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Trinity Lutheran Church Brewster, New York



**Annual Congregation Meeting
January 29, 2023**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Brewster, NY

January 2023

Dear Fellow Member:

Attached are the Reports and Statements that will be discussed at our Congregation's Seventy-Ninth Annual Meeting to be held on January 29, 2023 following the 9:30 am service. 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.

Peter Donoghue, 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 Peter Donoghue

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 up building.

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-Ninth 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 5

D. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2103 US 6, Brewster, NY 10509, January 30, 2022:

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Quorum was achieved.

Agenda was adopted. Holly Larocchia moved, seconded by Carol Fendt. Unanimously approved.

Minutes were approved. Joanne Icken moved, seconded by Sue Stringer. Unanimously approved.

Budget report for 2021

Presented by Don Icken.

Financial report from 2021 approved. Moved by Don Icken, seconded by Sue Stringer. Unanimously approved.

Proposed budget for 2022

Presented by Don Icken.

\$2500 earmarked for the Synod Benevolence Fund must be added to the budget. This was approved at the January 2022 council meeting.

Comparison with 2021 budget: \$200 was added in order to pay a substitute organist if one is needed for the coming year. Money was allocated for antivirus software for the office computers. The cleaning costs increased due to an increase in rates for the cleaning company (they have not raised rates in several years). The budget lowered the amount for education ministry because of lower attendance. Otherwise the budget is largely the same as that for 2021.

Don Icken reviewed the financial report that was distributed at the meeting. Key points that he raised included:

- The church is running a deficit budget. We are not meeting expenses on a monthly basis.
- When the checking account falls below \$10,000 the church is in danger of not making payroll.
- In July Don had to transfer \$12,000 out of special funds to get the checking account balance back up and to meet debt obligations.
- Don must personally ask the church to meet obligations on basically a quarterly basis. When he asks, the congregation responds. But it was acknowledged that this is not an ideal solution.

Steps that are being taken to mitigate the financial situation:

- The church will embark on a stewardship drive in 2022. One aspect of this program will be to use various means to communicate to the congregation the joy of giving and how giving enhances our Christian experience.
- The rental income for building use was significantly down in 2021 due to COVID 19. It is anticipated that this will rebound in 2022.
- Suggestions were presented that we should stress Easter and Christmas giving, as well as making known the existence of memorial funds which can be a vehicle for giving.

Vote to approve budget. Motion by Don Icken, second by Carol Fendt. Unanimously approved.

Church Council Nominations

Three members of Church Council are coming to the end of their terms: Ralph Rudolph, Gary Gerfen and Phil DeRoberts. Two replacements have been nominated: Peter Donoghue and Doris O'Toole. A third nomination has not been put forth at this time. This member will have to be appointed by council.

Vote to approve Council members. Moved by Joanne Icken, seconded by Jeannette Baldanza. Unanimously approved.

A council member nominating committee for 2022 has been started. Joanne Icken and Sue Stringer volunteered to be members

Renew Call for Deacons

Charlie Germain and Dorothy Kafalas were nominated for renewal as Church Deacons. Moved by Jeanette Baldanza, seconded by Sue Stringer. Unanimously approved.

Koinonia Christian Family Camp is up and running and we are considering having a congregational retreat there.

Irene Germain thanked the church for its support of the Brewster Cares shelter program.

The clothing shed placed on church property generated 56,998 pounds of clothes in 2021. The company said this is enough to clothe 10,352 people. The shed generated \$2248 for the church.

Motion to adjourn: Sue Stringer, second Joanne Icken. Unanimously approved.

E. PASTOR'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God (I John 4:7)

Dearly beloved,

In writing our weekly emails, I have always begun with this salutation - for you are all indeed dear and beloved to me. Your faithfulness and commitment to living out this mission of God through the ministry of Trinity continues to be an inspiration.

We, along with so many other communities of faith, have faced the struggles of the pandemic and its ongoing uncertainty. We are in a much different place than we were three years ago. Yet, we have not let the uncertainty and the struggles paralyze us. We have held fast to our faith and continue to find ways to share the peace of Christ among ourselves and in the wider community.

We have been blessed by new people joining us both in person as well as through our online presence. Through our online worship and social media presence, we have been able to connect with former members as well as new people. The internet continues to be a primary “front door” for people to be a part of our community of faith.

We reach out into our wider community in a variety of ways. Our ongoing commitment to the mission of the Brewster Cares shelter program shares the love of Christ in real and tangible ways. Events such as Trunk or Treat and the Brewster Fall festival enable us to connect in different ways with people in our own neighborhoods. Over 20 people, both members and people from the community, participated in this Fall’s Spanish classes, seeking to be able to communicate with the growing area Latino community. A new semester starts just a week before this meeting.

