



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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Reverend Jennifer Boyd, Pastor  
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## **Trinity Lutheran Church Brewster, New York**



**Annual Congregation Meeting  
January 31, 2021**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Brewster, NY**

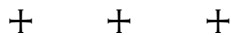
January 2021

Dear Fellow Member:

Attached are the Reports and Statements that will be discussed at our Congregation’s Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting to be held on January 31, 2021 following the 9:30 am service. (Sadly, due to Covid-19, our services are only on Zoom. There are no in-person services.) These reports are distributed now to give you ample time to read and review them prior to our meeting.

Your Council sincerely hopes each of Trinity’s members will make an honest effort to be “present” at the meeting as well as to participate in the inner workings of the congregation.

Debbie Lyon, Church Council President



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**Please note:** Reports are unedited and presented as received. Any questions should be directed to the person(s) submitting the report.

**A. ORDER FOR THE OPENING OF A CONGREGATION MEETING**

*Led by council president Debbie Lyon*

*Stand*

As there are many members in one body

**So, we, though many, are one body in Christ.**

Where two or three are gathered together in My name

**There I am in the midst of them.**

I urge you to live worthy of the calling you have received, being humble and gentle, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

**Let us pursue justice and peace, for mutual upbuilding.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord God, You taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by Your Spirit, may have a right discernment in all things and evermore rejoice in His Holy counsel, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

I declare the Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

**B. QUORUM ESTABLISHED**—Council members

**C. AGENDA ADOPTION**—The agenda appears on page 3

**D. MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH’S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – January 26, 2020**

- A. Meeting called to order by Gary Gerfen
- B. Quorum established
- C. Agenda Adoption: motion to adopt this year’s meeting agenda was made by Carol Fendt seconded by Ralph Rudolph and passed unanimously
- D. Pastors Report – thankful to the congregation and everyone who helps silently. Going on nine years with Trinity.
- E. Council Highlites: establish a church task force to bring the church in a new direction to bring new families with young children. Council members feel we need to bring recommendations into the council and you can contact Ralph Rudolph or Gary Gerfen with ideas. Come up with a name for the task force. Thank Charlie Germain for working with the youth. Youtube channel – sermons.
- F. Financial Recording Secretary Report – We had a good year. Financial issue at the end of the year. Dawn Andren had a heart attack and open heart surgery. New hand out to show corrected numbers. Errors 9. Projection for 2020 not 2019; 12. mortgage sessions should be out; 14. bottom of page proposed budget should be out and new info on hand out N + O; 15. some columns were left off, look at handout 3 column should be 5.
- G. New graph income level until Christmas. \$36,000 going in check book balance went down but then came back up \$6,000 above expenses. This year we made it with room to spare.
- H. New proposed budget proposing 2.5% increase for Pastor and Franklin.

- I. Linda Lund - special funds; Stephanie Lyons - income reporting; Dawn Andren – Treasurer; Acting Treasurer - Cyndi Bertone former treasurer until Dawn recoups. Thank you to Joanne Icken who corrals the counters and keeps Don in line.
  - J. Mike Stringer – office staff salary line \$25,000 budget not what we spent \$6,000 heavy. Propose shift to fuel and heating with the turmoil in the middle east no guarantee that prices stay, shift \$1,500 to heating line. Suggestion when Pastor takes a vacation we have a Pastor \$4,500 to supply pastor so we can have communion.
  - K. Joanne Icken – social ministry no money I usually have money. Pastor states it’s in building.
  - L. Two years ago we got rid of our mortgage \$38,000 we turned a \$6,000 plus line in 2019 where is the money going. Some people moved. Just a comment from Don.
  - M. Staff salary – raise so maybe keep some money. Supply Pastor - \$1,500; Repairs & Maintenance - \$3,000 sidewalk should have been sealed maybe could be used \$1,500 – heating and fuel.
  - N. Motion to approve the budget with the changes Michael Stringer seconded by Peter Donoghue
  - O. All approved – passes
  - P. Nominating committee report – Kathie Ruhs - 3 vacancies Jeannette Baldanza, Kemi Gerfen, Kathie Ruhs. Nomination committee Holly LaRocchia, Deb Lyon, Kathie Ruhs. Thank Don Icken for serving two terms
  - Q. Make a motion electing three council members on ballott Joy Baggetta seconded Linda Salinger
  - R. Need a nominating committee – Gary Gerfen asked to keep the same. Kathie said no, no, no. Deb Lyon volunteered as well as Marge Westervelt and Jeannette Baldanza.
  - S. New Business – motion to call the Deacons; make a motion Carol Fendt seconded Jeannette Baldanza
  - T. Property – Synod gets money back from sales of churches closing. They give back to existing churches. Need \$25,000 - \$30,000 for windows and rotting wood. Synod \$10,000 grant. Ken VonBargen looking at it now to match. This summer they will again work at giving new grants. So we will apply again. Capital Improvement Leadership is one more type of grant. Capital Improvement can be used towards paving. We are looking at it. Charlie Germain said it might not be guaranteed and they were looking at this. So we should jump at the grant. Are we getting new chairs? Lois Lawrence ordered chairs the check is cut and in 2 1/2 weeks the chairs will be here. Maroon with gray flecks. 100 chairs with 8 chair trolley. Council approved hand cart 1 free.
  - U. Formed a Sabbatical task force – Gary Gerfen, Heather Hargrave, Charlie Germain, Joan Bradley, MaryBeth Commisso – Sabbatical – college professor – intel Charles Swab, Synod considers giving a Pastor a Sabbatical. Spiritual enrichment growth and renewal time to spend in reflection. Pastor should bring back something to the congregation a skill. Must be at least 7 years in ministry and 5 years at a congregation. Three months to a year. Pastor recommends a project or activity, input from congregation. Also have the congregation do a Sabbatical, do a project or something. When - summer of 2022, length 3-4 months , who would cover - Pastors mother, who would handle Pastors day to day – new opportunities for congregation to step up. A Pastor no additional cost Litny Foundation Grant for pastor’s to take a Sabbatical contingent on receiving the grant. Kemi Gerfen - could be good 3 months okay 4 months a long time but seems good. Mike Stringer - any concerns about the shepherds away the flock goes too. Linda Salinger - intern pastors are they available. Don Icken - does Synod have a cover Pastor. Carol Fendt - focus of Sabbatical - wants to focus on Spanish, Guatemala , some people were interested in going looking at July, since we have a large Latino population. Stephanie Lyons asked if the congregation would vote on this. New to Pastor too. Carol Fendt - we have council members never see a list of council member names. Put a list of council members in annual congregation meeting.
- 44/190
- V. Joy Baggetta - Trinity Youth Group will be having a few things coming this year. Will need donations. Did a fantastic job with the egg sales.
  - W. Blood Drive 3/4/2020 Tuesday here at Trinity Lutheran Church

- X. Bulletin board to post up and coming events
- Y. Peter Donoghue took over property and is doing a good job. Thank you to everyone who points out things that may need attention.
- Z. Upcoming Trinitarian - need alter guilds, ushers and servers
- AA. A motion to adjourn Carol Fendt seconded Ken Mongold

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Stringer

## E. PASTOR'S 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### *Sharing the Peace of Christ*

A whole new lexicon of words and phrase entered our daily conversation over the last year – *unprecedented, hybrid, virtual, socially distanced* and the like. These months have been uncertain and ever-changing, filled with sharp technological learning curves. It was difficult to plan much and even more difficult to maintain many of our “normal” activities. Adjustments had to be made daily (and continue to do so).

