

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Annual Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2017

- I. Acceptance of Secretary for Annual Meeting
- II. Quorum Count
- III. Opening Prayer
- IV. Acceptance of Agenda
- V. Acceptance of Reports
  - A. Congregational Meeting Minutes Page 2
  - B. Bishop's Letter; President's Letter;  
Report of the Pastor; Pastoral Report Pages 3-6
  - C. Trinity Lutheran Church Women Pages 7-10
    - 1. Secretary
    - 2. Officers
    - 3. Altar Guild
    - 4. Birthday Card
    - 5. Anniversary Card
    - 7. Bulletin
  - D. Vacation Bible School Page 11
    - 1. Leader
  - E. Confirmation Page 12
  - E. Lakewood Cemetery Page 13
    - 1. Secretary
    - 2. Burials
  - H. Auditing Committee Page 14
- VII. Nominating Committee Page 15
  - A. New Opening on Nominating Committee
  - B. Nominations and Elections
  - C. Synod and Conference 6 Delegates
- VIII. Other Business or Comments
- IX. Motion to adjourn and Lord's Prayer

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 31, 2016

The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church of Stonington was called to order by President Ken Mosher on Sunday, January 31, 2016, following regular worship services, and prayer by Pastor Diane Srutowski. There were 28 voting

members present which met the required quorum of 15 voting members. It was moved by Sue Young and supported by Carol Mosher to appoint Ginny Dahlin as recording secretary for the meeting. Motion carried.

President Ken Mosher presented the meeting agenda with no comments or questions from members. It was moved by Donna Dawson and supported by Orville Pedersen to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Gail Petersen and supported by Kathy Olson to accept the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

It was moved by Sue Young and supported by Donna Dawson to accept the Bishop's Letter, President's Letter, and Report of the Pastor and the Pastoral Report. Motion carried.

Donna and Doug Dawson thanked the Ladies Aide for all the work they do behind the scenes with a little amount of money. Thank you to them as a group. It was moved by Jayne Peterson and supported by Jo Rust to accept the Trinity Church Women reports. Motion carried.

Sue Young said VBS is in need of the following for this year: lots of long swim noodles, old pantyhose and black socks. Also, VBS will be at the usual time in June before Father's Day. It was moved by Esther Niverth and supported by Carol Mosher to accept the Vacation Bible School report. Motion carried.

It was moved by Diane Srutowski and supported by Marcella Froberg to accept the Lakewood Cemetery reports. Motion carried.

A question regarding what the special other was in the Financial Secretary Statement was asked. This item is for the leaks in the basement, gutters, water heater and maintenance of the church. It was moved by Sue Young to accept the Financial Secretary Statement Report with the spelling correction from Betheny to Bethany and supported by Diane Srutowski. Motion carried.

A question regarding the Benevolence under Savings on the Treasurer's Report. This is the money sent to the Senate. The disbursement of \$8,500 was to offset the expense of the water heater and repairs for the church. It was moved by Gail Petersen to accept the Treasurer's Report for 2015 and supported by Jayne Peterson. Motion carried.

The audit report was okay.

Questions regarding the Proposed Budget 2016 were: Benevolence was increased some; Pastor's salary, etc. also went up; Synod Delegates went up little; Pastor's Housing Allowance is ours or by Senate, and is recommended by ELCA for all pastor's compensations. The amount is the minimum guideline with Bethany 1/3 of the amount and we have 2/3 of the amount. If we had a parsonage it would eliminate the housing item. It was moved by Sue Young to accept the Proposed Budget for 2016 and supported by Donna Dawson. Motion carried.

It was asked if there were any other nominations for any of the positions – none were submitted. It was decided to approve all the offices at one time.

It was moved by Donna Dawson to accept the Nominating Committee Report and supported by Esther Niverth. Motion carried. The delegates for Conference Six were okay.

Pastor Diane Srutowski presented a card to Ken Mosher expressing our thanks and gratitude for his dedication to Trinity Lutheran Church and to the community. The congregation gave a round of applause for his service.