While I did not receive the grant for a Sabbatical (yet – planning on re-applying), I want to continue my own Spanish learning and find more ways that I and we can get to know the cultures, beauty and struggles of our area Latino communities. This past year, I did pray at events for Guatemalan Independence day as well as for Dia de los Muertos. We also celebrated this Day of the Dead commemoration at our First Friday potluck which also marked the 30th anniversary of my ordination. I could not think of a better occasion to do so as I continue to give thanks for all the saints – past and present – who have walked with me on this journey. I was surprised by the generous gift from the congregation and I thank you all very much.

During the past year, I have also been certified as a Grief Counselor through the American Academy of Grief Counseling. Using my own personal and pastoral experiences, these online courses have helped to round out my knowledge and skills in helping people through different kinds of grief. Coming through the pandemic, we all faced grief in a variety of forms, not only the death of loved ones but many other changes to how we do just about everything.

We have been able to adjust back to many of our previous practices, particularly in relationship to worship. Some may still take a bit longer such as using a common cup for wine as well as physically sharing the peace (always based on each person’s comfort level). Other “new” ways of doing things will remain such as broadcasting our worship and some Zoom meetings & bible studies.

During this past year, I continued my tenure as co-dean of the Tappen Zee conference (Westchester & Putnam County) for the Metro NY synod. I have helped to facilitate our weekly clergy gathering to study the week's texts for worship and support for these faith leaders. I also served as a voting member to the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in August. It is a great opportunity to be reminded of how we are part of our larger Church and how God works through all of us. If you have never done so, check out any of the ELCA's social media or websites to catch a glimpse of what God is doing across the country.

We are blessed by the leadership of our staff and our Church council. Their faith and commitment to God's mission in this time and place has been vital to our health as a church. Take the opportunity to thank them: Dr. Franklyn Commisso (Music ministry), Sue Ellen Kelly (Office Admin.), Deacons Charlie Germain & Dorothy Kafalas; as well as Church Council members: Peter Donoghue (President), Joanne Halbekath (Vice President), Pattie Kapp (Secretary), Brent Hnatow, Holly Larrocchia, Debbie Lyons, Doris O'Toole, Sue Stringer and Ken Von Bargaen.

It is always difficult to try to summarize a year, but what remains the constant through all our activities and events is that this community of faith remains committed to not just receiving the love of Christ but living it out in your daily lives as well as within the life and ministry of Trinity.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

Peace in Christ (Paz en Cristo), Pastor Jen

PROPOSALS: As we seek to be a welcoming people of Christ, I am proposing a couple of avenues to explore.

Land Acknowledgment: The ELCA published the document "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People" in which the Church confesses its sins towards the Indigenous peoples and lists commitments to work towards in response to its original 2016 document "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery".

(<https://elca.org/indigenous>)

One of these commitments is to encourage congregations to acknowledge the land upon which they sit such as follows:

Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Wappinger, Lenape and Mohican peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call their land their home.

Reconciling in Christ: The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program. There is a process to becoming an RIC congregation which enables us to not just explore what it means but also how we can help the wider community to know that they are welcome in our community of faith.

[\(https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/becomeric/ \)](https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/becomeric/)

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

Shannon Grace Innes (3/20)

Tyler Tucker (5/22)

Affirmation of Baptism

Andrew Klammer

Grace Van Vlack

Cassandra Wise

Kevin Wise

Wedding

6/4 Lauren Icken & Jared Sweeney

10/29 Loretta Christiano & Joe Noonan

Funerals

*Anita Cosmo (6/25)

Henry Von Bargaen (8/15),

Helga Siebern (8/18),

*Linda Stabe (8/31)

Aldona Gasinus (9/10)

Katherine Waldvogel (10/19)

Graveside service only

* Eliza Dallzell (5/14)

* Jim Holt (7/19)

*Non-member

F. COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022

We have thankfully been able to meet in person once again except for one Zoom meeting month due to inclement weather. Each Council meeting is opened with a devotion and a prayer that the Holy Spirit will be in our midst as we meet and discuss matters concerning Trinity Lutheran Church, her members and neighbors in the communities we serve. Our focus is organized by going through each monthly Committee report to see what if anything has changed or needs changing for their specific ministry to be successful in their mission. There has not been a single area of ministry that we have not gone over to see where improvements might be made. From education to worship to stewardship to social ministry and everything in between, we have had open and frank discussions yet always being agreeable even through times of disagreement. Trinity Lutheran has a nearly 80 year history and so most of our current committees have long been established and have been working well for many years. As Council members, our desire is to oversee and help where we can to ensure that the various ministries at Trinity Lutheran remain vibrant and purposeful in the life of our church and community. It has been a real pleasure to meet monthly with my fellow council members and know that each and every one of us wants what's best for this church while seeking to be led by the Spirit of God.

