

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Middle Village, New York*

# Annual Report 2020



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



## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." —Ephesians 4:11-16*

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Middle Village, New York*

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

*for*

*2020*

*And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and  
I will make you fish for people."*

*Prepared for presentation to the  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
February 21, 2021*



## OPENING DEVOTIONS

*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 am I in the midst of them.**

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

**Let us pursue justice and peace, for the mutual upbuilding of the people of God.**

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 judgment in all things and evermore rejoice in his Holy counsel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Congregation sings:*

*(ELW 641 vs. 1 - Tune: Two Oaks)*

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

I declare this meeting to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



**AGENDA**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING OF**  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Middle Village, New York

Sunday / 21 February 2021  
12:00 Noon

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CALL TO ORDER

Lois Jenkins, President

DEVOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING / Part I

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS CONGREGATION  
MEETING ~ February 2020

Doris Tegge-Sommo, Secretary

REPORTS OF PASTOR, OFFICERS,  
COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ELECTION OF THE NEW COUNCIL

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY

PRESENTATION OF SPENDING PLAN FOR 2021

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEVOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING / Part II

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION ON FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Lois Jenkins called the annual meeting to order at 12:20 pm and led the opening devotions.

Attendance:

Members: 36

Non-Voting: 4

A quorum of 25 voting members was established.

**AGENDA**

The agenda was presented and adopted.

**MINUTES**

Secretary Doris Tegge read the minutes from February 3, 2019. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as read.

**REPORTS**

Reports and financial statements were distributed one week in advance of the meeting and were not read at the meeting.

Pastors Report:

- Pastor Lemke distributed a survey including questions about special services and committee participation. Respondents did not need to include their name.
- Business cards for Trinity will be printed and distributed so that they can be given out to people curious about the church.
- Pastor Lemke had found several recognition awards while cleaning out the pastor's office. These are part of Trinity's history and should be displayed where people can see them.
- Confirmands and youth need to be invited to the annual meeting to become aware of what Trinity does.

Financial Report:

- Over the past three months, about \$18,000 has had to be taken from the Trinity Legacy Thrivent Investment account to pay operating expenses. No money has been taken from the endowment fund.
- Rein Olvet spoke up and said all members of Trinity should realize that they have to contribute their share and not rely on others to do it.
- Lois Jenkins cited declining membership as a cause.
- The council is looking for outside sources of income. Pastor Lemke listed some possibilities: a greenmarket, rent hall to a basketball association, a clothing donation box.

### Renovation Report:

- The renovation project is coming to a close but there is no firm date.
- The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts cleaned out their things in room 4 and are using the designated room that they are renting for storage. There are still things in room 4 that need to be removed. Items not claimed will be thrown out.
- The status of the basement area is that phase 1 is finished. However, the chapel area needs floor, wall, and ceiling finishes.

### **2020 SPENDING PLAN**

- The 2020 spending plan was presented for discussion.
- The amount for phone services increased due to additional lines needed for fire alarm and security services.
- We are currently paying the water bill as all the documents needed to verify Trinity's non-profit charitable organization status have not yet been obtained. This is about \$140 per month. Trinity will be issued a refund when the documents are submitted. It was requested that the amount needed to pay the water bill for the year be added to the spending plan. A request for copies of the documents has been made to the attorney general.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept all the reports as presented and to accept the 2020 spending plan with the addition of a line for the water bill.

### **DEACONS**

- Pastor Lemke asked that the congregation affirm and support the calling of Masayo Kagita and Lois Jenkins as rostered synodical deacons to serve Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middle Village. Pastor Lemke read the call letter for the deacons.
- The deacons left the room while there was some discussion among the congregation regarding duties of the deacons.
- A vote was taken by a show of hands. Approval was unanimous.

### **ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL**

- Juergen Schroeder has retired from council.
- Bill Muller and Liz Marus were presented as nominees for the vacant council position.
- Vote was by anonymous paper ballot. Dorothy Russo and Nancy Keicher counted the votes.
- Bill Muller was elected to council.

### **ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- Masayo Kagita and Lois Jenkins were elected to as delegates to the 2020 synod assembly.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Genesis Ilagan informed the congregation that the new pictorial directory is ready to be published.



### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Trinity people are encouraged to subscribe to the MNYS online newsletter. This has forums on church finances and other useful information and news.
- People were encouraged to join the Stewardship and Evangelism committees which have been vacant for a long time.
- Sandy Boos made an appeal for fund raising ideas. Please submit all ideas to council.
- There will be a council meeting immediately after the annual meeting to elect council officers.

### **CLOSING**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55PM.  
Lois Jenkins led closing devotions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Tegge, Secretary

## **PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

Blessed are you O Lord our God, giver and ruler of the Universe. Amen.

On 6 January 2020 we gathered to bless water for blessing and baptism and to mark the church as a place of God.

On 21 January 2020 we heard about a virus that was threatening China and within days travelers were suspect.

We began Confirmation for 2 in the beginning of the year working and learning together.

We began Lent with ashes both in liturgy and sharing ashes at Hoffman Drive and Woodhaven Blvd. and tried breakfast and dinner church with Grace Church.

By the third Sunday of Lent our city was in the midst of a pandemic and we were advised to stop face-to-face gatherings.

Zoom rapidly became a noun and a verb – we began a daily prayer time – and have grown from and with it as we Zoomed Holy Week and Easter Vigil.

The level of infection rose and fell. We found meetings cancelled and tried to find ways to worship.

