

Trinity Lutheran Church
Congregational Profile 2020



Congregational Information

Name of Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Brooks Alberta

Website: www.brookstrinity.ca

Congregational Chair: Bill Anderson

Phone: 403-363-3442 Email: bill@a-1irrigation.com

Transition Team Chair: Mark Altwasser

Phone: 403-362-0010 Email: maltwasser@hotmail.com

Events or Developments that are Important from the History of our Congregation

1. Trinity Lutheran Church began when a group of dedicated Christians felt called to consider forming an ELCC congregation in Brooks. It was formed as a Mission Congregation on August 8, 1965. The church building was dedicated on June 5, 1966. Pastor John Lokken was the first Pastor. There were 85 baptised and 50 confirmed members.
2. With growing numbers by 1977, an expansion to the building was done, with many hours of volunteer labour in the building construction, meals for the workers, painting and general preparation for the new octagonal sanctuary. On November 20, 1977, the new sanctuary was dedicated "to the Glory and Honour of Almighty God, and the Service of His Holy Church". Pastor Dan Berg was our Pastor at this time.
3. With continued growth the congregation determined the need for two pastors, and in 1988 there was a shared ministry with Pastor Ken Grambo and Pastor Rick Berg. Pastor Berg left in 1990 after accepting a call and in 1993 Pastor Grambo accepted a call to northern Alberta. Following a short ministry and subsequent interim pastor, Pastor John Theiss accepted a call to the congregation in 1996. In 1997, his wife Maggie was hired as a Parish Worker, which was changed to Youth and Family Minister in 2007. In 2019 Pastor John Theiss began reduced work hours moving toward retirement and Maggie accepted a contract call as Lead Pastor.

4. In 2012, following a congregational vote, Trinity moved from the ELCIC and joined the LCMC. There was a split in the congregation with a number of members leaving to form their own congregation, Spirit of Grace, and maintain affiliation with ELCIC.

Construction date of church building: 1965.

Last Renovation: 2003 (Building is equipped with accessible parking, washrooms and lift.)

Significant Trends in Congregational Demographics

Initially the congregation was comprised of families with small children, and seniors. Most had been members of other Lutheran congregations prior to formation of Trinity, either active members or people who had had contact with the Lutheran Church through their lives.

In 1980, with Pastor Grambo and a popular music ministry, the congregation experienced a large growth in attendance, many from the community who before had not been involved with a local congregation.

Trinity has continued to grow, as a reflection of the growth of the Brooks community growth. In the past five years there have been arrivals in the community from the Philippines who have become members.

With the addition of the Parish Worker in 1997 and focus on youth, there was an increased involvement and attendance by youth in the community, some with a Lutheran background and some with no previous church/ religious involvement.

The Congregation continues to have a mix of families, youth and seniors/retired.

Congregation Constitution was last updated 31/01/2016.

Ministry Practices, Structure and Future

Present practices/programs:

Worship

- Worship Time: Sunday 10 a.m.
- Sunday School: Preschool to Grade 8 during Church service. Younger students stay until Children's Story and then move to the classrooms. Older students move to the classroom after the message or after communion if there is communion at the service.



- Communion is scheduled for 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Members of the congregation (usually Deacons and youth) assist with the serving of communion.
- Style: Contemporary with some liturgical. There is a strong music focus, mix of current and conventional hymns led by a Music Team. There is a consistent use of audio-visual support with two large screens on either side of the front of the church. AV is used for all parts of the service, including notes and video clips presented during the message.
- Confession and Forgiveness is always a starting point for the Sunday service, and is, Biblically based. First and Second readings are provided by Lectors who are volunteers from the congregation and the Gospel is read by the clergy.
- Midweek Lenten and Advent services are available every year and are very well attended. The Confirmands and Youth take leadership roles in these worships.
- Christmas Eve Services (2), one being family friendly and the other a traditional candlelight, and a Christmas Day Service.