Peter Donoghue, Church Council President

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

- + Peter Donoghue, President**
- + Joanne Halbekath, Vice President**
- + Pattie Kapp, Secretary**
- + Brent Hnatown**
- + Holly Larrocchia**
- + Doris O'Toole**
- + Sue Stringer**
- + Ken Von Barga**

G. FINANCIAL RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

	Year 2018 Income	Year 2019 Income	Year 2020 Income	Year 2021 Income	Year 2022 Income	Projected 2023 Income
CONTRIBUTIONS						
Offering Envelope Income	181,048	176,909	174,622	164,476	171,489	188,000
Loose Plate	2,557	1,984	865	753	909	1,000
Sunday Church School	809	356	20	174	222	20
Initial Offering	210	170	160	70	136	100
Lenten/Easter	4,978	3,522	1,538	2,796	3,663	1,500
Thanksgiving	220	105	0	55	35	0
Christmas	5,649	5,771	1,850	6,395	515	5,000
Total Contributions	195,472	188,817	179,056	174,719	176,969	195,620
OTHER INCOME AND DONATIONS						
Baptisms/Weddings	500	0	0	588	0	0
Fund Raising	0	291	0	237	0	425
Building Use Donations	19,830	22,230	6,405	10,150	10,890	10,000
Interest Income	22	22	35	11	12	20
S.C.S. Materials Fees	570	330	0	0	150	0
Confirmation Fees	600	800	0	300	0	0
Miscellaneous Income	11,151	1,791	564	14,751	16,536	1,000
Total Other Income	32,674	25,464	7,004	26,038	27,588	11,445
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME						
OTHER INCOME						
Trivent	530	590	329	200	20	325
Amazon Smile	210	195	222	231	163	0
Giving Tree	0	0	0	0	84	0
Total Other Income	740	785	551	431	268	325
EXPENSES						
Loan	0	0	0	0		0
Vanco Fee			-525	-452	-45	0
Total Expenses	0	0	-525	-452	-45	0
Total Income Available	228,885	215,066	186,085	200,737	204,780	207,390

Jane Lee, Financial Recording Secretary

H. TREASURER REPORT

1:44 PM

01/06/23

Cash Basis

Trintiy Lutheran Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2022

	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Putnam County Savings Bank	12,592.99
Total Checking/Savings	<u>12,592.99</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>12,592.99</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>12,592.99</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Loan From Endowment	15,335.45
Retained Earnings	7,465.18
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>22,800.63</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>22,800.63</u>
Total Liabilities	22,800.63
Equity	
*Retained Earnings	10,487.48
Opening Balance Equity	-4,990.00
Net Income	-15,705.12
Total Equity	<u>-10,207.64</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>12,592.99</u>

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Andren

J. SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022

FUND	BANK PCSB	DREYFUS MM	DREYFUS GNMA		FUND BALANCE
General Memorial					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2022	\$11,112.67	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$11,112.67
Income	\$1,500.00				\$1,500.00
Expenses	-\$10,000.00				-\$10,000.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/2022	\$2,612.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,612.67
Worship & Music Fund					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2022	\$2,791.37	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2,791.37
Income					\$0.00
Expenses					\$0.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/2022	\$2,791.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,791.37
Joan Laird Music Scholarship Fund					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2022	\$36.65	\$0.00	\$3,603.87		\$3,640.52
Income			\$248.00		\$248.00
Expenses					\$0.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/2022	\$36.65	\$0.00	\$3,851.87	\$0.00	\$3,888.52
Library Fund					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2022	\$120.36	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$120.36
Income					\$0.00
Expenses					\$0.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/2022	\$120.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.36
Capital Infrastructure/Building Improvement Fund					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2022	\$26,177.45	\$0.00	\$1,141.01		\$27,318.46
Income	\$19.61		\$120.51		\$140.12
Expenses					\$0.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/2022	\$26,197.06	\$0.00	\$1,261.52	\$0.00	\$27,458.58
Youth Scholarships					
Balance on Hand 1/1/2022	\$7,688.73	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$7,688.73
Income	\$2,529.47				\$2,529.47
Expenses					\$0.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/2022	\$10,218.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,218.20

Accounts Summary

	Start Balance as of 1/1/2022	Income	Expenses	Net Transfers	Balance as of 12/31/2022
PCSB	\$47,927.23	\$4,049.08	\$10,000.00		\$41,976.31
DREYFUS MM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
DREYFUS GNMA	\$4,744.88	\$368.51	\$0.00		\$5,113.39
TOTAL	\$52,672.11	\$4,417.59	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$47,089.70