A communique went out to help us assemble together on computer, tablets, cell phones and our household phones. And we worshipped, studied Acts and now Galatians: We have gathered.

On 4 October 220 we gathered on the terrace and held a socially-distant Eucharist, a Zoom service and a Blessing of Animals. We hoped it would be a precursor to face-to-face, but it was not.

Christmas Eve was spent virtually with Grace Church respectively on our own campuses and together.

This year I spent organizing the Pastoral office. All the while teaching, planning for worship, funerals and memorials.

Organizing historical files, photos and records has allowed me to begin building the congregational profile which has prompted developing a quarterly calendar mailing that allows us to build a record and plan for the future.

We continue planning for the return to the campus through a committee that serves as a resource for idea development and implementation as we move forward. This will filter change that Covid19 has allowed us to develop the discipline to change and grow our ministry.

We celebrate the sign/banner at the 81<sup>st</sup> Street side of the church with thanks to Emma Russo and family for her design and their effort to mount the Welcome Home for all to see.

Finally, with the Covid-19 discipline we have accepted extension to our contract to April 22, 2022.

We have begun a seasonal mailing to keep us aware of what is happening and is possible. This allows us to plan confirmation, first communion and other services as we are ready rather than on a rigid schedule. This moves us to support growth as we approach members in our community.

We have some work to make tasks proceed. First, the lighting in the office needs to be repaired and/or replaced. In consideration that there is not enough outlets in the office space, depending upon lamps is neither practical nor appropriate.

And finally, as planning for a congregational profile for consideration for an on-site pastor, a computer becomes an essential. This will allow the building of records, which include history of the community, worship and celebration, and opportunities for growth and life together.

It has been said that a community that does not know or has forgotten its history is doomed to repeat it. The history that has been discovered has been repeated over and over again. In order to grow, we must remember our past and celebrate possibilities and change into our future. We fail in this community when we forget those who have left by attrition, by alienation or that which affects all of us, aging. The history that is created in these actions help us to understand how this Assembly lives and breathes. It encourages us to reach out and remember both the successes and failures of our stewardship, outreach and mission. To ignore these is to forget and condemn us to repeat the past.

To that end, we have begun archiving the lives of those who have crossed our paths in order to celebrate those lives. We know our birthdays, but how many of us know when we were first marked a child of God (baptism) or when we accepted responsibilities in our confirmation? Who will remember when we pass from this life to life eternal? This community is now remembering our deaths, our places of rest and our past. Those records require technology that is accessible not only by administration, but quickly and easily by the on-site pastor and hopefully in the future those who follow in our midst.

And we're just getting started...

Pastor Don Lemke  
Pastor Counselor and Fool  
Interim of the Assembly of Believers at  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of  
Middle Village



**PASTORAL ACTS**

**JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020**

<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>WEDDINGS:</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>MEMORIALS/FUNERALS:</b>	<b>4</b>	
	<u>MEMBERS</u> (4)	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u> (0)
	Marion Gavin (4/9/20)	
	Salvatore Pallotta (4/18/20)	
	Kathryn (Kathy) Firneis (11/28/20)	
	Elwood (Bud) Christopher (12/14/20)	

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:**

<b>MEMBERS RECEIVED:</b>	<b>0</b>		
	<u>AFFIRMATION OF FAITH</u> (0)	<u>CONFIRMANDS</u> (1)	
		Samantha Muller 11/22/2020	
	<u>BAPTIZED</u> (0)	<u>TRANSFER</u> (0)	
<b>MEMBERS REMOVED:</b>	<b>8</b>		
	<u>TRANSFER</u> (0)	<u>DEATH</u> (8)	
		Emily Denig (2/21/20)	
		Salvatore Cannella (3/12/30)	
		Marion Gavin (4/9/20)	
		Wilma Jagusch (4/12/20)	
		Salvatore Pallotta (4/18/20)	
		Lenny DeStefano (8/30/20)	
		Kathryn (Kathy) Firneis (11/28/20)	
		Elwood (Bud) Christopher (12/14/20)	
<u>MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWN</u>	(0)		
<u>MEMBERSHIP DROPPED</u>	(0)		

**MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS:**

Total BAPTIZED/CONFIRMED Membership, January 1, 2020	286
Baptized/Confirmed Members received:	1
Baptized/Confirmed Members removed:	(8)
Total BAPTIZED/CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2020	279
 Total BAPTIZED/UNCONFIRMED Membership, January 1, 2020	 106
Baptized/Unconfirmed Members received:	0
Baptized/Unconfirmed Members removed:	(0)
Total BAPTIZED/UNCONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2020	106
 TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2020	 <u>385</u>

## **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

### **COMPLETED PHASE I CONSTRUCTION IN PARISH HOUSE - INCLUDING FIRE PROTECTION IN THE CHURCH**

- Waiting for final inspection from NYC Dept. of Buildings
- Fire Alarm System requires some modifications that are required by the NYC Building Department/Fire Department
- Need to finalize some open items to obtain Certificate of Occupancy
- Construction issues to be resolved
  - Contractor needs to repair the railing and concrete ramp/walkway where concrete has spalled at the railing supports
  - Contractor needs to correct water intrusion at stairs to lower level

### **ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE RENOVATION PROJECT**

- New entrance to gym and apartment
- New steps and ramp to gym and church
- Added ADA rest room on main floor and renovated existing bathroom
- Refurbished basement Men's and Ladies rooms at lower level
- Renovated the kitchen with new walls, floor, cabinetry, lighting and appliances with additional fire extinguishing system for stove area
- Installed elevator serving from basement to second floor
- Installed sprinkler system throughout parish house
- Installed Fire Alarm system in parish house and church

### **ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION ITEMS PERFORMED**

- Performed roofing repairs to stop leak into the gym
- Installed insulation around the steam pipes in the basement with fiberglass which was removed previously because it contained asbestos
- Removed dead pine trees in 81<sup>st</sup> Street "garden"
- Installed new plantings in 81<sup>st</sup> Street "garden area"

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Firneis

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

There are four students, ages 10, 8, 5, and 4. Attendance has been very consistent.

