

## WORSHIP/ARTS/MUSIC 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

WAM Members: Pastor Jeanette Bidne, Marie Northwick- chairperson, Lisa Kittleson, Shannon Dickman, Rachel Roverud, Mary Erichsrud, Cala Nassen, Heather Noll

### HIGHLIGHTS and DUTIES:

#### JANUARY/ FEBRUARY:

Music accompanists schedule discussed and set.

Choir / Bell schedules discussed

Discussion for Lenten Services and Ash Wednesday / Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday and Easter plans are organized.

WAM committee organized Wednesday Evening services to be held in the Gathering Place and are set for 6:00 p.m. with a light meal to be served at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Confirmation will follow the 6:00 p.m. service. All Trinity congregation and people are welcome to attend the meal and service.

#### MARCH:

Preparation for Holy Week continue with plans for Maundy Thursday and for the reenactment of The Last Supper with the 5th grade students to receive their First Communion. Followed by the Stripping of the Altar.

More preparations for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Choir and Bell rehearsals have begun. Music Sunday planned for May 7th.

Jeff Daehn was contacted to come in March to tune the organ.

#### APRIL:

WAM committee continues with plans for Holy Week. Easter flowers are ordered.

We also continue to organize meals for the Wednesday Evening services.

Discussion started on plans for Music Sunday and Senior Recognition Sunday.

#### MAY:

Summer worship services are discussed and organized.

A schedule was set for summer and fall Sunday services to be held at the Fair Stand.

It was decided to use our own sound equipment for these services.

Strong discussion was held on bringing back the Altar Guild in the fall with communion to be back with wafers and disposable wine glasses at the communion rail.

Senior Graduation preparations were finalized.

#### June:

No meeting

#### JULY:

Plans for the Youth-led service to be held at the Fair Stand.

Discussion on Pastor Jeanette's approach to the fall liturgy with the committee agreeing to what she felt was best to help cover more parts of the Bible.

#### AUGUST:

Progress was made for organizing a new Altar Guild and a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Volunteers were contacted to help with resuming communion with disposable cups and wafers at the altar to start in October. The distinction was made that there's a sign-up sheet for Altar Guild

volunteers which is for the pre setup of getting wafers and the communion wine trays ready for Sundays that have communion and then for Communion servers which is strictly for helping serve communion during the worship service.

The upcoming fall worship schedule for Sundays and Wednesday evenings was worked on with the approval to use many resources available in the newer "All Creations Sings" hymnal.

WAM organized meals for the Wednesday evening meals that are held on the first and third Wednesday evening service each month.

Discussion for God's Work God's Hands service set for September 10th.

Preparation started for Choir/ Bell and Accompanists for the upcoming season.

#### SEPTEMBER:

Great news for the Trinity congregation when Paul and Kristin Johnson and their family decided to join the Trinity Congregation in Blue Earth. Paul Johnson was enthusiastically welcomed and said yes to becoming the future Choir director for Trinity and Kristin was asked and agreed to help with the youth music. The WAM committee met with the Johnson's to organize choir rehearsal dates and dates to sing during Sunday worship. Discussed possibilities for the future music outlook at Trinity.

The committee also discussed what compensation was appropriate for the music positions.

Cala Nassen and Heather Noll joined as WAM members and were very much welcomed!

Pastor Jeanette reported the Google doc was completely filled by our accompanists through next June!

Confirmation service plans were completed.

Altar Guild schedule was worked on and getting ready to start in October.

Pastor Jeanette held a discussion with the committee on thoughts how to proceed for services through the Christmas season as Christmas Eve was also on a Sunday.

WAM also set up plans for All Saints Sunday.

#### October:

WAM meant early to decorate the sanctuary for Fall with their meeting to follow.

Plans were made to organize for the "Hanging of the Greens" service held on November 26th.

There was discussion for preparations for both Reformation Sunday, October 29th and All Saints Sunday, November 5th.

Shannon Dickman agreed to give a FYI on the return of Altar Guild and its duties and the difference between Altar Guild and communion servers.

Preparations were made for Christ the King Sunday- November 19th.

