



TRINITY

Lutheran Church

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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SECTION 1: Pastor and Council Reports

PASTOR'S REPORT

Beloved of God,

Looking back on 2023, we experienced a year marked with the realization that things are actually pretty good. We returned to our life together in person, and continued with online meetings and worship. Most surprisingly, the technology worked! Through some concerted efforts, we heard God's word, sang God's praises, received the sacraments, learned, served and pursued a life of meaningful discipleship. And that was no mean feat in the year of our Lord 2023.

The Synod's Faithful Journey program of discernment drew towards its conclusion. But our own faithful journey is ongoing and will continue. Lutherans are the church of the reformation, and at our best, we are continually reforming. This year we examined our values and strengths. With gusto, we experimented worshipping and cooperating with neighboring congregations in new ways. Some experiments were successes, others were not; that's the nature of experiments. For all our experiments, our core mission remains the same: to be God's hands in Dover and to spreading the good news of God's love for the world here and further afield.

The need for our hunger ministry has increased as the economic climate has worsened, and the number of transients has swelled. We are fortunate that we are not burdened by the political questions regarding immigration. God charges us to treat the aliens and visitors among us as our own. So we are free to feed everyone who comes to us, without having to consider their legal status. Read more about the challenges and successes of our Food Pantry and the Faith Kitchen later in the annual report.

Worship and the music we hear have been sources of joy and quiet reflection this past year. Julie Sauder, our organist, has coaxed musical talents out of many members and visiting musicians in ways that surprise even them. The choir gradually is coming together again to sing God's praises and accompany us in worship.

This past year was most notable, as you may know, for your amazing generosity. Through your regular donations, and additional contributions toward the end of the year, we were able to do this work and ended with a small surplus. Our work in the community and around the world, through support of the ELCA, continues only through that generosity. We are a generous people, and we know that discipleship means sharing.

That sharing includes sharing time and pew space. We have practiced radical hospitality: Welcoming and sharing the gospel with people we may not agree with (or even like) is what being a follower of Christ is all about. In 2023, we continued a long tradition of radical hospitality, and with God's guidance, we will continue to so.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings, Trinity Lutheran Church Members!

Thanks to the generosity of our Trinity Lutheran Church family, we met all our financial commitments, and ended the year in the “black!” *Thank you!* This has allowed us to continue our various ministries, especially the Food Pantry and Faith Kitchen, where the need was significantly greater than last year.

We made several strides this year to engage our community more actively, including a service project for the Dover Public Library, participation in the Christmas parade, and a community-wide Thanksgiving Eve Service of Gratitude. We also reached out beyond our doors to our fellow Lutherans at Prince of Peace and St. Andrews.

On the “capital improvement” front:

- 1) Added new elements to improve our digital ministries further.
- 2) Replaced four first-floor toilets with “high risers.”
- 3) Reworked the entry steps’ railing for improved safety.
- 4) Replaced broken tiles in entry and had the vinyl floors rewaxed.

Lastly, as President, I had the opportunity to represent Trinity at a Council Retreat in February with Sara Lilja, at a District Meeting in March at Summit, at the Synod Assembly in May, and on a Zoom meeting with Bishop Tracy for lay leaders in October.

Thanks to all the Trinity family, who helped make 2023 such a wonderful year.

Yours in Christ,
Sheri Sauer, Council President

LEADERSHIP

Council Members and Officers

Sheri Sauer	President/Executive Team/Mutual Ministry
Key Darrow	Vice President/ Executive Team/ Edna’s Haven
Sharon Matschke	Secretary/Senior Ministry/Fellowship
John Sienkiewicz	Treasurer
Beverly Dominkowitz	Assistant Treasurer
Suzanne Capps	Financial Secretary
Tom Burdzy	Food Pantry
Beth Sickles	Faith Kitchen
Gordon Snyder	Generosity
David Bernauer	Worship and Music/Technology Team
Charlene Rollins	Congregational Care
Ken Kindberg	Property
Maira Rogers	Living for Giving

Staff

Kathy McFarland Parish Church Administrator
 Lynn Sienkiewicz Parish Nurse
 Katie Serbeck Technology and Social Media Coordinator
 Julie Sauder Organist
 Ralph Gonzalez Sexton
 Yours in Christ,
 Sheri Sauer, Council President

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday Worship

Monthly average

	2023			2022	2021	2020
	In person	****Online	Total			
January	40	32	72	94	89	65
February	41	39	80	123	107	64
March	44	37	81	86	102	126
April	48	35	83	127	118	91
May	42	23	65	106	92	81
June	52	34	86	102	85	87
July	55	38	93	76	70	104
August	52	47	99	77	79	175
September	42	29	71	87	83	137
October	46	24	70	96	81	190
November	53	30	83	94	76	199
December	18	50	95	75	100	190
Averages	47	35	82	95	90	126

****Online participation equals the number of clicks times the average of two members per screen.
 5/31/21 In-person worship resumed.

SPECIAL SERVICES

	2023	2022	****2021	2020
Advent Wed./Thur.		106	36	54
Thanksgiving Eve	19	-	-	-
Christmas Eve	176	152	168	394
Christmas Day	51	60	55	126
Ash Wednesday**	54	68	60	76
Thursdays in Lent	43	134	34	48
Maundy Thursday	76	87	81	132
Good Friday	91	77	78	132
Easter Sunday	125	174	133	230

**Ash Wednesday service held alternately between Trinity Lutheran Church and St. John's Episcopal Church.

rites and Celebrations 2022

Marriages

There were no marriages in 2023.

Baptisms

There was one baptism in 2023 – Maisleigh Sanford baptized July 23, 2023.

Funerals/Memorials

There was one funeral in 2023 – Tyler Scerbo – August 25, 2023.

First Communion

No children made their First Communions in 2023.