Trinity Sunday School was held virtually for most of 2020. We started with Vacation Bible Stories over the summer months focusing on the lives of Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. From September through June the lessons follow the common lectionary gospel reading.

For Christmas we joined with two children from Grace Lutheran Church and produced a video, "Judea Today" which chronicles the events surrounding Christ's birth from a newsroom point of

view. Using the virtual technology was a learning process for all, but we got it done. It was especially enriching to have youth and parents participate as well as the Sunday School children. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen by making costumes, drawing backgrounds, corralling little kids, and putting up with repeated takes.

We celebrate with Daniel Ilagan who is making his First Communion on February 14, 2021.

Many thanks to the parents who faithfully bring their children to Sunday School.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris Tegge

## **OUTREACH**

On Ash Wednesday 2020, Pastor Lemke, assisted by Lois Jenkins and Doris Tegge, distributed ashes by the Hoffman Drive subway station. Many people were glad to see us there and receive ashes as they hurried to work.

The 2020 Hygiene Drive collected funds instead of items due to COVID-19 restrictions. Funds were raised using e-giving as well as conventional cash donations. Overall, we collected \$1,350.00. This included a matching gift from Pastor Joseph Mantovani. Jessica Muller graciously accepted the gift and we thank her for her initiative in making the drive successful. So far, we have sent 150 kits to monkworx in Ridgewood to support their Bed Stabilization Program which provides a safe alternative to sleeping in the streets. We are reviewing other areas that may have need of kits such as the Lutheran Social Services of New York residence program. Many thanks to all who have generously donated to this drive.

Currently under review is the establishment of a Little Free Pantry for personal care and household cleaning items. We all know cleanliness is important for health and well-being and we hope that this project will help our neighbors get through this difficult time.

Plans for placing a clothing donation box on church property are underway and we are currently reviewing the contract. In addition to being an outreach to the community, this will bring funds into the church.

There is a beautiful new banner on the corner of 81<sup>st</sup> Street and Juniper Blvd South. Thank you to Emma Russo for the great artwork representing Trinity's welcome to all people in NYC.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris Tegge



## **TRINITY ONLINE**

Trinity worship services have been streamed on Zoom and Facebook since March 21, 2020. Services have been recorded and are available on [trinitymiddlevillage.org](http://trinitymiddlevillage.org) for anyone to view.

Trinity's Facebook page is averaging 75 - 100 viewers on a Sunday. The page has over 200 followers.

[Trinitymiddlevillage.org](http://Trinitymiddlevillage.org) continues to be way for people to find us. Since summer of 2020 there has been a marked increase in the number of visitors to the site.

Pastor Lemke is working hard on establishing our own server to host the Trinity website. We are currently being hosted on a shared account, which has worked well but gives us limited options and flexibility.

Many thanks to Masayo Kagita for posting music and worship services to Trinity's Facebook page and updating [trinitymiddlevillage.org](http://trinitymiddlevillage.org) with current worship news. Also thanks to everyone who contributes comments, likes and clicks to the page.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris Tegge

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

2020 has been the most tumultuous and difficult year. We experienced the pandemic relating to Covid-19 with struggles, challenges, anxiety and despair of an extremely-heightened racial divide.

### **JANUARY:**

- January 26<sup>th</sup> Day of Christian Unity was held at 3pm at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Middle Village.

### **FEBRUARY:**

- The 9<sup>th</sup> was the Annual Congregational Meeting at 12pm. Liz Marcus was nominated to be a member of the Council. There were no delegates to the Synod Assembly this year because of Covid-19.
- There also was no Faschnacht supper.
- The 26<sup>th</sup> was the imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday, The service was different this year. Ashes To Go was at 7am – 2pm and 5pm, Holy Communion at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm.

## MARCH:

- On the 15<sup>th</sup> the Church operated with a small Congregation because of the Corona Virus. The service was streamed on Facebook.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> Pastor Lemke, along with members of Council, held a meeting via Zoom to discuss the operation of the church because of the virus.
- On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Sal Canella, a member of Ascension who transferred to Trinity, passed away and was buried on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Emily Denig, a long time parishioner, passed away after a long illness.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had our first virtual service which was a success. Masayo, Frank and Jeff did an excellent job.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Masayo and Lois, Deacons in Training, started a faith-based prayer meeting from 12:15 to 12:45ish consisting of members from Trinity Middle Village, Trinity Long Island/Astoria, a member from South Dakota, and a member who lives in Connecticut but goes to church in New York. It is a meeting of devotions, prayers for members of our family, our church, our community and each other of humour, music and testimonials. There is love, support, encouragement and inspiration at this meeting. We encourage new members and ask that you come as you are able. At the end of December we were at our 41<sup>st</sup> meeting thanks be to God.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> we continued with Virtual Service with streaming on Facebook.