It was moved by Jayne Peterson and supported by Gail Petersen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. President Ken Mosher closed the meeting. The Lord's Prayer was led by Pastor Diane Srutowski.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginny Dahlin  
Congregation Meeting Secretary



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
**Northern Great Lakes Synod**

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♦ ♦ ♦

Companion Relationships:  
**Eastern & Coastal Diocese**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in Tanzania

**Delaware-Maryland Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America

♦ ♦ ♦

Rev. Dale R. Skogman  
Bishop Emeritus  
1991-1999

Rev. Harry S. Andersen  
Bishop Emeritus  
1987-1991

**BISHOP'S REPORT  
FOR CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORTS**

The New Year 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Most of our congregations will gather in this month or the next month at Annual Meetings! So what do you do at an annual meeting? Some of them last a half hour, others are an hour or so—sometimes they can go a lot longer being an endurance test! All of them are for the purpose of electing leaders, adopting budgets and generally discussing life in the congregation. There may be compliments expressed, appreciations given and even a complaint or two offered at these meetings.

This year, at your annual meeting, use the following questions for a good hunk of your meeting. The twenty or forty or seventy of you who show up should ask each other:

**WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO IN 2017?**

**WHAT IS OUR MISSION?**

**WHAT SHOULD THIS CONGREGATION AND OUR PEOPLE BE ABOUT THIS NEW YEAR?**

I could only guess at your answers. The folks in Trenary may answer these questions different than the people in Ironwood or in Rudyard or Rhinelander. Yet we believe that God has "called" us to a ministry. In baptism we are given gifts and God says, "Use them!"

So what are we about in this new year?

Listen to Martin Luther in his explanation to the Third Article of the Creed:

"I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true."

God is at work in you, your congregation and in our synod. God will be at work when our 2017 Synod Assembly calls a new bishop this spring. God will be at work as you continue to give thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit to make all things (including your congregation) new!

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop

**President's Report**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting – January 29, 2017**

There are 300,000 churches in our country; over 70% are in debt. Our mortgage was burned in 1956. Peder Pedersen put the match to the paper and Semer Thorsen held the dish to catch the ashes. Today, Peder's son and Semer's daughter sit on our council. The financial history of our church has been and continues to be presently sound. We need to understand and manage our future financial trajectory. We put in a new computer accounting system this year, we are streamlining our ledgers and reporting system. We are a work in progress, 2017 should see our systems integrated and transparent with timely reports to the congregation.

Trinity has always run on the work of able volunteers. Over 25 folks accomplish over 39 tasks- weekly, monthly and annually to run the physical and spiritual institution that is our church. To use a metaphor made famous by Western Michigan University- we all *Row the Boat!*

2016 also saw our parking lot with fresh blacktop, our billboard sign fortified from the ravages of the Delta County snowplow, an all member mailing, productive and instructional teamwork with Bethany.

2017 will feature a great Vacation Bible School- drawing children from Christ the King and Calvary. Sue will bring us a Roman World- the lunches will be *Et tu!* Peterson Survey will continue mapping the cemetery. We are looking toward a church web page.

Your council pledges to listen to your concerns and work for Trinity and God's mission on earth.

Respectfully,

*John Hager*

John Hager

Council President

## **Report of the Pastor**

### **“Walking the Way of Hope.”**

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**There is a custom, rooted in Ireland, of celebrating Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup> which brings the Christmas season to a close) as Women’s Christmas. This tradition is experiencing a revival. It offers a timely opportunity to pause and step back from whatever has kept the women busy and hurried in the past weeks or months of the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Women’s Christmas is an occasion to both celebrate with friends and also spend time in reflection before diving into the responsibilities of the new year. With this Women’s Christmas comes an invitation to rest, to reflect and to contemplate where you are in your unfolding path. For the past several years, Jan Richardson, one of my favorite artists, has created an online retreat that she offers free to anyone who is interested in participating in a time of reflection, rest and contemplation. Her theme for this year’s retreat is “Walking the Way of Hope.” In the wake of her husband’s unexpected death three years ago, Jan has found herself thinking a lot about hope, about how persistent hope is and how stubborn it is in its relentless pursuit of encouragement for her to engage in life and the world. In the introduction for this year’s retreat, Jan says: “Hope knows its own way. It is a mystery, but it has a path, an invitation, a labyrinth for us to walk. As with a labyrinth, the way of hope does not allow us to see far ahead. But this way invites us to keep walking, to dream of how the path will unfold, and to trust that what we need will come to us.” As we look to the new year, with all our questions about the uncertainty of our future as a church in the midst of transition and fear in the world, I hope that we can be a place of hope, comfort and welcome to those in need of a safe place to rest in the loving arms of God.**

**In light of the many unexpected losses of loved ones we have experienced within our congregations and communities and the uncertainty with which we look to our future, I thought it very appropriate to use Jan’s retreat theme as a focus for my pastoral letter for our Annual Report. For many of us, our hopes have been shattered, and it has become difficult to live with hope, I think that Jan’s invitation for us to listen and dream and discern how God is urging us as the church to open our eyes, our hearts and hands to reach out and be the hope and promise for those who are lost in the wilderness of pain and suffering is very appropriate.**