Affirmation of Baptism

No young adults made their Affirmations of Baptism in 2023.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

The Constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church requires an annual review of the membership roll to keep a true and accurate record of all active TLC members. The 2023 review, conducted by Beverly Dominkowitz and Kathy McFarland, and approved by Pastor Fred, provided the following information:

In 2023 we received four new members: Donna Hopping, Nellie Vogel and Keith and Cheryl Gatling; one adult transferred to another congregation.

Trinity continues to be a congregation of worship and praise, service and ministry. We have much love, support and energy to offer members, and we look forward to an uplifting 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Baptized	178	186	213	220
Active Members	176	147	201	211
Average Attendance	82	107	90	167

Kathy McFarland

SECTION 2: PARISH LIFE

PARISH NURSE REPORT

With COVID evolving into something we will continue to live with, I have continued to educate and remind our members to stay safe by taking precautions and continuing to stay up-to-date on the latest vaccines for COVID, Flu and RSV. It was rewarding to see people following those precautions, and taking the initiative to stay home and mask when necessary, and notifying other members when they themselves had tested positive and may have exposed others.

As Parish Nurse, it was nice to be present with members as COVID diminished for most of the year. I was able to increase my home, hospital and rehab visits and offer blood pressure screenings during the last half of the year. We provided some transportation and meals to members in need. With an aging congregation, though, we were less able to provide transportation, but I provided information to individuals about community resources. In June, we offered a CPR course, the first one since 2019 due to the pandemic. On June 28, six members were certified in adult, child and infant CPR and using our automatic external defibrillator.

I continued to educate the congregation on various health issues through newsletter articles sent via Mailchimp. I reminded members that their Trinity family supports them during their grieving, by continuing to send a four-part grief booklet series published by Stephen Ministries, during the first year after death.

Pastor Fred and I continued to coordinate visits and exchange information to manage the congregation's health care needs. When Pastor or I needed to be away, we covered the health care needs for each other. I am grateful for Pastor Fred's support of TLC's Health Ministry, and for his support and encouragement of me as Trinity's Parish Nurse.

Kathy is another vital part of Health Ministry, and I am grateful to her for keeping me promptly informed of health needs in the congregation so I may contact members in a timely manner. The Health Ministry continues, thanks to Kathy's coordination, support and caring.

Health Ministry is a ministry to the entire congregation, and I thank each of you for your support through providing encouragement and assistance to other members in need, often without being recognized.

I look forward to continuing to serve as your Parish Nurse, and helping each of you strive for wellness in body, mind, and spirit.

Lynn Sienkiewicz, RN
TLC Parish Nurse

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee, working with Pastor Fred, plans each worship service throughout the year. Hymns, the order of service, special confessions and prayers, selection of season-appropriate litanies, special music, altar paraments, dramas and coordination of choirs are discussed throughout the year.

Extra attention is given to the Easter and Christmas seasons, when we coordinate special flower orders and palms with the florist, and decide on sanctuary decorations. The 2023 Worship and Music members are Judy Miller, David Bernauer, Jessie Andrews, Lynn Sienkiewicz, Kevin Seidel, Sandy Sheridan, Sheri Sauer, Joan Yurecsko and, of course, Pastor Fred.

Highlights and accomplishments in 2023 included:

- The Church Council directed a portion of Thrivent Choice dollars to the guest musicians' fund. A "hymn-madness" fundraiser also supported this ministry.
- We introduced new and previously sung liturgy settings in worship. Five settings were rotated throughout the year.
- Midweek Lenten services debuted at a new time, in person on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. and available on YouTube.
- New paraments and banners were donated or purchased.
- We hosted Prince of Peace, Denville, for Holy Week worship.
- Holy Week's special music included a guest saxophonist, soloists from the congregation, and an Easter Sunday brass ensemble.
- Summer Dinner Church returned.
- We introduced Summer Traveling Church with participation by Prince of Peace, Denville; St. Andrew's, Parsippany; and Trinity.
- Members of the congregation and guests offered weekly special music throughout the summer.
- The committee oversaw minor repairs to the pipe organ.
- We enjoyed music from the Reformation Brass Quintet and Timpani.
- Thanksgiving Eve worship with the community returned.
- We transitioned to one Christmas Eve worship service, with the choir and a guest vocal quartet.
- We oversaw improvements to our worship technology that included the ability to add text to our live streaming, and the return of our electronic bulletin board in the narthex.

Kevin Seidel

CHANCEL CHOIR

Once again, the choir is small but mighty. The group sang several times in 2023, with between six and ten singers. Choir supported worship services on:

- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Trinity Sunday, June 4
- First Sunday in Advent
- Christmas Eve

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the church for worship each week. This includes preparing for communion, placing liturgically correct paraments on the altar, and hanging seasonally appropriate banners. In addition, the Guild volunteers wash and iron linens used during service.

- This year the Guild's faithful and dedicated volunteers met the weekly needs of worship preparation in a reverent and professional manner.
- The Altar Guild Schedule is issued twice a year scheduling volunteers for January thru June, and July thru December. Accommodations are made for those who need or wish to sit out for a period of time due to medical or personal reasons.
- The schedule includes linen launderers. Currently three volunteers rotate the responsibilities.

At year's end, Altar Guild and Linen Launderer volunteers included: Sandy Dean, Erin DeKorte, Beverly Dominkowitz, Donna Johnson, Lorna Kelly, Ken and Ashley Kindberg, Sharon Matschke, Kathy McFarland, Judy Miller, Maira Rogers, Sheri Sauer, Lynn Sienkiewicz and Joan Yurecsko.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered their time during the year.

Joan Yurecsko

CRADLE ROLL

The Cradle Roll is a ministry to parents of children from birth to age three. Parents receive quarterly letters providing information from a Christian perspective about the child's physical and social development, and providing games and other activities for the child.

At 2023's conclusion, two children were on the Cradle Roll, a very helpful ministry to parents that enables them to begin Christian education at home. It is the first step in ongoing Christian education that continues throughout life.