Pew rosters sheets were checked and updated. There was discussion on how to best track numbers of worshippers online, St Luke's and Bevcomm listeners in addition to the in person attendance.

Discussion was held on WAM's recommendation for the 2024 budget. WAM recommended to stay at the budget of \$22,000 for the committee with no increase.

WAM discussed ways to conserve their budget and cut any unnecessary costs.

#### November:

The committee decorated the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Our meetings followed with organizing for the Holy season services. Blue Christmas was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lisa Kittleson helped set up blue votives to be used for the service.

December 10th was Music Sunday with the Choir and Bells sharing their talents and special music. The Children's program was on December 17th.

Services for Christmas Eve day were: 9:00 - a service of joy!

Christmas Eve candlelight services were set for 3:00 and 7:00p.m.

Paul and Kristin Johnson volunteered to do special music for the 3:00 service and Paula Kabe for the 7:00 service.

Discussion was also held on appropriate compensation for pulpit supply for Wednesday evening services before Confirmation class. We determined \$75 was a fair amount. There will be pulpit supply on Wednesday, December 6th.

#### WAM DUTIES:

Helping Pastor Jeanette schedule and organize Worship Services through the whole year and all special events: Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Maundy Thursday, Easter, High School Senior Recognition, May Music Sunday, Fair Stand outdoor services, Rally Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving Service, Hanging of the Greens service, Music Sunday in December and Christmas Eve worship services.

Responsible for pulpit supplies such as wine, wafers, disposable communion cups, etc.

Music Needs: Accompanists/ Choir directors/ Bell directors/ Cantors and Special Music,

Organ- Piano tuning, Parament changes, Suppling Lectors/ Cantors / Communion Needs

Decorating of the Sanctuary for all seasons

Submitted by Marie Northwick, chairperson

## **Property Committee**

Committee Members: Chair – Nate Eitzmann; Brian Omland, Mike Holland, Darwin Olson, Kevin Benson, Joel Kienitz, Custodian Kevin Skaare, Past President Michele Stewart, Office Admin Donna Perryman, Pastor Jeanette Bidne

### **Highlights from 2023**

- Replaced high pressure flush toilets in Women's bathroom (main level) and in the Nursery
- Created a temporary wall (drape) in Room 205 for additional storage
- Found a new vendor to inspect fire extinguishers: Mankato/Fairmont Fire Safety
- Custodian ordered a new vacuum cleaner
- Repaired clogged drains in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and basement level bathrooms
- Johnson Controls updated 15 emergency horns/strobe lights
- Received a quote to potentially paint the sanctuary
- Andrew Noll agreed to mow the church lawn
- Monitor the Fair Stand – LP tank and humidifier
- Continue to discuss building security options
- Applied for rebate from Centerpoint Energy for boiler maintenance

Submitted by Nate Eitzmann

### Endowment Committee 2023

The purpose of "Faith in Action: Trinity Endowment Fund" is to provide an opportunity to receive gifts from Trinity Lutheran members and friends in order that their Christian stewardship may continue into perpetuity. Only the interest from the Endowment Fund can be disbursed according to the By-laws of the Trinity Endowment Fund.

Disbursement of interest from 2022 was \$1944.59 and is listed below.

20% (\$388.92) each to ELCA Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, and Trinity Youth general fund.

In March, \$2000 was transferred from the checking account to the Ministry Growth Fund. As of September 30, 2023 (date of last report), that fund is \$48,853.36. The Mission Investment Fund has a Fixed 3-Year TERM Investment in the amount of \$12,047.97 (as of Dec 29, 2023). This investment matures on March 18, 2025.

Committee members: Jack Heinitz, Marty Sawyer, Becky Keebaugh and Justine Hougen.

### Gilbert Olawsky Estate Distribution

It was noted in the May 9, 2023, Council meeting minutes that Trinity had received notice that we were one of the beneficiaries of Gil Olawsky's estate. Per Council decision, \$10,422.38 in funds were distributed to: SE MN Synod Mission Support, Good Earth Village, Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps, Trinity Youth Fund, Connections Ministry (homeless shelter in Mankato) and Crossroads Campus Ministry in Mankato.

