7/5/15  
Janet Owen 7/17/15  
Kathleen Matthews 8/1/15  
Azniv "Alice" Voskian 8/24/15  
Gertrude Goddard 12/13/15  
Richard Stager 12/17/15  
Carl Dean 12/16/15

### Affirmation of Baptism

Lindsay Cook 5/24/15  
Elizabeth Vicente 5/24/15

## **MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE**

As part of our transition process this year, Trinity began to review its membership roll. As we prepare for calling a new permanent pastor, it is important that this roll accurately reflects 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 By-Laws." The By-Laws state "Membership in this congregation shall be terminated for inactivity when an individual has: a) been inactive for 2 consecutive calendar years and no longer resides in the area, or b) been inactive for 5 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 the process of reviewing the membership rolls. As a result of this review, on June 8, 2015 the Council approved the Task Force 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 recommendation that letters be sent to 116 inactive individuals and families to ask whether they currently consider 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 review conducted by this committee, 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 were living out of state for several years, some individuals had died and were never 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 who still live in the area and 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

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."  
Romans 8:28

The work of the members of Trinity never ceases to amaze me. Our members are an incredible witness to, and of, God's love! 2015 was an amazingly busy year, filled with many accomplishments and much planning for the future.

Our Congregation Council remained diligent in being good stewards of our church's resources. Here are just some highlights of Council's activities during 2015:

- Provided support and direction to, and received guidance and information from, the Transition Team, resulting in:
  - Development of policies and procedures to guide daily operations.
  - Refined TLC committee structure and responsibilities.
  - Surveys of Congregation, cottage meetings, Bishop meeting, breakout sessions – all work toward calling a new, permanent pastor.
  - Combined retreat, with Synod participation, of Council and Transition Team.
  - Development of responsibilities for key worship functions, including communion assistant, acolyte, reader, etc.
  - Refining of the membership roster of the congregation, in accordance with TLC's Constitution and By-Laws.
  - Determination of new times for worship and Sunday Church School for 2016.
- Acceptance of many kind and generous donations that allow TLC to continue its many ministries.
- Support for the five young people and three adult leaders who attended the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan.
- Revamping of the TLC website.
- Attention to property, safety and security concerns, including the establishment of a Property Committee and approval for security camera monitoring. Accepted the resignation, with regret but understanding, of Kevin McFarland, part-time sexton.
- Re-establishment of an Organ Fund to gather the resources necessary to do much needed repairs to our organ.
- Approval of enhanced Sunday Church School structure and curriculum, and establishment of a co-superintendent.
- Confirmation of two young members of the church.
- Addition of six new members of Trinity.
- Continued support and participation on the boards of the Faith Kitchen and Edna's Haven.
- Implementation, with approval from the Congregation, of the NJ Direct Install energy savings program, which resulted in the replacement of two boilers, the air-conditioning unit for office area, and lighting throughout much of the building.
- Enhanced communication, including:
  - Expanded Council Capsule reports in monthly newsletter.
  - Approval of mounted monitor in the narthex to share happenings.
  - Establishment of a "help wanted" board in the narthex to share opportunities for assisting with the many ministries and activities at TLC.
- Extended contract with interim pastor through August 31, 2016.
- Approved support of various missions and services, as recommended by Stewardship Committee, including Lutheran World Services Disaster Fund, our mission partners the Trozzos, and various local entities.
- Approved more opportunities for social activities and fellowship.
- Diligently monitored the financial statements and worship attendance statistics during this time of transition. Reached out in numerous ways to provide support and encouragement to those who might be finding this time to be challenging.
- Establishment of a six-member Call Committee, to be initiated in 2016, based on recommendations from the congregation and reflective of the membership of the congregation.
- Thanked Jamie McFarland Coleman, Cristian Tobar, Neil Holtzman and Dean Walgren for their service on Council, and welcomed new Council members, as approved by the Congregation: Suzanne Capps, Erin DeKorte, Gary Tarantino and Glenn Kruhm.

My thanks to our pastor, staff, Council, Transition Team, Finance Team, all committee members, volunteers and all who continue to make Trinity a vibrant, giving, hope-filled church!

I pray that God continues to provide a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105) as we transition into the next phase of the call process. And I pray that you continue to feel the love of Christ here in this place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Ryan, Vice-President of Congregation Council

### **CONFIRMATION**

On May 24, 2015, the Day of Pentecost, Lindsay Cook and Elizabeth Vicente affirmed their Baptism faith through the Rite of Confirmation.

The four-year process of instruction involves a set of requirements: retreats, classes, sermon notes, service/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, Sandy Dean and Dean Walgren have helped to teach these classes with Pastor Dan Schraeder.

### **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

Each day a TLC volunteer works from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and answers the phones and doorbell, fills requests for groceries at the Food Cupboard and completes "other duties as needed," including reminder phone calls, collating, mailing, and extra clean-up tasks, all lovingly and faithfully completed by these volunteers. They have been a tremendous gift to the whole staff. Thank you to all who volunteered in 2015: Gary Dean, Sandra Dean, Marion Holtzman, Suzanne Capps, Carol Johnson, Jessie Andrews, Charlie Haas, Mabel Roy, Eileen Heinrich, Betty Shunk, Kim Kleindienst, Carol Schwarz, Pauline Chrenko, Teresa Baderschneider, Earl Baderschneider, Marie Matarazzo, Linda Gallup, Barbara Terreri, Donna Johnson,

Russ Johnson, Verna McGinley, Dolores Strombach, Nancy Boersema, Helen Pelleschi, Lorraine Bollmann, Dean Walgren, Gail Little, Sheri Sauer, Logan Sickles, Aurora Sickles, Faith Blethen, Mary Brown, Jane Kraus, Katie Serbeck, Jeanette Ricciardi, Beverly Dominkowitz, and the boy scouts and girl scouts.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

## **BELL CHOIR**

The Bell Choir has had another successful year. We had two new members join us this year, both of whom are very committed and make great additions to the Bell Choir. We have tried new things, such as accompanying the Choir in two vocal pieces, and we are currently working on learning more complex pieces as we build experience and grow together.

Jeff Miller

## **CELEBRATION CHOIR**

The Celebration Choir has been contributing to the worship services at Trinity for the past year. For the spring schedule, we rehearsed several times prior to singing on particular Sundays. We joined forces with a version of the Praise Band on January 18, with an excellent cello soloist on a beautiful piece by Faure on Good Friday, and provided anthems for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. During the summer, we assisted the congregation in singing three different changes of liturgy.

For the fall schedule, we began regular weekly rehearsals, starting with "Down to the River to Pray" for Energizer Sunday (a sub-group energized the occasion with a rousing jazz version of 'Operator'). We performed an anthem on September 20, a women-only piece with cello accompaniment on October 4, a piece for Reformation Sunday with trumpets and tympani, a selection on November 22 for Christ the King Sunday, and two combined pieces for choir and hand bells for our annual meeting and the beginning of Advent. We sang for Bishop Bartholomew's visit and on Christmas Eve at the 7 p.m. service. There were many soloists and duets, including a lovely solo by Laurie Hennion on "Mary, Did You Know?" A special thank you to Jenn Schroeder for gracing us multiple times with the extraordinary sounds of her flute accompaniments and solos.