Education

- Adult: Sunday Mornings at 9:00am. Midweek evening studies conducted throughout the year in 6-8 week blocks. Ladies Bible Study Wednesday mornings. Membership classes held during the year depending on interest and need.
- Youth: Sunday Morning Study at 9:00 am. The Youth are organized with an executive elected by the Youth, and assist the clergy in planning for Wilderness Ranch and Mission Trips, Lenten Services, Easter Service, Vacation Bible School (56 youth volunteers last year), and worship service involvement including assistance with baptism and communion. They plan fundraising events and community opportunities for social gatherings that are open to all youth in the community.
- Confirmation: Currently, confirmation study is available to young people in Grade 6 and up and is held at the church on Wednesday afternoons @ 4:30 pm. Trinity offers two streams of study – individual and class setting, and they can be made interchangeable. We hold a retreat and occasional workshops and service events to help the study be more life applicable. Confirmands are paired with Mentors from the congregation who encourage them throughout their time in confirmation and beyond. We offer a 'distance ed' option when requested for special circumstances. Teen Confirmation classes are available with youth Grade 10-12 on request.
- Sunday School: During the worship service for ages 4 to grade 8.

Special Ministries

- Vacation Bible School: Held in early July every summer for children age 4 – Grade 6.

This is a huge outreach to our community with over 150 children attending last year many of whom were community children. This outreach is not only to children but to youth as well. We have a large group of youth who volunteer. Many of the grade 6 children express excitement as next year they get to come back as a Jr. Youth helper!



- Music Ministry: There is an active music ministry with a Music Team that leads morning worship, and presents opportunities for music through piano, choir, music leaders, and a youth band. Many of the members of Trinity are blessed with musical talents and these are well utilized.
- Library: There is a volunteer librarian who keeps the library well stocked and managed. The books and resources in the library are funded through the Trinity Lutheran Women's group and through donations from the congregation and is well used.
- The congregation has many pot-luck brunches and suppers (you name the occasion and we can produce a feast!) as well as having before and after church coffee hours.

Service Ministries and Community Involvement and Partnerships

- Community Outreach - Trinity Lutheran Church is known in the community to be a place of compassion and for our willingness to be involved. The large sanctuary is conducive to large groups who wish to have weddings, baptisms and funerals. (There are many funerals for non-members as the community sees the pastors and the congregation as a resource in times of stress and loss). Pastoral Care for the hospital and the nursing home, seniors lodge and supportive living environments are seen as an important way that we are connected to the community.

- Mission Work - The congregation is supportive of many mission orientated activities, from group trips to Haiti, Africa and Central America, to focus on our local community and needs as they arise. There is a Mission Ministry team, open to the entire congregation, that meets regularly and co-ordinates activities.

Youth Belize Mission 2020



This group also organizes the annual work at the Patricia (A local neighbouring community) Rodeo Concession fundraiser and provides the Sunday morning church service at the Patricia Rodeo.

- Trinity Lutheran Church Women: An organized group of women of the congregation meet regularly and oversee many activities of the church. They co-ordinate funeral lunches, host the regular Advent Brunch, oversee the weekly Agape Ladies Bible Study, organize a Secret Sister Program, organize and host the Women’s Fall Retreat, and through Martha Ministries take homemade meals to those who are ill/shut ins. They look after the Cradle Roll and schedule visitors through the Sunshine Visitation program and generally look after the needs of the kitchen and supplies. There is an active Quilting Group of volunteers who make many many quilts during the fall/winter/spring and used locally as well as sent to Canadian Lutheran World Relief - the TLCW ensures that this group is able to keep their amazing production going.
- Jars of Clay Caring Ministry: Trained volunteers are available to assist with Pastoral Care of congregation and community needs, to walk along with those who are experiencing distress and to develop and share their gifts of compassion, caring, comforting and community.
- Lent: Annually there is an event called “Soup for the Journey”- a Wednesday night time for the six weeks in Lent when we gather for a soup supper with a worship service following, attended by congregation and community. This tradition is well attended and anticipated by families as a time to prepare our hearts for the Lenten Journey and to share some delicious soup. Youth take an active role in the service.
- The Congregation is in a contractual agreement with neighbouring congregations to provide Pastoral Supply once a month and in crisis as needed for Rainy Hills Lutheran Church, Iddesleigh, Alberta and Faith Lutheran Church, Rolling Hills, Alberta.
- The Church facilities are used by several other non-profit groups in the community, including AA, Al Anon, Brownies, Girl Scouts, 4H Riding Club, and the Tabernacle Church of God.

