

TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE YEARBOOK

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE | MASON CITY, IA 50401

TRINITY-MC.ORG



 **TRINITY**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY

- Wednesday Night Alive Programming *“Around the World in Eight Weeks”* begins January 8
- Camp Sunday is January 12
- Trinity’s first Puzzle Palooza race is a huge hit on January 19
- The Rotating Art Gallery features *“Around the World in Eight Weeks”*
- Annual Health Fair for kids is Jan. 26
- Trinity’s Annual Meeting is Jan. 26

FEBRUARY

- Trinity begins its Lent series *“everything [in] between”* - focusing on Gospel of Luke
- Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion / Imposition of Ashes is March 5
- Wednesday Lenten services begin March 12
- Trinity welcomes Marta Eenhuis as its new Bells Director
- Trinity collects items for its JAMS Backpack Drive, LWR Baby Kits, and special donations for California Fire relief.
- Rosendor performs at Trinity February 16

MARCH

- Trinity continues with its Lent theme everything [in] between
- A daily devotional Journey with Jesus is offered as daily reading through Lent
- Trinity collects monetary donations for Easter Food boxes
- Trinity’s Youth serves Lenten Meals on Wednesday Nights
- Trinity Members attend Lutheran Day on the Hill
- The Rotating Art Gallery features work by Robert & Rosie Alsbury
- The Wartburg Choir performs on Sunday, March 30 in Trinity’s Sanctuary

APRIL

- Trinity has Belong & Grow classes for new members April 1 & 13
- Trinity begins looking for new Administrative Assistant to Congregational Life
- Holy Week begins April 12 and ends on Easter Sunday, April 20
- Sunday School kids sing with Adult Choir on Sunday, April 27
- Welcome to the Table — First Communion Instruction is held April 2 & 9, with First Communion held on April 17
- Wednesday Night Alive programming *Studies on Creation* begins, as well as *Living Well in the Midst of Grief and Loss*
- Visio Divina is held April 1 at MacNider Art Museum

MAY

- Rotating Art Gallery features Sugar Plum Preschool artwork
- New Members received May 4
- Lime Creek Bike Ride is held May 8
- May Breakfast is held May 15 with guest speaker Traci Dedor
- Outdoor worship begins May 25
- Lou Ann Rossler retires May 31

JUNE

- 2025 Baccalaureate is held June 1
- Trinity Trippers travel to Pella Tulip Festival
- Denise Lind joins Trinity’s staff as Administrative Assistant to Congregational Life
- Trinity features Sugar Plum Preschool in Connection
- Walk A Way is held June 4-6
- Vacation Bible School and Day Camp is held June 9-11
- Trinity debuts sermon series *Conversations with God*
- Trinity Announces Scholarship Recipients for 2025-2026
- Annual Canoe/Kayak Trip to Lime Creek is held June 27
- Semi-Annual Meeting is June 29
- Annual Sculpture Walk is June 30

JULY

- Visio Divina is held July 1
- *Conversations with God* sermon series continues
- Trinity Kids attended Riverside Camp
- Trinity Trippers see *Buddy Holly the Musical* July 13
- Bike to Church Sunday is July 13
- Evening Bike Ride to NIACC is July 14
- Soul Spa is held July 18
- Trinity has co-ed softball team that plays during the summer
- Global Health & Lutheran World Relief Bus Tour is July 23
- Rotating Art Gallery features creative work by Richard Leet
- Sanctuary seating is updated to provide more wheelchair space
- Trinity youth attends service trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin

AUGUST

- Celebrate the Harvest Potluck is August 3
- Senior Summer Luncheon is August 7
- August Sermon Series *We Believe* begins
- Colby Gochanour joins Trinity Staff as Director of Music Ministries
- Trinity Kids attended Riverside Camp
- Trinity holds Summer Block Party August 24 to invite neighborhood for a meal and activities

SEPTEMBER

- Belong & Grow new member class held September 4 & 14
- Ministry Fair was held September 7
- Marty Greder, Education Director, ends her tenure September 8
- Trinity holds T150 Matching Challenge
- Rally Sunday is September 7
- Wednesday Night Alive Fall programming begins September 10 with new Youth Programming called *Campfire Kids*
- JAMS Backpack Food Drive is held
- Memory Café begins—a new class for those (and caregivers) living with memory impairment

SEPTEMBER.. CONT...