In the midst of this time, the Church Council formed the above vision statement: *Sharing the Peace of Christ*. Most apt and fitting when peace these days seems rather elusive. Peace, in the biblical sense, is the fullness and wholeness of life, the life in which we are created in the image of God. Peace is recognizing our belovedness as God’s own. Peace surpasses the understandings of this world and invites us to see one another as God sees us. In the early days of the pandemic, my primary focus was in finding ways that we could stay connected when we could not gather physically together. We quickly moved to virtual worship, using Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Lutheran-Church-Brewster-NY-1605704206707>) and then uploading the services to our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBfzqqPTuf8fe3PjPr21gA>). We did have periodic technical difficulties and eventually bought a camera (rather than using my phone) that has improved our video. For those who are not online, we have mailed the weekly bulletin to them.

We also sought to connect with people through phone calls, social media and other contacts. The Church council also continues to also try to stay in touch with folks. We have discovered a few that we had wrong information, so if you have not gotten messages from the church office, please send your contact info to us. We have not had a newsletter sent out since March, but have been sending out at least one email per week with updates as well as the weekly bulletin. I have also done periodic videos on Facebook, sharing reflections on issues of faith, current events and announcements.



We began in hope that we would be able to soon meet in person again and so, we formed a Re-opening task force to look at what measures we might have to put in place to be able to do so. Changes were made to our worship space and some of our practices to allow us to do so – like marking off the pews, removing items in the pews, sign in sheets, readily available hand sanitizer and the like. We did have in person worship from July through November with an average of 20 people attending regularly. While meeting in person, we offered Holy Communion (wafers only) to those who attended and drive-thru before and after worship. I thank those who served on this task force for their insights and work: Jeanette Baldanza, Franklyn & MaryBeth Commisso, Peter Donoghue, Lois Lawrence, Georgina Marek, Dawn Morello, Sue Stringer and Pat Wills.

Zoom also entered our daily language as we began to meet for prayer, Bible study, Affirmation classes, book studies, coffee hour, crafting, meetings, etc. While it is not the same as being in person, it was an important

way for us to not just stay connected to one another but to our faith as well as our mission and ministry here at Trinity. Even when there were technical issues from time to time, it was wonderful to be able to gather in this way.

Living out our vision of **sharing the peace of Christ**, we had congregational meetings in which we discussed the possibility of site for our local homeless shelter. The original organization of and was re-formed through St. Lawrence O'Toole RC under a "**Brewster Cares**". After prayerful conversation, we voted to aspect of the ministry to those who are without homes in our week was to host was not until January of 2021, but even with precautions in place, it was a good week and witness to sharing Christ.



two special being a sleeping BESP disbanded new 501c3 called provide this midst. Our first Covid the peace of

With all the changes in 2020, we found new and creative ways to be the Church. One of the ways was our Virtual Christmas pageant "Do Not Be Afraid" where about 25-30 people participated. It was pre-recorded and posted on YouTube on Christmas eve. I was able to use a little of my theatre background and direct it; we were blessed by the knowledge of our office manager, Caitlyn Felder who edited it for us. I thank all of those who participated: John Baggetta, Alex Bertone, Fiona Cioffi, Erin Conroy, Phil DeRoberts, Heather & Zachary Duben, Imani, Caitlyn Felder and & Angie Felder Charlie & Irene Germain, Don Icken, Dorothy Kafalas, Andrew Klammer, Lois Lawrence, Debbie Lyons, Dawn & Luke Morello, Heidi & Bridget Morrione Hannah Simon, Grace Van Vlack, Cassandra & Kevin Wise, Elliot Wright. Also to the following for sharing special music: Grace Van Vlack, Solomon Bettcher, Juergan Tempel, Jen & Luke Morello. (link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpLMGUaNm6w&t=6s> )

We also had put together an Essential Pets of Trinity video as a way to give thanks for the animals in our lives (thank you to Lorna O'Hanlon for doing this). In addition, our Interfaith Thanksgiving was fully virtual on Zoom as we joined with faith leaders in Mahopac as well as Brewster & Carmel. Finally, a number of people read the book, "Dear Church" by Rev. Lenny Duncan which seeks to help us address the racist practices in the Lutheran Church.

While much continues to be uncertain regarding our return to "normal", we remain steadfast in our faith-filled relationship with God and with one another. We have lived as the Church in the world, fully experiencing what it means to be the Church not connected to a building.

Finally, I am as always thankful for the leadership of our Church Council, deacons and staff. Their faithfulness and flexibility in this time has been a blessing to me in this family of faith. Please do take the opportunity to thank them as well. Our Church Council: Debbie Lyons (President), Ralph Rudolph (Vice President), Gary Gerfen (secretary), Joy Baggetta, Phil DeRoberts, Holly Larrocchia, Kathie Ruhs, Lisa Schuldt, and Sue Stringer; our Deacons Charlie Germain & Dorothy Kafalas; and our staff, Dr. Franklyn Commisso (Music Director) and Caitlyn Felder (office manager); as well as countless volunteers who continue to live out their faith in service to the church and wider community.

May we all continue to be filled with the peace of Christ and share that peace in all of our lives.

**Peace in Christ. Pastor Jennifer Boyd**



## F. Council Highlights for 2020

As your church Council, we realize that saying 2020 was “challenging” is clearly stating the obvious. We also realize that saying God was with us during those same “challenges” may not seem so obvious. Yet, based on His faithfulness as well as His promised declared in His Holy Word, we believe God was with us and continues to be with us.

Sadly, 2020 was the year of Covid-19, lockdowns, and quarantines. Our church services and our meetings became “virtual” with Zoom becoming the norm. When we were allowed to re-open, we kept the virtual services/meetings, knowing many were not comfortable with an in-person setting. Then, the number of new cases climbed, and we again had to be only virtual which is where we are now as I am preparing this. Yet, even in our “new normal,” God’s presence manifested itself in various ways as we maneuvered our way through previously uncharted territory.

The highlights are below:

- The Leaders Church video series: “Clarifying Ministry Vision”

As your Council, we watched/discussed/prayed re: these videos and trusted God to lead us which He did. It was such a blessing to see how God used these videos to finalize something already stirring in Pastor Jen’s spirit.

- The Church’s Vision Statement:

“We are called to share the Peace of Christ to today’s world (a peace that passes all understanding).”

As your Council, we put “Sharing the Peace of Christ” into action by sending cards and/or letters to members as well as making periodic touch-base phone calls.

We are interested in testimonies of how you have shared His Peace or how someone has shared It with you and the outcome of that interaction. We are also looking for ideas of how we, as individuals, and, as God’s Church, can share Christ’s Peace. Please feel free to contact any Council member or Pastor Jen re: testimonies or suggestions.

- Brewster Cares

Sadly, BESP ended.

Thankfully, God “grew” something to fill the void. Father Gill (St. Laurence O’Toole) plus Charlie Germain (from here) along with a couple more churches and organizations were able to start “Brewster Cares.” This also serves the homeless population but has a much broader scope in way of services.

On November 01, 2020, in a special Congregational meeting, we voted to become a sleeping site.

- Clothing Shed

Again, due to Covid-19, the shed was closed. Thankfully, it has re-opened. We ask that as you spread the word, you re-iterate that it is for clothing-type items only.

