

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Middle Village, New York*

# Annual Report 2023



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



*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Middle Village, New York*

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

*for*

*2023*

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

*Prepared for presentation to the  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
February 11, 2024*

## 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 / 11 February 2024**  
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 2023

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 2023

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEVOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING / Part II

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION on FEBRUARY 13, 2022**

**INATTENDANCE:**

Doris Tegge	Emma Richter	Tyler Boos
William Muller	Joyce Beaudoin	Samantha Boos
Lillian Hoffmann	Dorothy Russo	Genesis Ilagan
Dorothy Kummer	Emma Russo	Feliz Ilagan
Erwin Markisch	Masayo Kagita	Xuming Sun
Henrietta Marakiss	Jeff Gardner	Samantha Muller
Nancy Barton	Lois Jenkins	Carol McMullin
Nancy Keicher	Muriel Davis	Don Lemke
Helen Schwab	Sandy Boos	
Kay Neuendorf	Karin Spykerman	

A quorum of 25 voting members was established.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Lois Jenkins called the annual meeting to order at 12:35 pm

Pastor Lemke gave the opening devotions.

Attendance:

Members: 25

Non-Voting: 3

A quorum of 25 voting members was established.

**AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

- The agenda was accepted by consensus.
- The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Congregation were read. The minutes were accepted by consensus as read.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

- Pastor Lemke reflected that Trinity influences many people beyond those that are in the sanctuary on Sunday through friends and family of the many groups that use the church buildings. Trinity is changing the world by proposing a new way of living.
- The typical Zoom attendance is 30-60 people.
- Kay Neuendorf raised a question: Trinity's membership roll has 300 people. Who are they?

Pastor Lemke replied: A person cannot be removed from the roll arbitrarily. People do not always notify Trinity when they move away or join another church. Birthday cards and

mailings are sent to those for whom we have an address. If there is no response for five years, the person is considered self-excommunicated and is take off the roll.

- See also 2022 Annual Report

### **PRESIDENTS ADDRESS:**

- Lois Jenkins highlighted events of 2022: Diakonia Graduation and Know Your Neighbor. These events gave us contacts to others in the New York metropolitan area.
- Trinity is one of four churches in the Western Queens Conference that are without a called pastor.
- Housing is a concern in calling a pastor, also whether we should share a pastor with another congregation.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL, ONLINE, OUTREACH:**

- Eight children will be starting Confirmation instruction in the near future.
- Two children have begun preparation for First Communion.
- Doris Tegge will be starting a newsletter to be available on the website and by email.
- See also 2022 Annual Report

### **EVENTS at TRINITY– Sandy Boos:**

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 21, 2023. Donations will be accepted.
- The Boy Scouts will be having a Pinewood Derby on March 11, 2023
- The Spring Market will be held on March 18, 2023

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Masayo Kagita:**

- Jotforms have been implemented for survey forms and event registration forms.
- Business cards with the QR code for the survey forms have been made.
- Muriel Davis gave thanks for the past year at Trinity, as we aim to inspire and uplift the people of God.
- The Ilagan family, residing in Connecticut, gave thanks for Zoom worship services.
- See also 2022 Annual Report

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS – Lilian Hoffmann:**

- Lillian gave thanks for Dorothy Barton's long service as Financial Secretary.
- The totals for income on the Financial Report are correct. Details are unavailable due to the death of Dorothy Barton and vacancy of the Financial Secretary position.
- There were no questions or objections on the Financial Report

**2023 SPENDING PLAN:**

- Public Safety is a new line item and refers to fees for inspections that are required to keep the buildings code compliant and open for use.
- Joyce Beaudoin raised a question: Since the expenses are greater than the income, where is the money coming from? Lillian answered: Funds have been taken from the Thrivent investment funds to cover shortfall. Money has not been withdrawn from the endowment account.
- There were no objections to the 2023 Spending Plan

Committee and officer reports were accepted by consensus of the members present.

**COUNCIL ELECTIONS:**

Dorothy Russo nominated Joyce Beaudoin to council. There were no other nominations. All current members of council have agreed to stay on. Acceptance of new council passed unanimously.

**2023 Trinity Council**

Lois Jenkins	Nancy Keicher
Dorothy Russo	Karin Spykerman
Doris Tegge	Cyndy Rooney
Masayo Kagita	Rich Elchinger
Genesis Ilagan	William Muller
Sandy Boos	Muriel Davis
Joyce Beadoin	Lillian Hoffmann (non-voting)

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY:**

No names were nominated from the floor for delegates to the Synod Assemble. Lois Jenkins and Masayo Kagita were appointed by consensus.

**CALLING OF DEACONS:**

Pastor Lemke asked for a show of hands to re-affirm and officially call Deaconesses Masayo Kagita and Lois Jenkins to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church for 2023. The affirmative response was unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2023 offering envelopes have not been received. It was requested that people put their names on envelopes that they use for offerings.



**CLOSING:**

There was no objection to a call for closing the meeting. Election of council officers will be held at the February 16 council meeting instead of immediately after this meeting.

Meeting adjourned by consensus.

The annual meeting was concluded at 2:30pm with closing devotions and a hymn.

## PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Blessed are you O Lord our God, Creator of the Universe!

When I began as your interim on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, the expectations were that I would leave within eighteen months. Beginning with a new church year, we started reviewing records and leading worship and then on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March we moved worship online and the building was closed. With that trauma, we learned how to begin, how to learn, how to do theology in the time of Covid-19 where we were not given an option about how we were going to walk in faith's way. Sometimes we were admonished that we should stop doing worship online and then weeks later, hear an apology that declared the love that invited strangers into our presence because they were able to worship when they could not join us.

As we gained skills in streaming worship, we reviewed. We tried new ways to open the doors to the larger community. We tried to bring back traditional offering plates and found that just because we once did it that way, it wasn't the best way. Our fishbowl became a new way to offer our Gift to God in a simple and honest way that makes our offering ours as we are and when we are able.

Our community has been trying to find a way to return to the past and often tripping and falling wonderfully. There are times that the technology reminds us that we don't know it all and what we would like to do is keep moving, on the journey of faith. One of our recent visitors thanked me for letting him into the church. He felt safe, invited, and blessed. We have been asked to support the government of our city by supporting early voting. This action lets others learn about our church. This action supports our building, but more, lets us invite the stranger through our doors and changes the world.

We continue to support the Scouts, AA, and the possibility of changing the world. Folks have come into our Sanctuary and left thanking us for helping them journey in their various experiences and discovering something new and helping their lives. There are others who will never like what they don't know. We have been using a "Ghost Hymn" that you sing over four weeks. In that time, you learn the music and more, learn how it becomes a song for you. A gift if you will. Over the last four years we have used all but Five of the Twelve settings of the Lutheran Liturgy in the ELW. But do you celebrate the setting that warms your worshipping heart? Or are you being too busy forgetting that the church is always asking us to journey with the expectation that we will live to be surprised with the emphasis on **LIVE AND FORGIVE**.

We have learned that those things that do not harm may well be a step to our own conversions. We welcomed pets for a blessing, rejoicing in the delight, the joy, the love shared. We welcomed children to the table for the first time and bid others to come and be strengthened as they leave this time on the journey in this life.

Look at the statistics and realize all that we, yes, **WE**, have done in the work of the dominion of God.

This is not a typical Pastor's report. It is rather a reflection on the activity of this church.

And for that we say Blessed are you O Lord our God Creator of the Universe!

Let us Journey well in the cross,

*Pastor Am +*

**PASTORAL ACTS**  
**JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023**

<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>WEDDINGS:</b>	<b>1</b>	Candi Joseph and Colin Gordon (3/17/23)	
<b>MEMORIALS/FUNERALS:</b>	<b>6</b>		
	<u>MEMBERS</u> (6)	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>	(0)
	Dorothy Barton (1/4/23)		
	Christine Pallay (1/20/23)		
	Carole Palladino (7/17/23)		
	Charles Schueler (8/13/23)		
	Katherine Eriksen (9/9/23)		
	Kathleen Treiling (10/4/23)		
<b>FIRST COMMUNION:</b>	<b>2</b>		
	Daniel Brosky (4/30/23)		
	Dorothy Eriksen (4/30/23)		
<b><u>MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:</u></b>			
<b><u>MEMBERS RECEIVED:</u></b>	<b>1</b>		
	<u>AFFIRMATION OF FAITH</u> (0)	<u>CONFIRMANDS</u> (1)	
		Emma Russo (6/11/23)	
	<u>BAPTIZED</u> (1)	<u>TRANSFER</u> (0)	
<b>MEMBERS REMOVED:</b>	<b>11</b>		
	<u>TRANSFER</u> (4)	<u>DEATH</u> (7)	
	Genesis Ilagan (5/28/23)		
	Maria Feliz Ilagan (5/28/23)		
	David Ilagan (5/28/23)		
	Daniel Ilagan (5/28/23)		
	Dorothy Barton (1/4/23)		
	Christine Pallay (1/20/23)		
	George Grill, Jr. (5/29/23)		
	Carole Palladino (7/17/23)		
	Charles Schueler (8/13/23)		
	Katherine Eriksen (9/9/23)		
	Kathleen Treiling (10/4/23)		
<u>MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWN</u>	(0)		
<u>MEMBERSHIP DROPPED</u>	(0)		
<b><u>MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS:</u></b>			
Total BAPTIZED/CONFIRMED Membership, January 1, 2023			281
Baptized/Confirmed Members received:			1
Baptized/Confirmed Members removed:			(11)
Total BAPTIZED/CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2023			271
Total BAPTIZED/UNCONFIRMED Membership, January 1, 2023			107
Baptized/Unconfirmed Members received:			1
Baptized/Unconfirmed Members removed:			(0)
Total BAPTIZED/UNCONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2023			108
TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2023			<u>379</u>

Dear Congregation Members,

I am Masayo Kagita, serving as the Synodical Deacon at Trinity Lutheran Middle Village. In this role, I have had the privilege of being the Treasurer for the Growing in Faith Diakonia NY Program, and also taking on the technical responsibilities for our streaming and Zoom blended services every Sunday morning. Additionally, Jeff and I have been contributing as an unofficial cantor, supporting and leading our liturgical worship services.