**As we review and reflect on how we have participated in God’s mission as the church and dream and plan about how we will be the church in the upcoming year, I think it is important to cling to the hope and promise that we have in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. As the church, I hope we can kindle hope for a hurting world with acts of hospitality, generosity and grace.**

**Pastor Diane Cloutier Srutowski**

**Trinity Pastoral Report – 2016**

**For Annual Meeting**

**January 29, 2017**

**Members added: 9**

**New Members: Dan and April Meister, Connie Brooks, Curtis Larsen (associate member), Barbara Constantino (associate member), Sandy Ballard (associate member), Cheryl Morin (associate member), Ed and Joy Quivenen (associate members)**

**Wedding: Kaitlyn Anderson and Andrew Bougie (June 18)**

**Members removed: 9**

**Transfers: congregation in Illinois: Lynn, Max, Mia, Micah, Mirielle Hill**

**Funerals: Kenneth Carlson (February 20) Betty Mosher (May 28) Marvin Dawson (June 9) Alfred A. Michalik, Jr. (July 1 – non-member) James Bonner (November 28 – non-member)**

**Burials: Kenneth Carlson (died February 14 – Fernwood, May 15) Betty Mosher (died January 27 - Lakewood, May 28) Marvin Dawson (died June 5 - Fernwood, June 10) Alfred Michalik (died June 26 - Fernwood, Gladstone, July 1) Ruth Millbaugh (died – August 10 - Lakewood, Stonington - August 18)**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Rev. Diane Srutowski, Pastor**

## TRINITY CHURCH WOMEN – 2016

Trinity Church Women (TCW) meet on the second Tuesday of each month at each hostess's home, or at church. Each meeting is called to order by President Carol Mosher with devotions by Jo Rust and prayer led by Pastor Diane Srutowski. An average of 9 members attended each meeting during 2016.

<b>Officers for 2016:</b>	<b>Pastor Diane Srutowski</b>	<b>Alter Guild: Joanne Carlson</b>
	<b>President: Carol Mosher</b>	<b>Birthday/Anniversary Cards:</b>
	<b>Vice President: Ann Hager</b>	<b>Ginny Dahlin</b>
	<b>Secretary: Kathy Nachtwey</b>	<b>Guests: Leslie Richey (Erna's daughter)</b>
	<b>Treasurer: Esther Niverth</b>	<b>New Members: Kathy Olson</b>
	<b>Purchasing: Esther Niverth</b>	<b>Nancy Gereau</b>
	<b>Devotions: Jo Rust</b>	<b>Chris Ertl</b>
		<b>Emmy Sundstrom</b>

### Donations made by TCW during 2016 were:

- Altar cloths and materials for racks
- Palm Sunday Breakfast
- Vacation Bible School supplies and Ice Cream Social
- Raffle funds donated toward parking lot repaving
- Donation toward Christmas Gift Cards
- Purchase of Christmas wreaths from Bethany Lutheran Church fund raiser

### Donations received for TCW during 2016 are:

- First Sunday lunch, Palm Sunday Breakfast and Bethany/Trinity Annual Picnic
- Funeral donations
- Donation from Rose Carlson
- Donation from Richard Wilson
- Donation from the Carroll family
- Donation from Zion Lutheran Church, Manistique, as a bequest from Melba Bramer for Monday quilting
- Blessing of the Quilts
- August potluck and raffle
- Thrivent Action Team donation to Spaghetti Feed
- Christmas fruit baskets for local families from the Mosher family

### Other Expenses:

- Portals of Prayer/Augsberg Fortress
- Gordon Foods and graduation cake
- First Sunday lunch
- Mother's Day carnations
- Bible School, church and altar supplies and Altar Guild flowers
- Funeral expenses
- Hall rental
- New Christmas wreaths

**Christmas Cookie trays, Food Baskets and volunteer gifts  
Spaghetti Feed supplies  
Garden presentation  
Postage Stamps and greeting cards**

**GINNY DAHLIN continues to mail birthday and anniversary cards to church members. All confirmation students have also been added to the recipient list.**

**Lenten soup suppers continue to be organized throughout Lent during Wednesday services held at noon.**

**Trinity celebrated two high-school graduates, Brandon Sundstrom and Alec Sundstrom.**

**The Blessing of the Quilts (sewn by the Monday Morning Quilters) and Pie Social was held on Mother's Day, \$130 was raised. All quilts were donated to Bay Pines Correctional Facility.**