It has been a pleasure serving with my fellow Council members and I thank God for all I have learned during this time. The Council will be electing a new President in February 2021. Whoever that may be, the congregation can trust that the Council along with Pastor Jen care deeply for all in our church.

With joy,

**Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Lyon, Council President**

**G. FINANCIAL RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT**

	<u>Year 2017</u> Income	<u>Year 2018</u> Income	<u>Year 2019</u> Income	<u>Year 2020</u> Income	<u>Year 2021</u> Projection
<b><u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u></b>					
Offering Envelope Income	174,350	181,048	176,909	174,097	175,000
Loose Plate	2,211	2,557	1,984	865	1,000
Sunday Church School	642	809.3	356	20	20
Initial Offering	230	210	170	160	100
Lenten/Easter	3,257	4,978	3,522	1,538	1,500
Thanksgiving	244	220	105	0	0
Christmas	16,603	5,649	5,772	1,850	5,000
<b><u>Total Contributions</u></b>	<b><u>\$197,537</u></b>	<b><u>\$195,472</u></b>	<b><u>\$188,818</u></b>	<b><u>\$178,530</u></b>	<b><u>\$182,620</u></b>
<b><u>OTHER INCOME AND DONATIONS</u></b>					
Baptisms/Weddings	500	500	0	0	0
Fund Raising	300	209	485	222	425
Building Use Donations	21,833	19,830	22,230	6,405	10,000
Interest Income	12	22	22	35.11	20
S.C.S. Materials Fees	930	570	330	0	0
Confirmation Fees	1,480	600	800	0	0
Thrivent	644	530	590	329	325
Miscellaneous Income	4,668	11,151	1,791	564	1,000
<b><u>Total Other Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$30,366</u></b>	<b><u>\$33,412</u></b>	<b><u>\$26,248</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,555</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,770</u></b>
<b><u>LOANS from other Trinity accounts</u></b>	\$10,335				
<b><u>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>\$238,238</u></b>	<b><u>\$228,884</u></b>	<b><u>\$215,066</u></b>	<b><u>\$186,085</u></b>	<b><u>\$194,390</u></b>

Offering Envelope Income estimate is based on pledges and prior year contributions.  
Stephanie Lyons, Financial Recording Secretary, 1/15/2021.

**Stephanie Lyons, Financial Recording Secretary**

## H. TREASURER REPORT

Trintiy Lutheran Church Balance  
Sheet

As of December 31, 2020

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	79.46
Putnam County Savings Bank	31,410.57
Total Checking/Savings	31,490.03
Total Current Assets	31,490.03

TOTAL ASSETS 31,490.03

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities	
Loan From Endowment	15,335.45
Retained Earnings	7,544.64
Total Other Current Liabilities	22,880.09
Total Current Liabilities	22,880.09
Total Liabilities	22,880.09

#### Equity

*Retained Earnings	26,633.25
Opening Balance Equity	-4,990.00
	-
Net Income	13,033.31
Total Equity	8,609.94

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 31,490.03

## I. MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND - Closed

J. SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT- JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020

FUND	BANK PCSB	DREYFUS MM	DREYFUS GNMA		FUND BALANCE
<b>General Memorial</b>					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2020	\$28,286.42	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$28,286.42
Income	\$25.00				\$25.00
Expenses	-\$5,548.75				-\$5,548.75
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$22,762.67</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$22,762.67</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music Fund</b>					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2020	\$3,151.37	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$3,151.37
Income	\$840.00				\$840.00
Expenses	-\$1,500.00				-\$1,500.00
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$2,491.37</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,491.37</b>
<b>Joan Laird Music Scholarship Fund</b>					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2020	\$36.65	\$0.00	\$3,603.87		\$3,640.52
Income					\$0.00
Expenses					\$0.00
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$36.65</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,603.87</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,640.52</b>
<b>Library Fund</b>					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2020	\$120.36	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$120.36
Income					\$0.00
Expenses					\$0.00
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$120.36</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$120.36</b>
<b>Capital Infrastructure/Building Improvement Fund</b>					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2020	\$35,452.60	\$0.00	\$1,141.01		\$36,593.61
Income	\$87.60				\$87.60
Expenses	-\$9,389.00				-\$9,389.00
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$26,151.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,141.01</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$27,292.21</b>
<b>Youth Scholarships</b>					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2020	\$3,214.80	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$3,214.80
Income	\$2,214.55				\$2,214.55
Expenses					\$0.00
<b>Balance on Hand 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$5,429.35</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,429.35</b>

Accounts Summary

	Start Balance as of 1/1/2020	Income	Expenses	Net Transfers	Balance as of 12/31/2020
PCSB	\$70,262.20	\$3,167.15	-\$16,437.75		\$56,991.60
DREYFUS MM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
DREYFUS GNMA	\$4,744.88	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$4,744.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,007.08</b>	<b>\$3,167.15</b>	<b>-\$16,437.75</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$61,736.48</b>

note: Dreyfus MM funds liquidated-funds put into cash acct at bank

**K. HOLDING ACCOUNT REPORT 2020**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HOLDING ACCOUNT REPORT  
12/31/20**

<b>FUND</b>		<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>SOCIAL MINISTRY</b>		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/20	\$874.28	
INCOME		
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/20	<u>                    </u>	\$874.28
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/20	1,801.89	
INCOME	305.05	
EXPENSES	<u>(305.05)</u>	
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/20		\$1,801.89
<b>PUTNAM CAP</b>		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/20	\$0.00	
INCOME	25.00	
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/20	<u>                    </u>	\$25.00
<b>BESP</b>		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/20	\$92.00	
INCOME	61.00	
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/20	<u>                    </u>	\$153.00
<b>YOUTH GROUP</b>		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/20	859.15	
INCOME		
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/20	<u>                    </u>	\$859.15
<b>INTEREST</b>		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/20	3.54	
INCOME	3.61	
EXPENSES	<u>0.00</u>	
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/20		<u>\$7.15</u>
<b>HOLDING ACCOUNT FUND TOTAL 12/31/20</b>		<u><u>\$3,720.47</u></u>

**L. APPROVAL OF ALL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Motion:** "I move that the 2020 Financial Reports, as follows, be approved as presented:

- Financial Recording Secretary Report
- Treasurer Report
- Mortgage Fund Report
- Mission Endowment Fund
- Special Funds Report, including Building Improvement Fund
- Holding Account Report
- All Committees, Affiliated Organizations and other Organizations' Financial Reports contained in the 2020 Annual Reports."