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

* of existing fund from 2021 statement

Respectfully submitted, Linda Lund

K. HOLDING ACCOUNT REPORT 2022

FUND		BALANCE
SOCIAL MINISTRY		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/21	\$874.28	
INCOME		
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21		\$874.28
MISCELLANEOUS		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/21	1,801.89	
INCOME	193.77	
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21		\$1,995.66
PUTNAM CAP		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/21	\$25.00	
INCOME	27.00	
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21		\$52.00
BESP		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/21	\$153.00	
INCOME	35.00	
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21		\$188.00
YOUTH GROUP		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/21	859.15	
INCOME		
EXPENSES		
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21		\$859.15
INTEREST		
BALANCE ON HAND 1/1/21	7.15	
INCOME	1.91	
EXPENSES	0.00	
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21		\$9.06
HOLDING ACCOUNT FUND TOTAL 12/31/21		<u><u>\$3,978.15</u></u>

Respectfully submitted by Cyndi Bertone

L. APPROVAL OF ALL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion: "I move that the 2022 Financial Reports, as follows, be approved as presented:

- Financial Recording Secretary Report
- Treasurer Report
- Special Funds Report, including Building Improvement Fund
- Holding Account Report
- All Committees, Affiliated Organizations and other
- Organizations' Financial Reports contained in the 2022 Annual Reports."

M. 2023 PROPOSED CONGREGATION BUDGET

N. PART 1, 2023 Proposed CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2022 ACTUAL	2022 PROPOSED	2023 PROPOSED	2022/2023 DIFFERENCE	NOTES
BENEVOLENCE	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$6,000	-\$2,500	1
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$106,393	\$107,750	\$108,790	\$1,040	2
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY	\$465	\$1,160	\$1,160	\$0	
EVANGELISM MINISTRY	\$164	\$300	\$300	\$0	
WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$20,310	\$24,920	\$24,820	-\$100	
ADMINISTRATION	\$41,710	\$49,204	\$49,907	\$703	
PROPERTY	\$44,032	\$39,000	\$41,100	\$2,100	3
STEWARDSHIP	\$410	\$300	\$300	\$0	
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
FUND RAISING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
MISC EXPENSES	\$37	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET	\$220,521	\$231,134	\$232,377	\$1,243	

O. PART 2 2023 PROPOSED EXPENSE BUDGET - DETAIL (numbers may be off slightly due to rounding)

GENEAL FUND	2022 ACTUAL	2022 PROPOSED	2023 PROPOSED	2021/2022 DIFFERENCE	Notes
BENEVOLENCE (mission support)	\$7,000	\$8,500	\$6,000	-\$2,500	
PASTORAL MINISTRY					
Pastor's Continuing Education	\$579	\$400	\$400	\$0	
Pastor's Mileage Reimbursement	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	
Pastor's Pension & Benefits	\$26,524	\$25,560	\$26,600	\$1,040	
Pastor's Salary & Housing	\$79,290	\$79,290	\$79,290	\$0	
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$106,393	\$107,750	\$108,790	\$1,040	
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY					
Affirmation	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	
Nursery Roll	\$165	\$160	\$160	\$0	
Scouting	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Sunday School	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	
Other	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY	\$465	\$1,160	\$1,160	\$0	
EVANGELISM	\$164	\$300	\$300	\$0	

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Music Director	\$16,710	\$19,120	\$19,120	\$0
Music Supplies	\$500	\$800	\$800	\$0
Substitute Organist	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$0
Worship Supplies	\$900	\$1,500	\$1,200	-\$300
Supply Pastor	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Special Music	\$2,200	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$200
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$20,310	\$24,920	\$24,820	-\$100

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Supplies	\$1,274	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Bank Charges	\$592	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,000
Conventions & Workshops	\$150	\$890	\$890	\$0
PayChex Fees	\$517	\$0	\$517	\$517
Insurance	\$9,813	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Office Equipment	\$5,484	\$8,000	\$7,000	-\$1,000
Office Staff Salaries	\$11,887	\$20,000	\$16,000	-\$4,000
Payroll Taxes	\$7,419	\$4,200	\$7,500	\$3,300
Postage	\$1,259	\$1,814	\$1,500	-\$314
Telephone	\$1,937	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$200
Tech Expenses	\$1,378	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,000
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$41,710	\$49,204	\$49,907	\$703

PROPERTY

Church Utilities	\$8,596	\$6,900	\$8,600	\$1,700
Custodial Care	\$15,304	\$12,600	\$15,500	\$2,900
Heating Fuel	\$10,012	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$2,000
Repairs & Maintenance				
Contracts	\$1,380	\$7,000	\$2,000	-\$5,000
Snow Removal & Mowing	\$3,490	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$500
Other	\$5,250	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total PROPERTY	\$44,032	\$39,000	\$41,100	\$2,100