- Trinity participates in Ethnic Lunch by Central Park with meatballs and almond bars
- Ministry Fair was held September 7
- Middle School Fall Fest is September 14
- Bike Ride around Clear Lake is held September 18
- Prayer Shawl Jamboree is held September 25

OCTOBER

- Coffee with Hungary's Bishop Tamas Fabiny is held October 1
- Trinity's Generosity Series: *Our Money Story* begins October 4
- Kylie Hansen, Nathan Elsbernd recital is October 5
- Trinity retires T150 Loan!
- Soul Spa was October 17
- God's Work. Our Hands Sunday was October 26.

NOVEMBER

- Confirmation Sunday was held November 2
- Scandinavian Bazaar was held November 6
- Step A Way pilgrimage is Nov. 11-13 at new Melleray Abbey
- Advent Sermon Series *A Promised Savior* begins November 30

DECEMBER

- Caroling at Fat Hill raises donations for local charities
- Christmas Tea was held December 4
- Christmas Cantata was December 6
- Sunday School Christmas Program was December 14
- Trinity participated in the Giving Tree with gifts benefitting local organizations
- Fellowship Coffee was December 16 featuring Christmas songs and Bingo
- Trinity holds four Christmas Eve services on December 24

As we look back on this past year at Trinity, I am grateful—for God’s faithfulness and for the people who continue to live out Christ’s healing love through this community. The story of 2025 is not simply about what we accomplished, but about who we are becoming as a congregation rooted in servanthood, relationships, and hope.

One of the most visible expressions of that spirit was the neighborhood Block Party in August. What began as an invitation became a joyful celebration of connection—neighbors meeting neighbors, generations coming together, laughter filling our grounds, and Trinity opening its hearts to the community around us. It was a beautiful reminder that ministry often begins with hospitality and presence, and that church is about meeting people where they are.

This year also marked a historic milestone in the life of our congregation: the fulfillment of our \$4.5 million T150 project loan. This achievement reflects years of faithful stewardship and a shared commitment to Trinity’s future. Launched in 2017, the T150 project has provided countless new spaces, improved heating/cooling, kitchen upgrades, our worship livestreaming technology and a large gift to Lutheran World Relief’s work in Bihar, India. What a joy to burn the mortgage this fall without using a dollar of general offerings on the loan!

Guiding our work throughout 2025 were four strategic goals, each helping us listen more carefully to God’s call in this new time. We began exploring alternative revenue streams to support mission, seeking creative and sustainable ways to fund ministry beyond traditional models. We continue to work at recruiting and equipping lay leaders, recognizing that, even with a wonderful staff, the church thrives when even more are empowered to lead and use their gifts.

We also spent time exploring how people are being fed at Trinity—through worship, faith formation, relationships, and care. These conversations reminded me that spiritual nourishment looks different for different people and that our calling is to build connections between people in meaningful and life-giving ways. Finally, we began exploring partnerships with area congregations, opening ourselves to new ways of being church together for the sake of God’s work in North Iowa.

As we gather for Trinity’s Annual Meeting, I give thanks for each person who has given their time, talents, prayers and resources to make this ministry possible. Our world is changing. Maybe faster than ever. Yet our calling to serve, welcome, receive and extend healing in Jesus’ name, does not change. May the God who has brought us to this new day guide us into ever-new ways of being Servant Church together!

Pastor Dan Gerriets



DAN GERRIETTS
SENIOR PASTOR

As I reflected on the past four years that I have been blessed to be a part of Trinity's Church Council, an image came to mind. I was reminded of the game we were taught as children to do quietly in the church pew: we would interlock our hands with our fingers turned inwards and say "here's the church, here's the steeple" (raising our index fingers together), "open the doors and see all the people" (opening our hands to reveal the fingers inside that represented the congregation).



SARAH SWEGLE
PRESIDENT OF
CONGREGATION

Trinity Lutheran Church *is* all about the people. We serve alongside each other under the Trinity mission: We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Trinity's Congregational President this past year. It has been a wonderful way to get to know each and every person around the table in a deeper way. We are so very blessed to have leadership that inspires, cares, collaborates, gives generously in all ways, and truly lives out the mission and values of Trinity Lutheran Church.