**M. PART 1, 2021 Proposed CONGREGATIOANAL BUDGET (as updated and approved at annual meeting)**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2020 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2020 PROPOSED</b>	<b>2021 PROPOSED</b>	<b>2020/2021 DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
BENEVOLENCE	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$105,992	\$107,750	\$107,750	\$0	
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY	\$989	\$2,795	\$2,795	\$0	
EVANGELISM MINISTRY	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$0	
WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$17,828	\$24,720	\$24,720	\$0	
ADMINISTRATION	\$42,704	\$47,000	\$47,000	\$0	
PROPERTY	\$24,946	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$0	
STEWARDSHIP	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$0	
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
FUND RAISING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
MISC EXPENSES	\$645	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$199,104</b>	<b>\$226,865</b>	<b>\$226,865</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**N. PART 2 2020 PROPOSED EXPENSE BUDGET - DETAIL (numbers may be off slightly due to rounding)**

<b>GENEAL FUND</b>	<b>2020 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2020 PROPOSED</b>	<b>2021 PROPOSED</b>	<b>2020/2021 DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b> (mission spport)	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	
<b>PASTORAL MINISTRY</b>					
Pastor's Continuing Education	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$0	
Pastor's Mileage Reimbursement	\$590	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	
Pastor's Pension & Benefits	\$26,012	\$25,560	\$25,560	\$0	
Pastor's Salary & Housing	\$79,364	\$79,290	\$79,290	\$0	
Other	\$26	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Total PASTORAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>\$105,992</b>	<b>\$107,750</b>	<b>\$107,750</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY</b>					
Affirmation	\$105	\$1,885	\$1,885	\$0	
<b>Nursery Roll</b>	\$0	\$160	\$160	\$0	
Scouting	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

<b>Sunday School</b>	\$556	\$750	\$750	\$0
Youth Group	\$328	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>\$989</b>	<b>\$2,795</b>	<b>\$2,795</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>EVANGELISM</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>				
Music Director	\$16,294	\$19,120	\$19,120	\$0
Music Supplies	\$73	\$800	\$800	\$0
Substitute Organist	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Worship Supplies	\$1,342	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Supply Pastor	\$50	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Special Music	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0
other	\$69	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	<b>\$17,828</b>	<b>\$24,720</b>	<b>\$24,720</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Administrative Supplies	\$2,850	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Bank Charges	\$181	\$500	\$500	\$0
Conventions & Workshops	\$0	\$890	\$890	\$0
Deacon Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$10,700	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Office Equipment	\$5,717	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
Office Staff Salaries	\$12,489	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$0
Payroll Taxes	\$8,035	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$0
Postage	\$854	\$1,814	\$1,814	\$0
Telephone	\$1,878	\$1,096	\$1,096	\$0
Transporation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$42,704</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b>				
Church Utilities	\$5,926	\$6,900	\$6,900	\$0
Custodial Care	\$7,836	\$11,600	\$11,600	\$0
Heating Fuel	\$5,600	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0
Repairs & Maintenance				
Contracts	\$2,282	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0
Snow Removal & Mowing	\$3,150	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Other	\$152	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>\$24,946</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Offerig Envelopes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>SOCIAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>FUND RAISING</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS EXP</b>				
Inrest Expense	\$3	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Not s GF Expnse	\$513	\$0	\$0	\$0
Uncategorized Exp	\$129	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$645</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$199,104</b>	<b>\$226,865</b>	<b>\$226,865</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## O. APPROVAL OF 2020 BUDGET

### P. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2021

- 1- Brent Hnatow
- 2- Ken VonBargen

It is an honor to be asked to be a part of the Church Council for my life long place of worship, Trinity Lutheran Church. I know that many of you know me well already, but for those of you whom I have not had the pleasure of talking to, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and give you a brief description of my life within Trinity Lutheran Church. I first came to Trinity in 1962, when the Church was still located in a house on Michael Neuner Drive in the Village of Brewster. I was confirmed in the church by Pastor Squires. I was later married on May 9th 1981 by Pastor Maertens. My wife Barbara officially joined Trinity in 2009 and served as a Sunday School Teacher when our Children were younger. All of our four children were baptized and confirmed at Trinity.

I have owned and operated Kenstruction, a contracting business in our community since 1986 and currently have joined in business with my youngest son William. I work a little closer "to wood" than I intended, with my forestry degree.

I have always had a passion to help out within my community. I have been involved with Boy Scouts for almost 21 years as an Assistant Scoutmaster, helping to support the growth and development of future pillars of our county. I am also a member of Brewster Elks's Lodge #2101. Volunteering is just something I have always done. I enjoy helping people in whatever way I can. My favorite times at Trinity usually involve the friends that I have made over the years. Whether at a Summer tag sale or the Christmas Ladies Club Bazaar or helping with repairs of the building and lending a hand and ladders for changing the sanctuary lights.

By joining the Church Council I hope that I will be able to continue helping in a new way. I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside all of you and help to grow Trinity Lutheran Church into the future.

- 3- Patty Kapp (finishing the rest of Kathie Ruhs term)

## Q. ELECTION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

### R. ELECTION OF 2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following persons have agreed to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee for 2018: to be announced.

## S. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Motion to Renew Calls to Trinity's Deacons

Trinity's Church Council has reviewed **2020** deacon reports for Deacon Charles Germain, Jr. and Deacon Dorothy Kafalas. We commend their faithfulness and dedication, acknowledging the contribution these non-stipendiary Deacons have made to our congregational life.

The Council recommends to the congregation that the Calls to our two deacons be renewed for the year 2019 by approving the following motion: "BE IT RESOLVED that the Calls to Deacon Charles Germain, Jr. and Deacon Dorothy Kafalas to serve as Deacons of Trinity Lutheran Church be renewed for the year 2019."



## T. APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION

## U. ADJOURNMENT

## V. ORDER FOR THE CLOSING OF A CONGREGATION MEETING

*Led by Pastor Jennifer Boyd*

*Stand*

You will be my witnesses

**To the ends of the earth**

I chose you and appointed you

**To bear fruit which abides**

Lo, I will be with you always

**To the end of time**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### 1. TRINITY MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY 2016 to 2020 (5-Year Comparison)

Year	Baptized Received	Baptized Removed	Existing Members Baptized	Baptized Change	Baptized Year-End	Confirmed Received	Confirmed Removed	Existing Members Confirmed	Confirmed Changed	Confirmed Year-End	
2021	0	0	0	0	368	0	0	0	0	301	
2020	0	2	0	-2	368	0	2	0	-2	301	
2019	7	136	1	-128	369	7	95	0	-88	302	
2018	0	8	0	-8	550	0	8	4	-4	420	
2017	1	9	0	-8	554	0	9	4	-5	419	
2016	7	10	0	-3	564	5	9	0	-4	427	

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 2.0 Education Ministry Committee

#### 2.1 Sunday Church School - 2020-2021

Due to Covid, the SCS only met a few weeks at the beginning of 2020. Two of our young people - Zachary Duben & Jonathan Sciarra learned about Holy Communion from Debbie Lyons.

Pastor Jen met in the spring via Zoom with the SCS kids after worship as a way to check in and do a brief teaching time. Resources were sent to them for Easter and Christmas.

A few of them participated in the Virtual Christmas pageant.

**submitted by Pastor Jen Boyd**

#### 2.2 Communion Instruction

### 2.3 Affirmation Report – 2020

Like everything else, Affirmation at Trinity was much different this past year than anyone would have anticipated. Due to the pandemic, the three young people who completed the third year of Affirmation affirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 25, rather than the traditional Pentecost Sunday, which was May 31. In May, we had not started in-person worship services yet, and everyone was in agreement that the Affirmation service should take place when the congregation could gather together. The young people promised:

to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism,  
to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear his word and share his supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

It was sometime in March that we stopped having in-person worship services. Of course, that meant that we stopped having in-person Affirmation sessions also. So we went on-line on March 29 using Zoom to connect with everyone. Attendance in April and May was very high since no one had any place to go. We ended our sessions on June 7.

We picked up our Affirmation sessions again on Sept 27 starting with a hybrid model where people could attend in person or via zoom since a couple of people indicated that they might attend in person. However, everyone attended via zoom, and that's what we've been doing this fall. Attendance dropped off and on a few Sundays I only had one person in attendance.