Kathy McFarland

ADVOCACY

In 2023, through articles written by Rev. Sara Lilja and Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy in New Jersey (LEAMNJ) Trinity had the opportunity each week to take an in-depth look at one of seven advocacy topics: Environmental Justice, Food Security Justice, Health Care & Mental Health Justice, Housing Justice, LGBTQIA Justice, Migration Justice, and Racial Justice.

The New Jersey Synod sends an advocacy “blurb” or “newsletter” to congregations, each addressing one of these topics. It includes a short explanation why the topic not only is important, but how it is supported by ELCA, addressed in New Jersey, and, sometimes, dealt with nationally. Informative resources on the topic, and actions we can take are suggested through Internet links. The articles conclude with “Hot Topics,” highlighting two justice areas and detailing developments in our state, and how we can become involved. By publishing these articles in TLC’s weekly newsletter, our congregation stays informed so we can become more engaged in advocacy for ourselves and others.

Sandra Dean

GARDEN OF READIN’

The Garden of Readin’ meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Each reader may suggest books that we feel would be appealing to our group, and then we choose titles for the upcoming months. Our discussions about the book are interesting and lively. We read these books in 2023:

January – *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger; February – *Shoot like a Girl* by Mary Jennings Hagar; March – *What we find* by Robyn Carr; April – *The Good Sister* by Sally Hepworth; May – *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman; June – *The Girl in his Shadow* by Aubrey Blake; July – *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams; August – *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict; September – *A Natural Woman* by Carole King; October – *The Surgeons Daughter* by Aubrey Blake; November – *The Memory Keepers Daughter* by Kim Edwards.

Our current readers are: Carol Johnson, Karen Kruhm, Kathy McFarland, Maira Rogers, Carol Schwarz, Katie Serbeck, Erin DeKorte and Elaine Tarantino. All members and friends are welcome to join us.

Carol Schwarz

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Group sponsored four events in 2023. In May, the group explored on bicycles Duke Farms, the former Doris Duke estate, in Hillsborough, New Jersey. Everyone had a good time.

In the summer, a bike trip was planned on the D&R canal. A fun time was had by all who attended.

In November, we went to the Papermill Playhouse to see the play "Rent."

In early December, The German Market of New Jersey, at the Sussex Fairgrounds, started off the holiday season on a festive note. Congregation members attended on their own, with some members "running into" each other at the event.

In January or February, be on the lookout for a "Fellowship Sunday" coffee hour after worship. The team will ask the congregation for input on events and activities scheduled for 2024. Be sure to attend, as we need everyone's help.

Sharon Matschke, Fellowship Team Leader

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Mutual Ministry Committee designed to advise and support Pastor Fred, continued to add new members. Many thanks to members who served this year: Sheri Sauer (Council representative), Elaine Tarantino, Katie Serbeck, Mike Capps and Scott Miller.

This committee acts as a sounding board for Pastor Fred, employed staff members, Council officers, the congregation's committees and ministry teams, and the congregation, affording everyone a direct avenue to discuss concerns or conflicts that may arise. For conflict resolution, the committee provides a forum where members and the congregation's employees may voice their concerns and reach mutually acceptable settlements.

NEWSLETTER

Kathy McFarland is our editor, and Charlie Haas is our proofreader. We now use Mailchimp to send our newsletter to members weekly on Friday mornings.

Katie Serbeck assists with the newsletters' technology, and of course, Pastor Fred checks and approves the newsletter before distribution. Links for the bulletin, our YouTube-based worship services, and other information are included in the newsletter.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY REPORTS

CONGREGATIONAL CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry continued this year as a way to remind members of God's light in our lives during times of need as well as in times of celebration.

With Kathy McFarland's help the birthday list was updated so we could send cards out to members each month. There were 14 people who helped write and send out cards for the card ministry. I would like to thank Sharon Matschke, Maira Rogers, Darleen Wawroski, Mabel Roy, Nancee Seidel, Elaine and Gary Tarantino, Kathy McFarland and Linda Gallup for sending birthday cards.

The Get Well/Thinking-of-you cards were sent out as needs arose. Charlene Rollins coordinated this part of the card ministry, and I would like to thank her for organizing this part and for keeping an ear out for members in need. She had a team of six members, and I thank Eileen Heinrich, Charlie Haas, Darleen Wawroski, Dawn Rothenburg-Rollins, Elaine Tarantino and Nancee Seidel for helping with this part of the card ministry.

A big thank you to Charlene Rollins for handmaking beautiful cards and providing cards and stamps to card ministry members. Dawn is also into making cards and many TLC members were fortunate to receive hers as well. This ministry continues through the time and talents of many Trinity members.

Thank you to Charlene for working together with me to keep this ministry going.

Lynn Sienkiewicz, Charlene Rollins – Co-Coordinator Card Ministry

LIVING FOR GIVING (L4G)

MISSION STATEMENT: Living 4 Giving is a group of Christians from Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover, New Jersey. L4G encourages the church membership to be aware of societal needs by providing various opportunities to serve within our church, local, as well as worldwide communities. It can be in the form of service, or gifts of tangible items and/or monetary gifts.

The year 2023 was one of outreach to locally identified needs, and projects supporting those who suffered from intense spring storms; local day laborers; Dover's children, who now have new books to read; and seafarers, who will enjoy the items in their Christmas satchels. Following is an accounting of Trinity's Living 4 Giving's chosen projects:

- "Souper Bowl Sunday" is celebrated by gathering non-perishable items for TLC Food Pantry. This year, the Food Pantry team compiled a "suggested items list." Trinity members were encouraged to take a list when shopping, so that most-needed pantry items would be purchased.
- Lent had our congregation focusing on Zufall, an organization serving the needy living and working in Morris County. Zufall's clients, benefiting from this project were day laborers who work on local farms or for landscapers. We collected

cleansing wipes, sunscreen, long-sleeved T-shirts, hats, socks, rain ponchos and umbrellas. Some \$381 in donations purchased additional needed items.