I continue to be amazed by the multitude of programs, opportunities, and projects that our dedicated staff and congregational members give their time and talents to create, as I read through the committee and cabinet reports each month. In the past year, our church has moved through staffing changes, welcomed many new members, replenished our youth camp scholarship fund, made significant progress on our Visioning Initiatives, successfully hosted a summer neighborhood block party, received the Klempnauer Award from the Mason City Chamber for our service to the North Iowa Band Festival, renovated the library lounge, had a record-breaking Scandinavian Bazaar, and retired our mortgage for the T150 building project along with a weekend of celebration. God has been so good to us and we have so much to be thankful for at Trinity.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Pastors, our staff, our church council, members of our committees and cabinets, musicians, teachers, and all volunteers that make this place of worship a welcoming, caring environment for all who enter our doors. It has been an honor to serve and grow alongside all of you. I pray for God's abundant blessings for our new leadership as Ethan Miller steps in as Council President, and Liz Fitzgerald as President Elect for the coming year.

Sarah Swegle
2025 President

SERVANT CHURCH



ANNUAL ETHNIC FAIR



FOLKS IN THE KITCHEN
HELPING WITH MEALS
FOR THE BAZAAR



RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT THE ANNUAL BAZAAR



VOLUNTEERS FOR GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



YOUTH SERVICE TRIP
TO MILWAUKEE



HELPING WITH CLEAN UP DURING
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



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 Sunday School!



CONFIRMATION CLASS 2025



BACCALAUREATE 2025



COLOR WAR AND GAMES AT WEST PARK



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL KIDDOS



KIDS AT RIVERSIDE RE-CHARGE ENJOYING THE SNOW (ABOVE)



SUNDAY SCHOOL THANKSGIVING (RIGHT)



KIDDOS MAKING APPLE PIES AT FALL FEST



TRINITY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM FEATURING OUR SANTA LUCIA GIRLS

FINANCIALS

ASSETS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Cash	\$ 654,821
Investments	\$ 3,394,123
Total Cash/Invest	\$ 4,048,944
Property and Equipment	\$ 8,251,304
Total Property	\$ 8,251,304
Total Assets	\$ 12,300,248

LIABILITIES & NETWORTH

Liabilities	\$ 292,418
Total Liabilities	\$ 292,418
Without Donor Restriction	\$ 9,429,825
With Donor Restriction	\$ 2,578,005
Total Equity	\$ 12,007,830
Total Liabilities and Net Worth	\$ 12,300,248

**SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
AS PROVIDED AT THE SEMI ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 29, 2025**

We have reviewed the financial statements of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, 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.

HARRISON & ASSOCIATES, CPAs

Mason City, Iowa 50401

2025 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

A YEAR OF FUN

Trinity's always got something going on! The happenings of 2025 included events of faith formation, fellowship, exercise, cooking, learning, and good old-fashioned fun!



TRINITY'S FIRST PUZZLE PALOOZA PUZZLE RACE!



TRINITY HAS COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY TO WELCOME NEIGHBORS



PLANTING A TREE



SOFTBALL GAMES



WALK A WAY PARTICIPANTS



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE FUN!



TRINITY'S LIBRARY REMODELED

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING IN THE PARKING LOT



AREA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS SING

OUR CONGREGATION IN TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE

Membership: **3196**

Received		Removed	
By Baptism	12	By Death	31
By Transfer/		By Transfer/	
Affirmation of Faith	42	Archived	14
Total Increases	54	Total Decreases	45

BAPTISMS

Leilani Cosette Freeman
 Audrey Rose Lee
 Hattie Margaret Morrison
 Edie Sutton Klapperich

Gus Stephen Klapperich
 Lacey Sandra Watt
 Walker McKenzie Swenson
 Arthur Lewis Swenson

Lily Rae Smith
 Cooper John Alden
 Wyatt Robert Metli
 Davi Skye Adams

CONFIRMATIONS

Gunner Clausen
 Cash Edwards
 Israella Fredrick
 Colton Hesley

Katherine Holmes
 Aubrey Lingbeek
 Kelsey Morud
 Aubrey Otto

Isaac Peters
 Raina Rattay
 Ranger Rattay
 Brady Rish

McKenna Schlitter
 Evan Schweitzer
 Lear Shultz
 Hayden Zilge

DEATHS

Gerald Jurasek
 Frank Voet
 Richard Lonning
 Janet Klein
 LaVonne Willford
 Cathy Hove
 Ann Espinosa
 Steve Rye

Dorothee Mayfield
 Viola Jurasek
 Bobbie Benjegerdes
 Avis Jensen
 Bonnie Ogaard
 Ruth "Lainey" Baker
 Janet Nauman
 Michael Coborn

Gaye Scott
 John Boedeker III
 James Hughes
 Robert Nelson
 Beverly Nedved
 Linda Fites
 Marlin Johnson
 David Siems

Gene Ostmo
 Karen Knudtson
 Darrel Lind
 Alyce Bailey
 Shirly Movick
 Marlene Kalke
 Dan Billings

