



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS



Lifting Up, Reaching Out



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



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Lutheran Church

Lifting Up, Reaching Out

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belongs escape from death. – Psalm 68:19-20

The verse selected for this year's annual report is an attempt to acknowledge the **daily** ministry, love for God and love for neighbor extended to the world by the people of Holy Trinity. Our God gives abundantly and so does our congregation. Within you'll find the highlights for each month, but what is not included here is the daily activities: the hospital visits, the meetings with families, the hours of education, the volunteerism both at church and in community, the budgeting, the hours of planning, the time in fellowship, the time connecting, the time having fun together, the time praying for one another, the time praying for our world or our concerns, our prayers of thanks and the moments of deep generosity. **We are much more than a congregation of highlights, we are a congregation of deep and daily faith life in action.**

COVID changed the world and changed our congregation. We would not have 30 active households from at least a half-dozen different states worshipping with us online if it were not for the pandemic. We are broad in both scope and breath of ministry, but we are also deeply committed to our neighborhood.

I write this report in the final months of 2023. In January of 2024 we will start the yearlong celebration of our 75th anniversary. Our goal is to 1) honor the generations of faithful individuals who birthed and sustained our congregation, 2) get excited about who we are as a congregation today, and 3) invest in our future with the help of God. I am excited about Holy Trinity's future, and I hope you are too.

The Rev. Mike Gutzler

Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7



250 Guests ATTENDED

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA EVENT (NEW RECORD)

"I am always excited to organize (along with 25 volunteers) Breakfast with Santa, a tradition that began 25 years ago and connects us with our neighbors. In 2022, we hosted over 200 guests. Over the course of two hours, 100 or more children visited Santa and wrote him letters, 120 craft bags were distributed, and over 300 baked goods were served."

~Lynn Tedesco, Event Organizer



FOOD TRUCK
DINNERS SERVED

150



YOUTH AT EASTER
EGG HUNT

~100



INCREASE IN
WEBSITE TRAFFIC

7%



JAZZ COFFEE
HOUSE GUESTS

70



"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28

89 Accounts SUBSCRIBED

TO THE WEEKLY
EMAIL HEADLINES
(26% INCREASE)

"I chose Holy Trinity because from the moment I entered, I felt welcomed and noticed. I love talking to everyone... You can sense the warmth of the congregation. I love Pastor's sermons because somehow they always seem to relate to what is happening to me that week."

~Paola Parral-Gamarra, Member



WORSHIPERS IN
PERSON & ONLINE

101



INCREASE IN
SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

15%



NEW
MEMBERS

8



NEW VISITOR WEB
FORM ENTRY

49



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS



JULY

In July of 2022, our summer activities were well underway with a family picnic and miniature golf social. After the long stretch of COVID, we were embracing face to face socialization and being out in the world again.



AUGUST

As more migrants continued being bussed into the area, we encouraged more donations and volunteers in partnership with other local churches and organizations. On the first Sunday in August, we built 248 care kits to be distributed to arrivals.



SEPTEMBER

September was another month of community care, this time focused on sustainability. During God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, we made two dozen postcards, 30 bird feeders, and a dozen college care packages! There were 60 people in attendance.



OCTOBER

Holy Trinity was blessed to host The Polyphonists who gave an ethereal performance in our sanctuary in October. Being back to in person concerts for live music was fantastic!



NOVEMBER

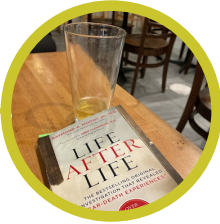
We started our Growing Generosity campaign for funding the future of Holy Trinity, including a goal of funding a food truck and refurbishing the bells. At the end of November, we reflected on all that we've been thankful for and starting decorating for the season.



DECEMBER

Our December events were very successful, each of them bringing in more attendees than any previous year. Breakfast With Santa welcomed over 250 people, and 150 people attended the Advent Cookie Concert thanks to our successful online marketing.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

New year, new discussions - Pastor Mike started a new Pub Theology (now Theology on Tap) series called "Death and the Afterlife." Twelve people attended the first meeting in January and took part in a wonderful discussion.



FEBRUARY

During the in person Sunday School on February 12th, Pastor taught the kids about the importance of being kind, appreciating differences, and working together through the use of Duplo blocks. The kids also helped decorate lunch bags for our Hypothermia guests.



MARCH

For Lent, we practiced reducing our carbon footprint. In addition to providing energy use tips and videos for weekly reflection, we also eliminated the use of plastic cups for communion.



APRIL

In addition to our traditional Easter festivities, April brought about our first ever food truck! We offered free dinner from Kovi Kitchen to anyone in our neighborhood, and over 150 dinners were served.



MAY

May was a month of music, from the US Army Brass Quintet concert which had 100 guests to our very own Music Sunday with 150 people attending service to celebrate our own talented musicians.



JUNE

Holy Trinity hosted our first blood drive, partnering with the American Red Cross. We had 32 donors, 13 of which were Holy Trinity members and 13 were first time donors. The American Red Cross collected 25 pints of blood, which may help up to 75 patients.

*"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to do it."*

Proverbs 3:27



\$19,327
INCREASE IN
GIVING

FROM LAST
FISCAL YEAR

"Holy Trinity members have generously supported the Migrant Solidarity Action Network. You have provided rides to/from medical appointments and immigration hearings, delivered food and furniture to families who move from shelters to apartments, donated clothing, infant supplies, hygiene and household items. Thank you!"