## APRIL

- The 5<sup>th</sup> was Palm Sunday. It was a very inspirational service with members of the Congregation performing The Passion of Christ.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Wilma Jagusch, a faithful member of Trinity who came to us from Ascension, passed away. She will be dearly missed.
- Easter Vigil Service was conducted virtually. It was very inspirational. Thanks to Masayo for incorporating our late beloved Pastor Longan into the Service.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Marion Gavin, another faithful member of our congregation, passed away.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> Salvatore Pallotta, a friend of Bud Christopher (who is a long time and faithful member of Trinity), passed away. His viewing was at Kearn's Funeral Home on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Rein Olvet's brother passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## MAY

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, we continued with virtual service. The Ilagan Family read the Scriptures and prayers of intercession.
- Pastor Lemke performed the burial service of Marion Gavin, a member of Trinity, at Cypress Hills.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup>, Bible Study class resumed with Pastor Lemke. There were 7 members in attendance. It was a very inspiring meeting.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup>, it was Mother's Day. We are still Virtual. We received news from the Bishop that we might be able to open and have normal Church Worship in July.
- The Synod Assembly was cancelled this year because of the virus. Also there were no candidates for First Communion.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Ascension Day service was done virtually. There was no Annual Luncheon.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> was the Vigil of Pentecost done for the first time. Members of the Congregation read the Scriptures in different languages. It was a very inspirational part of the service.
- On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the Day of Pentecost was celebrated.

## JUNE

- The 7<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Sunday, a normal Service, Still worshiping virtually.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the commemoration Service of the Mother Emmanuel massacre 5 years ago was held and Masayo presented it to us at our prayer and devotional meeting. It was a soul-searching comforting service especially for the African-American people.

## JULY

- July 16<sup>th</sup> - Congratulations to Pastor Lemke on the Commemoration of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination.
- On the 19<sup>th</sup>, it was great to have members of Grace Lutheran Church of Forest Hills worship with us in the absence of Pastor Warfield.



## AUGUST

- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, members of Grace Lutheran joined us once more while our Pastor Lemke was on vacation. It was a very inspirational Service.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, it was the first anniversary of Pastor Longan's (our beloved pastor for 25 years) transition into Heaven. May he rest in peace.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup>, Lenny DeStefano, 20 years old and a member of our congregation, passed away.

## SEPTEMBER

- Doris Tegge is to be commended because, in spite of Covid-19, she is able to have Sunday School regularly via Zoom. There was no Rally Day this year and no Sunday School promotion.

## OCTOBER

- On the 4<sup>th</sup>, we gathered at 9pm outside the Church for our first communion service since Covid-19. 30 members were in attendance. At 1:30pm there was the Blessing of the Animals, a first for Trinity. Both services were inspirational.
- On the 31<sup>st</sup> was Reformation Day.

## NOVEMBER

- The 1<sup>st</sup> was All Saints Sunday. All the dearly departed of the Church and their loved one's names were called after the ringing of the bell.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Confirmation of Samantha Muller was performed virtually. It was a very special moving service. Congratulations to Samantha and her parents. Let us support her in her spiritual journey.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, Myrna Ellis a resident of Dry Harbor Nursing Home and a faithful participant of the weekly Protestant service held by members of Trinity passed away. May she rest in peace.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, sadly and unexpectedly, Kathy Firneis a long-time faithful and dear member of Trinity passed away. She will be dearly missed. May she rest in peace.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> was the first Sunday in Advent with members of the congregation lighting the Advent Wreath virtually.

## DECEMBER

- On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Elwood (Bud) Christopher, a long-time faithful member of Trinity, passed away after a period of illness. His funeral service was at Kearns Funeral Home. He will be dearly missed, May his soul rest in Peace.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the Sunday School children along with two young members of Grace Lutheran Church and some family members from Trinity Middle Village performed the Christmas Pageant virtually. It was a wonderful enjoyable event and Doris Tegge along with Frank Auriemma, Jr is to be highly congratulated for their leadership.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> was the Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, with members of Trinity Middle Village and Grace Lutheran Church each performing virtually from their individual Churches. It was a wonderful Service and a great experience. There were about 100 Attendees both Virtual and live.
- There was no Christmas Day Service this Year.

Some of our ministries were not in existence this year because of Covid-19. Church worship is doing very well virtually. Many of our members attend via Zoom and telephone. There are people who are not members of the Church that join us regularly. With open hands we are doing God's work.

Through our Caregivers Ministry we continue to lift up those members who are sick, homebound, experiencing life struggles with cards, prayers, and telephone calls, also to those who are not able to join us virtually.

Many thanks to all who volunteered and helped through the year in spite of Covid-19.

- The ladies who do the counting of our offerings – Dorothy Barton, Joyce Beaudoin, Henrietta Markisch and Kay Neuendorf.
- Thanks to Doris Tegge-Sommo, Lillian Hoffmann, Bob Firneis, Richard Eichenger and Helmut Kromar.
- Special thanks to Renee Robertazzi, our Parish Secretary, who also does an excellent job and is always willing to help.
- We would also like to thank Vincent Mele, our Custodian, who also helps willingly and does an excellent job.
- To Masayo Kagita, Frank Auriemma, Jr. and Jeff Gardner who do an excellent job each Sunday virtually with music which is joyous, enjoyable, uplifting and sometimes soulful, Masayo does an exemplary job streaming us on our website and on Facebook

- Thanks to Lois Jenkins, our Council President, who keeps us in check spiritually and personally at this time of Covid-19.
- To Pastor Lemke our Interim Pastor and spiritual leader who inspires and encourages us to be always Faithful and Hopeful with open hands.