NEW MEMBERS

Ed and Shelly Casey
 (Catherine, Kameron)
 Jane Anthony
 Johnathan Morrison
 (Hattie)
 Brian and Emily Koob
 (Grace, Addison, Noah)
 Joel and Jeannine Larson
 Rustin and Lyndsay Lingbeek
 (Aubrey, Jay, Kinzey)
 Linda Schluter
 CarolAnn Eppens

Drake Deaton
 Josh and Lindsay Guyer
 (Bodhi)
 Seth and Madison Nelson
 (Scottie)
 Chris and Wendy Rish
 (Cadence, Brady)
 Nate and Kara Ruge
 (Mila, Lanie, Owynn)
 William Samson
 Toby and Laura Schissel
 (Will)

Steve Williams
 Marilyn Winton

2025 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

AVERAGE WEEKLY IN-PERSON WORSHIP

STATS

2025 Weekly In-Person Worship = 390

AVERAGE WEEKLY ONLINE WORSHIP*

2025 Weekly Online Worship = 975*

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

Total worship views on Facebook Live and YouTube in 2025 = 22,352

TRINITY-MC.ORG - TOP TENS

PAGES VISITED

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

VISITED BLOG POSTS

1. *New Sanctuary Is Welcome to All*
2. *Lou Ann is Retiring*
3. *Baccalaureate 2025*
4. *Stronger Together—Letter from Pastor Dan Gerriets*
5. *God's Spotlight—Letter from Pastor Dan Gerriets*
6. *Thanks Be to God!— Letter from Pastor Dan Gerriets*
7. *Worship Transportation—Leave the Driving to Us*
8. *Ministries Committee—Serving Up More Than...*
9. *Live More Purposefully—Letter from Pastor Beverly Butler*
10. *Who's Who in Music Ministry*

Source: Google Analytics

TRINITY PASTORS

Dan Gerriets
SENIOR PASTOR

Daniel Hanson
PASTOR OF
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Beverly Butler
PASTOR OF
SPIRITUAL CARE

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Sarah Swegle, President
Ethan Miller, President Elect
Liz Fitzgerald, Vice President
Robin Bratvold, Secretary
Mark Lehmann, Treasurer

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Randy Elsbernd, Buildings and Grounds
McKenzie Humpal, Education
Jim Paape, Finance
Kevin Hendrikson, Ministries
Liz Fitzgerald, Generosity
Allison Day, Worship & Music
Ken Zimmerman, Youth & Family

COMMITTEES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Ellie Koester
Derek Schlitter
Sam Hunt
Jim Zach
Gary Wattnem
Jon Wicks
Pam Fike

GENEROSITY

David Stine
Tim Dettmer
Scott Hermanson
Gina Napoletano-Clinger
Alyse Hesley
Scott Boyle
Dan Gerriets

EDUCATION

Kris Latham
Jennifer Lunning
Lisa Wulf
Gretchen Kellar
Teranie Heinzerling
Marty Greder
Daniel Hanson

WORSHIP

Sophia Fitzgerald
Molly Gerriets
Melissa Shallberg
Margie Steinberg
Danny Miller
Daryl Erickson
Colby Gochanour

FINANCE

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

YOUTH & FAMILY

Deidra Rattay
Katie Lindsay
Mandy Johnson
Dana Rockwell
Cassidy Harris
Karyl Christensen
Dani Vogel
Daniel Hanson

MINISTRIES

Joann Johnson
Mindy Farland
Liza Lorenzen
Ronda Smith
Cynthia Zach
Penny Bennett
Dan Gerriets

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Toni Erickson

CABINETS

TRINITY STAFF

Carol Dettmer
DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE
SCHOOL MINISTRIES &
INTERIM EDUCATION
DIRECTOR

Becky Elsbernd
PARISH NURSE

Pam Fike
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Coly Gochanour
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MINISTRIES

Betsy Kirby
DIRECTOR OF
CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP

Ashley Morrison
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT TO
COMMUNICATIONS

Michelle Murray
CONNECTIONS
WRITER / EDITOR

Denise Lind
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT TO
CONGREGATION LIFE

Dave Smith
FACILITIES TEAM
MEMBER

Dani Vogel
DIRECTOR OF YOUNG
ADULT & HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH

SERVANT

Barb Oppedahl
Mary Burgmeier
Susan Bangert
Carol Boehmller
Ann Millard
Dan Gerriets