A key focus of my ministry has been enhancing our digital presence, and I'm pleased to report that we've made significant progress in this area. Notably, last July, we saw a major improvement in our streaming quality after Trinity installed new wiring and set up a dedicated Wi-Fi network, which has helped us avoid internet disruptions. Along with Jeff, we've added more equipment to further refine our camera work. I'm proud of how well we are doing with our streaming services now, especially with the integration of the bulletin on-screen, allowing for more interactive participation in our worship services.

As an active member of the Choir and the worship committee, I am always open to and appreciative of feedback regarding our worship services.

I humbly seek your support for the renewal of my call and am eager to continue serving our community with dedication and passion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Synodical Deacon Masayo Kagita

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

Sunday School is held in person starting at 9:15 am with singing led by Frank Auriemma followed with lessons taught by Doris Tegge. Emma Russo fills in as an occasional teacher substitute. There are six students this year ranging in age from 6 to 13 years old. Different bibles are used to adjust to the reading level of the students. Lessons are frequently supplemented by visual aids.

This past year many milestones were celebrated. Dorothy and Danny made their First Communion in April 2023. Sophia, Connor and Kaitlin made their First Communion in January 2024. Emma Russo, a Sunday School graduate, affirmed her baptism by profession of faith in June 2023. A Christmas play was performed on December 17 with all students participating.

Our lessons are based on the Gospels and are focused on presenting God's love to the children in such a way that they feel accepted, valued, and treasured and are encouraged to approach the world around them with an open heart.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris Tegge

## **OUTREACH**

On Scout Sunday, Boy Scout Troop 106 put on their uniforms and joined Trinity in worship. The scouts acted as ushers, readers and presented the 12 principles of the Scout Law.

Cub Scout Pack 106 has been learning about kindness and citizenship, and participated in several winter community projects. They have partnered with Trinity to collect pet supplies, toys and food for various charities.

On Saturday, January 7 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Boy Scout Troop 106 hosted the first Eagle Scout Ceremony in over 3 years. There were three inductees as Eagle Scouts, due to their completion of all requirements for Scouting's highest rank.

On Fat Tuesday, a Mardi Gras themed pancake dinner was hosted by the Boy Scouts and directed by Sandy Boos. This was the first pancake dinner since the COVID outbreak.

Also, the first time since COVID, the Rally Day picnic was held on September 11. It was held in the fellowship hall due to weather, but we had a good crowd and lots of food.

Trinity held three markets in 2023: Spring Market on March 18, Artisan Market on May 7 and Autumn Market on September 30. All were coordinated by Sandy Boos with many helpers from Trinity. The markets were well attended, and vendors are asking to come back.

The Blessing of the Animals service was held on October 1. Members of Trinity and people from the neighborhood brought their pets to express gratitude.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris Tegge

## **PROPERTY REPORT**

- All lighting fixtures in and around the church property were replaced by Con Edison with new LED lighting.
- Mandated Inspections were performed on the fire alarm system, the kitchen fire suppression system, the elevator and on both boilers.
- Waivers were submitted with the Departments of Buildings to have eight boiler violations voided.
- New phone lines were installed for the fire alarm system and the elevator phone to prevent unwarranted trouble alarms.
- The property chairman made a temporary repair to a leaking sprinkler elbow in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator lobby ceiling. The elbow will have to be replaced.
- The gym boiler was coated with epoxy to stop the leak.
- Last November - New Roof was installed on church and gym.
- The air conditioning control system is experiencing problems. Our sexton, Vinnie, has been operating the fan by manual switch in the control panel since last summer. The

damper controlling the air flow to the church had to be set manually to provide sufficient heating. Upgrades to the system are very costly and not fundable at this time.

- The bottom of the gym boiler is currently sealed with epoxy. At some point it will start leaking again.

Thank you to all the property volunteers and our Sexton for keeping up with the maintenance of our premises.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helmut Kromar & Richard Eichinger

## **RENOVATION REPORT**

The renovations committee has been in discussions with the Architect Voytek and the Contractor Victoria in completing the project and obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy.

Voytek met with us a few months ago and provided a list of items required for issuance of the certificate of occupancy. The list included boiler violations and prior filed renovations applications. Helmut submitted eight violation waivers to the Department of Buildings to get the boiler violations removed and avoid the fines for the violations. We asked Voytek to obtain a cost from his expediter to file for removal of the old applications. A proposal was obtained for this work and the Council will need to approve the work. Once approved we can have the expediter start the applications and get the prior Architect to sign the applications. The Architect of Record died last year however, the firm will have to sign the applications and return them to us.

Voytek has scheduled and obtained most of the sign-offs required. There may be a few still open. Victoria has submitted a final payment for their work and is looking for final payment of \$115,262.50.

There are annual inspections and costs that need to be budgeted each year, such as but not limited to:

- Elevator inspection and monitoring
- Fire alarm inspection and monitoring
- Sprinkler inspection and monitoring
- Kitchen exhaust system fire suppression system testing
- Boiler inspections
- Public Assembly inspections

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Firneis

## TRINITY TIDINGS

In April 2023, the first Trinity newsletter since the COVID-19 outbreak was published. Trinity Tidings is published bi-monthly and is available on paper and on [trinitymiddlevillage.org](http://trinitymiddlevillage.org). It is edited by Doris Tegge and Renee Robertazzi. The newsletter covers recent events at Trinity and other organizations with which we have a relationship. Trinity Tidings also contains devotionals and spiritual reflections. All people of Trinity are encouraged to submit material. Financial support is given from various businesses and organizations in the community as well as Trinity Boosters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris Tegge

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### **January:**

2023 started out being a very sad month. We are still worshipping in the Sanctuary and via Zoom because of the Corona Virus.