~Phil Loar, Migrant Ministry Lead



CARE KITS FOR
MIGRANTS

1000+



DIAPER BOXES
GIFTED TO LSSNCA

~45



HYPOTHERMIA
VISITORS/WEEK

220



THANK-OFFERING
TO ELCA/WELCA

\$745



"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

John 8:12

453
ACTIVE
MEMBERS
 WITHIN
HOLY TRINITY



"Holy Trinity has really become an extended part of our family, and so it was with Tony's baptism. Celebrating his baptism so near to Christmas--when much of our extended family was in town--was special on its own, but the love and encouragement we have received from the congregation was an extra special gift and blessing."

~Seth Clark, Member



YOUTH
 CONFIRMED

1



BAPTISMS

2



AVERAGE THEOLOGY
 ON TAP ATTENDEES

14



MUSICIANS CONTRIB-
 UTING TO WORSHIP

35



HOLY TRINITY AROUND THE WORLD

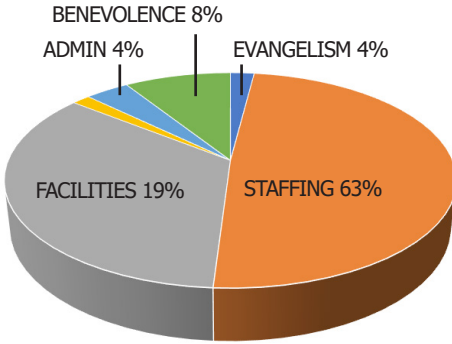


As COVID-19 became a smaller concern, Holy Trinity recalibrated its presence and focus both locally and around the globe. While there were still a number of people who worshiped online and received communication in the virtual space, there was also a new level of excitement for activities that might be in person, including from those who never interacted with us before. As such, we worked to maintain our online presence with fresh content. At the same time, we bridged the two with targeted marketing campaigns, drastically increasing attendance at almost every community event we hosted this year.

We used these new connections to reach new goals for our ministries both near and far. We contributed \$41,900 to local and national organizations. This included \$2,970 for books, grocery gift cards, and shoes for the students at Graham Road Elementary. For LSSNCA, we supplied dozens of boxes of diapers for refugees. Last winter, we hosted our annual Hypothermia Shelter and raised \$1,326 for gift cards, toiletries, and other necessities that were distributed to our guests. And throughout the year, we worked alongside local churches to welcome migrants with volunteerism and supplies.

This past year, dangerous weather and global unrest resulted in war and displacement. We've aided our global neighbors from a distance by supporting Church World Services on Blanket Sunday and Lutheran Disaster Response through our local events. Our Mission Endowment Fund also provided \$9,600 to national/international programs like Doctors Without Borders, Eye Care International, Lutherans Restoring Creation, and more.

Though we have been met with challenges to maintain and improve our ministries, we continue to adapt through the hard work of countless volunteers and advocates. Thank you for your contributions to our community and your continued generosity.

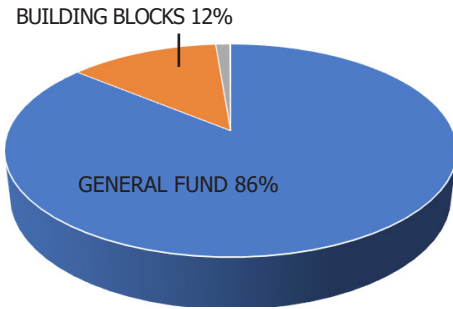


GENERAL EXPENSES

Other Expenses:

Education	.45%
Music	.7%
Youth	.4%
Worship	.35%

Total: \$464,032



GENERAL INCOME

Other Income:

Facility Use	1.6%
Online Giving Fees	.3%
Interest & Savings	.07%
Amazon Smile Donations:	.03%

Total: \$568,791

**\$41,900
GIVEN
IN BENEVOLENCE
FROM GENERAL
EXPENSES**



- ELCA METRO DC SYNOD
- MISSIONARY STEPHEN DEAL
- LSSNCA
- FACETS
- LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
- DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS
- LIRS
- EYE CARE INTERNATIONAL
- LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION
- CULMORE CLINIC
- EDUCATE FAIRFAX
- TINNER HILL HERITAGE
- KNOX FOOD PANTRY
- CAROLINE FURNACE CAMP
- VTS STUDENT AID SOCIETY
- LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
- GRAHAM ROAD ELEMENTARY
- MIGRANT SUPPORT
- HYPOTHERMIA SHELTER
- CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
- WELCA



YOUR SERVICE IN 2024



CELEBRATING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

GENEROSITY & COMPASSION

- Support the fall appeal to increase collective giving by \$1,442 per week.
- Attend one of the upcoming Theology on Tap discussions.
- Invite a friend or family member to a worship service or event.
- Submit a story from this year about how you were lifted up by others or how you reached out to lift others through volunteering, etc.
- Apply for a Thrivent grant. A little extra money can go a long way to boost the impact of events and ministries.
- Join our music ministry - handbells or choir! No previous experience necessary.
- Say hello! Welcome someone at church who you don't recognize.
- Donate food for our Power Packs for Kids mission initiative.
- Volunteer to celebrate a decade during our 75th Anniversary.
- Volunteer to play a leadership role in planning a 2024 event or joining church council.
- Include our congregation in your prayers!
- Share or comment on one social post each week to help us reach larger audiences.
- Consider volunteering with Food for Others, The Lamb Center, or with Migrant Aid Ministry initiatives. Our neighbors need our support.