A special thanks to the very committed and loyal members of the choir, to Julie Sauder for her expert accompaniment on organ and piano, and to Kevin Seidel for conducting, organizing and choosing music so well. An interesting but unusual arrangement was Sandy Sheridan accompanying the rehearsals and Julie Sauder accompanying on Sunday mornings. As we all know, Trinity folks work very well together, and it worked! We valued working on new selections, purchased in memory of Herb Goddard. As always, we hope to welcome new choir members in 2016.

Sandy Sheridan

## **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 that can be used with the child. He or she is remembered with a card on the anniversary of his or her baptism.

At the end of 2015, seven 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**

### Sunday Church School

- Superintendents– Sandra Knowle and Susanne Jackson
- Choir/Music – Kevin Seidel, Sandy Sheridan, Julie Sauder and Jeffrey Miller
- Adult Forum on Sundays – Rotating Leadership
- SCS held from January 4<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Average attendance for 2015 was 25 students.

### First Communion

- 2 classes were held on February 1 and 8.
- On February 15, three children received Holy Communion for the first time.

### Bible Study

- On October 4<sup>th</sup>, three, three-year-olds received a children's Bible
- On October 11<sup>th</sup>, two third graders and their parents attended a Bible class and on October 18 they received their own Bibles. These Bibles are given each year in memory of Elsa Leivonen.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each year TLC awards scholarships that have been lovingly given by TLC members. This year's scholarships are:

–Gregory Mitchell Allen Campership given by Joan and Ralph Frick in memory of their grandson, Gregory Mitchell Allen. This year the campership was given to the youth who attended the Youth Gathering in Detroit.

–Charles Blethen Scholarship given in memory of Charles Blethen by Faith Blethen for students doing hands on/technical education after high school. This year the scholarship went to Mason Janzen.

–The Ottoson Music Scholarship was given in memory of Ruth Ottoson. No one qualified for the scholarship this year.

–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 Brianna Salerno.

–The Dean Science Scholarship was given by Sandra and Gary Dean to students continuing their education in the science field. This year Ryan Jackson was the recipient.

–The DiPietro Scholarship was given by Sandra and Gary Dean in memory of Sandra's mother, Daynies DiPietro. No one applied for the scholarship this year.

## MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING

- JANUARY In honor of Gertrude Goddard, and in memory of Herb Goddard by The Rev. and Mrs. Murdock MacPherson. Designated for the Food Pantry.  
In honor of Marilyn Wighardt's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.
- FEBRUARY The Eternal Light, given in memory of son David by Max and Paul Persson.  
In honor of Marilyn Wighardt's birthday by Linda Gallup and Mabel Roy. Designated for the Food Pantry.  
In memory of Bob Ebinger by family and friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.
- MARCH In memory of Kate Serbeck by Sue and Stan Ricketts. Designated for the Lenten project.  
In memory of Robert Ebinger by Eric and Jodi Holtzman.  
Palms given to the Glory of God by Sandy and Gary Dean.
- APRIL In memory of Beth Paterson by friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.  
In memory of Bob Ebinger by friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.  
In memory of Beth Paterson by friends.
- MAY In memory of Beth Jean Paterson by friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.
- JUNE In memory of mothers and grandmothers by Elaine and Gary Tarantino. Designated for Blanket Sunday.  
In memory of Gary Dean by family and friends.  
In memory of Gary Dean by friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.  
In memory of Gary Dean by Frances Scudato. Designated for the Dean Scholarship fund.  
In memory of Thomas and Margaret Moser by Denise and Greg Leifken.  
In memory of Phyllis Brooks by Beverly Dominkowitz. Designated for the Organ Fund.  
In memory of Diane Marheine by friends.  
In memory of Gary Dean by Morris Greb. Designated for Faith Kitchen.
- JULY Charles Blethen Scholarship – awarded to Mason Janzen  
TLC Scholarship – awarded to Briana Salerno  
Dean Science Scholarship – awarded to Ryan Jackson  
In memory of Jill Sheridan by Janet Owen. Designated for the Food Pantry and Faith Kitchen.
- AUGUST In memory of Janet Owen by her husband Graham.  
In memory of Janet Owen by Thea and Peter Lubrecht.  
In memory of Janet Owen by Barbara and Dominic Terreri. Designated for the Organ Fund.  
In memory of Jill Sheridan by Thea and Peter Lubrecht.
- SEPTEMBER In memory of Fran Greb by friends. Designated for the Faith Kitchen.
- OCTOBER Sacristy cabinet and countertop given in memory of Kate Serbeck by Sheri Sauer.  
Third Grade Bible Fund given in memory of mother Elsa Leivonen by Flora and Lewis Guerin.  
In honor of Marie Matarazzo's birthday by friends. Designated for the Food Pantry.
- NOVEMBER In memory of Fran Greb by Bob and Judy Braun. Designated for Edna's Haven.  
In memory of Gary Dean by Angela Albano. Designated for the Food Pantry.
- DECEMBER In memory of Janet Owen by Carol Schwarz. Designated for the Organ Fund.  
In memory of Gertrude Goddard by friends. Designated for the Organ Fund.  
In memory of Fran Greb by friends. Designated for the Faith Kitchen.  
In memory of Richard Stager by Nancee and George Seidel. Designated for the Organ Fund.  
In memory of Harry and Geraldine Peibly by their son-in-law Richmond Luke.  
In memory of daughter Brigitta by Hugo and Lilo Killinger. Designated for the Organ Fund.  
In memory of Richard Stager by friends.  
In memory of Charles A. Haas, Jr. and Beatrice V. Haas by son, Charlie Haas. Designated for the Organ Fund.

Additional items purchased with MAT funds: Choir robe, eternal candles, music (from Herb Goddard's memorial), Peragallo Organ Co., Allen Paper, memorial envelopes, and a guest musician.



## Sunday Church School

Average Attendance: 25

January-February 1: Souper Bowl Event

Stewardship for Youth event: Kickoff for the Lenten project

May 17: Last day of SCS

Planning Meetings

September 20: First day of Sunday School

Between January and May the classes frequently sent cards and letters to their shut-ins about what they are doing. The children connect to people they don't necessarily see, and the shut-ins enjoy the correspondence from the kids. It's a major link between the shut-ins and the church.

### Sunday School Staff – January - May

3-and 4-year olds and kindergarten: Lynn Lubrecht, Shane Sickles

1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades: Janet Bruno, Danielle Jackson

4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades: Nadine Cain, Caitlin Cain, Don Ballard, Marisa McCaffery

8<sup>th</sup> grade and senior high: Skip and Nancy Kazaba

We used the classroom setting Spark Curriculum from Augsburg Fortress.

### Sunday School Staff–September-December

Nadine Cain

Lynn Lubrecht

Janet Bruno

Katie Serbeck

Brianne Richards

Beginning in September 2015 we changed the organization and direction of the SCS program due to a lack of attendance by our young people. In some cases, it wasn't feasible to continue with individual classes for each grade. In September, with the start of the new SCS year, we kicked off a new approach, with a different program every Sunday as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month – Intergenerational Sunday. We used a curriculum based on the Faith 5 format called "Bible Song Cross Gen" by Faith Incubators. Intergenerational Sunday is open to everyone in the congregation and we do a different theme each month. This year, we concentrated on lessons from the Books of Moses.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month – "Normal" curriculum Sunday. Kids work on a lesson using the Spark curriculum, as we have in the past.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Our projects included the following:

September – kids were given a yearly challenge to be secret agents and do good deeds for people without them knowing.