May it be by God's Grace, Mercy and Love 2021 will be a year of Peace, Hope, Unity Compassion and justice for all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Masayo Kagita and Muriel Davis



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

### JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

January					
2020	51	68	46	48	
2019	54	42	36	53	
2018	35	53	66	51	
2017	31	17	60	52	47
2016	X	37	77	**	48
2015	70	56	34	44	
2014	41	77	85	60	

February				
2020	48	60	40	40
2019	55	47	41	48
2018	56	42	45	38
2017	60	38	63	59
2016	81	54	81	64
2015	60	60	30	40
2014	74	68	50	75

\*\*Service cancelled due to Snowstorm Jonas.

March					
2020	54	38	26	V	V
2019	60	29	52	43	50
2018	61	60	61	61	Palm
2017	65	60	50	60	
2016	73	55	Palm	Easter	40
2015	77	73	63	81	Palm
2014	93	66	91	75	77

April				
2020	V	V	V	V
2019	60	Palm	Easter	50
2018	Easter	58	51	44
2017	62	Palm	Easter	52
2016	47	58	65	56
2015	Easter	58	58	69
2014	78	Palm	Easter	73

May					
2020	V	V	V43	V	Pent.
2019	49	49	47	45	
2018	40	58	Pent.	35	
2017	58	69	55	45	
2016	46	56	Pent.	58	52
2015	77	80	53	Pent.	67
2014	145	71	62	58	

June				
2020	V36	V36	V40	V45
2019	50	Pent.	46	47
2018	53	44	45	48
2017	Pent.	70	55	52
2016	47	70	65	54
2015	53	69	55	44
2014	86	69	92	73

July					
2020	V27	V40	V40	V30	
2019	28	32	29	40	
2018	35	39	X	X	43
2017	41	40	40	50	51
2016	48	60	39	52	45
2015	35	55	39	47	
2014	53	68	57	51	

August					
2020	V	V	V40	V23	V35
2019	34	38	37	27	
2018	47	49	44	38	
2017	44	53	50	48	
2016	50	50	49	37	
2015	44	49	44	53	50
2014	70	60	50	54	54

September					
2020	V30	V30	V	V30	
2019	81	55	47	45	39
2018	40	58	45	44	40
2017	45	72	64	79	
2016	40	70	50	61	
2015	53	70	75	70	
2014	70	85	61	75	

October				
2020	V	V30	V	V33
2019	41	40	44	48
2018	41	44	48	80
2017	69	57	61	68
2016	58	53	66	60
2015	63	55	52	60
2014	72	65	77	91

November					
2020	V30	V	V40	V45	V
2019	50	60	59	36	
2018	49	39	56	46	
2017	54	58	59	45	
2016	61	68	57	59	
2015	76	68	81	78	62
2014	76	70	80	94	73

December					
2020	V35	V35	V35	V35	
2019	42	52	59	63	46
2018	60	51	65	45	43
2017	61	41	67	47	18
2016	60	68	56	Christ.	
2015	70	70	72	73	
2014	65	72	54	59	

	Epiphany	Ash Wednesday	Lenten Breakfast Svc.	Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday
2020	X	37 (15/22)	12	V	V
2019		40 (19/21)		70	39 (9/30)
2018		42 (21/21)		80	35 (18/17)
2017		53 (23/30)		81	49 (25/24)
2016		61 (27/34)		94	52 (25/27)
2015		44 (15/29)		101	42 (15/27)
2014		37 (37/X)		121	54 (25/29)

	Good Friday	Easter Vigil	Easter Sunday	Ascension
2020	V	V	V	V15
2019	33 (15/18)	X**	79	19
2018	45 (23/22)	20	90	41
2017	56 (25/31)	50	103	51
2016	60 (22/38)	40	94	64
2015	53 (27/26)	40	106	50
2014	65 (30/35)	55	114	45

	Pentecost	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Misc. Events
2020	V35-Vigil / V35	V	V	
2019	48	89	48	
2018	40	86	30	
2017	62	79	30	
2016	55	83	56	
2015	46	125	X	
2014	X	121	29	

\*\* Easter Vigil was held at Trinity Astoria in 2019.

V = Virtual Services held via Zoom due to CoVid-19.

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Financial Position December 31, 2020**

General Operating Accounts

Chase - Operating Account	\$27,431.14
Chase - Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$2,127.29
Hospitality Account	\$584.72
Petty Cash	\$35.00
Sunday School Account	\$559.00

Total General Accounts \$30,737.15

\* Sterling Bank Property Accounts

Sterling Bank Money Market	\$0.00
Sterling Bank Checking	\$0.00

Total Property Accounts \$0.00

Savings Accounts

** JP Morgan Chase	\$36,371.90
* Sterling Savings (Memorial / Organ)	\$0.00

Total Savings Accounts \$36,371.90

Investments

Thrivent Income Fund A	\$16,613.90
Thrivent High Yield Fund A	\$22,619.37
Thrivent Advisor	\$180,171.00
*** Thrivent Managed Account	\$0.00

Total Investments \$219,404.27

\*\*\*\* Endowment 9/30/2020 \$542,844.59

\*\*\*\*\* Other Designated Accounts

Sterling Bank Trinity Women	\$0.00
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Total Cash Assets December 31, 2020 **\$829,357.91**

\* Relationship with Sterling ended

\*\* Includes funds for Pastor Longan's Memorial

\*\*\* Account Balance reached \$0.00 and was closed

\*\*\*\* December 31, 2020 balance not yet available --- Balance is as of September 30, 2020

\*\*\*\*\* Organization account closed and transferred to Church's Account temporarily until renovation complete, Due to high fees