This year we've been following the narrative lectionary, discussing the readings for each Sunday. Typically I would send out questions related to the reading during the week which we would discuss on Sunday. Since there are six young people in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> years, I would usually ask 6 questions and either have them choose a question to lead the discussion on, or assign what questions aren't picked. That way it's not just me talking, and everyone is making contributions. At least that's how it's supposed to work.

Here's my problem. While the discussions often seem to go well, most of the time when I make reference to something we talked about one or two weeks before, I often get blank stares. Little seems to be retained. When we don't know the stories of our faith, then we don't know who we are. And then, it's not that we don't believe, but we believe anything anyone says. That leaves our young people vulnerable. One of my daughters teaches in a high school, and this year she was asked to teach philosophy, on-line of course. Part of that was philosophy of religion, so she had various representative from various religions do on-line presentations for her classes. I suggested to her that she get an ELCA pastor to talk about Protestantism, which she did. What was interesting was that what came out of that was that her students gained a new prospective of what Protestantism was about. Unfortunately, what we often hear about in the media are perspectives from the religious right which doesn't represent main line Protestantism and doesn't understand grace. So her students were surprised and intrigued by the presentation. Our young people need to be able to recognize and understand that standing in front of a church holding a Bible in your hand isn't what the Gospel is about.

We live in a culture that not only misrepresents Christianity, but marginalizes religion. The consequence of that is that fewer parents engage in religious practice or bring their children to Sunday School. So what we see are decreasing numbers in attendance in religious participation. This past year there were only three young people in third year Affirmation. In 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year Affirmation, there is only one new person this year. Looking at last year's Sunday School, there will be years when there are no, zero, young people in Affirmation. We've seen this happen in other congregations, including those who participated in our Affirmation Retreat, which we had to cancel this year.

How we do Affirmation really needs to be reexamined. We need to get more creative. I say "we" because it isn't just me alone. It's the congregation, and in particular the families with young people in Affirmation who need to help make a difference. Some of the models I've seen suggest that young people shouldn't be confirmed until they are ready. And that has some appeal for me, but what does it mean to "be ready"? Are any of us ever ready to make the promises listed at the beginning of this report? The coming years are going to be very challenging.

deacon Charlie Germain

## 2.4a Youth Group

## 2.5 Cradle Roll 2020 Annual Report

We began the 2020 Cradle Roll with seven lambs. Seven children, including several from 2019, were added during the year. Six children turned three and moved up from the Splash! curriculum to continue in SCS. We have started 2021 with eight lambs Splash!-ing along.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Brown

## 2.6 Faith Formation 2020

### Adult Faith Formation report

I continued to offer a few different opportunities for people to learn and grow in their faith. We had a monthly Faith Book Club that met part of the year. We read and discussed the series by Sharon Garlough Brown (sensible shoes series) which invited us into various faith practice. We also reflected together on one of Corrie Ten Boom book, “Ask, Thanks, Wow” by Anne Lamott as well as a series of sermon/essays by Martin Luther King, jr.

Our Wednesday evening study gathered around a number of different themes during the year, looking at the ways in which scripture intersects with our daily lives. We began the year with a video series from ChurchNext about The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers. We began Lent with a study on Jesus’ life revealed through art led by De Lockhiss but due to the pandemic had to be halted. We hope to be able to continue this study when we are through this socially distant lifestyle.

Studies resumed as we moved our weekly gatherings to Zoom. We did a series called “Unafraid”, loosely based on a book by Scott Hamilton called *Unafraid: Living with hope in uncertain times*. In June, as our worship series theme of “Unraveled” (from A Sanctified Art) which various people from the Bible and the ways that their lives then were woven into new ways by the grace of God. In did a series called “Love is greater than” and covered such hunger, grief, tradition, etc.



*courage and used the explored unraveled and the Fall, we areas as*

We ended the year using a Bible study developed by the recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women. This study looked at a variety of biblical women and their leadership in various times.

ELCA in

As always, people are invited to join together in any of the studies offered. If these particular times do not work, please let me know and I am willing to offer additional opportunities.

Submitted by Pastor Jen Boyd

### **3.0 Worship & Music 2020**

The Worship and Music Committee meets several times per year to plan the elements of our worship services and ensure that the needs of the Music Ministry and Altar Guild are met. We examine ways in which to bring new experiences into worship through song, prayer and liturgy. We also ensure that the roles of Assisting Ministers and Ushers are filled through our small but very dedicated and generous slate of volunteers. The Committee is always eager to receive feedback and entertain ideas on ways to make worship a richer experience. We do have an ongoing need for additional Assisting Ministers and Ushers at both regular services. Our current volunteers are sometimes called upon to serve more frequently than we would wish and our less faithful volunteer, One Needed, too often shows up on the schedule. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for one (or both!) of these roles. Kathie Ruhs and Kemi Gerfin currently share in the scheduling of Assisting Ministers and Ushers. The current members of the Worship and Music Committee are Pastor Boyd, Franklyn Commisso, Mary Beth Commisso, Dorothy Kafalas, Joanne Icken, Kathy Ruhs, and Lisa Schult. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please speak with any of us.

**Yours in Christ's service,**

**Joanne Icken**

### **3.1 Music Ministry Report 2020**

Psalm 137 says "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?"

The year 2020 has been strange and very difficult. So many have spoken about how they miss the music in our worship, especially singing. It has been a true temptation to sing God's praises as we recited the words of our hymns. One wonders how the people of faith coped with epidemics like the 1918 flu, the 18<sup>th</sup> century smallpox, the 14<sup>th</sup> century plague, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century tuberculosis. Forty years ago, I was so shocked to see in an upstate cemetery, the graves of my great uncle, his wife, and eight children who died one after another within days. How can we "sing the Lord's song" at this strange time?

While our in- person music programs were active for only a few months, they enriched our worship immensely. We rejoice in the strong and inspired leadership of Joy Baggetta as director of the Joyful Noise Children's Choir. As always Mary Beth Commisso is deeply dedicated and inspiring with our Senior Bells. We have dedicated members of the Bell Choir and are so very grateful for the Holy Spirit's inspiration in upholding everyone who volunteers. When we are once again able to resume our music programs, we will continue to ask for bell ringers since with more ringers, we have the potential to make more published music accessible to us. Thanks from the bottom of my heart to the Senior Choir for their kindness, constant prayers, and willingness to try any form of music presented. You have all been a rich blessing to me and Trinity and I always hold you deep in my heart.

Our three choirs are gifts from God and we love and support them in joyful gratitude. They are all precious and deeply loved. We express our humble gratitude to every soul who serves the Lord in both Worship and Music at Trinity.

This past year Trinity Brass, led by Bill Lemak, continued to uplift worship, and we were able to have special music for Mardi Gras and the Moravian Lovefeast, with music by Johann Thommen (1711-1783), Swiss reformer and hymnist of the Moravian and Reformed Churches.

Lisa Schuldt and Jake Groundwater on guitar provided hymns for our Annual Blessing of the Animals. Lisa also provided a musical offering on the viola for worship. Our Christmas season was made brighter with Solomon Bettcher, Grace Van Vlack, and Jennifer Morello with violins, Juergen Tempel on cello, and Luke Morello on flute. What a rich blessing to have such gifts at Trinity! Deepest thanks to them. Music was also provided for the McCloskey funeral.