STEWARDSHIP

Offering Envelopes	\$410	\$0	\$400	\$400
Total STEWARDSHIP	\$410	\$300	\$700	\$400

SOCIAL MINISTRY

	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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FUND RAISING

	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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MISCELLANEOUS EXP

Interest Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Not a GF Expense	\$37	\$0	\$0	\$0
Uncategorized Exp	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total MISCELLANEOUS EXP	\$37	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET	\$220,521	\$231,134	\$232,777	\$1,643

Notes

1 2022 making up shortfall for 2021

2 Inflation adjustment

3 Heating oil price increase

Respectfully submitted, Don Icken

O. APPROVAL OF 2023 BUDGET

P. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

1-Joanne Icken

2-Patti Kapp

3-Joanne Halbekath

Q. ELECTION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

R. ELECTION OF 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following persons have agreed to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee for 2023: to be announced.

S. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to Renew Calls to Trinity's Deacons

Trinity's Church Council has reviewed **2022** 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 2023 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 2023."

2. Other New Business

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. TRINITY MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY 2016 to 2021 (6-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	4	4	0	0	368	0	4	3	-1	300	
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 - 2022-2023

SCS has been a work in process since the pandemic, we have a smaller group of children but our numbers have been increasing with a few new families joining recently. The Sciarra's were truly a Godsend for our last session of SCS, due to other family commitments the Sciarra's are no longer teaching SCS and as of September of this year Barbara Von Bargaen has agreed to be our other SCS teacher. So far, we have had a Reformation Sunday class with the children learning more about Martin Luther and taking Polaroid photos (thanks to Fiona Cioffi) with our life-sized Martin Luther. We are still operating as one large class with the older children helping the younger ones. This year we also had a scaled down version of an Advent event with, snacks, crafts and "pinning the Star on the manger" which was a big hit with the children who've never done it and a great reminder for the children who have enjoyed it in the past. We will hopefully schedule a Lent event for the coming year. Thank you to everyone for their continued support of SCS, it is truly a pleasure to be among our youngest parishioners.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanette Baldanza

2.2 Communion Instruction

In 2022 we were able to catch up the children who hadn't received Communion due to the pandemic, Chris Sciarra taught the Communion Instruction and on Maundy Thursday April 14, 2022, the following children received their first Communion at Trinity: Tatum Bettcher, Tatiana

Bettcher, Fiona Cioffi, Zachary Duben, Joseph Maston, Logan McDonnel, Bridget Morrione, Jonathan Sciarra and Hannah Simon. Thank you again to Chris Sciarra for teaching this class and we are so pleased to have these children joining us at the Altar Rail.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanette Baldanza

2.3 Affirmation Report – 2022

Affirmation continues to be a work in progress. In the spring of 2022, there was only one attendee in the 1st & 2nd years of Affirmation. Continuing what we started in the fall of 2021, I did a zoom session each week. Starting this fall, we returned to meeting in person, with a zoom alternative in the event that for whatever reason one of the three attendees couldn't make it. The primary reason for setting up the zoom sessions was when someone, or someone in the family was sick which continues to happen. Covid hasn't gone away. And flue is also active.

Talking with the Affirmation families, we decided that for the fall of 2022 and winter & spring of 2023 we would meet at 8:30AM Sunday mornings. I keep the sessions to half an hour. For each session, I send questions out ahead of time for them to discuss at home, and often a short video clip (usually no more than 10 minutes) for them to look at. That way, they are not coming into our session not knowing what we will be talking about, so we're better able to cover the material in the 30 minutes we have. It's important that parents discuss the materials with their young person at home. That has never changed.

This year (2022 – 2023) we are following the narrative lectionary in the Bible. This way we are looking at the same readings that we are covering in the worship service. Last year (2021 – 2022) we covered Luther's Small Catechism and talked about Martin Luther in October before Reformation Sunday.

Note that in 2022, there were no young people in third year Affirmation, so there were no young people affirming their faith on Pentecost Sunday. And while some would blame Covid for the lack of attendance, those of us who have been following the trends understand that adults, even those who would define themselves as Christians, have marginalized the importance of their young people's faith development. I find that parents often assume that their children have the same beliefs as they do. But often they do not.

I am encouraged by the interest the parents have shown in Affirmation this year. The parents always stay for the session, and often participate in our conversations. I'm also encouraged that our Sunday School has started up again. This is a way we as a congregation help provide

for our young people's faith development. And this isn't about teaching religion, it's about making disciples. We should never forget that.