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PROOF OF BALANCE -- OPERATING ACCOUNT  
December 31, 2020  
OPERATING ACCOUNT CASH FLOW 2020

Opening Checkbook Balance	\$4,387.28
Total deposits and transfers	\$325,199.82
Less checks, direct debits & EFTs & transfers	(\$319,206.17)
Closing Checkbook Balance	\$10,380.93
Uncleared checks	\$17,050.22
Bank Statement Balance	\$27,431.15

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PROOF OF BALANCE --Sterling Money Market Account  
December 31, 2020

Opening Checkbook Balance		\$15,122.87
* Renovation / Property Income / Interest	\$13,859.88	
	\$0.00	\$13,859.88
Transfer to Chase to Close Account	(\$1,860.47)	
Cleared Checks	(\$27,122.28)	
		(\$28,982.75)
Closing Checking Account Balances		\$0.00
Outstanding Check		\$0.00
Bank Balance		\$0.00

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PROOF OF BALANCE -- Sterling Checking Account  
December 31, 2020

Opening Checkbook Balance		\$6,086.16
Transfer from Money Market	\$28,858.98	\$28,858.98
Operating Account Expenses	(\$33,270.73)	
Transfer to Chase	(\$600.00)	
Check to Close Account	(\$1,114.41)	
Total		(\$34,985.14)
Closing Checking Account Balances*		(\$40.00)
Outstanding Checks		\$0.00
Bank Balance		\$0.00

\*Check recorded in error should have been voided



Trinity Lutheran Church  
Savings and Investment Accounts  
December 31, 2020

JP Morgan Chase

Savings Account	
Opening Balance	\$14,424.94
bequest	\$50,000.00
Transfer from Sterling Bank	\$10,012.55
Last of the funds from sale of Ascension	\$6,530.27
Interest	3.84
Transfer to Operating Account	(\$44,600.00)

Closing Balance	\$36,371.60
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Sterling Bank

Opening Balance	\$3,764.22
interest	\$0.67
????	\$8,506.28
Transfer to Chase to close acct	(\$10,012.42)
Transfer to cover expenses	(\$500.00)
Transfer to Checking for Organ Maintenance	(\$1,758.75)
Trinity Women Funds	\$0.00
Closing Balance	\$0.00

Thrivent for Lutherans

Thrivent Income Fund A	
Opening Balance	\$19,055.17
Net Change	\$1,558.73
Withdrawals for Day to Day Expenses	(\$4,000.00)
Closing Balance	\$16,613.90
Thrivent High Yield Fund A	
Opening Balance	\$30,987.01
Net Change	(\$367.63)
Withdrawals for Day to Day Expenses	(\$8,000.00)
Closing Balance	\$22,619.38
Thrivent Advisor	
Opening Balance	\$172,435.40
Withdrawals	(\$1,020.83)
Net Change	\$8,756.43
Closing Balance	\$180,171.00
Thrivent Income Focused Managed Portfolios	
Opening Balance	\$79,946.37
Money Out	(\$66,019.34)

Net Change	(\$13,927.03)
Closing Balance	\$0.00
 Total Thrivent	 \$219,404.28

#### ENDOWMENT

Trinity Endowment Fund / ELCA Foundation Initial Investment

\$481,530.00 12/20/06

Opening Balance	\$0.00
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Change in Market Value	\$0.00
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* Closing Balance 9/30/2020	\$533,529.54
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#### Summary Savings and Investments

JP Morgan Chase	\$36,371.60
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Sterling Bank	\$0.00
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Thrivent for Lutherans	\$219,404.28
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* Endowment 9/30/2020	\$533,529.54
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Total Investments and Savings	\$789,305.42
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\* Year end statement not yet available

## REPORT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY – 2020

### OPERATING ACCOUNT INCOME

Current Envelopes	36,499.79	
Initial Envelopes	274.45	
2018/2020 Envelopes	210.00	
Special Envelopes	6,367.20	
Lenten Folders	120.75	
Loose Collection	399.50	
E-Giving	14,069.47	
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP		\$ 57,941.16

### MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & DONATIONS:

Special Bequest	50,000.00
T-Mobile	26,101.61
Thrivent Choice	4,331.00
Thriventr Investment Income	7,200.00
Special Fund Me	600.00
Thrivent Match	300.00
Thrivent for Covid-19	300.00
Payroll Tax Refund	178.61
Pension Fund Refund	83.80
E-Bay Sales	240.03
Pet Blessings	58.00
Donations	3,369.00
Other Donations/Building Use	400.00
E-Giving Donations	400.00



TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & DONATIONS 93,562.05

INTEREST & DIVIDENDS:

