

A watercolor painting of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City, Iowa. The church features a prominent steeple with a cross on top, and a large, arched window. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground and around the church. The painting is done in a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

YEARBOOK

TWENTY TWENTY-FOUR

A YEAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MASON CITY, IOWA

WATERCOLOR PAINTING BY DICK LEET



213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
MASON CITY, IA 50401
641-423-0536
TRINITY-MC.ORG

2024

JANUARY

- Allison Day joins Trinity Staff as Worship Coordinator
- Trinity Annual Meeting was January 28
- Trinity's new leadership was voted in
- Paul Ward and Ashley Morrison exhibit their watercolor art in Rotating Art Exhibit
- Camp Sunday was January 21
- Healing Touch Spiritual Appreciation Banquet was held

FEBRUARY

- Trinity began its Lent series "*Wandering Heart*" - focusing on the life and faith of Jesus' disciple, Peter
- Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion / Imposition of Ashes was February 14
- Wednesday Lenten services began February 21
- Care Ministry is launched on February 28
- Cards of Care are prepared for those in need
- Nordic Choir from Luther College presents concert

MARCH

- Farewell Reception for Kristian Carlson, March 17
- Trinity had an Easter Egg Hunt on March 23
- Easter Food Boxes were distributed
- Holy Week began with Palm Sunday on March 24 and a Palm Procession
- "*Were you there?*" Cantata presented on Good Friday on March 29, written by Pastor Larry Day and featured Trinity Musicians
- Easter Celebration was on March 31
- Trinity Members travel to Jamaica to the Westhaven Children's Home
- Seven students completed *Welcome to the Table* on March 28 led by Pastor Daniel Hanson

APRIL

- Mission Jamaica participants shared their volunteer experiences
- Affirming and Healing Prayer presentation by Jim Collison on April 4
- Lunch & Learn presented Funeral Pre-Planning
- Sunday School Students went to Good Shepherd on April 21 to share music, prayer and greet the residents

MAY

- Bike Ride on new High Line Trail May 1
- Bibles presented to Third Graders on May 5
- Women's May Breakfast on May 9 featuring Victoria Borgessen and her Nyckelharpa
- New Members received on May 12
- Walk a Way Pilgrimage from LaCrosse, WI to Winona, MN —May 8-10
- Rotating Art Gallery featured Confirmation banners created from 2002-2021

JUNE

- Trinity Trippers travel to West Bend Grotto
- Our 2024 Baccalaureate class was recognized
- Vacation Bible School and Day Camp was held June 10-13
- Rotating Art Gallery featured Jim Zach productions
- Trinity Kids attend Riverside Camp
- C3 (Creative Collaborative Congregations) Ministry Fair—June 1 in Waverly
- Bike to Breakfast on the Trolley Trail to the Seven Stars Family Restaurant on June 19

2024

JULY

- July 1—Pastor Beverly Butler started as Pastor of Spiritual Care and Dani Vogel started as Trinity's new Youth Director
- Summer Sermon Series focused on *Lessons You Learned as a Kid*
- Trinity Kids attended Riverside Camp
- Parent vs. Kids Soccer Scrimmage/Get Together—July 21
- ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans—35 youth and adults from Trinity, St. James, Cross Roads Parish & St. Paul Lutheran attended.
- Nathan Elsbernd gave an Organ Recital on July 31
- Bike to Church Sunday was July 14 and there was an Evening Bike Ride on the Green Belt on July 15.

AUGUST

- Trinity Kids attended Riverside Camp
- Global Church Festival on August 24
- A new T150 Matching Gift Challenge began to help pay down the T150 loan.
- Senior Summer Luncheon was held on August 8 with over 100 people attending

SEPTEMBER

- Ministry Fair was held September 8
- Trinity began Generosity Series titled "Fueling Faith/Transforming Lives"
- Wednesday Night Alive Fall Programming began September 11
- Rotating Art Gallery featured Noemi Cruz-Orcutt and her photography
- Lunch & Learn—Create a Healthy Routine for Mental Wellbeing
- Trinity Trippers to Amana Colonies
- Mason City Ethnic Festival—September 20—Trinity's famous Scandinavian meatballs SOLD OUT!