- Mother's Day and Father's Day were combined for one outreach focus: Those impacted by tornadoes and storms that ravaged the south and upper central plain states. We raised \$903, which was sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief to aid families who had lost their homes and belongings.
- Summer's "Pick an Apple; Buy a Book" project turned out to be a congregation favorite. "Apples" with titles and authors of early childhood and young adult books and authors were picked from a "tree," and 104 books were purchased, donated, displayed, and celebrated at a get-together Dover Public Library's children's section.
- Advent: Christmas satchels for seafarers were taken and filled by our congregation. Each contained a sweatshirt, T-shirt, knitted hat, three pairs of socks, a large chocolate or health bar and a can of nuts. The Pie and Dessert Auction's proceeds and other monetary gifts completed the filling of 73 satchels, which were delivered to the collection depot at First Lutheran Church in Clifton. A check for more than \$200 was sent to Seafarers International House to complete other unfinished satchels.

Throughout the year, as a loving, generous congregation, we shared our abundance with those who struggle to keep warm, put food on the table, placed books in children's hands, and helped give comfort and joy to seafarers far from home. You have given and continue to give your support, your heart, and your love. *You, Trinity, are the gift. Thank you.*

Wishing you a blessed 2024.

Peace,

Sandy Dean

Living 4 Giving Team Leader

FRUIT FOR GREYSTONE

"The Joan Frick Fruit for Greystone Ministry" honors Joan for her nearly 40 years of collecting donations to bring fresh fruit to Greystone's residents. Donations are gratefully accepted to this ministry, with all funds forwarded to Greystone.

A total of \$1,400. was donated, and maintained in a "Fruit for Greystone" account. Greystone and its patients greatly appreciate our generosity and support. Please keep them in your prayers.

FOOD PANTRY

The Trinity Food Pantry continued its mission, as stated in Matthew 25:35:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

In 2023, the Food Pantry transitioned in its leadership roles. We are grateful for the devotion of Jane Chraschewsky and Linda Gallup during their years of active service to the Food Pantry. The new leadership team of Kurt Heinrich, Jane Kraus and Donna Johnson will do their best to maintain the high quality of care and service that Jane and Linda provided for many years.

Our food bags consist of cereal, milk, soup, vegetables, fruit, tuna, canned meat, pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice, and beans. Additionally, we include a dozen eggs, farm-fresh vegetables and frozen meat donated by Ray of Hope from restaurants and Food Pantry clients may receive two bags per month. The number of bags distributed in 2023 was 1,389 a significant 44% increase over the previous year's 965 bags.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

A dedicated group of volunteers distributes bags of groceries Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Monday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., each week. Trinity's volunteers include Diana L., Joan Y., Liz S., Earl and Teresa B., Sandy D., Beverly D., Mabel R., Carol S., Marie M., Sheri S., Mike and Suzanne C., Elaine and Gary T., Sharon M., Jane K., Sandy S., Pauline C., Kurt H., Meg M. We also rely on community volunteers, including Marian M., Carol J., Maria B., Kathy C., Eliana V., Ruben G., Natalie S., and Andres S. Without these great folks, we would never be able to do this valuable ministry. Thank you all.

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPERS

With an increased demand for food, we have relied upon our shoppers to do more shopping than previously. The following served as Food Pantry Shoppers in 2023: Beverly Dominkowitz, Kelly Casario, Donna Johnson, Ken Kindberg, Jane Kraus, Jim Little, Sharon Matschke, Marie Matarazzo, Kurt Heinrich, Meg McQuarrie, Scott Miller, Maira Rogers, Mabel Roy, Andres Szentmiklosy, George and Nancee Seidel, Elaine and Gary Tarantino, and John and Lynn Sienkiewicz. We also thank Judy Miller for providing us with bread, and Sandy Dean for shopping for eggs each week. A special thanks goes to Kathy McFarland, who frequently shops, and helps the Food Pantry Ministry in many ways.

2023 FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Monetary donations to the Food Pantry are made through TLC's Local Hunger campaign. In 2023, \$16,582 was received. Food purchases of \$21,635 were made during the year.

2023 FOOD DONATIONS

The Food Pantry also thrives through donations of food, both large and small, from TLC members, partner churches, local businesses, and community residents. Special thanks go to groups such as Local Share, Ray of Hope and Connect for Community, who collect donations of meat, eggs and produce from restaurants, farmers' markets, and farmers themselves for the Food Pantry. The Girls Scouts of Morris County also donated 80 cases of cookies.

During special occasions like Thanksgiving, food has been donated from area schools' food drives, an automobile dealership, and local businesses. This Advent, TLC members and friends collected over 25 bags of food as a devotional practice of the season.

HEALTH KITS

Health Kits are distributed to Food Pantry and Faith Kitchen clients once per month. The kits include soap, toothpaste, a toothbrush, a razor, shampoo for women and shaving cream for men. These items are donated by generous TLC folks and community members. Additionally, Thrivent Action Team members: Lynn Sienkiewicz, Sheri Sauer, Gary Tarantino, Nancee Seidel, Carol Schwarz, Beth Barrett, and Jane Kraus applied for and received \$2,750 in Thrivent funds to purchase these supplies. Approximately 550 bags were distributed in 2023.

SOCKS, HATS AND GLOVES

A local businessman, Jim H., received donations from his customers of socks, knit hats, gloves and scarves to keep Food Pantry and Faith Kitchen clients warm and dry during the winter. Several churches and individuals also supported this ministry. We are grateful to these thoughtful donors.