While worship was held virtually, hymns and anthems continued to be chosen to fit the lectionary. By providing links to YouTube, those who were unable to be at church physically are able to sing along at home. Reciting the words of the hymns gave us the opportunity to reflect more deeply on their meaning. YouTube links were also provided each week for anthems that complemented the worship lessons, providing the opportunity to feature a broad diversity of traditions in the anthems beyond what we are equipped to do at Trinity including a wide range of styles and nationalities.

February 2021 marks my 20th anniversary of service at Trinity. It has been a true privilege and blessing to be able to serve worship and so many thanks to the congregation for all their support, prayers, and expressions of appreciation.

Respectfully submitted, Franklyn W. Commisso, Minister of Music

<b>Senior Choir</b>	<b>Senior Bells</b>	<b>Joyful Noise Choir</b>
Maureen Sergio	Sue Stringer	Hannah Simon
Linda Salinger	Cyndi Bertone	Solomon Bettcher
Pastor Boyd	Maureen Sergio	Tatem Bettcher
Joanne Dzibela	Barbara Markert	Tatiana Bettcher
	Franklyn Commisso	Fiona Cioffi
Sue Stringer		
Joanne Icken		
Ralph Rudolph		
Franklyn Commisso		
Mary Beth Commisso		

Respectfully submitted, Franklyn W. Commisso, Minister of Music

### 3.2 Altar Guild 2020

The Altar Guild is a group of dedicated individual who perform their service faithfully in God’s House. Altar Guild members prepare the altar for worship each Sunday. Their responsibilities include maintaining the altar linens, changing the colored paraments according to the church calendar, polishing the communion vessels, and preparing the candles. These tasks require about one hour each week to prepare for the 8:30 am service on Sunday, 15 minutes between services, and another 15 minutes following the second service. Assigned weeks are divided according to your availability and worship habits. We are currently seeking new members to join us in our ministry. In 2019 the following individuals served on the Altar Guild: Don Icken, Holly and Charlie Larocchia, Georgina Marek, Pat Rudolph, Kathie Ruhs, Florence Rothenberger, and Heidi Steike. If you are interested in a new area of Service to Our Lord, please contact Joanne Icken at jicken@yahoo.com.

### Worship & Music 2020

The Worship and Music Committee meets several times per year to plan the elements of our worship services and ensure that the needs of the Music Ministry and Altar Guild are met. We examine ways in which to bring new experiences into worship through song, prayer and liturgy. We also ensure that the roles of Assisting Ministers and Ushers are filled through our small but very dedicated and generous slate of volunteers. The Committee is always eager to receive feedback and entertain ideas on ways to make worship a richer experience. We do have an ongoing need for additional Assisting Ministers and Ushers at both regular services. Our current volunteers are sometimes called upon to serve more frequently than we would wish and our less faithful volunteer, One Needed, too often shows up on the schedule. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for one (or both!) of these roles. Kathie Ruhs and Kemi Gerfin currently share in the scheduling of Assisting Ministers and Ushers. The current members of the Worship and Music Committee are Pastor Boyd, Franklyn Commisso, Mary Beth Commisso, Dorothy Kafalas, Joanne Icken, Kathy Ruhs, and Lisa Schult. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please speak with any of us.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Icken

### 3.3 Flower Fund Annual Report of 2020

### 3.4 Baptisms 2020

*We welcome you into the Body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.*

After water is poured and the newly baptized is “walking wet,” we welcome them as a part of God’s family here at Trinity. We receive them as our brother or sister, promising to share God’s love with them as they grow in faith and years.

This year we were blessed to welcome the following into our community of faith: **This year we were blessed to**

#### **Baptisms**

11/8/2020 CARPENTER, COLE

#### **Affirmation/Confirmation**

Daniel A. Baggetta  
Kyle Thomas Klammer  
Lucas Bertone

#### **Funerals (date of service)**

Rita Karlsson(burial: 7/21)  
Charlotte Murray (9/26)  
Lorraine Cornell (burial: 10/10)  
Charles Crocker (burial: 10/16)  
Hedy McClowsky (12/5)

welcome the following into our community of faith:

#### 4.0 EVANGELISM 2019

##### 4.1 Publicity Committee

#### 4.0 EVANGELISM 2020

##### 4.1 Publicity Committee

We need someone to continue the Publiciy committee.

Respectfully submitted , Caitlyn Felder

#### 5.0 OUTREACH COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

##### 5.1 Social Ministry 2020

In 2020, due to COVID-19, Trinity did not do as much social ministry as was done in the past years.

But even with limited church access or the church closing we continued our food collection for Putnam CAP. Members of the Trinity crocheting group continued crocheting and were able to supply Putnam CAP with winter hats and scarves.

I hope 2021 will allow us to participate more fully once again.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Icken

##### 5.2 Blood Drive 2020

Trinity Blood Drives are a partnership ministry (known as the Churches of Brewster) with St. Lawrence O'Toole Church and the New York Blood Center. The Churches of Brewster held **two regular blood drives in 2020**, collecting from our eligible donors a total of **124** units of whole blood and **41** units of double red blood cells, resulting in **165 total blood products** for distribution. Each donation can be split and given to three recipients. Donating blood is an important life-saving act. Cancer patients, transplant and surgery patients, trauma victims, newborn babies and many more in our community need blood transfusions every day. Please make an appointment (800-933-2566) or register online ([www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org)) to donate and help save lives. Our next blood drive will be in **Shepherd's Hall at Trinity on Tuesday March 2**. Some of the challenges faced last year included restrictions that required cancellation of the usual June Blood Drive, and the adoption of many virus-prevention protocols that will continue in 2021. Thank you for your support, and many thanks to Pastor Jen, Caitlyn Felder, and volunteers Pam and Fred Carlson, Georgina Marek, and Dorothy Kafalas for helping the blood drive run so smoothly.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Fendt



### **5.3 Emergency Shelter**

The Emergency Shelter is up and operating again for the 16<sup>th</sup> year providing meals and a safe warm place to sleep for those who have no place else to go. Irene and I are the coordinators for Trinity.

We had our first week this winter from December 28 – January 4. Between 3 to 6 people, and a total of 8 different individuals, including two women, were guests at the shelter each night. Each received a hot meal in the evening, a light breakfast and lunch to go.

For the winter of 2019 – 2020 Trinity covered the weeks of December 9 - 15 (2019), February 10 – 16 and March 9 – 15. Typically we had approximately 12 guests each night and as many as 16 on some evenings. As we've experienced for a few years, approximately half were Hispanic and half were local people, including several women who came from time to time.

As you may know, the shelter shut down abruptly last March 16 when COVID-19 started to become an issue. Then in the summer, what was left of the BESP (Brewster Emergency Shelter Partnership) board, without consulting the coordinators, dissolved the organization. Let me just say that I believe they were overwhelmed by the situation and leave it at that. Fortunately a new organization that was being formed by St Lawrence O'Toole Roman Catholic Church called Brewster Cares picked up that ministry so it would continue.

Brewster Cares has made several enhancements to the shelter program. They hired someone to act as shelter manager who now oversees the operation. They also established a warming site at 484 North Main Street in Brewster which is open from 6:30AM – 2:30PM each day. Coordinating with Putnam County Dept of Social Services, we hope that the warming site will become a place where those who are homeless can get counseling and directed to organizations that can help them become self-sufficient. Brewster Cares hired staff for both the shelter and warming center. One of the overnight staff has been with the shelter from the beginning and is bilingual. The other 3 persons hired are new.