Congregation's Present Staffing Including Paid and Volunteer

Lead Pastor full time, Assistant Pastor 75%, 2 clerical office staff share 1 FTE,
Cleaning Staff: Contracted

Committees/Groups:

Deacons: Three elected members make up the Board of Deacons. They are involved in Pastoral Care Coverage, and oversee the Worship Committee, Jars of Clay and the Mission Ministry Group. The Deacons are pastoral support to the clergy and assist in the planning for the spiritual growth and welfare of the congregation. The Deacons attend all Church Council meetings as full voting members.

Trustees: Three elected members make up the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are involved in the overall physical day to day operation of the church building and property including the Manse, personnel issues, developing related policies, proposing upgrades and maintenance to the property and formulating the annual Budget. The Trustees attend all Church Council meetings as full voting members.

Education: Three elected members make up the Board of Education. The Board of Education is responsible for Christian Education opportunities for the entire congregation. In consultation with the clergy, they plan the regular Sunday School (Preschool to Grade 8) opportunities, Rally Sunday, Vacation Bible School held in July, Children's Christmas Service, Family Ministry, Confirmation Ministry (2 years), Adult Education – Sunday morning Bible Study, Mid week Bible Studies, Adult Confirmation, and mid week Bible Studies. The members of the Board of Education attend all Church Council meetings and are full voting members.

Mission Ministry Group: Mission trips, blessing bags, involvement in community activities - Brooks Rodeo, Patricia Rodeo, Mounted Shooting Competition, Highway cleanup, emergency assistance.

Review of Ministry / Goals

In October 2019 Pastor Eric Hulstrand of Moving Forward Coaching was contracted with us to conduct a congregational survey and to assist in developing an action plan for our Transition period. Following 3 days of meetings and discussions, he provided to the congregation a summary of our current situation and direction for the future. Our strengths, our 'Fab Five', as a Congregation are Worship, Music, Mission, Community and Youth.

Through past visioning sessions our congregation has outlined the following:

God's Purpose for our church is to love one another in worship, study, fellowship and service.

Through a welcoming attitude, joyful worship, and living out our faith daily we equip and support disciples on the walk with Jesus.

Jesus is Lord and Saviour.

The Bible is the word of God.

The family of God is bound together by His Grace.

We are a people of Prayer.

We are called to share our gifts from God.

Everyone is precious and loved by God.

Our Vision Statement is:

“Serve Christ our Lord by welcoming, equipping and sending disciples.”

Congregation’s Stewardship Practices:

The Tithe Committee, which reports to Church Council, recommends and at the annual meeting the congregation, by constitution, allocates 10% of receipted offerings to approved outreach activities/organizations. The most recent allocations were to Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and

1. Local: Crossroads Clinic, Champion Centre, Newell Christian School, Newell Christian Community Chaplaincy Project.
2. Outside of our community but in Canada: Wilderness Ranch, Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta
3. International: Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Haiti Arise, Africa Inland Church, Lutheran Church of Southern Sudan.
4. Noisy Offering: Last Sunday of the month, collected by our children in worship. Supports mission at home and abroad.

Congregation’s Needs and Strengths: (Visioning)

Strengths: Jars of Clay Caring Ministry, VBS, Worship and Music, Missions, Community Outreach and Youth Ministry.

Needs: Men’s Ministry, moving from “equipping” to “enabling”, focussing on using our gifts through the Jars of Clay and other groups that can minister to the congregation and to the community.

Pastoral Skills that will best serve the Lord in this Particular Setting

At the current time it is believed that we need to focus on calling a permanent lead pastor who has strengths in Leadership-visioning and Preaching.