OCTOBER

- God's Work. Our Hands. Service Event was held October 20
- Confirmation Sunday was held October 27
- Special Reformation Service—*Martin & Katie's Unexpected Adventure*
- KCMR held it's annual Sharathon at Trinity
- Food drive held for John Adams Middle School
- Lunch & Learn—Presentation 43 North Iowa

NOVEMBER

- Scandinavian Bazaar was held November 7
- Rotating Art Exhibit had Scandinavian Art featured
- Trinity began Advent series "*Words for the Beginning*"
- New Members received on November 10
- Featured story—Nathan Elsbernd—*Pursuing a Career in Music*

DECEMBER

- Caroling at Fat Hill raises donations for local and global charities
- Ladies' Christmas Tea was held December 5 with special guest Betty Jean Kauffman and her Norwegian Forest Cats
- Christmas Cantata was held December 7
- Sunday School Christmas Program was held December 8
- Youth held an Advent Brunch on December 15
- Trinity participated in the Giving Tree with gifts benefitting local organizations
- Fellowship Coffee was held December 17
- Christmas Game Show Extravaganza
- Seeking the Manger Escape Room offered
- Trinity held five Christmas Eve services on December 24



PASTOR
DAN GERRIETTS
SENIOR PASTOR

"There is a reason a car's windshield is bigger than its rearview mirror."

A high school friend used to say this whenever my driving got erratic. (I tend to talk with my hands, even in the car. And look around a lot. Apparently this is distressing for passengers!)

My friend's advice might apply to the church, too. It's good to look back. It's important to remember. But are we also looking ahead? Are we discerning what is next, where God is leading us now? Nostalgia is seductive. But as scripture often reminds us, God is far more interested in where we are headed than where we have been. "Remember not the former things," Isaiah 43 says, "I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?" Windshield words, for sure.

Over these past 12 months, Trinity's leadership and staff has spent a good deal of time discerning next steps for our congregation. 2025 brought new staff, new members, increases in worship attendance and outreach programs, and an overall sense that we are ready for a new season of mission.

Trinity's Council and Staff spent about six months this past year praying and listening for God's guidance. Rooted in our mission and values, and with help from an outside consult, we engaged in a Strength/Weakness/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) process that led us to five strategic initiatives for the coming 1-2 years:

- Create a Digital Ministry Advisory Team
- Explore alternative revenue streams for mission
- Recruit and equip lay leaders for key ministry roles
- Evaluate how are people being fed at TLC (worship, faith, relationships, etc.)
- Explore partnerships with other ministry sites

Our staff and lay leaders have already begun work on specific projects under each of these five initiatives. As you might guess, some of these focus areas are fairly straightforward. Others will require further study, questions and conversation.

This is where we need your help. Over the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for all Trinity members to reflect and provide feedback on questions specific to the SWOT Initiatives identified by our leadership. We want you to help us listen for the Spirit's guiding – and to help further focus our work together.

Stay tuned for more on how you can get involved. In the meantime, continue to pray for God's abundant blessing upon Trinity's servant work, and Christ's healing love among us. With eyes forward and grace-filled hearts, let us see what God has next for TLC!

In Christ,

Pastor Dan Gerrietts



BOB MASON
2024 PRESIDENT

What a Year this has been... To me it has been about building relationships and listening to stories. We opened every Council meeting with individual stories from each Council member. We heard stories about individuals, families, kids, grandkids, and hockey.

Sharing personal stories made us laugh, cry, and become emotionally attached to the person telling the story. I believe we became stronger leaders by listening to each other.

We also heard stories about Trinity. Our challenges, triumphs, our goals for the future, and changes within our staff.

We called Pastor Beverly Butler, Pastor of Spiritual Care and Dani Vogel, Youth Director and heard their stories as they become part of the Trinity Family.