**At the June meeting, Ginny Dahlin presented one of her now famous, beautiful gardening programs. As always she had some unusual selections and beautiful combinations. All plants were donated as door prizes.**

**The annual potluck worship/raffle was held at the Town Hall following church services in August. Volunteers provided potluck dishes and raffle prizes. Proceeds were \$1,500, and will be used toward expense of parking lot repaving**

**Esther Niverth informed Ladies Aid of the need for a new stove in the kitchen. Esther researched options and the new stove was delivered in September. Expense paid by Trinity Church Women was \$455.**

**The November Spaghetti Feed netted \$850 profit. Two Christmas quilts were raffled in addition to a live Princess Pine wreath made by members of Bethany Lutheran church as part of their annual fundraiser.**

**Fifteen Christmas cookie trays were donated this year. Christmas grocery gift cards were delivered to local families in need. All donations were received from the congregation as well as outside and personal gifts. Ladies Aid donated \$200.**

**The Lord's Prayer and grace are recited after each meeting, followed by wonderful dessert and beverages served by the hostess of the month.**

**Respectfully Submitted  
Kathy Nachtwey, Secretary**



## TRINITY CHURCH WOMEN – 2016

### Officers for 2017:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Carol Mosher</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Ann Hager</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Jo Rust</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Esther Niverth</b>
<b>Birthday Cards:</b>	<b>Nancy Gereau</b>
<b>Anniversary Cards:</b>	<b>Nancy Gereau</b>
<b>Devotions:</b>	<b>Pastor Diane Srutowski</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Joanne Carlson</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Lunch:</b>	<b>Church Women</b>
<b>Purchasing:</b>	<b>Esther Niverth</b>

### Nominating Committee:

<b>Ginny Dahlin</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Melissa Wicklund</b>	<b>2016</b>

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ginny Dahlin  
Melissa Wicklund**

### **ALTAR GUILD REPORT – 2016**

**Thank you to the Altar Guild members for their faithful service in preparing the altar for the church season and special services. We had 12 members that helped serve for the year. Thank you to the Trinity Church Women group who purchased flowers and to others who donated flowers and helped fill the liquid wax candles. Please contact Joanne Carlson, chairperson, if you would like to be on the Altar Guild.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joanne Carlson  
Altar Guild Chairperson**

### **BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CARD REPORTS – 2016**

**Ginny Dahlin sent out birthday cards and anniversary cards for the first 11 months of the year and Nancy Gereau finished out the year. Over the year there were 97 birthday cards and 31 anniversary cards sent to those on the church calendar for the year 2016.**

**The cards and stamps were provided by the Trinity Church Women.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ginny Dahlin**

## **Vacation Bible School Report – 2016**

**This year saw our VBS program go deep into the mining world with Cave Quest! We had an amazing cave formation in front of the church with stalactites and stalagmites that the kids could explore, a tunnel system down into the basement which lead to our Bible adventures, and an awesome mining cart that transported the kids around the cave (sanctuary) thanks to the ever talented Carl Dahlin!**

**Each day on our Cave Quest, we learned a Bible point where we introduced our Bible story for the day, and the Bible Memory Buddy who helped us remember the Bible Point. We learned songs, and met Clark (aka the amazing Bob Nachtwey) – an aspiring (if bumbling) guide through our cave adventure. We experienced a Bible story each day, did crafts, ate snacks, played games, and ended each day with celebration and singing.**

**Every year we are so blessed to have an amazing group of volunteers who love and support our kids. To everyone who helped create, set-up and decorate – a HUGE thank you. To everyone who participated in our VBS week leading sessions, guiding the kids, or helping in general – it is you who make VBS a success for our kids. Much thanks also to Pastor Diane, our ever present spiritual leader and mentor who came every day to lead us in prayer, and help wherever needed. It takes a church family to make VBS a success, and we have an amazing one at Trinity.**

**Finally, thank you to our loving and caring congregation who collected all of the crazy items I requested throughout the year, and aid us with your gifts. Your support helps ensure the future of our little country church by building strong, involved members through our kids.**

**Mark your calendars for VBS 2017 – the dates are Tuesday, June 13 – Friday, June 17. It looks like we will have two more churches participating in our VBS this year as we experience Paul’s Early Roman Church! We go Roma!!!**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Susan Sundstrom-Young**