There are three congregations participating as sleeping sites this year; St Lawrence O'Toole Roman Catholic in Brewster, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic in Putnam Lake, and Trinity Lutheran in Brewster. Individuals from other local congregations also volunteer to serve. In the past, all the sleeping sites were in Brewster Village and guests were able to walk to the sleeping site after being checked out at the meeting location. However, St Andrews Episcopal shut down in 2019. 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist shut down in 2020. 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist in Brewster felt that the space they had available for the shelter was too small for adequate social distancing, so elected to not participate this year. The Dept of Social Services is able to pick up the cost for taxis, so congregations located outside the village are available for sleeping sites this year.

A **BIG THANK YOU** for all those who have provided hot meals and lunches. And especially **THANK YOU** for those who have volunteered to sleep over. We particularly want to thank Phil DeRoberts who, along with his wife Donyce

has helped set up for our week, keeps a check on supplies and is part of the moving crew that moves the cots and sleeping bags from site to site each Monday.

In addition to the paid supervisor, who stays awake all night, a volunteer sleeps over. In the past, for most weeks, we've had enough volunteers so no one has had to sleep over more than one night. This year, with COVID-19 being an issue, three of us had to take two nights each sleeping over. While I understand the concern, it puts a burden on those who do volunteer to sleep over. This is a ministry of Trinity which the congregation voted to support on November 1.

We've taken a number of measures to minimize risk of COVID-19. For starters, guests all wash their hands or use sanitizer upon entering. Thanks to Peter Donoghue, MERV 13 filters have been installed in the heating system. We operate two air filters with HEPA filters when the shelter is in operation which can circulate and filter the air twice each hour. Cots are a minimum of six feet apart. Guests and staff wear masks except when eating and sleeping. Volunteer's temperatures are taken when they arrive. Guests are screened at the warming center and their temperatures are taken prior to their being sent to the sleeping site. While nothing is a 100% guarantee that COVID-19 will not be spread, all these precautions add to the safety of volunteers, guests and staff.

**Respectfully submitted, Irene & Charlie Germain**

**Shelter Coordinators**



## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

### **6.1 Stewardship**

## **7. RESOURCE COMMITTEES**

### **7.1 Property Committee Annual Report (Year Ending 2020)**

January 2021 Annual Report of Property Committee detailing work completed in 2020

“He who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it in you.”

You may know this beautiful line from a song based on Philippians 1:6 and wonder if we can still be reassured that He will be faithful in completing “God’s good work” here at Trinity with “our hands.” Let us not be discouraged and go forward (even in the midst of the current worldwide Covid pandemic) with the faith and knowledge that God knows what we need, and will provide us with whatever we need, to do the work God has given us to do. Personally speaking...I just try to keep up! We could not gather together for Spring and Fall clean up days due to Covid-19 social distancing requirements, but hope to be able to schedule clean up days this year when we will be able to work together once again. So, I thank you one and all; property committee members and volunteers, for all the “good work” you have done this past year in taking care of our beautiful Trinity Lutheran Church.

I will list here some of the property concerns we took care of in 2020:

Fellowship Hall exterior doors and railings received a fresh coat of “redwood” paint that was mixed at Home Depot for an exact match to the existing color.

Church vinyl siding was washed with a mold removal solution and brushed clean.

All summer landscaping, trimming and mowing, was done weekly by volunteers.

Fall leaf clean up was done over many weekends and thankfully, most of the leaves had fallen by Thanksgiving Day.

All a/c units have new filters installed and will be replaced according to schedule.

Our water filter is also changed regularly to ensure good, clean water.

Christmas lights were strung at each of our entrances and wreaths hung on doors to offer a warm welcome to Trinity Lutheran.

A special thank you goes out to Ken & William von Barga for all the help they gave me while they were here in the summer replacing windows in our vestibule. Their expertise helped me to determine why an a/c drain line kept leaking through the ceiling and gave me advice on how to fix it, which I did and it no longer leaks. We also had an outdoor faucet that was leaking back into the building and Ken purchased and replaced that faucet for us. They also had their tall extension ladders on hand which they allowed me and Rich Winters to use to go up and replace the burned out bulbs in the sanctuary. Ken also pointed me in the right direction in where to get the exact replacement faucet for an upstairs bathroom which made it easier for me to install since it was an exact fit.

Pat Willis has once again ensured that the rental contracts and insurance forms are up to date for the groups that rent space here. She’s also the first one they call when they need something, so thanks Pat for all you do and the information you pass along to the committee.

Sincerely,

**Respectfully submitted, Peter Donoghue, Property Committee Chair**

**7.2 PROPERTY USE INCOME 2020**

**PROPERTY USE COORDINATORS REPORT FOR 2020**

Pat Willis

PAYMENTS.	YEARLY AMOUNT
GROUP	
AL-ANON.	150.00
Resurrection Bible Church	3580.00
YOGA	1025.00. Paid \$400 for Nov/Dec 2019 in Jan 2020
PWDS	420.00
NAR-ANON	312.50
MEN'S GROUP(AA)	3140.00
EMERALD ASSOCIATION	910.00
MUSIC TOGETHER	350.00 Paid \$420 in Dec2019 \$350 was for Jan/Feb 2020
TOTAL 2020	\$9887.50
TOTAL 2019.	21,505.00
DECREASE OF.	11,617.50

We currently have five groups still meeting at Trinity.

**Respectfully submitted, Pat Willis, Building Coordinator**

**8. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS**

## 8.1a WELCA Annual Report 2020

As WELCA we are Part of the Women of the ELCA Churchwide Organization. The Churchwide organization is divided into 65 synods. Our Synod organization is the Metro NY Women of the ELCA. The purpose of WELCA is as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to live in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

For our Trinity WELCA, Irene Germain served as chairperson, Dee Lockshiss as Treasurer for the first half of the year, Deb Lyon as our Bible study leader and Pastor Jen as our Lenten and Advent study leader and Lois Lawrence as the leader of the Thread and Yarn group.

With COVID many activities were cancelled including our Holiday Market, The Metro NY WELCA Gathering and the churchwide WELCA Convention and Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona. Our WELCA Thursday morning group met until March and tried again in the fall to Advent and stopped due the rise in cases.

Some bright spots for the year were the thread and yarn Friday group led by Lois. People got to try their hand at various crocheting items. We look forward to incorporating some days next year for this activity, continue with Bible studies, work on projects for Lutheran World Relief and work with the congregation to have a Holiday Market.

Another bright spot was we were able to transport many items that had been collected by Trinity for Lutheran World Relief to a collection point at Crossroads Camp. These included 38 baby kits, 5 quilts, 63 school kits and 72 personal care kits.

We all hope to renew our activities again as the numbers of cases decrease and number of vaccinations increase.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Germain

## WELCA 2020 Financial Statement

Starting balance	10735.05
Income:	
WELCA offering Thursday and Friday group	92.00
Sale of coffee	180.00
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Total income	272.00
Disbursements:	
Staff gifts 2018	300.00
BESP	350.00
CAP	200.00
ELCA Good Gifts	425.00

Friends of San Lucas	425.00
WELCA Metro-Synod	250.00
Memorial Steve Bradley	75.00
San Lucas Coffee Purchase	170.00
Printing of WELCA checks	26.50
	<hr/>
Total disbursements	2221.50
Ending balance	8785.55

### 8.1b Women of the ELCA 2019 Financial Report—Year End Statement

## 9. STAFF REPORTS

### 9.1a Office Administration 2020

**Since the pandemic happened in 2020 we have changed some ways of function:**

**Online Worship:** Before the shutdown we went on with regular worship but since then we have been virtual. At certain points during this pandemic we were limited in person and virtual. Bulletins are emailed and mailed out. Bulletins created for virtual worship, funerals, and a wedding also being recorded for files. Certificates created for baptisms, weddings, Holy Communion instruction, and Affirmation as needed.