Submitted,

Kurt Heinrich, Donna Johnson, and Jane Kraus

2023 Contributions to the Food Pantry

Organizations

Rockaway Township Senior Citizens
Knotty Pine Pub, Wharton
Ray of Hope Foundation, Inc., Mine Hill
Dover Public Schools
Morris Hills High School, Rockaway
Club Colombia, Dover
M&T Bank, Randolph
Connect for Community, Sparta
Local Share, Hope
Sacred Heart Leisure Club, Dover
Green Briar Volunteer Club, Wharton
Sabor Latino, Dover
Thrift Barns of Morris County, Denville
Wish, Denville
Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, Randolph
Girl Scout Troops 96214 and 98496
New Jersey Industrial Controls, Sparta
Raymour and Flanigan, Rockaway
Rotary Club, Dover

Churches

Grace Episcopal Church, Madison
Rise Up – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockaway
Mine Hill Presbyterian Church

Individuals

Renee Lawrence
Lisa and Glen Derner
Ruth Varney
Joan Kelly
Sheri Sauer
Alfred Gellene, Esq.
Richard Faas
Dolores Johnson
Tom Harvey
Amas Gueye
Brian Bedoya
Natalie Sylvester
Syrena LoRe
Berit Wenner
Patricia Piazza
Jean Rivinius-Lea
Bronwyn Springer
Kimberly Benavides
Emilio Delia
Joan Valentine
Elva Castro
Jennifer Park
Mike Rivas
Scott Mein

First Lutheran Church, Stewartsville
St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Washington
Millbrook United Methodist Church, Randolph
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes
First Pentecostal Church, Dover
Grace Church, Randolph

MEAL OF THE MONTH

A small group of volunteers helps with cooking and serving the meal in the Parish Life Center on the third Tuesday of each month.

In warmer months, we served a burrito bowl consisting of ground beef, beans, taco seasoning and corn over rice. We also offered cheese and chips to clients. In colder months, we served shepherd's pie. We always included fruit for the clients, as well. Both meals have been successful.

Thank you to those who have volunteered, offered their Thrivent Action Team funding, or donated to keep this outreach going. We know that the community we serve appreciates it.

Marie Matarazzo

FAITH KITCHEN

We will remember 2023 as a rewarding and successful year for Faith Kitchen. We continued to make improvements and fine-tune our functions:

- Updated our website and switched to a different carrier to save money. Our website can be accessed at www.faithkitchendover.org.
- Started daily Facebook posts, thanking the volunteer groups, showing photos of the meals and reporting the headcount. Our Facebook page can be accessed by searching for Faith Kitchen Dover.
- Arranged weekly donations of breakfast sandwiches, lunch sandwiches and desserts from the Wawa stores in Randolph and Jefferson.
- Arranged weekly donations from Kentucky Fried Chicken in Rockaway, through the volunteer group Rise-Up.
- Arranged weekly donations through a bread rescue group from Anthony & Sons Bakery in Denville.

In August, we received a donation of 3,000 pairs of socks from Bombas after a Board member had submitted an application more than a year ago; the donation arrived in September. Socks were distributed every Friday to our lunch guests. As Faith Kitchen is now a Giving Partner, we can renew the sock donation for 2024.

In October we received a lovely donation of handmade crocheted, knitted, and loomed hats and scarves from the East Hanover Senior Citizens' Club which were distributed to our lunch guests. These beautiful items were distributed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

On Thanksgiving Day, TLC volunteers and friends prepared 163 turkey dinners with all the fixings, and pie for dessert. TLC volunteers delivered 40 meals to the senior building on East Blackwell Street. Two dozen turkeys were prepared by TLC, St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Randolph and the United Presbyterian Church of Flanders.

We had much to be thankful for that day! A big thank you to Bill Eberly for bringing his brother Dave to play the piano for our lunch guests. Everyone enjoyed the music.

It costs approximately \$100 per day in consumables (paper plates, napkins, plasticware, toilet paper, placemats, paper towels, hot cups and lids, cold cups, etc.) to operate Faith Kitchen – that's \$600 per week or \$31,200 per year. We solicited and received grants from the Bayer Corporation, Catholic Human Services Fund and the New Jersey Synod to offset these costs.

Faith Kitchen's 1,901 volunteers served 33,112 meals in 2023.

Dan and Tina continue to be faithful Faith Kitchen assets, working hard to help our mission succeed.

Faith Kitchen continues to meet the needs of our community by providing our patrons with nutritious meals as well as access to other social services. This would not be possible without our amazing volunteers.

Thank you to Trinity Lutheran's Food Pantry volunteers, who greet our guests and perform the lunch headcount at the Faith Kitchen's door. You are appreciated!

Thank you to Trinity members who donated their Thrivent Action Team monies to Faith Kitchen.

Thank you to Kathy McFarland, who helps with milk runs and whenever there is any other need.

Thank you to Sandy Dean and her team of volunteers, who purchase, prepare and serve the meal on the second Tuesday of each month.

Thank you to Marie Matarazzo and her volunteers for providing Trinity's meal on the third Tuesday of each month, and to the TLC members who designated their Thrivent Action Teams for this cause.

Many, many thanks to TLC Council members, who volunteer every Saturday to open the building, put on the coffee, assist the volunteer groups, and greet Faith Kitchen guests. Your help is extremely appreciated.

Thank you to Pastor Fred and Ruben Gonzalez, who pitch in whenever and wherever needed!

Thank you to Bill Eberly for helping with plumbing and other maintenance issues that arise.

TLC members are always welcome to visit between 11:30 and 12:30 to see Faith Kitchen's mission in action.

I am blessed to work in a building where so many folks are busy helping others. Thank you to all who help sustain Faith Kitchen's mission to feed and help others.

Blessings,
Judy Miller, Executive Director,
Faith Kitchen

COUNTING TEAM

The counting team records weekly offerings and allocates them to the funds designated by the contributors, based on their envelope numbers. It is extremely helpful to the counters if, when you use your envelopes, you write the check number on your envelope and the envelope number on your check. If you misplace your envelopes, please use the generic "pew envelope." The team consists of seven volunteers. Each week, two volunteers count the offering and give the information to the Financial Secretary, Suzanne Capps, who then enters the data into our financial database.

While currently we have seven dedicated counters, we would welcome new team members who could volunteer once a month to help. If you would like to join the counting team, please let me know. The two team members usually count on Mondays, but the day is flexible.