### Scholarship Committee 2023

The Trinity Lutheran Scholarship Fund was established in 2002. It is awarded to members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Blue Earth, who have been accepted into any post-secondary school and who are attending as full-time students. The award was increased from \$500 to \$1000 in 2010. This scholarship is funded by interest from the CD and other donations/memorials received throughout the year.

The Scholarship Committee reviewed four applications. At the February 14, 2023, Council meeting, the Council approved the recommendation from the Scholarship Committee to award a \$1000 scholarship to Abram Kokos.

At the May 9, 2023, Council meeting, they were informed that an anonymous \$2500 gift was given to the Scholarship Fund. A motion was made/seconded/carried to award a \$250 scholarship each to the other three students who submitted application forms. The balance of \$1750 will remain in the Scholarship Fund for future scholarships.

These certificates were presented during the High School Graduate Recognition Sunday on May 21, 2023, held in the Gathering Space.

Scholarship Committee: Ann Crofton, Tami Armstrong, Steve Bohling

Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW)  
Women of the ELCA (WELCA)  
2023 Report

- Jan.-Nov. Quilters met to work on tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Social Services, and local needs.
- Season of Lent: We collected items for Lutheran World Relief Health Care kits.
- June: We held our annual historical meeting and honored those who have served at Trinity or another church and Trinity for 50+years. We were entertained by the Three CD's.
- July: On the Saturday of Giant Days we hosted free will coffee/water and sweet rolls at the Trinity fair stand during the Car Show. It was also the location of our annual bake sale.
- At church many hands were busy preparing food for the fair stand. We thank all who offered their time and talents in this effort. Special thanks go to those in leadership positions including Dave and Lisa Littleton, Dave (Deb) Olson, Bethany and Brad Huse, Greg Keebaugh, Mary Erichsrud, and Liz Boettcher. Half of the profit went to the Youth Committee.
- August: We collected items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. They were assembled on GWOH Sunday. A total of 87 kits were assembled. Special thanks go to Becky Keebaugh and Jan and Denny Montgomery for keeping this project going.
- September: TLCW met for our regular meeting. Mary Erichsrud and Terri Hanson led a program called "Tool Kit for Transformational Living."
- November: TLCW met for our annual Thank offering meeting. Marlene, Pastor Jeanette and Terri Hanson gave a program focused on the loving interdependence of the church family. Attendees received "Sisters in Christ" medallions for themselves and some to give to others.
- December: TLCW met for our Christmas gathering. We were entertained by BEAHS vocal musicians. After this meeting the officers dispersed our funds. (See the next page.)
- Jan Montgomery taught Scandinavian star making to a group of women so that the stars could be placed in the 22 boxes that were given to our home-bound members. Mary Erichsrud shopped for the other items and a number of other willing folks delivered the boxes.
- We furnish the coffee and cookies which are provided after church services.  
We served meals at 9 funerals during 2023.
- Trinity Visiting Ministry currently serves 32 members (including a few "adoptees") who are less mobile and unable to attend services at Trinity. This number fluctuates monthly with a high of 36 earlier in the year. By year's end each member at the St. Luke's complex was paired with a Trinity member committed to visiting monthly and in various ways helping the less mobile member stay connected to the church body.

The Library committee sponsored a successful fundraiser, a Tour of Tables, in October, which netted \$1200. All of the 120 seats were sold and the 15 tables each were sponsored (mostly by Trinity members) at \$25 each. Funds will be disbursed in 2024.

Submitted by Marlene Hanson, Co-President, and Terri Hanson, Secretary

#### Adult Education

Pastor Jeanette led a Bible study on the book of Matthew during the first half of the year. During the second half of the year participants watched and discussed the first five episodes of "The Chosen". "The Chosen" is a multi-season series about the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of the disciples. Each episode takes artistic license to fill in the many blanks where the text does not go into detail.

The group will continue with The Chosen in 2024. Session attendance ranged from six to ten.

The Trinity book club met 12 times in 2023 with ten people attending. Book club continues with 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm sessions the fourth Monday of each month.