October – We made toys for dogs and cats, and collected supplies for Coming Home Rescue and 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Rescue.

November – We made a tepee craft out of ice cream cones, pretzels and melted chocolate. The kids put them together and individually bagged them to make place setting favors for the Faith Kitchen on Thanksgiving. They also made placemats and turkey table decorations, as well as cinnamon ornaments for the tree in Faith Kitchen for Christmas.

December – The kids collected travel-size hygiene products and socks. Then they assembled over 100 kits that were handed out to Faith Kitchen clients on Christmas Day.

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

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month - Special church Service Sunday. Young people were encouraged to attend church with their families. Pastor Dan changed the wording of the service to be more kid-friendly.

Sandra Knowle

### **DISASTER RESPONSE**

As in the previous years, there is not much to report. As a firefighter, Russ Johnson has kept in touch with local community emergency management departments through his contacts. We do not have the facilities to open up 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 Russ Johnson's and my 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 the state to help facilitate recovery from disasters.

Don Ballard and Russ Johnson  
Trinity Lutheran Disaster Response Chairpersons

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## **PARISH NURSE REPORT**

Health Ministry at Trinity continues to support members and their families physically, mentally and spiritually as they strive to manage illness and achieve wellness. Through communication, education and assistance we seek to motivate members to take personal responsibility for their lifestyle choices, health and well-being.

As Parish Nurse, I worked closely with our interim minister, Pastor Dan, to assess the healthcare needs of the congregation and, working together, administered support and care, as needed, to each individual situation. I thank Pastor Dan for his never-ending support, guidance and encouragement to the Health Ministry at TLC and to me as Parish Nurse. I have been blessed to work together with you!

We continue to have a Health Ministry team at Trinity, made up of ten members. Even though we formally met only once, team members were instrumental in supporting Health Ministry and making things happen. They continue to write monthly newsletter articles, assist with blood pressure screenings, and help to implement programs such as our blood drive and File of Life. A big thank you to Carol Lieberman, Don Ballard, Lorna Kelly, Wendy Hagensen, Dean Walgren, Eileen Schult, Elaine Tarantino, Heather Hagensen, Jill Ryan and Kelly Casario. Health Ministry would not be possible without each one of you. A special thank you to Elaine Tarantino who has been coordinating meals for TLC families in need, for years, and she worked especially hard this year to keep meals going long-term to one family especially in need.

I continued to find support and resources through the Faith Community Nurse Network sponsored by Morristown Medical Center/Atlantic Health System. I attended meetings and symposia offered by them that gave me the opportunity to be educated, network with other nurses and health ministry teams, and to be fed spiritually. I look forward to continuing a relationship with them, as led by Gary Myers, Ph.D., M.Div., Manager of Faith and Health at Morristown Medical Center.

I would like to thank Kathy McFarland for her never-ending support and encouragement as she patiently collects reports; and receives daily messages from members expressing health care needs and forwards these on to me. Kathy is an instrumental part of the Health Ministry Team.

Any feedback and suggestions are encouraged and welcome to help meet the needs of the Trinity congregation. Health Ministry is a ministry of the entire congregation. I look forward to continuing to serve as Parish Nurse and to help all members understand and achieve wellness in their daily lives.

Lynn Sienkiewicz, RN  
Parish Nurse

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

383 Ministry Care contacts

26 grief booklets sent

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

112 blood pressures taken on Sunday mornings  
(Nurses usually available after all services)

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 7 January   | 8 July      |
| 12 February | 7 August    |
| 12 March    | 4 September |
| 6 April     | 14 October  |
| 9 May       | 9 November  |
| 10 June     | 14 December |

Communicated with Pastor Dan to assess Health Care needs of congregation and to coordinate visitation

Communicated with parishioners regarding health needs of self and family members

Wrote newsletter articles

Organized and assisted with blood pressure screenings

Prepared and led Health Ministry Team meeting on April 22

Participated in care plan and evaluation meetings for members with long term care needs

Covered health care needs for congregation when Pastor Dan was out of town

Home, hospital and rehab visits to parishioners

Met with parishioners on Sunday mornings with health care needs

Prayed with members before surgery when requested

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

Attended Atlantic Health ½-day "Humanistic Symposium" at Overlook Hospital on May 7

Participated in parishioner's funeral

Attended Atlantic Health Care "Empower Awards," recognizing Faith Community Health Ministries on June 3

Organized and coordinated distribution of File of Life on October 11

Planned, coordinated and supervised blood drive sponsored by Community Blood

Services on October 14; 23 units collected

Attended meeting of Faith Community Nurse Network (by Atlantic Health System) on November 19

## SECTION 2: OUTREACH

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### Faith Kitchen

Luke 18:22 When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

It's been a blessing to be here. It is such a rewarding day's work to spend the day in Faith Kitchen. It has taken a while to get to know the landscape – the operational aspects of running the kitchen, the relationships with Trinity Lutheran Church and the many volunteers who help us, and the wonderful people from all the groups who serve in the Faith Kitchen. Most of all, it has been a privilege to get to know our clients. In addition, I've come to understand the financial challenges of this soup kitchen and am developing ideas for keeping it in a healthy financial state.

Some counts for December and a summary for 2015:

December numbers:

Meals: 3,568

Average number of people each day: 89

Average number of meals distributed: 132, with a high of 193 (Christmas Day) and low of 91

Volunteers: 82

Year-to-Date 2015 numbers:

Meals: 40,640

Average number of people each day: 81

The major December event in Faith Kitchen was, of course, our Christmas Day lunch! It was a hectic but wonderful day, full of great food and lots of presents for everyone. Our menu was shrimp cocktail, chicken francese, parsley potatoes with grated romano cheese, mixed steamed vegetables of fresh broccoli, cauliflower and carrots, and dinner rolls.

Many people volunteered and a few were selected to serve that day and to manage the distribution of presents. Gifts were donated from many different sources, too many to mention here. From Trinity Lutheran Church in Dover we had Lee Greb; from the First Presbyterian Church in Rockaway we had the Pope and the Laccietiello families. We also had help from Michael Persson and his mother (His grandmother Max played the organ for many year at Trinity Lutheran Church.) The Miller and the Casario families did a great job of sorting through the many piles of gifts and making sure that everyone had a few presents on Christmas Day. We had candy popper gifts donated by the local boy scouts, and one of Kathy McFarland's contacts from the local girl scouts donated beautiful green centerpieces for our tables. All and all it was a wonderful day with good food, great presents and nice company. Everyone seemed happy and enjoyed the day.

We renewed our Board of Health food and drink license with the Town of Dover for 2016. Our volunteer service calendar has been updated with minor changes that occurred in scheduling in the past few months. We welcome St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church, now serving on the fourth Saturday of each month. The first Monday is also now an open day and is handled by Faith Kitchen and fill-in staff. We do occasionally have the Presbyterian Church in Succasunna filling in on that day.

The year ahead will focus on new fundraising ideas, including standard grant applications, donation requests to corporations, and trying to get daily sponsorship from companies to defray operating costs.

Say a prayer as we journey into 2016 together. May our clients feel the sincerity of our giving spirit, may they benefit by our outreached hand, and may they always know the grace of God in each step they take, no matter where they go.