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Dorothy Barton a long-time member of the Congregation passed away. She will be surely missed; may she rest in peace. On the 6<sup>th</sup> was the Day of Epiphany with the blessing of water and the Church. On the 8<sup>th</sup> was the Baptism of our Lord, also the Funeral Service of Dorothy Barton held at Michael's Funeral Home. On the 19<sup>th</sup> was the first Council Meeting of the year. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Christine Pally (the daughter of Alice Lucente who was a member of our Congregation) passed away after suffering many years from MS, may she rest in peace. Our Town Hall meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to air views and concerns before our Annual Congregation Meeting.

### **February:**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> our Annual Congregation Meeting was held. Richard Eichinger's second term is expiring and Lois Jenkins (Council President) made a motion to extend his term. The motion was second and carried unanimously. All other Council Members remained the same. The spending plan for 2023 was approved. It was also Scout's Sunday celebrated with a blended worship Service with the Scouts participating, a very enjoyable and inspiring event. On the 19<sup>th</sup> was the Transfiguration of our Lord, a Blended Worship Service. On the 21<sup>st</sup> was Faschnacht (Pancake Supper) which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Sandy Boos, the Scouts and all who volunteered. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> was Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent the Service was held at 10am and 7pm.

### **March:**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> was the second Sunday in Lent, a Blended Worship Service. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Sandy Boos held a second Autumn Fair at Trinity. It was a very wonderful and successful event with many people asking for a repeat. Sandy along with all who volunteered are to be highly commended.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> was our 3<sup>rd</sup> year Anniversary of our faith-based prayer meeting at 12:15 to 12:45 started by Masayo and Lois, our Deacons. We are 10 members and have grown stronger in our faith, with requests from others to pray for them, their families and Community. Thanks be to God.

**April:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> was Palm Sunday when our Lord Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. The Passion Story was performed excellently by members of the Congregation. It was also the installation of members of the Congregation to Council, the charge was given by Pastor Lemke. On the 4<sup>th</sup> was Chrism Mass the Affirmation of Vocation, and Blessing of Oils which was held by the Metropolitan New York Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Lemke and DCN Lois attended. On the 6<sup>th</sup> was Maundy Thursday when Jesus washed the feet of his Disciples. The Service was held at 10:30am and 7pm via zoom. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Good Friday service was held 12pm Stations of the Cross, and 7pm Tenebrae. The 9<sup>th</sup> was Easter Sunday a beautiful Service in the Sanctuary and via zoom. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the fourth Sunday of Easter was the Holy First Communion of Dorothy Eriksen and Daniel Brodsky – 2 beautiful children who received first Communion along with their parents. Let us support them in their spiritual journey.

**May:**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> was Synod Assembly Pastor Lemke, DCN Lois and DCN Masayo were in attendance. At this meeting there was an Ordination and Diakonia Graduation, also Synodical Deacons were set apart making it a very special meeting. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Sandy Boos held another fair, an Artian Market, which was also successful. Let us continue to support her in her endeavors to benefit the Church and Community. On the 12<sup>th</sup> United Church Women held their monthly meeting. On the 14<sup>th</sup> was Mother's Day a blended Worship Service. On the 18<sup>th</sup> was Ascension Day 30 Parishioners gathered, members of Trinity Middle Village and other Churches for worship and a most delicious luncheon. We thanked and complimented Pastor Lemke for his choice of the meal. On the 21<sup>st</sup> was a blended Worship Service with members of Grace Lutheran for a Faithx presentation and luncheon after. On the 28<sup>th</sup> was the day of Pentecost a blended Worship Service, members of the Congregation participated by reading Scripture in different languages also in cacophony. A very different and inspiring Service.

**June:**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> United Church women held their last meeting until September. On the 11<sup>th</sup> was the Affirmation of Faith for Emma Russo, it was an inspiring Service and she was excellent in her presentation. Let us continue to support her on her Spiritual Journey. On the 16<sup>th</sup> DCN Masayo along with Jeff and Mina left for Japan for 2 weeks to be with her family to celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Anniversary of her Father Susumu's passing on June 26. The 17<sup>th</sup> was the Commemoration of Emmanuel nine, Martyrs who died June 17, 2015, murdered by a white Supremacist while having Bible Study. On the 18<sup>th</sup> was Father's Day a Blended Service of Worship. It was also Sunday School Promotion where the Children received Certificates. Under the leadership of Doris Tegge (Sunday School Teacher) and Frank Auriemma Jr. (Organist) they performed well. Both Doris and Frank are to be highly commended. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth the Emancipation of Slavery in The United States was celebrated as a Federal and State holiday.



**July:**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> Gloria Vegara, a long-time faithful member celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Congratulations and Blessings to Gloria from the Trinity Congregation. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Pastor Lemke celebrated 45 years of his Ordination. On the 28<sup>th</sup> he left for vacation for 2 weeks. On the 30<sup>th</sup> in Pastor Lemke's absence DCN Lois led Service of the Word. It was a beautiful inspirational service of Scripture and Hymns which the Congregation enjoyed.