**Trinitarian, Trinity Weekly; TLC E-News:** Due to the pandemic we haven't continued this segment. Instead we send out updates.

**Prayer list:** Maintaining the prayer list.

**Building use:** Regular liaising with Property Use Coordinator, Pat Wills. Managing the Trinity calendar in Shepherd Staff, updating or creating contracts, recording payments and processing for new or one-time only rentals. Assisting the property use coordinator with outside and church groups and the calendar; signing building keys in and out.

**Finance:** Creating purchase orders and processing payments; ordering office and worship supplies as needed, Property supplies, and safety supplies for keeping the office sterilized.

**Shepherd Staff updates and reporting:** Managing Trinity calendar, Recording pledges, communion and attendance and printing contributor statements.

**Council:** Preparing monthly reports including office activities and Virtual worship attendance.

**Office Management/Other:** Handling phone calls, Updating Route 6 and building signs; Sorting mail and processing bills for payment, Purchasing office materials, worship supplies, and email and mailing annual meeting and stewardships.

#### \* What events, activities, etc, were you able to offer during 2020?

Putting together the Virtual Christmas Pageant and being apart of it with my family. Creating the pet tags for the Pet blessings this past year.

#### \*What were the particular challenges due to Covid?

Having to convert over to online worship was very challenging since it was done on very short notice.

#### \* What kinds of adjustments did you make to continue this ministry, if any?

When the Lockdown was in place Pastor and I had to come up with quick ways to be able to have worship online and put together a list of people that would need to be mailed bulletins and any important information. During the online worship instead of printing the bulletins for worship on Sundays we changed it to an online version in which I send in and email with the gods story every week. I also mail a certain amount of printed bulletins for people who are not online. We use to do the trinity weekly and the trinitarian but we had to stop that since we werent meeting in person and couldn't particpoae in events and the many activity groups we have. I am prinitng and mailing a lot more. Since this pandemic instead of seeing people come in for help like printing or other wants now I come in to see notes on my desk of what people need done and I actually miss people coming in talking and seeing how they are doing then moving on to helping them with what they need. Now I do what they ask but then sometimes we have to schedule times or figure out ways to get them what they needed.

**\* What are ways that this ministry will continue in this new year?**

I believe from what is going on. We will continue to be online. I like that pastor wanted to do the pageant because since the church isnt open we arent able to do the many activites and events that goes on throughout the year. So coming up with more virtual fun activites for the congregation to still in enjoy those parts of the year that we missed.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlyn Felder, Office Administrator**

**9.2a Deacon's Report for 2020—Deacon Charlie Germain**

I'm not sure who said it, but I was at an art exhibit a few years back and saw a quote that read, "Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable". When we get comfortable, we get complacent. And complacency leads to our loosing site of what we're supposed to be about, and then our traditions become meaningless. We needed to be disturbed.

I imagine that all of our annual reports will say something like, "things were different this year". We were disturbed. We had to reimagine how we do ministry. What we always did couldn't be done, and we long for those traditions. But maybe it's OK that we can't do things the way we've always done them. It forces us to think about what is really important and maybe drop some of those things that no longer contribute to our ministries.

So we had to rethink about how to function. In my report on Affirmation I talk about how I'm now doing Affirmation via Zoom. On the up side, attendance is better then its been for a long time. On the down side, very few of the young people ever come on-line for the worship service. I know because I ask them. We can do things to force attendance and compliance with rules, but that doesn't get us where we want to go. Are we any different then the "stiff necked people" we read about in the Bible? We live in a society that resents being told what to do. You hear this in the arguments about if wearing a mask should be required. Nine states still have no mandate to wear a mask in public. As soon as someone says, "you have to attend Affirmation sessions", you set up the dynamic for young people to resent it. Kudos to Pastor Jen who organized the on-line Christmas play. She involved a lot of people, including most of the young people in Affirmation. That is the kind of imaginative thinking we need more of.

I think it's very important that we maintain our community engagement during the pandemic. Going to church will never change the world. Being the church in the world will. And the world includes our community. Irene

& I continue to be involved in the homeless shelter (see separate report). I attended the coordinator's meetings on Aug 11, Nov 5 and Dec 3. We met with Father Gill and Julie Noce, director of Brewster Cares, on Oct 12. And in December I helped expedite the finalization of the insurance agreement with Brewster Cares.

I attend the CRG (Community Resource Group) meetings chaired by Putnam CAP to learn about what's going on in our community and report on the shelter.

I continue to contribute at worship services as assistant and usher. On August 30 I preached when Pastor Jen was out of town. In 2020 I was here to organize the cooking and serving of bacon and egg sandwiches before the annual meeting on January 26. I helped at the congregational meetings we had about the shelter on September 20 and November 1, setting up the screen and projector so people attending in person could see the people attending via zoom. I enjoyed filling in as assistant at the Christmas Eve worship service.

As part of my continuing education I attended the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza in Anaheim, California from January 30 – February 3. Over 500 people attended from around the country engaged in children, youth and family ministry. It is customary that during the conference, synods host a lunch or dinner for people attending from their synod. I organize that for the Metropolitan New York Synod. Our synod also provides for two \$1,000 scholarships for people from MNYS to attend and I administer the awarding of those scholarships. This year, 2021, not surprisingly, the Extravaganza is virtual and will be held from February 4 - 6.

I would appreciate any questions or comments you may have. Feel free to E-mail me at [Cherlieg424@comcast.net](mailto:Cherlieg424@comcast.net).

**Respectfully submitted, Deacon Charlie Germain**  
**[Cherlieg424@comcast.net](mailto:Cherlieg424@comcast.net)**

## **9.2b Deacon's Report 2019–Deacon Dorothy R. Kafalas**

2020 Deacon Report- Dorothy Kafalas

In this very strange year, I have been very limited in how I can do in my role as deacon. There have been no meetings to attend (Unless Virtual) and no outside volunteer work. Physical limitations have forced me to relinquish my volunteer work at camp Henrich although their work has continued in a different way. I have been able to usher and assist when we were doing in person worship. In addition if there is extra help needed in the office I am always available.

I serve with great pleasure and hope the year ahead turns up more opportunities to help at Trinity. I ask for your continued prayers for all of us at Trinity and in need for the whole world. I thank you for allowing me to be a Deacon here at Trinity.

**Respectfully submitted, Deacon Dorothy Kafalas**

**Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Statement:** As a people of God, we desire to experience the presence of God in our lives that we might be the presence of God in the lives of others.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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Charles A. Germain, Jr. and Dorothy R. Kafalas

Pastor (revjedyer1@yahoo.com)  
Deacons

Franklyn W. Commisso, Ph.D.  
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Minister of Music  
Office Administrator (trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com)

Members of Trinity

Ministers to the Community & World

If you have any pastoral needs, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Boyd at 845-279-5181 or revjedyer1@yahoo.com.