I thank our dedicated team, for their time and effort are very much appreciated. Our team members are:

Mike Capps	Carol Schwarz
Beverly Dominkowitz	Joan Yurecsko
Sheri Sauer	Earl Baderschneider
Gary Tarantino	Beverly Dominkowitz, Coordinator

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Thrivent Benefit members do good for their community with Thrivent Action Teams, which offer each member \$250, twice a year, to fund activities benefiting people, organizations and churches.

Past recipients include the Dover Senior Building, Living for Giving projects, Faith Kitchen meals, purchasing canned goods for our Food Pantry, health supplies for the pantry, food for the food pantry, and other causes close to members' hearts. In 2023, 36 Trinity members applied for action teams, as well as 22 family members.

We will encourage members to use their action teams in 2024.

SECTION 4: Property Reports

BALD EAGLES/SILVER FOXES/MAINTENANCE

The hot water tank in the basement was flushed to remove sediment.

Replaced the hot water cartridge on the hand washing station in the kitchen.

Installed cell phone charging stations in the Parish Life Center and in Edna's Haven.

Tested the emergency lights to comply with fire department report. All emergency lights are now LED. The last lead acid battery powered emergency light was replaced this year.

Repaired fire door handle by the elevator.

Repaired the toilet seat in PLC men's room.

Repaired a stainless-steel table.

Lubed the wheels of a stainless-steel cart.

A plumber replaced the seal on the PLC men's room toilet.

A plumber replaced the sink trap in the first-floor ladies' room.

A plumber cleared the sewer line between the toilets and the first-floor hall. He said there is a bend in the line which contributes to the back up.

A new vendor inspected the fire extinguishers in the church and the PLC and replaced two which were out of date. They also inspected the fire suppression system above the oven.

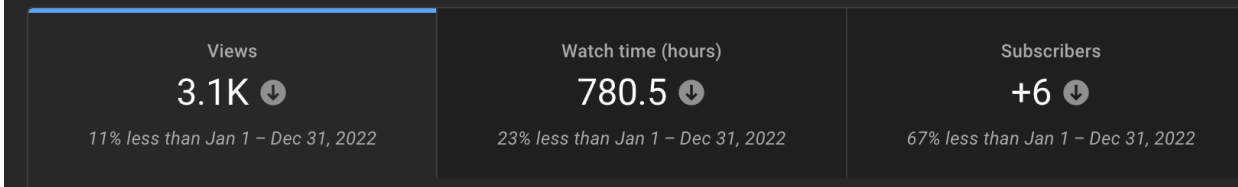
Bill Eberly

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

All our church services this year allowed for in-person and online worship. At the end of the year, we added several components so we can place images in the online worship service, primarily hymns during the service, and the narthex announcements, shown ten minutes before the service.

I continue my other responsibilities of maintaining technology equipment in the church, the office, and the financial office. I worked with the financial team this year to ensure statements were sent successfully to the congregation via emails, and I updated the Vanco page. My usual duties of creating the YouTube links, helping with the newsletter, updating the website, creating the weekly narthex announcement video, and maintaining our Facebook and Instagram pages continue.

Your videos got 3,118 views in 2023



This year, we created the Technology Team, which includes Meg McQuarrie and David Bernauer. On their own time, they've trained with me to learn how to use the online system and their participation is greatly appreciated. Sheri Sauer also was able to stream a service for me at year's end, due to Covid. Thank you!

Sadly, we did stream one funeral this year.

I thank the Council and the congregation for keeping the social media and technology coordinator as a permanent position. It is my honor to be able to bring "church" into your homes. Thank you all for your support.

Blessings,

Katie Serbeck

Technology and Social Media Coordinator

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund

January

In memory of Paul Persson by Nancee and George Seidel.
Designated for the Music Fund.

February

In honor of Sheri Sauer's birthday by Sue and Stan Ricketts.
Designated for the Food Pantry.

March

In memory of Kate Serbeck by Sheri Sauer.
Designated for the Food Pantry.

April

In memory of my husband, Phil, by Jane Chraschewsky.
Directed to CPR training.

June

In memory of Russ Johnson by June Gordon.
Designated to Fruit for Greystone.

In memory of Craig Hopping and Gary by Donna Hopping.

In memory of Richard Freund by Joan Yurecsko.

Designated to Food Pantry.

September

In memory of Tyler Scerbo by Beverly Dominkowitz.

Designated for the Music Fund.

In memory of Craig and Gary Hopping by Donna Hopping.

Given in memory of Tyler Scerbo by Julie Sauder.

Designated for the Music Fund.

October

In memory of Tyler Scerbo by Barbara Terreri.

Designated for the Music Fund.

November

Pew cushions given in memory of Suzanne Capps' parents John and Dorothy Martin by Suzanne and Mike Capps.

December

In memory of Joan Frick by June Gordon.

Designated for Fruit for Greystone.

In honor of: Sheri Sauer, Katie Serbeck, and Marie Matarazzo by Sue and Stan Ricketts

Designated for the Food Pantry.

In memory of my son, Craig Charles Stephen Hopping, by Donna Hopping.

Scholarships

Each year, Trinity's high school seniors may apply for any of five available scholarships from the Trinity Scholarship Fund.

The Charles Blethen Memorial Scholarship is for a student attending college or technical school or applying for a class or license in a technical field.

The Dean Science Scholarship is awarded to a student planning to enter any field of science or science-related discipline in college.

The DiPietro Scholarship benefits students from single-parent families.

Samantha Dennig received this scholarship.

The Ottoson Scholarship is for a student pursuing a music-related career.

The TLC Scholarship is based on involvement in TLC's ministries.

Report of the Financial Audit of the Congregation

The 2023 audit will be completed in February 2024.

It will be performed by the Audit Committee: Kurt Heinrich, David Bernauer, Kevin Seidel, assisted by John Sienkiewicz, treasurer and Beverly Dominkowitz, assistant treasurer.

Records audited: Congregational Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Thrivent Scholarships
Mission Investment Fund
Church Record of Ministerial Acts
Insurance Policies

The audit includes checking accounts, the investment account, check registries, ledger records and other records of disbursements.