**August:**

The 6<sup>th</sup> was a service of Worship and Praise. Frank Auriemma Jr. Minister of Music led a Hymn Sing Service with Scripture and Hymns of Jesus's Birth to his Resurrection. It was an excellent and glorious Service, enjoyed by the members of the Congregation who requested that it be an annual event. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Pastor Lemke returned from vacation and held Worship Service on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Katherine Neuendorf, a longtime, Faithful member celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, many Blessings and love to her from the Trinity Congregation.

**September:**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Eriksen a faithful member of the Congregation passed away after a period of illness. The 10<sup>th</sup> was Rally Sunday. Sunday School resumed after the summer vacation. It was a very enjoyable occasion with fellowship/camaraderie and a very delicious meal. On the 15<sup>th</sup> was the Funeral Service for Kathleen Eriksen at Trinity Middle Village. On the 17<sup>th</sup> DCN Lois led the Worship Service at Grace Lutheran of Forest Hills. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting resumed after being off for the summer. Many businesses of the church were discussed. On the 30<sup>th</sup> Sandy Boos chaired another Autumn Market at the Church. It was an excellent event with success both for the Church and the Vendors who are eagerly looking forward to another event. Many thanks to Sandy and all who volunteered.

**October:**

On the first was Blessing of the Animals a very inspirational part of our Worship Service. There were 21 Animals at the Service this year. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Kay Treiling a faithful Member of the Congregation passed away. Her Funeral Service was held at Kearns Funeral Home on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> United Church Women resumed their monthly meeting after being suspended for the Summer. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> was a Service of Healing and Anointment. 22 Members were Anointed. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Pastor Lemke attended the Bishop's Retreat, DCN Lois and DCN Masayo attended the Bishop's Retreat from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. The 29<sup>th</sup> was Reformation Sunday, a wonderful Service.

**November:**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> our Deaconesses Lois Jenkins and Masayo Kagita attended the Diakonia Retreat which was held in Connecticut by the New York Diakonia. The 5<sup>th</sup> was All Saints Sunday. At the ringing of the bell, we remembered the dearly departed. On the 10<sup>th</sup> was United Church Women's monthly meeting which is always an inspirational and knowledgeable fellowship. On the 12<sup>th</sup> in Pastor Lemke's absence, we had a Hymn Sing led by Frank Auriemma our Minister of Music and DCN Lois. It was a most glorious Hymn Service with beautiful songs which was enjoyed by all.

**December:**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> was the First Sunday of Advent with Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on zoom. On the 8<sup>th</sup> United Church Women held their last meeting of the year, celebrating Christmas. Because of the winter months of January and February, the meeting will resume in March. On the 17<sup>th</sup> was the third Sunday of Advent and also the Sunday School Christmas Pageant, an excellent performance by the Children under the leadership of Doris Tegge and Frank Auriemma who are to be highly commended. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Bible Study was suspended until January 4<sup>th</sup>. The 24<sup>th</sup> was the Fourth Sunday of Advent and also Christmas Eve. The Candlelight Service this year was at 4:30pm. It was a beautiful Service of Lessons & Carols both in the Sanctuary and via Zoom. On the 25<sup>th</sup> our Annual Christmas Day Service was held both in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. On the 31<sup>st</sup> the First Sunday of Christmas it was a lovely Service in the Sanctuary and a good attendance on Zoom. Congratulations to Helen Schwab who celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Many Blessings and love from the Trinity Congregation.

Let us remember and keep in prayer the elderly, homebound and disabled who because of life struggles are unable to worship in the Sanctuary or via Zoom. We continue to reach out to them with cards, prayers and phone calls. Many thanks to all who volunteered and helped this year, the Ladies who do the counting of our offerings – Joyce Beaudoin, Henrietta Markisch, Kay Neuendorf and Sandy Boos as well as Lillian Hoffmann, Dorothy Kummer, Doris Tegge Sommo, Xuming Sun, Nancy Keicher, Dorothy Russo, Bob Firneis, Rick Eichinger, Helmut Kromar.

To DCN Masayo, Frank Auriemma and Jeff Gardner who do an excellent job virtually and provide us with joyous and enjoyable music each week. Also, we thank Masayo for her excellent job streaming us on our website and Facebook, also to Doris Tegge Sommo for her participation in bringing us Trinity Online. Special thanks to Renee Robertazzi, our Parish Administrator, who always does an excellent job and is always willing to help. We would also like to thank Vincent Mele, our Sexton, who also helps willingly and does an excellent job. Thanks to DCN Lois our Council President who does an excellent job keeping us in check Spiritually and who always reminds us of self-care. To Pastor Lemke, our interim Pastor and Spiritual Leader who inspires and encourages us, reminding us of about mutual love, to be faithful and hopeful, to welcome the stranger with open hands and as God's Children, and to Journey Well. We pray that God will strengthen, guide and protect him as he serves out his Tenure with the Congregation of Trinity Middle Village.

May 2024 be a year filled with God's Blessings as he shines the light of his presence with Love, Peace, Mercy, Hope and Trust on his Church and all of us.