## **CONFIRMATION REPORT-2016**

**We are blessed to have five students in our Confirmation Program: Daisy Johnson, Scotty Johnson, Danny Dawson, Trey Sundstrom and Kerry Droska. We meet after worship every other week during the academic year. Our time together is filled with lively, thought-provoking discussion, good food and laughter.**

**During the summer, Daisy, Scotty, Kerry and Danny attended Fortune Lake Bible Camp, which was generously supported through our memorial fund. Everyone had a wonderful time in our synod's "Place of Grace." Thank you to our congregation for being so supportive of our confirmands. They were also very involved in our Vacation Bible School program, helping with set-up, games, crafts, snacks and clean-up.**

**We attended the synodical "Marked" event at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba and participated in the Back Pack ministry. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to worship fellowship and do ministry together with other Conference Six confirmands and youth leaders.**

**I have been intentional in encouraging the students to be involved in worship. They have been lectors, acolytes and greeters. I think it is vitally important for our young people to be active in our congregation. They do an awesome job.**

**We are so very blessed to have these young people amongst us, and I am grateful to be a part of their faith journey. Thank you to Kathy Olson for all your help with our Confirmation program.**

**Pastor Diane Srutowski**

## **TRINITY CHURCH AND GROUNDS REPORT - 2016**

**Nothing major happened this year. The parking lot was re-surfaced. Thank you to Gail Petersen for keeping the church clean. Thanks also to Ken Clement for mowing the grass at the church. Kathy Nachtwey did a great job trimming the Potentilla plants and re-doing the planters at the church entrance. Thanks also to John Hager for re-enforcing the sign glass. Last winter the glass was smashed by snow thrown by the county's snow plow.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Orville Pedersen, Sexton  
Ken Mosher, Assistant Sexton**

## **LAKESIDE CEMETERY REPORT – 2016**

**Olson's Lawnscape kept the cemetery grounds looking nice.**

**John Hager hired Petersen Surveying to help in making the cemetery maps easier to read.**

**There were three (3) grave sites sold.**

**There were five (5) burials this year:**

**Betty Mosher**

**Ken Carlson**

**Dorothy Erickson**

**Ruth Millbaugh**

**Gerald Wils passed away and will be buried in the spring.**

**Randy Olson dug the graves again.**

**Ken Clement joined the Cemetery Committee.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Orville S. Pedersen, Sexton  
Kenneth Mosher, Assistant Sexton**

## AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - 2016

January 22, 2017

On this date we have audited the books for Trinity Lutheran Church. Books were received from Kathy Olson, Treasurer of Trinity and Sunday School Account; Esther Niverth, Treasurer Ladies Aid; Ken Mosher, Cemetery Account and Ann Hager, Financial Secretary.

All books were found to balance, minor adjustments were addressed.

Sincerely,



Linda Wicklund



Jayne Peterson

## Nominating Committee Report 2016

This year Church Council had one term expire. Orville Pedersen. Mary Sigfred has been nominated for that position. Also, Kathy Nachtwey resigned in 2016 and council appointed Jayne Peterson to finish out 2016 as secretary.

Synod Assembly delegates will continue to be Sue Young and Diane Srutowski.

Conference Six delegates are Kathy Olson and Sue Young.

The Nominating Committee this year was Carol Mosher, Donna Dawson and Gail Petersen.

<u>Church Council</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Nominated</u>
John Hager	2nd	2018	
Esther Niverth	3rd	2017	
Orville Pedersen	3rd	2016	Mary Sigfred
Sue Young	2nd	2018	
Jayne Peterson (finished Kathy N. term)	2016		Jayne Peterson
<del>Kathy Nachtwey</del>	<del>2nd</del>	<del>2017</del>	= (resigned in 2016)
Kathy Olson			
Donna Sundstrom (Retired)			Ann Hager

### Cemetery

Orville Pedersen, Sexton

Ken Mosher, Asst. Sexton

Daren Johnson            7th            2016

Ken Clement            1st            2016

Randy Olson            2nd            2016

### Auditing Committee

Linda Wicklund            7th            2016            Linda Wicklund

Joanne Carlson            2nd            2016            Joanne Carlson

Jayne Peterson            2nd            2016            Jayne Peterson

### Nominating Committee

Carol Mosher            1st            2016            Carol Mosher

Donna Dawson            3rd            2016            Donna Dawson

Gail Petersen            2nd            2016            Gail Petersen

### Delegates for Synod Assembly

Sue Young  
Diane Srutowski

### Delegates for Conference Six

1. Kathy Olson
2. Sue Young

Submitted by Carol Mosher, Donna Dawson and Gail Petersen