Trinity Endowment Fund 20,345.74

TOTAL INTEREST & DIVIDENDS 20,345.74

REBATES, EXCHANGES & OTHER INCOME DEPOSITS

Trinity Times Ads and Boosters 310.00

General Memorials 110.00

SPECIAL APPEALS

United Lutheran Appeal 60.00

Lutheran Social Servoces 89.00

Soup Kitchen 403.00

Hygiene Drive 580.00

Other 100.00

REBATES

Postage 22.00

Worship & Music 72.95

Easter Plants 427.00

TOTAL REBATES, EXCHANGES & UOTHER Income Deposits

2,173.95

TOTAL INCOME \$ 174,022.90

TOTAL DEPOSITS 174,022.90

Recap of Renovation / Property Income Account  
2020

Renovation	\$10,323
Property	<u>\$26,016</u>
	\$36,339**

*Memorials	\$ 830.00
*Penny Jar	\$ 18.00

\*Included in Renovation Account

**E-giving	\$10,600
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Trinity Lutheran Church							
		Spending Plan 2020	Actual 2020 Chase	Actual 2020 Sterling	Total Spending	over/under	
I Offerings							
A. Synod		3,500.00	\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00	\$0.00	
B. Loc Min		0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	
C. Aids Quilts		200.00				(\$200.00)	
I Total Offerings							
II Congregation Programs							
A. Worship Materials							
1. Communion Supplies		450.00	\$147.87		\$147.87	(\$302.13)	
2. Choir Music		200.00	\$22.65		\$22.65	(\$177.35)	
3. Devotional Materials		300.00			\$0.00	(\$300.00)	
4. Candle Oil		400.00			\$0.00	(\$400.00)	
5. Other		0.00		\$298.25	\$298.25	\$298.25	
Total Worship Materials							
B. Christian Education							
1. Sunday School		100.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$100.00)	
2. Pastor's Class		200.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$200.00)	
3. Youth & Family		400.00			\$0.00	(\$400.00)	
Total Christian Education							
C. Witness							
1. Advertising		300.00			\$0.00	(\$300.00)	
2. Stewardship & Evangel		400.00	\$34.50	\$362.02	\$396.52	(\$3.48)	
Total Witness							
D. Social Ministry & Com							
1. Social Ministry		200.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	
Total Social Ministry		0.00					
E, Church Office							
1. Office Supplies		2,100.00	\$148.32	\$430.80	\$579.12	(\$1,520.88)	
2. Postage		2,500.00	\$158.55	\$165.00	\$323.55	(\$2,176.45)	
3. Printer Lease		0.00					
4. Copier Lease		8,048.00	\$1,887.00	\$6,279.28	\$8,166.28	\$118.28	
5. Toner / Meters		0.00					
Total Church Office							
F. Synod Assembly					\$0.00	\$0.00	
1. Registration		1,200.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	
2. Hotel		1,600.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,600.00)	
Total Synod Assembly							
II total Congregation Programs							
III Staff Support							
A. Pastor							
* 1. Base Salary		75,000.00	\$75,000.00		\$75,000.00	\$0.00	
2. Benefits Package		20,798.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$20,798.00)	
4. Housing Allowance		7,200.00	\$7,200.00		\$7,200.00	\$0.00	
5. Car Allowance		2,800.00	\$2,799.96		\$2,799.96	(\$0.04)	
6. Conferences		200.00			\$0.00	(\$200.00)	
7. Continuing Education		500.00			\$0.00	(\$500.00)	
8. Books & Periodicals		250.00			\$0.00	(\$250.00)	
9. FICA Allowance		10,500.00	\$10,500.00		\$10,500.00	\$0.00	
Total Pastor							2/1/2021



		Spending Plan 2020	Actual 2020 Chase	Actual 2020 Sterling	Total Spending	over/under
	B. Parish Secretary	11,039.18	\$10,693.04		\$10,693.04	(\$346.14)
	C, Minister of Music					
	1. Base Salary	16,670.30	\$16,624.92		\$16,624.92	(\$45.38)
	3. Continuing Education				\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total Minister of Music					
	D. Transportation Coordinator	3,732.96	\$694.04		\$694.04	(\$3,038.92)
	E. Custodian	10,586.22	\$7,123.80		\$7,123.80	(\$3,462.42)
	F. Youth Director					
	G. Supply Personnel					
	1. Supply Pastors	1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)
	2, Supply Organists	900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$900.00)
	Total Supply Personnel					
	G. Taxes etc		\$179.62			
	1, FICA Payroll	3,000.00	\$2,688.93		\$2,688.93	(\$311.07)
	2.WC DB UI	2,700.00			\$0.00	(\$2,700.00)
	2.c NYSDisability	220.00	\$233.89	\$55.42	\$289.31	\$69.31
	2.d Workers Comp	2,000.00	\$540.24	\$0.00	\$540.24	(\$1,459.76)
	Total Taxes					
III	Total Staff Support					
IV	Property					
	A. Utilities (M,V,)					
	1. Gas	9,804.00	\$2,442.00	\$7,102.65	\$9,544.65	(\$259.35)
	2. Electric	11,724.00	\$4,888.00	\$10,811.94	\$15,699.94	\$3,975.94
	3. Communication					
	3.a Telephone	2,721.84	\$704.81	\$2,074.74	\$2,779.55	\$57.71
	4. Water		\$109.14	\$355.35		
	Total MV Building			\$0.00		
	Total Utilities					
	B Maintenance					
	1. Regular Maintenance / suppl	7,500.00	\$15,985.18	\$3,111.53	\$19,096.71	\$11,596.71
	2, Audio	0.00				
	3. Organ Piano	750.00		\$1,758.75	\$1,758.75	\$1,008.75
	Total Regular Maintenance			\$0.00		
	C. Insurance					
**	1, Property	26,035.08	\$24,070.59		\$24,070.59	(\$1,964.49)
***	2. Van	1,907.04	\$1,907.00		\$1,907.00	(\$0.04)
	Total Insurance					
	D. Church Van					
	1. Gas	396.99		\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$396.99)
	2. Maintenance / Registration	1,000.00	\$81.25	\$0.00	\$81.25	(\$918.75)
	3.Other					
	Total Van					
IV	Total Property					
V	General Miscellaneous					
	1. Soda Machine	0.00				
	2. Soda Machine Lease	0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
	3.Bank Charges	250.00	\$80.00	\$75.00	\$155.00	(\$95.00)
	4. Miscellaneous	200.00	\$99.94	\$0.00	\$99.94	(\$100.06)
	5. Flowers	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total General Miscellaneous		\$0.00			
					\$0.00	\$0.00