There are so many stories to tell from the "life at Trinity" some examples came from:

- Lending a helping hand in Spencer, IA after the devastating flood
- The Summer Sermon Series, Lessons You Learned as a Kid
- The Relaunch of our Care Ministry
- The National Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Welcoming Micah Hanson and Hattie Morrison to the Trinity Family
- Mission Jamaica
- Scandinavian Bazaar
- T150 Construction Loan Campaign
- Wednesday Night Alive
- Sunday & Bible School Programs
- Completion of the Columbarium

The best story to tell is that Trinity Lutheran Church is in a very good position with its Leadership, Financials, Growth, Staff and Strategic Plan.

We will face some new challenges with key staff retirements in the coming year but I believe that our church Council and new leadership from Sarah Swegle, Council President, and Ethan Miller, President Elect, we are in good hands.

Let the stories continue....

Bob Mason
2024 President

SERVANT CHURCH



TRINITY
MEMBERS AND
COMMUNITY
HELP CLEAN UP
AFTER FLOODS
IN SPENCER, IA



CONFIRMATION CLASS CLEANING UP ROADSIDE



LADIES SERVING
MEATBALLS AND
ALMOND BARS AT
THE ETHNIC LUNCH
IN CENTRAL PARK



TRINITY LADIES LWR QUILTER TRIP



TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
VISIT GOOD SHEPHERD



TRINITY MEMBERS HELP WITH
MISSION JAMAICA 2024

TRINITY MEMBERS
TRAVELED TO
JAMAICA FOR
MISSION JAMAICA



Thank You for your continued help with Trinity Lutheran Church's mission!

**LIFELONG
FAITH
FORMATION**

Trinity's Youth had a wonderful year learning about Jesus, participating in fellowship, Confirmation, enjoying special events, and taking fantastic trips!



CONFIRMATION CLASS 2024



FIRST COMMUNION 2024



TRINITY YOUTH HAVE A BLAST AT GAMES
IN AMES IN AMES, IOWA



TRINITY BACCALAUREATE 2024



TRINITY VBS
AND DAY
CAMP 2024
(ABOVE)



TRINITY YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN
ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

TRINITY'S
YOUTH
DURING
PALM SUNDAY
CHILDREN'S
SERMON
(RIGHT)



WINNERS OF
TRINITY'S SCRIPTURE
SUPERBOWL 2024

FINANCIALS

ASSETS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Cash	\$ 671,990	
Investments	\$ 3,127,776	
Total Cash/Invest		\$ 3,799,766
Property and Equipment	\$ 8,210,457	
Total Property		\$ 8,210,457
Total Assets		\$ 12,010,223

LIABILITIES & NETWORTH

Liabilities	\$ 482,847	
Total Liabilities		\$ 482,847
Without Donor Restriction	\$ 8,969,701	
With Donor Restriction	\$ 2,557,675	
Total Equity		\$ 11,527,376
Total Liabilities and Net Worth		\$ 12,010,223

SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AS PROVIDED AT THE SEMI ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 30, 2024

We have reviewed the financial statements of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

SCHUPICK & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
13 North Federal
Mason City, Iowa 50401

A YEAR OF FUN

Trinity's always got something going on! The happenings of 2024 included events of faith formation, fellowship, exercise, cooking, learning, and good old-fashioned fun!



ONE OF TRINITY'S NUMEROUS COOKING CLASSES - COOKING WITH CARROTS NAD CELERY



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING - NEW ORLEANS, LA



MINISTRY FAIR 2024



SCULPTURE WALK



LUTHER COLLEGE NORDIC CHOIR CONCERT



TRINITY YOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY



TRINITY STAFF CELEBRATES PAM FIKE'S WORK ANNIVERSARY AT THE LANDING IN CLEAR LAKE

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA FEATURES BETTY JEAN KAUFFMAN AND HER NORWEGIAN FOREST CATS



TRINITY FOLKS ENJOY CAROLING AT FAT HILL

TWENTY TWENTY-FOUR

OUR
CONGREGATION

Membership: 3187			
Received		Removed	
By Baptism	14	By Death	29
By Transfer /		By Transfer /	
Affirmation of Faith	46	Archived	26
Total Increases	60	Total Decreases	55