Respectfully submitted,  
DCN Masayo and Muriel Davis

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**  
**JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023**

<b>January</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V31+16	V9+24	V36+15	V37+20	V35+20
<b>2022</b>	V50	V49	V46	V48	V58
<b>2021</b>	V30	V32	V38	V38	
<b>2020</b>	51	68	46	48	
<b>2019</b>	54	42	36	53	
<b>2018</b>	35	53	66	51	
<b>2017</b>	31	17	60	52	47

<b>February</b>				
<b>2023</b>	V38+45	V38+28	V38+26	X
<b>2022</b>	V64	X	X	V48
<b>2021</b>	V30	V29/10	V43	V43
<b>2020</b>	48	60	40	40
<b>2019</b>	55	47	41	48
<b>2018</b>	56	42	45	38
<b>2017</b>	60	38	63	59

<b>March</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V38+23	V38+27	V38+27	V38+27	
<b>2022</b>	V40	V60	V39+30	V44+17	
<b>2021</b>	V35	V35	V45	Palm	
<b>2020</b>	54	38	26	V	V
<b>2019</b>	60	29	52	43	50
<b>2018</b>	61	60	61	61	Palm
<b>2017</b>	65	60	50	60	

<b>April</b>					
<b>2023</b>	Palm	Easter	V24+20	V24+21	V29+52
<b>2022</b>	V39+13	Palm	Easter	V26+15	
<b>2021</b>	Easter	V30	V	V	
<b>2020</b>	V	V	V	V	
<b>2019</b>	60	Palm	Easter	50	
<b>2018</b>	Easter	58	51	44	43
<b>2017</b>	62	Palm	Easter	52	65

<b>May</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V29+50	V29+37	V28+42	Pent.	
<b>2022</b>	V26+21	V21+29	V23+16	V28+16	V28+11
<b>2021</b>	V	V30	V	Pent.	V25+7
<b>2020</b>	V	V	V43	V	Pent.
<b>2019</b>	49	49	47	45	
<b>2018</b>	40	58	Pent.	35	
<b>2017</b>	58	69	55	45	

<b>June</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V22+27	V32+47	V22+27	V30+35	
<b>2022</b>	V25+13	V23+6	V25+10	V33+12	
<b>2021</b>	V22+15	V21+9	V22+15	V20+20	
<b>2020</b>	V36	V36	V40	V45	
<b>2019</b>	50	Pent.	46	47	45
<b>2018</b>	53	44	45	48	
<b>2017</b>	Pent.	70	55	52	

<b>July</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V28+28	V33+17	V33+15	V33+23	V33+18
<b>2022</b>	V34+12	V18+12	V12+13	V33+12	X
<b>2021</b>	V15+10	V23+19	V11+9	V14+18	
<b>2020</b>	V27	V40	V40	V30	
<b>2019</b>	28	32	29	40	
<b>2018</b>	35	39	X	X	43
<b>2017</b>	41	40	40	50	51

<b>August</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V33+21	V29+19	V38+26	V38+16	
<b>2022</b>	X	V14+15	V14+12	V41+12	
<b>2021</b>	V12+22	V11+8	V10+20	V 18+9	V30+11
<b>2020</b>	V	V	V40	V23	V35
<b>2019</b>	34	38	37	27	
<b>2018</b>	47	49	44	38	
<b>2017</b>	44	53	50	48	

<b>September</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V38+18	V34+33	V34+28	V34+22	
<b>2022</b>	V41+45	V24+25	V37+19	V40+23	
<b>2021</b>	V24+17	V25+12	V21+7	V24+17	
<b>2020</b>	V30	V30	V	V30	
<b>2019</b>	81	55	47	45	39
<b>2018</b>	40	58	45	44	40
<b>2017</b>	45	72	64	79	

<b>October</b>					
<b>2023</b>	V4+27	V5+25	V12+29	V12+22	V12+22
<b>2022</b>	X	X	X	V22+15	V22+22
<b>2021</b>	V30+13	V14+18	V21+18	V24+22	V17+16
<b>2020</b>	V	V30	V	V33	
<b>2019</b>	41	40	44	48	
<b>2018</b>	41	44	48	80	
<b>2017</b>	69	57	61	68	119

<b>November</b>				
<b>2023</b>	V14+24	V12+18	V13+24	V13+22
<b>2022</b>	V25+9	V22+10	V25+8	V25+8
<b>2021</b>	V16+16	V23+13	V23+20	V14+15
<b>2020</b>	V30	V	V40	V45 V26
<b>2019</b>	50	60	59	36
<b>2018</b>	49	39	56	46
<b>2017</b>	54	58	59	45

<b>December</b>				
<b>2023</b>	V13+24	V13+22	V24+27	V17+15
<b>2022</b>	V39+27	X	V50+29	Christ.
<b>2021</b>	V14+11	V100+61	X	V25+5
<b>2020</b>	V35	V35	V28	V45
<b>2019</b>	42	52	59	63 46
<b>2018</b>	60	51	65	45 43
<b>2017</b>	61	41	67	47 18