		Spending Plan 2020	Actual 2020 Chase	Actual 2020 Sterling	Total Spending	over/under
VI	Administration					
	1. Staff Appreciation	800.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$800.00)
	2. Payroll Services	1,100.00	\$1,111.61		\$1,111.61	\$11.61
	Total Administration					
	Total Spending Plan	255,583.61	191,656.85	32,880.73	\$224,537.58	(\$31,046.03)
	Not in Plan					
	Soup Kitchen		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Renovation Project		\$60,046.50	\$0.00		
	Renovation new item		\$960.00	\$390.00	\$1,350.00	
	Synod Agencies		\$0.00		\$0.00	
	Transfers	0.00	\$66,542.82	\$600.00	\$67,142.82	
	Vacancy Pastor		\$0.00		\$0.00	
	Funerals		\$0.00		\$0.00	
	Total Not in Plan	0.00	\$127,549.32	\$990.00	\$128,539.32	
	Total Spending	\$255,583.61	\$319,206.17	\$33,870.73	\$353,076.90	

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

	Spending Plan 2020	Spending Plan 2021	Difference +/-
I Offerings			
A. Synod	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
B. Loc Min	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
C. Aids Quilts	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
I Total Offerings			
II Congregation Programs			
A. Worship Materials			
1. Communion Supplies	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
2. Choir Music	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
3. Devotional Materials	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
4. Candle Oil	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
5. Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Worship Materials			
B. Christian Education			
1. Sunday School	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
2. Pastor's Class	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
3. Youth & Family	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
Total Christian Education			
C. Witness			
1. Advertising	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
2. Stewardship & Evangel	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
Total Witness			
D. Social Ministry & Com			
1. Social Ministry	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Total Social Ministry			
E, Church Office			
1. Office Supplies	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$0.00
2. Postage	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
4. Copier Lease	\$8,048.00	\$8,048.00	\$0.00
Total Church Office			
F. Synod Assembly			
1. Registration	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
2. Hotel	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00
Total Synod Assembly			
II Total Congregation Programs			
III Staff Support			
A. Pastor			
* 1. Base Salary	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
2. Benefits Package	\$20,798.00	\$20,798.00	\$0.00
4. Housing Allowance	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
5. Car Allowance	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
6. Conferences	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
7. Continuing Education	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
8. Books & Periodicals	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
9. FICA Allowance	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$0.00
Total Pastor			
B. Parish Secretary	\$11,039.18	\$11,182.69	\$143.51
C, Minister of Music			
1. Base Salary	\$16,670.30	\$16,887.01	\$216.72
3. Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Minister of Music			
D. Transportation Coordinator	\$3,732.96 240	\$3,732.96 15.50	\$0.00
E. Custodian	\$10,586.22 648	\$10,586.22 16.07	\$0.00
F. Youth Director	\$0.00		
G. Supply Personnel			
1. Supply Pastors	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
2. Supply Organists	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$0.00
Total Supply Personnel			



	Spending Plan 2020	Spending Plan 2021	Difference +/-
G. Taxes etc			
1. FICA Payroll	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
2. WC DB UI	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$0.00
2.c NYSDisability	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$0.00
2.d Workers Comp	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Total Taxes			
III Total Staff Support			
IV Property			
A. Utilities (M,V,)			
1. Gas	\$9,804.00	\$10,092.00	\$288.00
2. Electric	\$11,724.00	\$14,664.00	\$2,940.00
3. Communication			
3.a Telephone	\$2,721.84	\$2,721.84	\$0.00
4. Water	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Utilities			
B Maintenance			
1. Regular Maintenance / supplies	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
2. Public Safety Maintenance	\$0.00	\$1,845.00	\$1,845.00
3. Organ Piano	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0.00
Total Regular Maintenance			
C. Insurance			
** 1. Property	\$26,035.08	\$24,078.00	(\$1,957.08)
*** 2. Van	\$1,907.04	\$1,907.04	\$0.00
Total Insurance			
D. Church Van			
1. Gas	\$396.99	\$396.99	\$0.00
2. Maintenance / Registration	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
3. Other			
Total Van			
IV Total Property			
V General Miscellaneous			
1. Soda Machine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. Soda Machine Lease	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Bank Charges	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
4. Miscellaneous	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
5. Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total General Miscellaneous			
VI Administration			
1. Staff Appreciation	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00
2. Payroll Services	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Total Administration			
<b>Total Spending Plan</b>	<b>255,583.61</b>	<b>259,559.75</b>	<b>3,976.14</b>

## CLOSING DEVOTIONS

*The Congregation Stands*

You will be my witnesses  
**To the ends of the earth.**

I chose you and appoint 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.**

*The Congregation Sings:*

*(ELW 641 vs. 5 - Tune: Two Oaks)*

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Build of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

I now declare this meeting closed in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

## LITANY

L. O God of all power and love ...

**C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.**

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

**C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**

L. O God of all power and love ...

**C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

**C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.**

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

**C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.**

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

**C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the  
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.  
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

*Refrain*  
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in  
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your  
word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952

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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form "one body." Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word "one" appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the "unity of Christ." He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." This oneness reflects God's gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to "bear with one another in love." This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to "maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by "speaking the truth in love," each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God's work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God's glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into "unity in Christ." We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

**LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.**