Respectfully Submitted by Deacon Charlie Germain

2.4a Youth Group

2.6 Faith Formation 2022

3.0 Worship & Music 2022

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 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 Lois Lawrence currently share in the scheduling of Assisting Ministers and Ushers. The current Worship and Music Committee members are Pastor Boyd, Franklyn Commisso, Mary Beth Commisso, Dorothy Kafalas, Joanne Icken, Kathie Ruhs, and Holly Larocchia. 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 2022

The foundation of Luther's beliefs was that **music is the most natural form of worship because it can carry words and be used as a form of praise**. Not only is worship through music a way to connect with God, but it helps to foster congregational strength and unity.

The year 2022 has been restorative and encouraging. It was marked by the re-establishment of the Senior Choir with weekly anthems and congregational leadership. Rehearsals have been moved to Sundays following the service as have many churches in the area. Singing is back to regular practice including anthems, hymns, and liturgy with congregational participation. Remote online services are available to those not yet back in attendance in person. We have also transitioned back to live offerings, either sung or played. The Senior Choir and Children's Choir are back to rehearsals. There have not been sufficient volunteers yet for Bell Choir so volunteer interest is encouraged for all three groups. We continue to ask for bell ringers since with more ringers, we have the potential to make more published music accessible to us.

This past year, we rejoiced in having back our beloved Trinity Brass, led by Bill Lemak, to continue to uplift worship; our guest musicians were Bill Lemak, Christopher Melito, Gabriel Harrison and Nicole Daskalakis, trumpets, Jack Titcomb, trombone, and Tom Lemak, tuba. For Christmas, we also were gifted by musical offerings by Cassandra Sciara, trumpet, Victoria Sciara, saxophone, Jonathan Sciara, trombone, and Solomon Bettcher, violin. Juergen Tempel performed Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)'s Violoncello Sonata in g minor this past Fall. What a rich blessing to have such gifts at Trinity! Deepest thanks to them.

Music was also provided for the Molinski and Christiana weddings and the Cosmo, Gasiunas, Van Bargaen, and Siebern funerals. Hymns and anthems continued to be chosen to fit the lectionary, including a wide range of styles and nationalities.

Respectfully submitted, Franklyn W. Commisso, Minister of Music

SENIOR CHOIR

Pastor Jennifer Boyd – soprano

Linda Salinger -soprano

Joanne Halbekath – soprano

Kathie Ruhs – soprano

Maureen Sergio – soprano

Barbara Duchon – alto

Ann-Marie Palmo – alto

Mary Beth Commisso – alto

Franklyn Commisso - baritone

Respectfully submitted, Franklyn W. Commisso, Minister of Music

3.2 Altar Guild 2022

The Altar Guild is a group of dedicated individuals 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 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 always seeking new members to join us in our ministry. The following individuals serve on the Altar Guild: Don Icken, Holly and Charlie Larocchia, Georgina Marek, Pat Rudolph, and Kathie Ruhs. If you are interested in a new area of Service to Our Lord, please contact Joanne Icken at jicken@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Icken

3.3 Flower Fund Annual Report of 2022

Balance as of December 31, 2021.....	\$2118.06
Total Deposits for 2022.....	\$3276.00
Total	\$5394.06
Total Expenditures for 2022.....	<u>\$2899.95</u>
Current checkbook balance 12/31/22.....	<u>\$2494.11</u>

Itemized Listing of Expenditures:

Altar flowers (12/21 to 11/22)	\$1530.00
Easter Lilies.....	\$ 560.00
Christmas Poinsettias (2021)	\$ 569.95
Wreaths (Reimbursement to K.Ruhs).....	<u>\$ 240.00</u>
Total for 2022.....	<u>\$2899.95</u>

*Poinsettias for 2022 and December altar flowers will be paid in January 2023.

Thank you to all members of the Trinity family for generously giving to adorn the altar of our Lord with flowers each Sunday as well as at Christmas and Easter. Without your continued generosity, this would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted by Kathie Ruhs, Flower Fund Secretary

3.4 Baptisms 2022

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:

Baptisms

- Shannon Grace Innes (3/20)
- Tyler Tucker (5/22)

4.0 EVANGELISM 2022

4.1 Publicity Committee

We need someone to continue the Publicity committee.