	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>Lenten Breakfast Svc.</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
<b>2023</b>				V38+47	V10+13
<b>2022</b>		V		V27+35	V11+15
<b>2021</b>		V		V35	V
<b>2020</b>	X	37 (15/22)	12	V	V
<b>2019</b>		40 (19/21)		70	39 (9/30)
<b>2018</b>		42 (21/21)		80	35 (18/17)
<b>2017</b>		53 (23/30)		81	49 (25/24)

	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Ascension</b>
<b>2023</b>	V10+20	X	V25+30	18
<b>2022</b>	V7+12	X	V21+45	V7+5
<b>2021</b>	V	V	V30	X
<b>2020</b>	V	V	V	V15
<b>2019</b>	33 (15/18)	X**	79	19
<b>2018</b>	45 (23/22)	20	90	41
<b>2017</b>	56 (25/31)	50	103	51

	<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Misc. Events</b>
<b>2023</b>	V28+22	V9+30	V6+26	
<b>2022</b>		V36+27	V27+8	12 (Blessing of Animals)
<b>2021</b>	V15-Vigil / V + 30	V30+16	V25+9	13 (Blessing of Animals)
<b>2020</b>	V35-Vigil / V35	V102		
<b>2019</b>	48	89	48	
<b>2018</b>	40	86	30	
<b>2017</b>	62	79	30	

\*\* 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, 2023

General Operating Accounts		
JP Morgan Chase - Operating Account	\$28,981.06	
Chase - Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$2,128.09	
Hospitality Account	\$200.72	
Petty Cash	\$55.00	
Sunday School Account	\$526.00	
 Total General Accounts		 \$31,890.87
 Savings Account JP M organ Chase		 \$122,099.86
Investments		
* Thrivent Income Fund A	\$0.00	
Thrivent High Yield Fund A	\$18,708.80	
Thrivent Advisor	\$107,815.70	
 Total Investments		 \$126,524.50
** Endowment 9/30/2023		\$548,812.41
 Total Cash Assets December 31, 2023		 <b>\$829,327.64</b>

\* Account closed. Funds applied toward Renovation debt

\*\* \*\*December 31, 2023 balance not yet available --- Balance is as of September 30, 2023

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PROOF OF BALANCE -- OPERATING ACCOUNT  
JP Morgan Chase  
December 31, 2023  
OPERATING ACCOUNT CASH FLOW 2023

Opening Checkbook Balance	\$18,382.04
Total deposits and transfers	\$404,455.13
Less checks, direct debits & EFTs & transfers	(\$414,147.40)
Closing Checkbook Balance	\$8,689.77
Uncleared checks	\$20,291.29
Bank Statement Balance	\$28,981.06

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Trinity Lutheran Church  
Savings and Investment Accounts  
December 31, 2023

JP Morgan Chase

Savings Account	
Opening Balance	\$27,529.34
transfer to operating acct	(\$4,332.00)
Transfer from operating account	\$98,897.00
Interest	\$5.52
Closing Balance	\$122,099.86

Thrivent for Lutherans

Thrivent Income Fund A	
Opening Balance	\$10,679.66
Net Change	\$890.32
Withdrawal close acct for renovation	(\$11,569.98)
Closing Balance	\$0.00
Thrivent High Yield Fund A	
Opening Balance	\$16,799.75
Net Change	\$1,909.05
Withdrawals for Day to Day Expenses	\$0.00
Closing Balance	\$18,708.80
Thrivent Advisor	
Opening Balance	\$102,036.17
Withdrawals for Day to Day Expenses	(\$3,686.50)
Net Change	\$9,466.03
Closing Balance	\$107,815.70
Total Thrivent	\$126,524.50

ENDOWMENT

Trinity Endowment Fund / ELCA Foundation Initial Investment	
* \$481,530.00 12/20/06	
Opening Balance	\$533,743.23
Change in Market Value	\$15,069.18
* Closing Balance 9/30/2023	\$548,812.41

Summary Savings and Investments

JP Morgan Chase	\$122,099.86
* Thrivent	\$147,919.45
* Endowment 9/30/2022	\$548,812.41
Total Investments and Savings	\$818,831.72

\* Year end statement not yet available

x	x	2023	2023		
		actual	plan	Difference	
Offerings					
	Synod	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	
	Quilts	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	-
Congregation Programs					
Worship Materials	Communion Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Choir Music	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Devotional Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Candle Oil	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Other	\$928.82	\$2,005.00	\$1,076.18	
Christian Education	Sunday School	\$25.50	\$100.00	\$74.50	
	Pastor Class	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
	Youth & Family	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
Advertising	Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Stew & Evan	Stew & Evan	\$607.87	\$200.00	(\$407.87)	
Social Ministry	Social Ministry	\$218.25	\$214.00	(\$4.25)	
Church Office	Office Supplies	\$924.91	\$1,500.00	\$575.09	
	Postage	\$490.41	\$2,500.00	\$2,009.59	
	Copier	\$8,861.87	\$7,125.21	(\$1,736.66)	
Synod Assembly	Registration	\$350.00	\$1,200.00	\$850.00	
	Hotel	\$210.93	\$0.00	(\$210.93)	
Staff Support	Pastor				
	Base Salary	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	
	Benefit Package	\$0.00	\$20,798.00	\$20,798.00	
	Housing Allowance	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	
	Car Allowance	\$2,799.96	\$2,800.00	\$0.04	