LEGACY

Jim Paape
Sam Hunt
Roger Schlitter
Gary Wattnem
Colleen Frein
Ken Schneider
Dan Gerriets

ADULT MINISTRIES

Susan Schlitter
Craig Remmen
Anna Marie Wilson
Betty and Ray Gogel
Janet Schmitz
Dixie Jellum
Vivian Heller
Kathy Pitcher
Judy Miller
Kim Pang
Becky Elsbernd

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Mark Feustel
Amie Otto
Karen Squier
Robin Fox
Kevin Hendrickson
Ellie Koester
Mike Brown
Vivian Heller
Becky Elsbernd

STUDENT AID/SCHOLARSHIP

Alyse Hesley
Tom Kirby
Cliff Rossler
Kathy Dobrzynski
David Stine
Pam Fike
Daniel Hanson

PERSONNEL

Jake Schweitzer
Tavi LeDuc
Brook Boehmller
Ethan Miller
Sarah Swegle
Dan Gerriets
Pam Fike

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Becky Miller
Mary Charlson
Becky Dettmer
Gina Napoletano Clinger
Julie Sanchez
Pat Guetzko
Kathie Lehmann
Kathy Dedor
Dan Gerriets

COLUMBIARIUM

Leman Olson
Julie Sanchez
Sarah Swegle
Margie Steinberg
Gary Lindgren
Dan Gerriets

2025 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

PLEDGE COMMITMENTS

MINISTRY

	2024	2025	2026
Number of Households	191	175	177
Pledged	\$527,984	\$515,696	\$539,196
Total Dollars Pledged	\$2,764	\$2,947	\$3,046

INCOME

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Offerings	\$1,010,700	\$1,025,580	\$1,031,000
Loose Offerings	\$20,000	\$19,893	\$18,000
Trust Income	\$92,000	\$82,186	\$145,000
Other	\$5,700	\$8,423	\$7,700
	\$1,128,400	\$1,136,082	\$1,201,700

EXPENSES

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Buildings and Grounds	\$111,750	\$109,890	\$125,250
Missions	\$182,100	\$183,598	\$183,350
Digital	\$12,000	\$4,580	\$16,350
Education	\$17,625	\$12,038	\$15,875
Finance	\$18,550	\$18,080	\$19,050
Generosity	4,050	\$3,767	\$4,050
Ministries	\$16,175	\$11,780	\$16,598
Payroll	\$746,776	\$711,131	\$803,323
Worship	\$12,250	\$10,767	\$15,250
Youth and Family	\$4,000	\$3,522	\$4,600
Total Expense	\$1,125,276	\$1,069,153	\$1,203,696
Income Less Expense		\$66,929	-\$1,996

OUTREACH

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Beacon Warming Shelter	\$ 514
Community Kitchen	\$ 5949
Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank	\$ 4,706
KCMR Radio	\$ 21,967
Head Start	\$ 1,294
MC Schools-ELL Family	\$ 1,215
United Way	\$ 100
St John's/Hygiene Pantry	\$ 280
Community Support from Bazaar	\$ 14,650
Total Community	\$ 51,175

PARTNER SUPPORT

Lutheran Social Services	\$ 5,100
Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp	\$ 2,000
Welfare Fund	\$ 7,180
Partner Support from Bazaar	\$ 2,000
Total Partner	\$ 16,280

MISSION SUPPORT

ELCA Disaster Relief	\$ 3,047
ELCA Mission Support	\$ 126,766
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 11,454
Mission Support from Bazaar	\$ 3,100
Total Mission	\$ 144,367

YOUTH MISSION SUPPORT

Boy Scouts	\$ 500
College Scholarships	\$ 90,750
Seminary Scholarships	\$ 5,000
UNI Campus Ministry	\$ 600
Waldorf University	\$ 1,000
Mission Support from Bazaar	\$ 750
Total Youth	\$ 98,600

2026 SAVE THE DATE

February 18
Ash Wednesday
(Services 1:00 PM & 6:30 PM)

April 2
Maundy Thursday
(Service 6:30 PM)

April 3
Good Friday—Cantata
(Service 6:30PM)

April 4
Easter Vigil
(Service 5:00 PM)

April 5
Easter Sunday
(Services 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM)

May 24 - September 6
Summer Worship
(9:00 AM Outdoor Service)

June 8-10
Day Camp / Vacation Bible School

June 28
Semi-Annual Meeting

September 6
Rally Sunday
Indoor Worship Begins

November 5
Scandinavian Bazaar

December 24
Christmas Eve Worship



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641-423-0536 TRINITY-MC.ORG

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