5.0 OUTREACH COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

5.1 Social Ministry 2022

In 2022 we continued our food collection for Putnam CAP and we packed 37 satchels for the Christmas-At-Sea holiday initiative for the Seafarers International House.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Icken

5.2 Blood Drive 2022

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 **three regular blood drives in 2022**, collecting from our eligible donors a total of **171** units of whole blood and **22** units of double red blood cells, resulting in **193 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) to donate and help save lives. Our next blood drive will be in **Shepherd's Hall at Trinity on Tuesday March 7**. Thank you to all who donated, and to those who baked, and to those who helped to support the drive, especially volunteers Pam and Fred Carlson, Dorothy Kafalas, Sue Ellen Kelly, Georgina Marek, Kathie Ruhs and Pastor Jen.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Fendt

5.3 Brewster Cares Shelter – Trinity – 2022

Trinity continues to participate in the Brewster Cares Shelter hosting our homeless guests once a month during the winter. The shelter is in operation from December through March. Brewster Cares also operates the warming Center on Main St in Brewster from 6:30AM – 2:20PM each day for the four months. Typically guests arrive at the shelter around 9PM and are given a meal. They set up their cots and lights are out at about 10PM. They get up at 5AM and are out by about 6AM.

Brewster Cares hires a manager to oversee the operation of the shelter. There is a paid supervisor on each night who is usually bi-lingual. The congregations involved, when it their

turn to host, provides the meals and volunteers to serve and assist the guests, and a volunteer to sleep over to help hand out lunches, provide a light breakfast and assist as needed in the morning. We owe a great deal of gratitude to those who have come forward to volunteer to make this ministry happen. We sometimes have had to depend on some of our Roman Catholic friends to fill in when we don't have enough volunteers from Trinity, especially for sleeping over. To sign up, either contact Irene or go online to the signup genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6OBO448ABA629A3FE3-brewster4> .

Our weeks of operation during 2022 were: January 17 – 23; February 21 – 27; March 14 – 20; and December 12 – 19. In 2023 our weeks are: January 2 – 9; February 20 – 27; and March 13 – 20. After the end of the season in March 2022, several of our guests, working with Putnam County Social Services, were able to find housing and are no longer coming to the shelter this winter. While last year we typically had 8 – 12 guests each night, this year we're typically seeing 11 – 14 guests. The shelter has already served 20 different people this winter, not all of who come every night. While last year we typically had 3 women guests, this year we've only had one woman on a steady basis. Last winter we typically had about 30% Spanish speaking, this year we have about 66% Spanish speaking. So there are always changing demographics.

Partnering with us is St Lawrence O'Toole Roman Catholic Church in Brewster. In the winter of 2021 – 2022 Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Patterson was also a sleeping site, but couldn't continue for this winter. St Lawrence now has three teams of volunteers, each team taking one of three weeks during each month. Trinity is the only protestant church participating.

Respectfully submitted, Irene & Charlie Germain, Shelter Coordinators

6. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

6.1 Stewardship

Last summer, a portion of our worship series was on the different ways that we live out our call to faithful stewardship through a variety of means. The themes & scripture readings were:

Stewardship of

Creation (Genesis 1:26-31 & Revelation 21:1-7)

Relationships (I John 4:13-21 & John 13:12-17)

Time (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & Mark 13:32-37)

Talents (I Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13 & John 7:37-39)

Resources (2 Corinthians 8:1-15 & Matthew 25:14-30)

We continue to reflect on how God calls us to steward/care for all that has been entrusted into our keeping. All of our life is a gift from God and we are reminded to treat all aspects of such with generosity and care.

Most often our understanding of stewardship is about finances. This aspect of our stewardship is important for us to continue in the mission and ministry that God has given us. While many of our gifts go to “boring” aspects of our budget (heat, lights, paper, etc.), they are what enable us to do ministry.

During the summer, we had a challenge from the Church council for people to give additional financial gifts to help us alleviate the potential debt that happens most every summer. People stepped forward and gave over \$8000 which fulfilled most of our goal. While it often feels like we live on the edge with our finances, I will often say that God still has mission and ministry for us to do. Through the ongoing commitment & pledges of the congregation, we are still ready for what God has in mind for us! Thanks be to God!

Faithfully submitted, Pastor Jen

7. RESOURCE COMMITTEES

7.1 Property Committee Annual Report (Year Ending 2022)

We had a very good year with all Trinity Lutheran Church facilities working well while following our usual maintenance schedule so that all systems remain so. With our dehumidifiers running on auto and keeping clean filters installed on our a/c and heating units our air quality remains very good. A new ultraviolet bulb was installed on our water purification system and with our building water filter also being changed out for a fresh new one on a regular basis we have clean potable water throughout our building. Our septic was pumped out in September and all sewage lines are draining very well. Nelson Tree Service has once again been parking their trucks in our lower lot this summer; they stay for a few months while working in our area and move on in the Fall. They took down a few trees for us in payment and are very good at cleaning up and leaving our property in very good shape. We have a good win/win relationship with the company and hope that we can continue so in the future. Frasier Fence has installed a sixty foot long handrail at our main entrance walkway. It has not only added an aspect of safety but is quite attractive in its simplicity and look on our grounds. We are thankful for the many volunteers who have contributed financially to a project or stepped up when they saw a need this