	Conference	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
	Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Books & Periodical	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
	FICA Allowance	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	
	Parish Administrator	\$11,438.16	\$11,863.72	\$425.56	
	Minister of Music	\$17,864.65	\$17,915.43	\$50.78	
	Custodian (hourly)	\$9,494.88	\$10,244.00	\$749.12	
	Supply Worship	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	
	Supply Organist	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	
taxes	<del>WC DB UI3</del>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	FICA etc	\$4,241.21	\$2,700.00	(\$1,541.21)	
	NYS Disability	\$389.12	\$305.86	(\$83.26)	
	Workers Comp	\$658.44	\$850.00	\$191.56	
Property	Gas	\$19,527.85	\$17,172.00	(\$2,355.85)	
	Electric	\$22,165.96	\$19,200.00	(\$2,965.96)	
	Communication	\$2,385.84	\$2,388.00	\$2.16	
	Water	\$465.77	\$1,740.00	\$1,274.23	
insurance	Property	\$28,804.90	\$24,084.00	(\$4,720.90)	
	Other (auto)	\$292.10	\$300.00	\$7.90	
Maintenance	Regular	\$41,436.46	\$7,500.00	(\$33,936.46)	
	Supplies	\$932.39	\$4,800.00	\$3,867.61	
new	Public Safety	\$8,650.25	\$5,762.00	(\$2,888.25)	
	Internet Needs	\$4,332.00	\$600.00	(\$3,732.00)	
General Miscellaneous	Bank Charges	\$1.60	\$250.00	\$248.40	
	Misc.	\$974.20	\$200.00	(\$774.20)	

	Flowers	\$656.16	\$0.00	(\$656.16)	
Administration	Staff Appreciation	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	
	Payroll Services	\$1,172.68	\$1,200.00	\$27.32	
Grand Totals		\$288,103.14	\$269,590.21	(\$18,512.93)	formula line
		\$288,103.14	\$269,590.21	(\$18,512.93)	proof line
			OK		
		\$288,103.14			
	synod agency	\$31.07			
	synod mission 2022	\$1,000.00			
	supply organist funeral	\$300.00			
	move to Sunday School	\$9.00			
	renovation	\$13,142.39			
	repair organ	\$740.00			
	move out	\$98,897.00			
	V Mele BofE	\$11,925.00			
		\$414,147.60			\$0.20

approved	approved	2024	2023	
		Next Year	Current	
		Spending	Spending	
		Plan 2024	Plan 2023	
Offerings				
	Synod	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
	Quilts	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Congregation Programs				
Worship Materials	Communion Supplies	\$450.00	\$0.00	(\$450.00)
	Choir Music	\$200.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)
	Devotional Materials	\$300.00	\$0.00	(\$300.00)
	Candle Oil	\$400.00	\$0.00	(\$400.00)
	Other	\$0.00	\$2,005.00	\$2,005.00
Christian Education	Sunday School	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
	Pastor Class	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
	Youth & Family	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Advertising	Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stew & Evan	Stew & Evan	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Social Ministry	Social Ministry	\$214.00	\$214.00	\$0.00
Church Office	Office Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
	Postage	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
	Copier	\$9,000.00	\$7,125.21	(\$1,874.79)
Synod Assembly	Registration N/A 2024	\$3.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,197.00
	Hotel N/A 2024	\$3.00	\$0.00	(\$3.00)
Staff Support	Pastor			
	Base Salary	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
	Benefit Package	\$20,798.00	\$20,798.00	\$0.00
	Housing Allowance	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
	Car Allowance	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
	Conference	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
	Continuing Education	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
	Books & Periodical	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
	FICA Allowance	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$0.00

	Parish Administrator	\$12,243.36	\$11,863.72	(\$379.64)	(\$31.64)
	Minister of Music	\$18,488.72	\$17,915.43	(\$573.30)	(\$47.77)
	Custodian (hourly)	\$0.00	\$10,244.00	\$10,244.00	
	Worship supply	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	
	Supply Organist	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	
	<del>WC DB UI3</del>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	FICA	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$0.00	
	NYS Disability	\$394.99	\$305.86	(\$89.13)	
	Workers Comp	\$900.00	\$850.00	(\$50.00)	
Property	Gas	\$16,486.95	\$17,172.00	\$685.05	
	Electric	\$21,065.59	\$19,200.00	(\$1,865.59)	
	Communication	\$2,424.00	\$2,388.00	(\$36.00)	
	Water	\$1,740.00	\$1,740.00	\$0.00	
insurance	Property	\$29,010.00	\$24,084.00	(\$4,926.00)	
	Other (auto)	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	
Maintenance	Regular	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	
	Supplies	\$4,845.00	\$4,800.00	(\$45.00)	
new	Public Safety	\$7,300.00	\$5,762.00	(\$1,538.00)	
	Internet Needs	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	
General Miscellaneous	Bank Charges	\$100.00	\$250.00	\$150.00	
	Misc.	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	
	Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Administration	Staff Appreciation	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	
	Payroll Services	\$1,165.00	\$1,200.00	\$35.00	
Grand Totals		\$267,805.61	\$269,590.21	\$1,784.60	formula line
good to go 11224001		\$267,805.61	\$269,590.21	\$1,784.60	proof line

## 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.**