The Abundance of God's Hand

Receiving with gratitude.

Sharing with joy and love.



A Church Home in Vermillion

A Story from Crystal Moeller

When Crystal Moeller first walked through Trinity's doors more than 25 years ago, she was not looking for a new church home. She was a student at USD, and a friend from her dorm invited her to worship at Trinity. Crystal was hesitant. She usually returned to Iowa on weekends to attend the church where she had grown up, and she wondered whether any other congregation could feel quite the same.

Still, she went along that Sunday. What she found was familiar in the ways that mattered: a similar liturgy, the same worship books, favorite hymns, and a congregation that felt like the "family" she knew from home. Her expectations shifted. Later, when Vermillion became her permanent home after graduation, Crystal knew where she wanted her church home to be as well. She joined Trinity without hesitation.

The welcome she received in those early visits remains part of what Trinity means to her. Even before she officially joined, Crystal remembers feeling cared for. Marcy Lund regularly made a point of checking in with her on Sunday mornings. "She always had a way of making me feel special and included," Crystal recalls. At the dental office where Crystal worked, she also came to know many patients who attended Trinity. Those trusted relationships gave her another assurance that she was in the right place.

For Crystal, the ministry of Trinity is sustained by many people whose work may not always be visible. She appreciates the hard-working members who tend to what needs doing behind the scenes, as well as the leaders, staff, and congregation members who have held fast in difficult times. "I know it takes a village to be successful," she says. She is proud of the way Trinity has pulled together through adversity and of the shared commitment she sees among people who seek to help one another for the good of the ministry. In her experience, Trinity's members are selfless, dependable, and persistent in their care for the church.

Crystal's understanding of generosity was formed long before she became a member of Trinity. She learned from her parents and grandparents, from the church, and from God that giving is one way to be Christ-like and to show love and care for others. That generosity is not limited to money. It also includes the time people offer, the talents they share, and the resources they place at the service of God's work. For Crystal, this is stewardship: a faithful way of showing support for the work God is doing through the church.

That conviction shapes her financial giving to Trinity. "No matter what life has thrown at me, I always know I have my church as a solid foundation to stand on," she says. Crystal gives in gratitude for the blessings she has received and for the support she has felt from

her church home. She was raised to give a portion of her earnings to the church because everything belongs to God, and she believes God is the reason she has what she has. Her financial gifts are, in her words, forms of “appreciation and discipleship,” rather than an obligation.

Looking ahead, Crystal hopes Trinity will continue to be a safe, vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive space for **all children of God**. She wants future generations to grow confident in their relationship with Jesus and to know that they are seen, heard, and valued in the congregation. She prays for open communication and purpose-driven leadership, and she hopes that her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will one day know the same anchoring foundation and unconditional belonging that she has found at Trinity.

Crystal’s story is one expression of the shared generosity that sustains Trinity. The congregation’s presence, service, prayers, leadership, and financial support help make room for people to be welcomed, formed in faith, and rooted in a church home. For that faithful, everyday generosity, we give thanks.