Respectfully submitted, Peter Donoghue, Property Committee Chair

7.2 PROPERTY USE INCOME 2022

8. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS

8.1a WELCA Annual Report 2022

8.1b Women of the ELCA 2022 Financial Report—Year End Statement

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1a Office Administration 2022

Worship: Worship services continue to be held at 9:30 a.m. with service streaming virtually for those members who do not feel comfortable attending in person services. Bulletins are mailed out to those who request them. Constant Contact is currently being used to reach the congregation via email. Announcements from Trinity Weekly are highlighted each week as well as Bulletins, Trinity Weekly, and God’s Story, Our Story devotional imbedded in the email for downloading. Each week, Pastor Jen writes an article for the email.

Certificates created for baptisms, weddings, Holy Communion instruction, and Affirmation as needed.

Prayer list: Maintaining the prayer list via Excel to keep a running list of current and past prayer list requests.

Building use: Regular liaising with Peter Donoghue to rent space in the building to outside group. 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 and printing contributor statements as well as data entry to keep Shepherd’s Staff updated to the congregation.

Council: Preparing monthly reports including office activities and worship attendance, both in person and via online.

Office Management/Other: Handling phone calls, sorting mail and processing bills for payment, purchasing office materials, worship supplies, and email and mailing annual meeting and stewardships.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Ellen Kelly, Office Administrator

9.2a Deacon's Report for 2022—Deacon Charlie Germain

I was first set apart as a deacon in June, 1998, 25 years ago, a quarter of a century. Even then, the church was experiencing a lot of change, although many seemed not to recognize it. The dominant trend was to try to maintain the status quo. There were a few academics who were following the trends and know that the institutional church needed to change its priorities. But most weren't paying attention. Who wants to be the bearer of bad news? So as a congregation, we enter a phase when religion is marginalized in society, it's hard to find volunteers, especially to fill leadership positions, and many families have discontinued to follow in the religious practices of their ancestors. However, I am encouraged by a friend who once told me that the church isn't going away, the Holy Spirit will see to that. But it may take a form that we may not recognize. After all, we're in the 21st century, and everything is new!

OK, so, we're in new times. Another person once told me that the church is unchanging. But we have to recognize that unchanging symbols in changing time give changed meaning. What's new? Now that we've started, would we ever think about not showing the worship service on social media, i.e. Facebook Live. Sometimes not a lot of people viewing, but we need to be out there. The day may come that more people attend worship via Facebook than actually attend in person.

So, recognizing that society has changed, how does this all play out. The two ministries I give most of my time to at Trinity is the shelter and Affirmation. As I described in my Affirmation report, we are meeting at 8:30AM on Sundays, a time when everyone seems to be able to make it. And in the event someone can't be there in person, I always have a zoom alternative. The shelter is an outreach into the community. As a congregation, we've participated in a couple events for the Spanish speaking community. I participated in the Spanish class taught by Norma Pereira here at Trinity so I could communicate better with our Spanish speaking guests at the shelter.

I continue to serve as a communion assistant and usher. I filled in for Pastor Jen leading worship and preaching on October 6 and April 24. I also served on Pastor Jen's sabbatical committee, and fill in here and there when needed. If you have any questions or comments about this or any of my other reports, please feel free to talk to me or E-mail.

Charlieg424@comcast.net

(845) 225-4698 home (845) 260-5387 cell

Respectfully submitted, Deacon Charlie Germain

9.2b Deacon's Report 2022—Deacon Dorothy R. Kafalas

This has been an interesting year for me. I was unable to serve in any capacity from mid-September, when I fell and broke my arm. After spending eight weeks in a rehab facility, I continue to rehab at home for outpatient rehab for an undetermined time.

Before September, I had been helping out in the church office when needed, preaching when Pastor was away and most Sundays, ushering which meant taking attendance. I was also in touch with our office, the Synod and church members via phone and/or text messages. Now that we are back to “normal” (pandemic wise), I hope to get back to being more involved since I will only need to use a cane.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of Trinity who called, sent cards, brought me food and goodies and showered me with love. I ask for your continued prayers that God will help me to get back to being of service to Him and Trinity.

God Bless.

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
2103 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509
845-279-5181
www.trinitybrewsterny.org
Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Reverend Jennifer Boyd	Pastor (revjedyer1@yahoo.com)
Charles A. Germain, Jr. Dorothy R. Kafalas	Deacons
Franklyn W. Commisso, Ph.D.	Minister of Music
Sue Ellen Kelly	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.