Warmest,  
Joanne Bleecker  
Executive Director, Faith Kitchen

## **FOOD CUPBOARD SHOPPERS**

Trinity maintains a cupboard stocked with basic non-perishable 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 a generous gift of \$25,000. from St. Clare's Auxiliary when it disbanded. Three of Trinity's members volunteered at the hospital and were instrumental in promoting the food cupboard.

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

The second group, the Super Sale Shoppers, a team of four or five shoppers per week, shop each week and have a designated amount to spend. These shoppers purchase the best sale priced items and any items the cupboard needs. Thanks to Mike and Susan Dean, Carol Lieberman, Beverly Dominkowitz, Brendan Siemer, Nancee Seidel, Elaine Tarantino, Ken and Ashley Kindberg, John and Teddie Kostialik, Maira Rogers, Joe and JoAnn Argenziano, Charlene Rollins, Kelly and Kathy Spears, Sharon Matschke, Kim Kleindienst, Nancy and Skip Kazaba, Caitlin Cain, Joan Frick, Jane Kraus, Mabel Roy, Jill Ryan, Carolyn Dickson, Barbara Terreri, Ann Marie Evans and Marie Matarazzo.

The Super Sale Shopper group is now in its eighth year. With little change in the area's 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.

E-mail network is the main line of communication with all the shoppers, who receive their schedules and updates on the cupboard's needs.

Jane Chrashewsky

## **FOOD CUPBOARD**

The Food Cupboard in Trinity Lutheran Church has been assisting local families with non-perishable food for many years. Over 2,000 bags of emergency groceries were distributed in 2015. Food drives are held at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mountain Lakes, St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church in Dover, St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church in Randolph, and Grace Episcopal Church in Madison. Additional donations of food were received from North Dover Elementary School, Germania Park German Choir, Becoming One Community Association, Valley National Bank, Bayada Home Health Care, Panera of Denville, Zion Lutheran in Long Valley, Millbrook United Methodist Church, Latino Market of Dover, Islamic Center of Morris County, United Presbyterian Church of Flanders, Drayer Physical Therapy Institute-Flanders, King of Kings Ladies' Guild, and individuals. Fresh produce has been shared during the summer months by Jane Chraszewsky 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 Chraszewsky for scheduling the shoppers, and all to 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

## **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.

Trinity once again provided support to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Succasunna during the months of January, February, April and November, when we provided meals and volunteer help. Thank you to Linda Gallup, Mabel Roy, Joan and Ralph Frick, Jane Kraus, Carol Schwarz, Sandy Dean, Kathy McFarland, Nancy Boersema, and Bev Dominkowitz.

Volunteers who helped out in 2014 were invited to Family Promises's "Evening of Promise Recognizing Volunteers and Community Service" on March 26 at the Meadow Wood Manor, where they were thanked for dedicating their time, energy and resources to help eliminate homelessness in our community. The evening included a dinner, live music and a fabulous tricky tray!

Suzanne Capps

## **MEAL OF THE MONTH**

TLC continued to be responsible for providing the meal 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 would stay after church to assemble the casseroles. Recently, we began asking for a \$10 donations and I would 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 helping with preparing 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. Charlie Haas serves as our proofreader. Many volunteers assist with the newsletter's production, especially Charlie Haas, our proofreader, and Jane Chraschewsky, who prints 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**

In the fall of 2015, we started our fourth year of receiving weekly bakery donations from Panera Bread in Denville. Each Sunday night, 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. In 2014, Panera Bread provided products with an estimated retail value of approximately \$24,000. 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 each Sunday night to pick up, bring to church and package donations for distribution. This group includes Jane Chraschewsky, Bev Dominkowitz, Ralph and Joan Frick, and Teresa and Earl Baderschneider. Entering into 2016, we are hoping to include additional teams to help carry on this worthwhile endeavor.

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.

Earl Baderschneider



## GIFTS TO THE WORLD FROM TLC

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

\$ 1,131.85	Advent Project – Nepal Disaster Relief
25	Love Sunday – Hospice aid kits
\$ 393.00	Souper Bowl Sunday to the Food Cupboard
730	Cans of soup for the Food Cupboard
Thousands	Labels to Navajo project
\$ 858.48	Lenten Project – Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services (Thrivent Supplement \$400.00)
80	Christmas gifts to the Veterans at Hillside Manor
75	Christmas gifts to El Primer Paso (child education center in Dover)
\$ 1,019.00	Monthly Fruit for Greystone Hospital collection
\$ 6,333.00	Donations to the Faith Kitchen (3,568 meals served in 2015)
\$39,351.00	Local Hunger (TLC Food Cupboard shared over 2,000 bags of groceries with families)
Many	Donations of canned goods to the Food Cupboard/meals for the Faith Kitchen
Thousands	Recycled soda tabs for Dialysis Center
\$ 4,000.00	Gift Certificates for Thanksgiving and Christmas
21	Care packages sent to college students (Valentines)
26	Boxes of cookies sent to college students (October)
26	Lap robes distributed to TLC shut-ins and nursing homes and four prayer shawls for college students
11	Needlework crosses given to hospitalized
Many	Craft items, card and gifts sent to TLC “stuck-ins” and seniors (distributed monthly)
\$ 2,215.00	Mother’s Day – Blankets (LWR) (\$500.00 from Thrivent)
\$ 2,551.00	Father’s Day – Boy Scout Troop 1923 (\$500.00 from Thrivent)
Many	Summer Project – boxes of school supplies
\$ 1,070.15	Summer Project – Hearing Aid Batteries for the Lake Drive School

**FRUIT FOR GREYSTONE**

## SECTION 3: COMMITTEE REPORTS



### **BALD EAGLES/SILVER FOXES**

The Bald Eagles/Silver Foxes met faithfully each month on Thursday mornings to do various jobs around the church. At times, they also met other days to work on other projects. The following are items that were worked on:

- Insulated wall between crawl space and basement
- Insulated walls of water meter closet
- Insulated pipes and water meter in water meter closet
- Moved thermostats in basement and sanctuary away from heat sources
- Insulated water pipes to sacristy and replaced sheet rock, spackled
- Installed new cabinet and sink in sacristy
- Hooked up plumbing to new sink in sacristy
- Installed door knobs on sink cabinet
- Installed carpet border in sacristy
- Repaired piano bench
- Insulated broken heat pipe in office
- Restock cards in pews
- Replaced light bulbs in sanctuary
- Replaced door stop
- Replaced light switch in stairway
- Hung Charlie Haas's picture in library
- Replaced lockset on upstairs closet door
- Repaired lock in upstairs men's room door
- Replaced bulbs in exit signs
- Repaired sink sprayer in upstairs kitchen
- Moved furniture for floor cleaning crew
- Caulked outside office windows
- Serviced basement sump pumps
- Outside window sills were painted, caulked and flashed with aluminum
- Cleaned out junk from crawl space under altar
- Replaced fan motor in men's room
- Insulated water pipes in basement and crawl space
- Reattached stairway railing
- Removed vegetation from river wall
- Replaced sump pump check valve
- Mounted bulletin board in sacristy
- Repaired pew in choir loft
- Repaired ceiling leak in men's room and replaced ceiling tiles
- Replaced ceiling tiles in the ladies' room
- Removed electric wall heater in entryway and patched up opening in wall
- Installed door stop in entryway to protect wall tile

Special thanks to Bill Eberly, Don Ballard, Russ Johnson and Elmar Heinrich for their faithful participation. Thanks also to Ralph Frick, with whom we had to consult for those things that he remembers and we don't.