Submitted by John Sienkiewicz, treasurer

2023 Pastor's Discretionary Fund Report

Opening balance \$7,125

Total deposits \$850

Housing assistance	\$890
Transportation	\$487
Medical	\$190
Council and volunteers	\$575
Hospitality/Food	\$560
Other	\$45

Total expenses \$3,160

Ending balance \$4,815

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund meets immediate and smaller needs in the community and the congregation at the pastor's discretion. It is not funded in the church budget, but through direct donations. This assistance is usually of an emergency nature, and typically takes the form of help with rent, utilities, medical expenses, transportation and requests for support in the community.

As you can see, this fund's balance is getting low. This is an invisible-yet- important way we are God's people in Dover. Please consider supporting this important work through a designated donation.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	2023 Spending Plan	% Change From 2022	% of 2023 Spending Plan
Mission Support					
Church wide(Synod)	18,000	18,000	17,600		
Faith Kitchen	800	800	800		
	18,800	18,800	18,400	-2.1%	6.0%
Pastor Salary & Benefits					
Salary	46,129	47,052	48,463		
Housing	30,600	30,600	30,600		
Continuing Education	1,000	1,000	1,000		
Automobile	2,000	1,500	1,000		
Cell Phone	0	0	660		
Medical Insurance	15,156	15,336	16,032		
Disability & Other Ins	1,817	1,817	1,447		
Pension	9,912	10,031	10,213		
NJ Taxes	1,522	1,553	1,599		
Social Security	5,870	5,940	6,048		
	114,006	114,829	117,063	1.9%	37.9%
Support Staff					
Support Staff Salary	98,915	109,706	97,515		
Supply Organist	1,000	800	800		
Supply Assistant	700	700	700		
Support Staff Pension	4214	4298	4427		
NJ Taxes	2455	2795	2368		
Social Security	5691	6479	5489		
	112,975	124,778	111,299	-10.8%	36.0%
Worship & Music					
Worship Materials	1,100	1,000	850		
Flowers	400	3,000	3,000		
Musicians	1,000	1,000	1,000		
Music	600	600	0		
Maintenance	1,320	1,320	1,320		
Off-Site Service	NA	1,100	0		
Other	400	200	400		
	4,820	8,220	6,570	-20.1%	2.1%
Building					
Maintenance	8,400	6,000	6,000		
Maintenance Contracts	3,300	4,000	4,850		
Snow Removal	5,000	5,000	5,000		
Building Supplies	1,020	600	300		
Insurance	12,065	12,900	15,150		
Utilities	15,640	15,400	15,760		
	45,425	43,900	47,060	7.2%	15.2%
Educational Ministry					
SCS/Adult Ed	350	350	0		
Confirmation	100	0	0		
Other	0	0	0		
	450	350	0	-100.0%	0.0%

	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan	2023 Spending Plan	% Change From 2022	% of 2023 Spending Plan
Office					
Supplies	2,000	2,000	1,800		
Equipment Contracts	1,040	2,268	2,268		
Equipment Maintenance	500	250	0		
Petty Cash	100	100	50		
Auto Caller	0	0	0		
Postage	500	500	300		
Technology	500	200	200		
Other	300	300	300		
	4,940	5,618	4,918	-12.5%	1.6%
Committees					
Youth	0	0	0		
Youth Gathering	0	0	0		
Finance	2,600	2,400	2,400		
Generosity	200	0	0		
Evangelism	1,000	200	0		
Senior Ministry	0	0	0		
Synod Assembly	1,300	1,300	1,300		
Parish Health Ministry	200	200	100		
Living 4 Giving	200	200	0		
Fellowship	200	200	0		
Congregational Care	200	200	0		
	5,900	4,700	3,800	-19.1%	1.2%
TOTAL	\$307,316	\$321,195	\$309,110	-3.8%	
Projected Income	\$280,788	\$255,154	\$252,178		
Deficit	\$26,528	\$66,041	\$56,932		

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2024 PROJECTED INCOME
(As of December 31, 2023)

<u>OFFERING (A)</u>	<u>PROJECTED INCOME</u>
2024 - 46 Pledges	\$228,388
(2023 - 47 Pledges , \$204,943)	
(2022 - 48 Pledges, \$221,450)	
(2021 - 49 pledges, \$233,384)	
(2020 - 54 pledges, \$217,810)	
Estimate for additional pledges	\$0
Estimate for non-pledge offering	\$29,700
Estimate for new members	\$300
Estimated loss due to member transfers, moves, etc.	\$0
Loose Offering	\$5,000
Holiday Offering	\$4,000
Initial Offering	\$300
Total (A) =	\$267,688
<u>OTHER (B)</u>	
Interest from Investments	\$10,000
Lutheran Magazine	\$75
Contributions for Altar Flowers	\$2,700
Total (B) =	\$12,775
2024 PROJECTED INCOME	A + B \$280,463

2023 Contribution Account Report	
Account	Balances
101 - Current Expenses	\$300,126.24
102 - Initial Offering	\$322.00
103 – The Lutheran	\$86.00
105 – Religious Holidays	\$4,024.00
120 – Flowers	\$2,085.00
121 – Flowers, Easter	\$320.00
123 – Flowers – Christmas	\$375.00
133 – Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	\$850.00
200 – Memorial Fund	\$1,180.00
304 – ELCA World Hunger	\$150.00
305 – Local Hunger – Food Cupboard	\$16,139.46
306 – Faith Kitchen	\$2,600.00
601 – Lenten Project	\$431.00
600 – Other Designated Funds	\$17,066.32
602 – Blankets/Mother’s Day	\$150.00
603 – Father’s Day Project	\$753.00
604 – Disaster Response	\$1,470.00
607 – Advent Project	\$56.00
621 – Musicians Fund	\$1,080.00
612 – Thrivent Choice	\$4,267.00
624 – Fruit Greystone	\$1,045.00
TOTAL	\$354,576.02

Suzanne Capps
 Financial Secretary

	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>
BALANCE ON HAND - January 1	\$62,251.95	\$57,454.52	\$48,966.37
<u>CASH RECIEPTS</u>			
General Offerings	\$289,191.77	\$299,729.60	\$307,338.24
Designated Offerings	\$50,510.51	\$39,100.66	\$49,747.77
Thrivent Choice Dollars Received	\$7,097.00	\$2,982.00	\$4,267.00
Savings Transfers to Checking	\$16,488.91	\$36,637.53	\$23,580.00
Total Cash Receipts	\$363,288.19	\$378,449.79	\$384,933.01
<u>OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Pastor Salary, Benefits, NJ Taxes	\$112,213.72	\$114,394.58	\$117,841.09
Support Staff Salary, Benefits, NJ Taxes	\$108,709.50	\$117,647.12	\$109,895.06
Mission Support	\$18,800.00	\$28,937.00	\$23,257.00
Building Maintenance and Expenses	\$39,314.68	\$41,138.66	\$41,186.42
Committee Expenses (includes Synod Assembly)	\$2,963.31	\$2,397.78	\$3,067.66
Worship and Music	\$4,349.14	\$2,458.20	\$3,285.14
Educational Ministry	\$358.38	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$5,800.83	\$5,075.41	\$5,032.47
Flowers	\$2,476.96	\$3,020.00	\$2,722.00
Sub-Total Operating Disbursements	\$294,986.52	\$315,068.75	\$306,286.84
<u>SPECIAL APPEALS DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Hunger - Local	\$14,252.05	\$24,556.76	\$21,635.25
Hunger - ELCA	\$1,115.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Mother's Day Project	\$227.00	\$705.00	\$150.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$4,000.00	\$10,747.00	\$6,700.00
MAT Fund (Memorial and Thanksgiving)	\$3,181.30	\$3,304.30	\$470.00
Faith Kitchen	\$4,588.00	\$3,160.00	\$2,600.00
Grants	\$12,982.08	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lenten Project	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$431.00
Disaster Relief	\$1,200.00	\$5,065.00	\$1,470.00
Father's Day Project	\$510.00	\$473.00	\$753.00
Senior Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52.61
Advent Project	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$1,111.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars Disbursed	\$7,097.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,182.00
Edna's Haven	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,003.00
Energy Fund	\$2,483.16	\$1,862.11	\$0.00
Choral Scholarship	\$2,575.00	\$1,300.00	\$100.00
Capital Campaign	\$0.00	\$4,902.00	\$3,721.00
Summer Project	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Musician Fund	\$2,275.00	\$2,525.00	\$2,879.99
Evangelism Marketing	\$627.69	\$500.00	\$112.30
Fruit for Greystone	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,400.00
5K Challenge	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$12,895.82	\$9,119.02	\$21,323.40
Sub-Total Special Appeals Disbursements	\$73,099.10	\$71,869.19	\$70,244.55
Total Disbursements	\$368,085.62	\$386,937.94	\$376,531.39
BALANCE ON HAND - DECEMBER 31	\$57,454.52	\$48,966.37	\$57,367.99
Operating Cash	\$11,917.38	\$16,845.23	\$35,359.13
Designated Cash	\$45,537.14	\$32,121.14	\$22,008.86

Respectfully Submitted,
John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer

	Balance 1/1/23	Deposits	Interest	Withdrawals	Share	Price/Share	Balance 12/31/23
MISSION PLUS FUND	\$280,247.14	\$20,274.46	\$3,024.04	(\$179,738.72)			\$123,806.92
Operating Reserve	\$28,848.90			(\$21,080.00)			\$8,165.22
Flood Insurance Deductible	\$26,703.76						\$27,303.51
Capital Improvements	\$902.91	\$15,027.22		(\$4,142.50)			\$9,112.97
Housing Fund	\$48,030.53	\$5,247.24		(\$40,530.00)			\$13,015.14
Capital Campaign (Fund Closed)	\$17,449.22			(\$13,306.22)			\$0.00
Local Hunger	\$5,812.15						\$5,942.64
MAT Fund	\$21,175.48			(\$15,000.00)			\$6,326.74
Youth Gathering	\$5,199.84						\$5,316.56
Organ Fund	\$4,607.75			(\$680.00)			\$4,022.60
Energy Fund (Loan Repaid)	\$1,412.08						\$0.00
Jackie Delaney Estate	\$45,909.41			(\$30,000.00)			\$24,929.49
Peter Goddard Estate	\$74,195.11			(\$55,000.00)			\$19,672.05
Total Mission Plus (Annual Percentage Yield is 2.5%)							\$123,806.92
VALLEY BANK CD	\$140,000.00		\$6,780.14				\$146,780.14
Housing Fund	\$40,000.00 *						\$41,937.18
MAT Fund	\$15,000.00 *						\$15,726.44
Jackie Delaney Estate	\$30,000.00 *						\$31,452.89
Peter Goddard Estate	\$55,000.00 *						\$57,663.63
*Money from Mission Plus Fund							
Total Valley CD (18 MO Term 5.45% Variable Rate)							\$146,780.14
THRIVENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$30,417.30		\$2,485.85	(\$2,500.00)	3374.379	\$9.01	\$30,403.15
Dean Scholarship	\$15,670.79		\$1,220.26	(\$2,500.00)			\$14,391.05
TLC Scholarship	\$3,317.21		\$284.69				\$3,601.89
Ottoson Music Scholarship	\$2,103.66		\$180.55				\$2,284.21
Blethen Scholarship	\$9,325.64		\$800.36				\$10,126.00
Total Thrivent Fund							\$30,403.15
TOTAL INVESTMENT ASSETS							\$300,990.21
Respectfully Submitted, John Sienkiewicz, Treasurer							

Thank you to Charlie Haas, our dedicated proofreader, for all of his hard work straightening out the writing of our wayward writers. This report would not be possible without him and in no way reflects the totality of his writing ability.