BAPTISMS

Beau Ryan Spotts	Nova Lynn Swanson	Lillian Alyce Rowe
Dakahria Samyha Beek-Harris	Claire Genevieve Lee	Henry Orton Schneider
Wyatt Richard Shaw	Micah Dennis Hanson	Kenleigh Rose Frank
Phoenix Jeffrey Troy Bauer	Dawson Allan Maroo	Dakota Manuel William Matton
Kamden Carly Swanson	Spencer Grace Scheberl	

CONFIRMATIONS

Kale Anderson	Reid Hendrikson	Kennedy LeDuc
Elsa Bookmeyer	Evan Howe	Sheamus Lindsay
Logan Dodge	Evelynn Hunt	Brynn Peterson
Leilani Freeman	Nolan Hurd	Garret Willemsen

DEATHS

Marjorie Muchmore	Betty Squier	Kent Craun	Dennis Nuetzman
Eldon Olson	Logan Smith	Marlin Fosse	Volney Hansen
Bonnie Borchardt	Betty Gollnik	Peggy Dahl	Evonne Witham
Bill Britven	Calvin Anderson	Harriet Kuntz	Ruth Blazek
Don Weber	Henry Kalke	Dennis Largent	Barb Rickard
Shirley Kalvig	Bob Rush	Raymond Heimbuch	
Randy Brooks	Betty Febelstad	Dorothy Myhre	
Richard Muhlstein	Glendon Losen	Mavis Espinosa	

NEW MEMBERS

Val Alden	Nicky Hardy	David and Lindsey* Swartwood
Randy and Kathy Dedor	(Anna, Reed, Ellie & Claire)	(Lydia*)
Tracie Dedor	Sharol Hefti	Will and Rachel Symonds
(Tori)	Mark Hotzler	(Aurora+ & Sebastian+)
Joyce Ennis	Shea and Michael Jorgensen	Dani Vogel
Jim Forehand	(Finn & Calvin)	Greg Wilderman
Robin Fox	Matthew* and Kari Leibrand	
Jamie Fuller	(Reece, Ryder & summer)	
David and Meghan Haas	David and Cary Morehouse	<i>*Already members</i>
(Thomas, Madeline & Patrick)	^Larry Schimka	<i>^ Associate Member</i>
Casey and Cassidy Harris	Barry Schrag	<i>+ Not Baptized</i>
(Teagan & *Landon)	Kevin and Kathy Strunk	

STATS

AVERAGE WEEKLY IN-PERSON WORSHIP

2024 Average Weekly In-Person Worship = 425

2023 Average Weekly In-Person Worship = 410

AVERAGE WEEKLY ONLINE WORSHIP*

2024 Average Weekly Online Worship = 852*

2023 Average Weekly Online Worship = 886*

**includes Facebook and YouTube livestream views/downloads over one week following each service*

Total worship views on Facebook / YouTube in 2024 = 42,604

TRINITY-MC.ORG - TOP TENS

PAGES VISITED

- 1. / (homepage)
- 2. /bulletins/
- 3. /worship/
- 4. /events/
- 5. /calendar/
- 6. /staff/
- 7. /livestream/
- 8. /welcome/
- 9. /sermons/
- 10. /about/

USER LOCATION

- 1. United States
- 2. Canada
- 3. Ireland
- 4. Sweden
- 5. China
- 6. Nigeria
- 7. Germany
- 8. India
- 9. United Kingdom
- 10. No Location Set

VISITED BLOG POSTS

- 1. *Pastor Beverly Butler Joins Trinity Staff*
- 2. *Letter from Pastor Gerrietts - The Inescapable God*
- 3. *Epiphany Home Blessing*
- 4. *Servant Spotlight - Altar Guild - Preparing the Altar*
- 5. *A Tale of Two Bishops: Part One*
- 6. *Reformation Sunday 2024*
- 7. *Servant Spotlight - Kathy Dobrzynski*
- 8. *Meet Beverly and Dani*
- 9. *Mission Jamaica 2024*
- 10. *Letter from Pastor Gerrietts - Always Rising*