Faithfully submitted by Marty Connor

## ADULT EDUCATION

### **WELL...?**

How's your spiritual life developing? Getting stronger each year? Staying about the same? Sliding on a downward spiral?

The Adult Education team has some huge helps for you.

### **ADULT FORUM**

At Forum, we identify interests and needs in the congregation and find teaching aids to guide us in tackling them. It's educational, lively and fun. Last year's Adult Forum sessions delved into such diverse issues as these:

...angels,

...guilt (what it's all about and how to manage it when it creeps up on us),

...the invitation or Jesus,

...measuring ourselves in terms of *The Christian Atheist* : (When you believe in God but don't know God. When you believe in God but don't think God's fair. When you believe in God but are not sure God loves you. When you believe in God but trust more in money. When you believe in God but pursue happiness at any cost. When you believe in God but don't want to go overboard.)

These are just a few samples of what we encounter as we try to gain a deeper love for Christ and a greater understanding of God's message for each of us.

Are you interested in topics like these? Mind if I make a suggestion or two?

1. Talk to any of the regular attendees of Forum and get more information on what goes on and how it operates.
2. Make use of any of the italicized materials mentioned above. (Some are in Room 101, others can be made available. See me or any of the "regulars".)
3. **JOIN US!** We're in Room 101 every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. The new schedule should make it easy for you to be with us. We hope to see lots of you there.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

An important effort to help men grow spiritually is our Men's Bible Study. Pastor Bruce Davidson and Pastor Dan have been offering stimulating Bible lessons. They're anything but dull, and nothing is out of bounds. We've been asking the hard questions (although these two have no problems fielding them), and learning a great deal as a result. There's no need to be a Bible scholar, rather only an interest in learning and building a stronger knowledge of what the Bible intends to teach us.

Get in touch with me or Bill Eberly for details on our meeting dates. I hope to see lots more men availing themselves of this great opportunity.

Neil Holtzman for the Adult Education Committee

## SENIOR MINISTRY

2015 marks the 39<sup>th</sup> year Trinity has supported the residents of John J. Rich Dover apartments at 215 E. Blackwell Street in Dover. TLC Senior Ministry has provided free educational and fun events for all residents for the enjoyment at John J. apartments at no cost.

I thank the following members during 2015 for their support and caring: Pastor Dan, Nadine Cain, Jane Chrashewsky, Terry Custrini, Sandra Dean, Joan Frick, Gertrude Goddard, Wendy Hagensen, Carol Johnson, Joy Parisi, Helen Pelleschi, Charlene Rollins and Carol Schwarz. A special thank you to Suzanne Capps, our creative poster maker, and Jane Chrashewsky for providing senior crafts.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2015**

<b>January</b>	Annual Epiphany Party/Supper Pastor Dan Coordinators: Carol Schwarz, Gertrude Goddard and Mabel Roy Jane Chrashewsky – gifts, Youth – SCS kids help	37 Residents, 15 TLC
<b>February</b>	Bingo/Dessert Coordinators: Joan and Ralph Frick	28 Residents, 6 TLC
<b>March</b>	Middle School Youth Annual Meatloaf Dinner Coordinator: Charlene Rollins	41 Residents, 17 youth, 12 TLC Adults
<b>April</b>	Morris Music Men/Quartet Coordinators: Joan and Ralph Frick	35 Residents, 16 TLC
<b>May</b>	Russia Trip/Dessert Coordinators: Marion Holtzman/Beverly Dominkowitz	14 Residents, 6 TLC
<b>June</b>	Planning meeting for 2015/16 Coordinator: Mabel Roy	8 members
<b>August</b>	Annual BBQ and picnic Coordinators: Jane Chrashewsky/Carol Schwarz Committee	26 Residents, 14 TLC
<b>October</b>	Halloween Party Coordinators: Sandra Knowle/Sunday School youth	19 Residents, 14 TLC
<b>November</b>	Tricky Tray Coordinators: Joy Parisi, Terry Custrini and Helen Pelleschi	38 Residents, 6 TLC

<b>2015 average attendance – 9 events</b>	Residents	27
	Trinity/Youth	11

There are 60 residents living in the Blackwell Street apartments.

Mabel Roy  
Senior Ministry Committee

## **SENIOR COFFEE KLATCH**

All residents are invited to a monthly social provided by Pastor Dan, Jane Chraschewsky, Nancy Boersema, JoAnn Argenziano 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 2015, with an average of nine or ten in attending each.

We look forward to 2016 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?" Briefly, the 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 council. There are currently six voting members on the committee: Jill Ryan (Council representative), Nadine Cain, Sue Dean, Jennifer Hoy, Jim Remler, and Barbara Terreri. Pastor Dan Schroeder is an *ex-officio*, non-voting member of the committee.

This past year the committee lost a very dedicated and faithful member, Janet Owen. Janet was a member of our team for many years and is missed by all.

One of this committee's responsibilities is to assure that we have up-to-date job descriptions for each staff position as well as signed compensation agreements. Thus our first task was to review all employee contracts. Because some of the contracts dated back to the mid-1980's, and some contracts did not exist, it was decided it would be best to prepare new job responsibility contracts and compensation agreements for Trinity's five (5) employees. This project was recently completed and we now have fully-executed documents for the Church Administrator, Bell Choir Director, Organist, Parish Nurse and the Sexton.

In addition to updating the staff contracts, we also updated the text and committee responsibilities for the MMC as it will appear in the revised Trinity Constitution and By-Laws.

It was an unusually busy year, and I'd like to thank the committee for all their work and the time they devoted to completing these tasks. I'd also like to welcome the newest member to our team, Sue Dean.

Peace and Blessings  
Barbara Terreri on behalf of the MMC

## **EDNA'S HAVEN**

When Edna's Haven opens its doors to the population of Dover, it offers a comfortable, familiar environment that is safe and relaxed. It is a respite from the life outside and a place to come for a warm cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and a friendly conversation. We provide computers, faxing and printing for our clients, as well as a telephone for local calls. The computers are a great draw and are constantly in use. We are mindful that people need to take turns with the computers and the clients are always willing to let each other take their turns. Housing searches, resumes' building, financial research, email communication and employment searches are among the many opportunities afforded our clients with the inclusion of the computers.

We have increased our case management services, targeting our clients' specific needs and following up with them as they progress through their lives. We have had 3900 clients enter Edna's Haven this year and we continue to increase our numbers as our reputation spreads. With the help of several volunteers, walk-in case management referrals are completed on an average of four people seen at length each day. This amounts to 1040 referrals being made to various agencies. Our most common referrals include the Office of Temporary Assistance for welfare, food stamps and housing; the Social Security Administration for benefits; bus passes for government agencies and doctor appointments, St. Clare's Behavioral Health services, Homeless Solutions, and last but not least, the Mental Health Association for case management services.

We have had a tradition of movie day on every Wednesday, and with the donation of a new television, our clients get to enjoy a cinematic experience that most of us have in our homes. We have had several parties, one for Halloween, and one for Christmas. With the donations from our volunteers and the hard work of all involved, they were a success; a sheer pleasure to be a part of. There is a solid community forming here of a regular crowd of clients. This crowd shows a camaraderie for each other, and is at the core of the Edna's Haven mission. Our regular clients are a source of new referrals, spreading word of our place by for-of-mouth.

All of this information is wonderful news. But there is also something that happens beneath it all. At Edna's Haven, people are helping people. People are answering the call to social responsibility and are making a change for the better. The community of homeless and impoverished is very grateful to Trinity Lutheran Church, as are the workers at Edna's Haven. You have allowed for this miraculous change to occur and to occur daily. The light in the eyes of the person in need getting assistance helps us all. It warms our hearts and reminds us that we are never alone. And this to me is the heart of Edna's Haven. We are never alone.

Sean Fortner,  
Director

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

As I have said in the past, reading an annual report for the finance committee does not qualify as "exciting " but that said, I do have a want to highlight a few things.

On January 18, 2016 we had our annual audit and, as expected, there were no issues. I want to thank Kurt Heinrich and Nancy Kazaba for sharing their professional expertise in making this a very quick and efficient process. I also want to thank John Sienkiewicz, Bev Dominkowitz and Thea Lubrecht for their hard work not only for the audit but throughout the year.

The year-end finances actually turned out a little better than expected. We had anticipated a year-end shortfall of about \$23,000 and it came in just over \$20,000. Although nobody is comfortable running a deficit, the bright side is that it was not as bad as we expected. Furthermore, with the adjustments we made to the 2016 spending plan, our income and expenses should be very close, if not positive, at the end of 2016.

Respectfully,  
Jim Remler, Finance Committee Chair

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

The Worship and Music team, in concert with Pastor Dan, 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 all are 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, Jeffrey Miller, Thea Lubrecht, Jessie Andrews, Lynn Sienkiewicz, Kevin Seidel, Julie Sauder, Sandy Sheridan, and Sheri Sauer. Donna Johnson heads up the "Decorating" subteam, with assistance from Lauren Cook, Jane Chraschewsky, Sandy Dean and many other volunteers.

A great deal of the discussion and emphasis this year resulted from recommendations made to Worship and Music by the Transition Team. Recommendations made and acted upon include the following:

- a. In July we started a trial web service which allows us to move towards a more "user-friendly/non-member friendly" service bulletin.
- b. Starting with October, we are supplying freshly baked bread for communion the first Sunday of each month.
- c. We addressed health concerns and simplified the tasks of the Altar Guild by researching and switching to a disposable communion cup.
- d. Three members spent most of the summer sorting and creating a photo inventory of all paraments and banners in the sacristy. That same team worked with the Buildings team to coordinate the installation of a new cabinet and countertop and paint the sacristy.
- e. Music collections in the basement choir room are under review, with a partial inventory completed.
- f. A full review and rewrite of duties for ushers, readers, altar guild, acolytes and communion assistants was completed. These guidelines will be sent out to each serving member with their "reminder" e-mail.
- g. The subcommittee completed the difficult-but-necessary task to determine the optimal worship times. Beginning January 10 worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays with SCS at 9:20 a.m.
- h. In December, we reinstated the Trinity "Soup Supper" tradition for Advent.

We also devoted a great deal of time to researching our organ's continuing problems. The Wickes organ will be 80 years old in 2016, and both companies we consulted agree that a major overhaul is long overdue. An Organ Fund was created, and the problem was brought to Council's attention. The team will continue to study this issue and will make a recommendation when funds are available.

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

Sheri Sauer



## **YOUTH GROUP – SENIOR HIGH**

This year was filled with preparing, attending and recapping events for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan. Of course, we did do some other activities like a movie night, we worked in the Faith Kitchen and we took gifts the congregation collected to the veterans' home.

In preparation for the Youth Gathering, we met at church and different participants' houses to prepare the covenant that we would follow on the trip, and to discuss packing, driving, hotel rooms and what to expect. The trip was new to all except Katie, Lynda, and Allie, who have participated in previous gatherings.

We left for Detroit on July 14 at 5 a.m. We took two cars and nine people. The adult leaders were Katie Serbeck, Brienne Richards, David O'Rourke and Lynda Pullis (who attended the church where she works). The youth participants were Allie Remler, Shane Sickles, Danielle Jackson, Marisa McCaffrey and Tyler Salerno. The first day consisted of getting settled in the hotel and finding dinner! The second day we spent at the Ford factory, which was amazing! We then spent three days in the Youth Gathering. One day was spent with the rest of the New Jersey Synod; another day we worked on an urban garden (we arrived in style in a Trinity yellow bus), and the third day was spent in the convention center. We also attended a Tigers baseball game after the gathering was over. Overall, we had a great trip and could not have attended without the support of this congregation!

When we came back, we put on a Youth Service for the congregation in thanks for all of the support we received. Thank you again for all that you do for our youth!

With the transition of Sunday Church School, the Youth Group also has had some transition. The plan was to incorporate the Youth Group into the SCS time slot with other events. This did not work as we had hoped, and we plan to focus more on service in the coming year. After all, service is what our youth enjoyed most about the trip to Detroit.

Katie Serbeck and Brienne Richards  
Senior High Youth Group Leaders

## **DIRECT INSTALL**

Trinity Lutheran Church voted to participate in the New Jersey Direct Install program this past year. The state-sponsored program is designed to help businesses (churches qualify as businesses) become more energy efficient, thereby reducing the energy burden on utility companies within the state and avoiding peak consumption crises. The state offers free energy audits and the pays 70% of the cost of any improvements that will result in substantial energy savings. Through the program, Trinity Lutheran Church was able to secure over \$50,000.00 in improvements for less than \$17,000.00 of expenditure. Our cost has been spread over two years at 0% interest through an agreement with New Jersey Natural Gas. Estimates predict that we will recoup our portion of the costs in less than three years through savings on our utility bills.

The program oversaw the refurbishing of existing lighting with new and more efficient bulbs and ballasts, the replacement of the air conditioning unit that serves our office wing, and the replacement of our 25+ year old boilers with two high-efficiency units.

We offer our thanks to all those who helped coordinate the project, and especially to Earl Baderschneider for his diligent work and oversight from conception to completion.

## **TRANSITION TEAM**

On January 10, 2015 the newly appointed Transition Team met for the first time. Members of the team included Kim Kleindienst (chairperson), Caitlin Cain (secretary), Kevin Seidel, Barbara Terreri, Ralph Frick, Skip Kazaba, and youth member Danielle Jackson. Pastor Dan attended meetings as our journeyman through this process.

Work began immediately determining the short-term and long-term tasks to be undertaken. First priority was to begin creating a congregational survey for distribution in March. The team worked with the Harford Seminary Institute for Religious Research and the Internet site "Survey Monkey.com" In March, the survey was made available to the congregation online and through paper copies for members who desired them. TLC members completed approximately 145 surveys.

In June, 11 cottage meetings were held at various members' homes. These meetings offered an opportunity for people to voice their thoughts and feelings on three topics determined to be priorities based on the survey results: Worship, fellowship and evangelism/marketing. Some 92 people attended these meetings; from these discussions, the Transition Team created recommendations to existing committees and worked on establishing new committees where needed. These recommendations can be found on the "Transition tab" on the TLC website.

Several task forces were created to tackle issues identified as areas of concern. Below is a summary of several of the task forces and their focuses:

Membership Task Force – This team reviewed the TLC membership roll. Based on criteria set forth in the TLC Constitution and By-Laws, 147 members were removed from our baptized and/or confirmed membership rolls based upon responses to inquiries or the lack of a responses to inquiries.

By-Laws and Constitution Task Force – This team continues to review these documents and will recommend changes to reflect our changing church and keeping TLC up-to-date with the latest ELCA requirements.

Property and Building Task Force – This team continues to focus on coordinating the many physical needs of the church building, focusing on maintenance, upkeep, day-to-day cleaning and usage.

Worship Schedule Task Force – This team researched local area church times and attendance numbers to determine the best course for Trinity in regarding our worship services. In November, Council approved the task force's recommendation to realign our worship services to 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with Adult Education and Sunday Church School at 9:20.

Sunday School Task Force – This team revisited the current Sunday Church School program and developed a new schedule for it. Addressing diminishing youth attendance and interest, the group proposed a variety of settings for learning to occur, including intergenerational study, service learning, traditional classroom teaching and "Game Sundays."

Policy and Procedure Task Force – This team continues to revisit policies for such events as weddings, funerals and general building usage.

While these task forces were hard at work, the Transition Team also planned for an event at Trinity involving Bishop Tracie Bartholomew on November 8. The Bishop preached at two services, with a luncheon following the 11 a.m. service. During the 9:30 Sunday School hour, the Transition Team hosted breakout sessions for the congregation, where pastoral traits were discussed. Participants were invited to fill out a questionnaire on the traits discussed, and 73 were completed. Their results were used to complete a portion of the Ministry Site Profile to be sent to the NJ Synod.

As the year draws to a close, the work of the Transition Team has slowed with the creation of the Call Committee. Throughout the coming year, the Transition Team will continue to support the work of the various task forces and follow up with the committees that received recommendations. The Transition Team will also work with the Call Committee to help with the transition to a new pastor in the near future.

The Transition Team would like to thank the congregation and the many people who have helped over the past year to create a new vision for Trinity. Without the prayers and support of the congregation, the work of the past year would have been much more difficult. Thank you for the encouragement, support and prayers.

Always in transition,  
The members of the Transition Team

## **10 COMMANDOS**

2015 events: The first event was scrapbooking, where four of the 10 Commandos came and we started a scrapbook. The second event was snow tubing on Super Bowl Sunday, planned by Kim and Bruce Kleindienst, and four of the 10 Commandos attended as well. The third and final event was in May, when we went on a hike with three Commandos.

### 10 Commandos

Justin Bruno, Alyssa Casario, Micah DeKorte, Cory Edwards, Emily Jackson, Joshua Knowle; Dustin, Cassidy and Thaddeus Kostialik; and Alyssa Waters.

## **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 choose to work on their shawls on their own time. Whether together or not, this group is a lively bunch whose wonderful conversation and support fills each gathering.

As in years past, the group provides shawls to graduating high school seniors. This year we distributed five shawls to graduates. Throughout the year we also 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. An honor for the group was for each of us to donate a shawl in memory of Gary Dean to the Cancer Care Center in Denville this Christmas.

In total, this group has donated more than 40 shawls with countless hours of crocheting and love going into each one. New members are always welcome to join us the first and third Wednesday of the month at my home in Rockaway. Happy stitching!

Kim Kleindienst

## **PRAYER PARTNERS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY**

This ministry saw many changes as the year progressed. Having started the year with 68 children and 70 prayer partners, many church members were frustrated at never having met their prayer partners. With declining church and Sunday Church School attendance of young people, the prayer partner program was overhauled.

This fall, the list of young people to receive prayer partners was revisited and were assigned compared to the newly revised church membership roll, and prayer partners were assigned to children who attended church within the last year. The age span was also increased to include children below the age of 3.

As of November, 52 children have a total of 56 prayer partners, who were offered opportunities to contact each other through letters offered to them. As the year progresses, the hope is that the prayer partners will attend some of the intergenerational activities throughout the year. It is a joy to work with such caring individuals who truly love the youth of our congregation.

Kim Kleindienst

## **MISSION INTERPRETERS**

Mission Interpreters serve as an informational bridge connecting TLC with the ministries and mission of the ELCA by telling stories of God's amazing grace evident throughout the world. These stories are found in the monthly TLC Newsletter. This year, world headlines drove some of the monthly topics and our role in aiding people in need: the Nepalese earthquake, South Carolina flooding, fleeing refugees to Hungary, Serbia and other European destinations; reaching for or attaining goals in the world: celebrating the \$15 million goal for mosquito nets to help prevent malaria, piloting a tornado shelter program in the Midwest to save more lives during the devastating storms; and encouraging youth participation in global missions such as volunteering in foreign classrooms as teachers connecting with youth in a day-to-day setting. Thankfully, our own mission stories continue here at Trinity, with daily feeding of those in need, collecting books and toys to nurture children, looking for opportunities to serve the community and the church at large. More of these stories can be found in the stewardship report. y 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 numbers. It is extremely helpful to the counters if the contributors puts their check numbers on their envelopes and their envelope numbers on their checks. The team consists of nine volunteers and each week, two volunteers count the offering. The offering information is given to the Financial Secretary, Thea Lubrecht, who enters the information into our financial database.

The nine volunteers work as a team, and sometimes adjust their meeting times 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	Carol Schwarz
Earl Baderschneider	Linda Gallup
Beverly Dominkowitz	Joy Parisi
Russ Johnson	Ben Parisi
Mabel Roy	

In 2015 we lost our most experienced counter, Gary Dean. He had a great system when it came time to counting the coins in any of our project banks. We all miss and think of him often.

Beverly Dominkowitz, Coordinator

## **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH QUILTERS**

In July, 2015 the TLC Quilters assembled and delivered 37 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, MD. By viewing the website *LWR.org*, enter TLC's Donor ID 108652, the quilt tracking screen indicates that those 37 quilts were sent in November 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 in the past and to the current batch of quilts: Joy Parisi, Sheri Sauer, Jane Kraus, Nancy Boersma, Lorraine Bollmann, Lauren Cook, Terry Custrini, Sandy Dean, Linda Gallup, Marion Johnson, Kim Kleindienst, Marie Matarazzo, Ben Parisi, Helen Pelleschi, Agnes Rodgers, Charlene Rollins, Mabel Roy, Katie Serbeck and Ginny Simms.

## **SHUT-INS**

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

## **STEWARDSHIP**

TLC's commitment to stewardship continued in 2015 with our familiar and some new charitable projects.

On Souper Bowl Sunday in February, we collected canned food, soup labels, box tops and funds to benefit our Food Cupboard, Faith Kitchen and the Navajo School.

Items for Hospice Kits were collected on Love Sunday and sent to Church World Services.

The Lenten project donated funds to help immigrant children via Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

Mother's Day donations were given to Lutheran World Relief to purchase blankets for those in need worldwide. During May we also hosted a Teachers' Appreciation Brunch in the Parish Life Center for students and their favorite teachers.

On Father's Day we asked for donations to spruce up the church building. The foyer was updated, and other improvements were made. We also collected funds to purchase diapers for the Youth ELCA Convention held in Detroit this summer.

The summer project was devoted to education. We again collected school supplies for East Dover Elementary School, and funds to purchase batteries for the Lake Drive School for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

In September we raised the question "Who – Me??" as the theme for Energizer Sunday. We held our service at Germania Park, followed by an old-fashioned picnic, complete with boater hats and sunny bonnets. We were also entertained by "Cracked Walnuts," a duo who sang some old classics. Thanks to all who helped make this event so special.

Our ELCA church project was to clean up the Orchard Street Cemetery. Thanks to all who came out and donated their time and energy.

This year there were many natural disasters throughout our country, such as flooding, fires and tornados. During Advent we collected funds for Lutheran Disaster Relief to help the affected areas. We also collected toys for El Primer Paso and gifts for the veterans in Hillside Manor, in addition to providing supermarket gift cards to those in need.

What a busy year! A special thank you to team members Sandy Dean, Jane Kraus, Thea Lubrecht, Marie Matarazzo, Judy Miller and Katie Serbeck for their creativity and hard work. Also, thanks to the late Janet Owen, who is sorely missed.

Darleen Wawroski  
Chairperson

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The Technology Committee added additional users for our website (<http://www.tlcnj.org>) authoring tools. Katie Serbeck, Kathy McFarland and Pastor Dan are making more frequent updates. Nothing is perfect, and we continue to work on processes that will enable this committee to provide the latest information about our congregation and worship opportunities. I've been receiving some really good suggestions for added content for our website. Please let me know if you would like to participate in gathering, researching or providing ideas for content. Our website will only be as good as the message we provide to our parishioners and website visitors. Please feel free to email me at [semiller@optonline.net](mailto: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 about the upcoming book selections and the meeting schedule.

**2015 Attendees:** Jane Chraschewsky, Linda Gallup, June Gordon, Donna Johnson, Karen Peters-Kruhm, Kathy McFarland, Lynda Pullis, Betty Shunk, Carol Schwarz, and Berit Wenner.

**2015 Book List:** *The Moonlight Palace* by Liz Rosenberg, *Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion, *City of Thieves* by David Benioff, *Full of Grace* by Dorothea Benton Frank, *Leaving Time* by Jodi Picoult, *Me Before You* by

JoJo Moyes, *Distant Shores* by Kristen Hannah, *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova, *A Wedding in December* by Anita Shreve, *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Mariary and *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion.

## **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 plus others who come when they can. All women are welcome to join the group.

The group makes craft items that support Pastor Dan's congregational and community ministries. This year they made Growing in His Word Tulips, Cross Prayer Bunnies, Faith "Love Is" mobiles, Jesus is the Living Water, Halloween mobiles, Inspirational Thanksgiving wreaths and Faith Stable Animals signs.

In February we packed Valentine boxes for Trinity's college students. Individual wrapped snacks, drinks and food items were collected two weeks prior to packing. This year 21 boxes were shipped. A Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 paid the postage. In October we collected home-baked cookies from 26 of TLC's bakers. Seven self-controlled packers carefully bagged all the wonderful cookies. Twenty-six boxes were packed, and 25 were shipped and one was hand delivered. All the packers received Action Team T-shirts and each student also received a T-shirt.

This year two lap robes were given to TLC members, and 24 are ready for delivery to Kindred Care and Compassionate Care Hospice, both at St Clare's, Dover.

W/ELCA has two circles, each meeting once a month from September to June. The *Women at the Well* circle meets the first Tuesday in the month. They use the Bible studies in *gather*, a magazine for Lutheran women. Study leaders were Sandra Dean, Donna Johnson, Marion Holtzman and Jane Chrashewsky. The *Elizabeth Circle* meets at noontime on the third Wednesday. They also use the Bible study from *gather*, and each member takes a turn as study leader. All women of the congregation are welcome.

This year the W/ELCA Christmas tree project was for the benefit of TLC's hygiene closet. The money collected, \$165., will purchase socks for the closet. There were ten greetings on the tree.



**SECTION 4: FINANCIAL REPORTS**



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT – 2014**

	<u>2013 Actual</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND - January 1</b>	\$88,259.04	\$81,059.11
<b><u>CASH RECIEPTS</u></b>		
General Offerings	\$332,353.52	\$313,881.19
Designated Offerings	\$105,543.61	\$133,401.24
Thrivent Choice Dollars In - 125th Anniversary	\$0.00	\$7,338.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars In - Faith Kitchen	\$15,806.00	\$0.00
Savings Withdrawals	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$453,703.13</b>	<b>\$454,620.43</b>
<b><u>OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>		
Pastor Salary and Benefits	\$121,194.48	\$106,677.95
Support Staff Salary and Benefits	\$74,889.20	\$86,462.81
Benevolence	\$49,000.00	\$50,000.00
Mortgage	\$32,261.04	\$154.00
Building Maintenance and Expenses	\$38,316.18	\$46,909.35
Committee Expenses (includes Synod Assembly)	\$3,404.04	\$1,945.04
Worship and Music	\$2,309.33	\$3,011.22
Educational Ministry	\$879.17	\$940.72
Office Expenses	\$10,308.75	\$13,244.87
Flowers	\$2,057.50	\$2,135.00
<b>Sub-Total Operating Disbursements</b>	<b>\$334,619.69</b>	<b>\$311,480.96</b>
<b><u>SPECIAL APPEALS DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>		
Hunger - Local	\$31,539.50	\$33,844.34
Hunger - ELCA	\$0.00	\$45.00
Mother's Day Project	\$1,546.42	\$1,905.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$12,000.00	\$4,243.95
MAT Fund (Memorial and Thanksgiving)	\$5,407.24	\$29,650.17
Faith Kitchen	\$15,263.41	\$6,228.83
Summer Project	\$1,915.97	\$2,336.07
Lenten Project	\$1,279.99	\$4,010.65
Disaster Relief	\$1,517.77	\$25.00
Father's Day Project	\$1,454.00	\$3,110.00
Senior Ministry	\$500.24	\$0.00
Advent Project	\$7,584.75	\$264.79
Thrivent Choice Dollars Out - 125th Anniversary	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Gathering 2015	\$0.00	\$650.00
Mortgage Reduction	\$42,405.00	\$38,713.00
Edna's Haven	\$2,250.51	\$18,528.25
125th Anniversary	\$0.00	\$3,895.17
Brick Pavers	\$0.00	\$2,838.20
Other	\$1,618.57	\$2,719.16
<b>Sub-Total Special Appeals Disbursements</b>	<b>\$126,283.37</b>	<b>\$153,007.58</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$460,903.06</b>	<b>\$464,488.54</b>
Transfer to Savings	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Grand Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$460,903.06</b>	<b>\$464,488.54</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND - DECEMBER 31</b>	<b>\$81,059.11</b>	<b>\$71,191.00</b>
<b>Operating Cash</b>	<b>\$21,478.09</b>	<b>\$25,883.90</b>
<b>Designated Cash</b>	<b>\$59,581.02</b>	<b>\$45,307.10</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
John Sienkiewicz

# BEV'S INVESTMENT REPORT

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

Period covered by Audit: Calendar year: 2015

Audit Performed by: Audit Committee

Kurt Heinrich  
Nancy Kazaba  
Jim Remler

Assisted by

John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer  
Beverly Dominkowitz, Assistant Treasurer  
Thea Lubrecht, 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 18, 2016

**MORRIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THRIVENT FINANCIAL TLC 2015 REPORT**

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# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Dan Schroeder, Interim Pastor  
Kathy McFarland, Secretary  
Lynn Sienkiewicz, Parish Nurse  
Jeffrey Miller, Bell Choir Director  
Julie Sauder, Organist  
Felipe Torres, Sexton  
Kevin McFarland, Part-time Sexton  
Kathleen Kerin, Seminarian

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
9:30 Sunday Church School and Adult Forum  
Nursery available at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Parking at Valley National Bank