Terri Hanson

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1 2023: \$2918.52

<u>CODE RECEIPTS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
101 CASH BACK	\$600.00
103 TLCW OFFERING	\$238.00
106 CARD SALES	\$229.00
109 FUNERAL SERVING	\$1293.00
201 THANK OFFERING	\$380.00
203 GIFTS AND MEMORIALS	\$394.00
302 FAIRSTAND	\$15,678.97
112 GIANT DAY BAKE SALE	\$1,144.50
105 COFFEE HOUR	\$429.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$20,386.47</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$23,304.99</b>

<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
501 CASH OUT FAIRSTAND	\$600.00
600 FAIR STAND EXPENSE	\$5,485.64
506 KITCHEN SUPPLIES/MISC.	\$1044.88
513 INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS	\$100.00
512 CONNECTION SHELTER	\$500.00
910 LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES	\$200.00
604 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	\$100.00
807 GIFT BOXES	\$158.55
512 MISCELANIOUS	\$448.00
502 DISTRIBUTIONS	\$12,650.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$21,287.07</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE 01/01/2024</b>	<b>\$2017.92</b>

# FAIRSTAND 20233

## DEPOSITS:

07/27/2023	\$2,362.00
07/28/2023	\$1,900.00
07/29/2023	\$3,479.00
07/30/2023	\$3,904.00
07/31/2023	\$997.00
08/24/2023	\$154.00 (Pepsi refund)
07/31/2023	\$2,882.97 (donations)

**TOTAL INCOME: \$15,678.97**

## EXPENSES:

FAIR BOARD	\$250.00
QUIK TRIP	\$351.67
CEDAR INN	\$178.59
STEVERMER'S	\$300.00
REGISTER	\$175.00
BEVCOMM	\$53.28
GILLETTE PEPSI	\$437.25
BE LOCKER	\$2,652.97
JUBAS	\$180.01
CASH OUT	\$600.00
JUBAS	\$306.87

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$5485.64**

**TOTAL PROFIT: \$10,193.33**

Disbursements for 2023	Disburse
Trinity Youth Group	\$5,000.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$100.00
Saint Lukes Auxiliary	\$300.00
Mankato Campus	\$250.00
Beam	\$150.00
SE Synod Missions	\$200.00
Women of Worth	\$150.00
BE Ministerial	\$300.00
SE Women's Org	\$200.00
Trinity Lutheran Church	\$6,000.00
Total Disbursements	\$12,650.00



## **Caring Friends Annual Report for 2023**

Caring Friends began the year with 19 care home residents in six group homes. During 2023 several friends died or moved away. One of the ELM homes was closed and residents were settled into the three existing ELM homes. But in November we were alerted that a new REM home in Blue Earth was up and running and serving four more residents and a vacancy was filled in another REM home. At the end of December, 2023 the number of friends went back up to 23 in six area group homes in Blue Earth and Winnebago.

Each month Mary Erichsrud sends out birthday cards with a fast food certificate inside. In February personalized valentines were sent to each of our friends. In March, with the help of volunteers, we hosted a bingo party in Trinity's Gathering Place. Everyone went home with lots of prizes and treats. Easter baskets and coloring pages were delivered to all homes in April. In May butterfly greeting cards with word searches went out to everyone. In July red, white and blue themed items and frozen treats were shared with all homes. Halloween has become an annual pizza party with deliveries of Pizza Hut pizza along with fun Halloween items. Christmas gift wish pages were delivered to everyone in November asking for three things each person would like or need. We were able to fulfill wishes for 23 friends in December thanks to donations from several churches and individuals.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, Thrivent Action Team cards, monetary donations and personal time to help make events and deliveries possible.

We look forward to 2024 and welcome volunteers and ideas to provide smiles throughout the coming year. Thank you for your continued support to help keep this ministry going.

### **Caring Friends Financial Report**

2023 beginning balance.	\$2568.38
Caring Friends monetary donations	\$1110
2 Thrivent Action Teams.	<u>\$ 500</u>
	\$4178.38
Expenditures for 2023.	\$1913.11
Ending balance.	\$2265.27

Rachel Roverud and Kay Bogan, Co-Chairs