Source: Google Analytics

TRINITY
PASTORS

Dan Gerrietts
Senior Pastor

Daniel Hanson
Pastor of Spiritual
Growth

Beverly Butler
Pastor of
Spiritual Care

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Bob Mason, President
Sarah Swegle, President Elect
Ethan Miller, Vice President
Robin Bratvold, Secretary
Mark Lehmann, Treasurer

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Randy Elsbernd, Buildings and Grounds
Colleen Frein, Education
Jim Paape, Finance
Mark LeDuc, Ministries
Liz Fitzgerald, Generosity
Allison Day, Worship & Music
Margie Steinberg, Youth & Family

COMMITTEES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Ellie Koester
Derek Schlitter
Sam Hunt
Jim Zach
Gary Wattnem
Pat Marshall
Pam Fike

EDUCATION

McKenzie Humpal
Jennifer Lunning
Lisa Wulf
Gretchen Kellar
Teranie Heinzerling
Marty Greder
Daniel Hanson

FINANCE

John Rowe
Nancy Ball
Craig Miller
Gary Lindgren
Tracy Anderson
Kim Pang
Pam Fike

MINISTRIES

Joann Johnson
Kevin Hendrikson
Liza Lorenzen
Ronda Smith
Cynthia Zach
Penny Bennett
Dan Gerrietts

GENEROSITY

David Stine
Tim Dettmer
Scott Hermanson
Gina Napoletano-Clinger
Tracy Farland
Scott Boyle
Dan Gerrietts

WORSHIP

Sophia Fitzgerald
Molly Gerrietts
Melissa Shallberg
Tom Dettmer
Danny Miller
Warren Torkelson
Dan Gerrietts

YOUTH & FAMILY

Deidra Rattay
Katie Lindsay
Mandy Johnson
Sarah Powell
Kelsey Spotts
Emily Weaver
Dani Vogel
Daniel Hanson

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Toni Erickson

CABINETS

TRINITY STAFF

Allison Day
Worship Coordinator

Carol Dettmer
Director of Middle
School Ministries

Becky Elsbernd
Parish Nurse

Pam Fike
Parish Administrator

Marty Greder
Director of Education

Betsy Kirby
Director of
Contemporary
Worship

Ashley Morrison
Administrative
Assistant to
Communications

Michelle Murray
Connections
Writer / Editor

Lou Ann Rossler
Administrative
Assistant to
Congregation Life

Dave Smith
Facilities Team
Member

Dani Vogel
Director of Young
Adult & High School
Youth

SERVANT
Barb Oppedahl
Mary Burgmeier
Toby VanDenBosch
Susan Bangert
Carol Boehmler
Sara Lindquist
Ann Millard
Dan Gerrietts

LEGACY
Jim Paape
Sam Hunt
Roger Schlitter
Gary Wattne
Colleen Frein
Ken Schneider
Dan Gerrietts

ADULT MINISTRIES
Susan Schlitter
Jean Bloxham
Ann Marie Wilson
Patty Flatness
Dennis Wilson
Dixie Jellum
Vivian Heller
Kathy Pitcher
Becky Elsbernd

HEALTH MINISTRIES
Mark Feustel
Amie Otto
Brenda Heidkross
Jake Schweitzer
Linda Vold
Kevin Hendrickson
Ellie Koester
Mike Brown
Vivian Heller
Becky Elsbernd

**STUDENT AID/
SCHOLARSHIP**
Alyse Hesley
Tom Kirby
Cliff Rossler
Jan Feustel
David Stine
Pam Fike
Daniel Hanson

PERSONNEL
Jake Schweitzer
Tavi LeDuc
Brook Boehmler
Ethan Miller
Sarah Swegle
Dan Gerrietts
Pam Fike

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Heather Englin
Becky Miller
Mary Charlson
Becky Dettmer
Gina Napoletano Clinger
Julie Sanchez
Pat Guetzko
Kathie Lehmann
Dan Gerrietts

COLUMBARIUM
Leman Olson
Julie Sanchez
Sarah Swegle
Margie Steinberg
Gary Lindgren
Dan Gerrietts

MINISTRY

PLEDGE COMMITMENTS

	2023	2024	2025
Number of Households Pledged	210	191	175
Total Dollars Pledged	\$491,704	\$527,984	\$515,696
Average Pledge per Household	\$2,341	\$2,764	\$2,947

INCOME

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Offerings	\$1,006,000	\$975,633	\$1,008,500
Loose Offerings	\$24,000	\$21,613	\$20,000
Trust Income	\$91,643	\$68,293	\$92,000
Other	\$17,275	\$19,470	\$7,900
Total Income	\$1,138,918	\$1,085,009	\$1,128,400

EXPENSES

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Buildings and Grounds	\$112,000	\$112,942	\$111,750
Missions	\$178,600	\$175,395	\$182,100
Digital		\$269	\$12,000
Education	\$17,625	\$9,708	\$17,625
Finance	\$21,150	\$25,114	\$18,550
Ministries	\$15,070	\$13,932	\$16,175
Payroll	\$786,383	\$676,173	\$746,776
Generosity	\$4,050	\$3,546	\$4,050
Worship	\$12,750	\$11,602	\$12,250
Youth and Family	\$3,650	\$1,955	\$4,000
Total Expense	\$1,151,278	\$1,030,636	\$1,125,276
Income Less Expense	(\$12,360)	\$54,373	\$3,124

T150 CAMPAIGN

T150 Loan Balance	\$230,894
T150 Payment Fund Balance	\$ 79,209
Amount needed to payoff loan today	\$151,685
Cost of Interest on Loan Per Year	\$ 14,623

OUTREACH

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Beacon Warming Shelter	\$	1,000
Community Kitchen	\$	1,610
Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank	\$	1,495
KCMR Radio	\$	18,485
MC Alternative	\$	765
New Beginnings	\$	280
No Lights Alliance	\$	280
United Way	\$	95
St John's/Hygiene Pantry	\$	100
Community Support from Bazaar	\$	12,300
Total Community	\$	36,410

PARTNER SUPPORT

Lutheran Social Services	\$	5,000
Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp	\$	2,000
Welfare Fund	\$	3,517
Partner Support from Bazaar	\$	2,500
Total Partner	\$	13,017

MISSION SUPPORT

ELCA Disaster Relief	\$	2,942
ELCA Mission Support	\$	124,606
ELCA World Hunger	\$	13,899
Mission Jamaica	\$	800
Hungary Mission	\$	700
Luth Immigration Relief	\$	1,916
Global Church Fest	\$	90
Mission Support from Bazaar	\$	2,100
Total Mission	\$	147,053

YOUTH MISSION SUPPORT

Boy Scouts	\$	500
College Scholarships	\$	95,975
Seminary Scholarships	\$	5,000
UNI Campus Ministry	\$	600
Waldorf University	\$	1,000
Mission Support from Bazaar	\$	750
Total Youth	\$	103,825

2025

SAVE THE DATE

March 5

Ash Wednesday
(Services 1:30 PM & 6:30 PM)

April 17

Maundy Thursday
(Service 6:30 PM)

April 18

Good Friday—Cantata
(Service 6:30PM)

April 19

Easter Vigil
(Service 5:00 PM)

April 20

Easter Sunday
(Services 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM)

May 25 - September 1

Summer Worship
(9:00 AM Outdoor Service)

June 9-11

Day Camp / Vacation Bible School

June 29

Semi-Annual Meeting

September 7

Rally Sunday
Indoor Worship Begins

October 26

Confirmation Sunday

November 6

Scandinavian Bazaar

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship



213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE | MASON CITY, IA 50401

641-423-0536 TRINITY-MC.ORG

We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood