

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting Agenda
February 4, 2018

- 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
 - F. Lakewood Cemetery Page 13
 - 1. Secretary
 - 2. Burials
 - I. Auditing Committee Page 13
- VII. Nominating Committee Page 14
 - 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 THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
January 29, 2017

The Annual Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church of Stonington was called to order by President John Hager on Sunday, January 29, 2017, following regular worship services. President Hager asked the membership to appoint Jayne Peterson as Secretary of the Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Ginny Dahlin and seconded by Donna

Dawson, all approved. Sue Young verified we had a quorum of 19 voting members present. Pastor Diane Srutowski opened the Annual Meeting with a prayer.

President John Hager presented the meeting agenda with no comments or questions from the members. It was moved by Ann Hager, seconded by Pastor Diane to accept the agenda, all approved.

It was noted in the 2016 Congregational Minutes to update Donna and Doug Dawson to Donna and Marvin. Noted and will be taken care of. With that correction it was moved by Daren Johnson and seconded by Donna Dawson, all approved to accept the minutes.

It was moved by Sue Young and seconded by Gail Petersen to accept the Bishop's Letter, President's Letter and Report from the Pastor and Pastoral Report as read, all approved.

Discussion on the Women's Report was made that the Fruit Baskets are from the Beggs/Wollenhaupt family. Noted also that the Altar Cloths were a major donation to the church and to update Kris Ertl's name for the correct spelling. Jo Rust made a motion to approve, seconded by Orville Pedersen, all approved.

Sue Young commented on the upcoming 2017 Vacation Bible School and thanked the congregation for their support. Pastor Diane made a motion to approve, seconded by Esther Niverth, all approved

Confirmation report was addressed by Pastor Diane as this is an additional report. Excited to have these great young people in our Confirmation Program. Donna Dawson made a motion to approve, seconded by Gail Petersen, all approved.

Discussion on the Grounds/Lakewood Cemetery and Financial Reports was made. There were four burials, Gerald Wils to be buried in 2017. Letter to be fixed for 2017 as it is not a tax deduction. Daren Johnson made a motion, seconded by Orville Pedersen, all approved.

Motion was made by Ginny Dahlin, seconded by Sue Young to accept the Financial Secretaries Report, all approved.

Treasurers Report. The in and out of the Scholarship Funds is why the Lodeen Scholarship is at 0. This should show the in and out of this fund. Investing some of our funds for our future with options for CD's etc. was made. Discussion on the 465 which was incorrectly deposited but moved to the correct Sunday School Fun in memory of Marvin Dawson. Donna Dawson made a motion to approve, seconded by Esther Niverth, all approved.

Ginny Dahlin made a motion to accept the Auditing Committee report, seconded by Daren Johnson, all approved.

Nominating Committee discussion was made that Esther Niverth and Orville Pedersen were on their 2nd term. Cemetery to change to 2018. Daren Johnson made a motion to accept the Council Report, seconded by Sue Young, all approved

Sue Young made a motion to accept the balance of the reports and Ann Hager seconded, all approved.

Orville Pederson is leaving our Church Council and a presentation was made by Esther Niverth with special thanks to Orville for his hard work and dedication to the church. Orville was presented with a plaque in his honor.

Ginny Dahlin made a comment thanking the Church Council for their hard work and dedication.

It was moved by Ginny Dahlin and seconded by Daren Johnson to adjourn the meeting, all approved. President John Hager closed the meeting. The Lord's Prayer was led by Pastor Diane and table grace was sung.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayne Peterson
Congregational Meeting Secretary/Council Secretary



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Rev. Dale R. Skogman

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*But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift...
... 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...

~from Ephesians 4:7-8

December 15, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the coming New Year!

First, a word of thanks to you for your generosity. It is through your financial gifts to the Synod that the work of Christ gets done on a wider scale and a broader range than your congregation's efforts alone. I am grateful for the impact we are able to have as a Synod together as we pool our Mission Support, gifts both great and small, to make a difference in Jesus' name. Thank you for making the work of the greater church possible!

As I begin my time as bishop, and consider what I hope we can accomplish together, the words of Ephesians are full of proclamation. My hope is that our efforts will "equip the saints for ministry for building up the body of Christ." To that end, our Synod Assembly theme this year will be "Equipping the Saints!" and the following projects are already in the works:

- Updating the website. Adding helpful resources for Stewardship, Endowment news, sharing congregational events, ideas, and more. Also watch for Synod Snapshots, Building Vitality, Newsletter articles, and Mission Interpreters.
- Reinventing next year's Fall Conference meetings. Plan on attending this leadership training and visioning event. Council leadership, teachers, choir members, and all are encouraged to make this a priority.
- If you're on Facebook, go to the Northern Great Lakes Synod page and "like" us. If not, sign up for E-Notes and Notes & Quotes by calling the Synod office at 906-228-2300. Check out the Synod website at www.nglsynod.org. Be informed! There are a ton of equipping resources!

As the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring, and I continue to transition into this new call, we are dedicated to giving our best to equip you to meet the challenges that your church faces at this time. Together, we will pray, consider the possibilities, listen for the voice of the Spirit, review the resources, experiment, and move forward in faith. Our priority is to help equip you, the saints, to build up the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Interim President's Report Trinity Lutheran Church Council

Jeremiah 29:11-13

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Greetings! 2017 has been a year of growth and change for Trinity Lutheran Church. We are blessed with God's gift of great members who volunteer their time and talents to keep our little church operating smoothly - both in the physical and spiritual sense!

In our church building, the following work was completed:

- **Bats cleaned out of the belfry! New screens were put in place and the guano was removed.**
- **New water sensor in the basement and behind the altar that will measure temperature and notify us of power failures.**
- **New carpeting on the entry steps (thanks Ladies' Aide!)**

Other new additions include our new website: www.tlcstonington.com, which provides interactive communications with our pastor and directions to our church. Check it out!

We have faced changes and challenges as well, but please know that your church council is a dedicated and devoted group of men and women with diverse outlooks and viewpoints, who share faith, vision and passion for doing the work of the Lord in this place. Thank you to all who have served and continue to serve - may we always keep God's mission at the forefront of our efforts.

As we move forward into this new year, I pray that God continues to bless each and every one of us. May He continue to guide our thoughts and our deeds.

In His Service,

Susan Young

Report of the Pastor

²⁸ “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)

Greetings to you, my brothers and sister in Christ,

As I reflected on the year that has just come to a close, I pondered what scripture text I should use for this pastoral letter for our annual report. I sat and gazed out on the snow covered lake behind my house as the sun glistened and sparkled on the white expanse and let my mind wander over my favorite texts and prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide my discernment process in order to provide for you something that you can cling to. All I felt as I sat and wondered and prayed was a feeling of being overwhelmed and unbelievably tired. I also fully recognized that I am not alone in these feelings.

As I prepared my pastoral report, I was overwhelmed with sadness as I remembered the faithful, foundational people that we have laid to rest this year and the life altering transitions that have taken place within our communities of faith, then it hit me. Matthew 11:28-30: Jesus urged me “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Ahhhh, in my despair, Jesus reached out to me and gave me a hug. In Jesus’ words, I found comfort and promise and therefore the strength I needed to move on. God has once again, through the work of the Holy Spirit and the words of Jesus Christ sustained me and lifted my spirits. I looked out at the blue sky and the sun shining through the trees and my heart felt lighter, my mind felt calmer. I gave thanks to God for providing me with words of comfort in my time of despair and uncertainty.

As we review 2017 and look forward to 2018, I urge you to take comfort in the arms of Jesus, the words of scripture and the promise that we are never alone. God walks with us as we act as God’s hands in God’s mission.

Thank you for the privilege and honor of being your pastor. I am grateful and humbled by your love and support, and I look forward to the opportunities that the new year will provide for us to be the church.

Blessings,
Pastor Diane Srutowski

Trinity Pastoral Report – 2017

For Annual Meeting

February 4, 2018

Members added: 6

New Members: Sandy Ballard (previously associate member)
Mary Harris (associate member)
Steve Harris (associate member)
Connie Lorensen (associate member)
Bill Hanson (associate member)

Baptism: Lou Elizabeth Shea Wotchko (March 26)

Wedding: Madelyn Carroll and Jeff Gauthier (June 24)
Julie Bougie and John Knudsen (November 28)

Confirmation: Trey Sundstrom, Daniel Dawson, Daisy Johnson,
Scott Johnson, Kerry Droska (December 17)

Members removed: 8

Transfers: Erin and James Rivard (to Zion, Ann Arbor, Michigan March 13)
John and Kris Ertl (to Spirit of Peace Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI 2/16)
Jan Leksich (to Peace Lutheran Blue Star Hwy South Haven, MI 49090)

Funerals: John Lee Kemink (non-member) February 25
Richard Wilson May 27 (died May 23) May 27
Erna Sigan December 9 (died December 2) December 9

Burials: Richard Wilson Bay de Noc Township Cemetery (May 27)
Otto (died December 31, 2007) and Genevieve Nygaard (died May 3)
-Lakewood Cemetery June 24

Respectfully submitted by:

Rev. Diane Srutowski, Pastor

TRINITY CHURCH WOMEN – 2017

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 Pastor Diane Srutowski.

Officers for 2017:	Pastor Diane Srutowski	Alter Guild: Joanne Carlson
	President: Carol Mosher	Birthday/Anniversary Cards:
	Vice President: Ann Hager	Nancy Gereau
	Secretary: Jo Rust	
	Treasurer: Esther Niverth	
	Purchasing: Esther Niverth	
	Devotions: Pastor Diane Srutowski	

Donations made by TCW during 2017 were: (See Treasurer's Report)

- Rapid River Key Club**
- Carpet and Drapery (front steps)**
- SOC**
- Hurricane Harvey Fund**
- Sanctuary Christmas Tree**

Expenses: (See Treasurer's Report)

- Portals of Prayer/Augsberg Fortress**
- Vacation Bible School Expenses**
- Altar Flowers**
- Postage Stamps and Greeting Cards**
- Cleaning Supplies**
- Graduation Cake**
- WELCA Meeting**
- First Sunday Lunch March and August**
- Hall rental**
- Spaghetti Feed supplies**
- Garden Presentation**

Major projects for Trinity Church Women in 2017 began in January with approval to purchase a new Christmas tree for the sanctuary, which was accomplished later in the year, and the new tree was placed in the church and decorated for Christmas 2017.

Repair and cleaning of the belfry and passageway was brought up to the Church Council, and this project was completed I April.

The discussion of an Elmer's Mkt. "points card" at the April meeting let to the creation of an account for Trinity Lutheran which will accumulate points by users of the card and credited to the church. These points will be used to benefit Trinity Lutheran families in need.

TRINITY CHURCH WOMEN – 2017

Officers for 2018:

President:	Carol Mosher
Vice President:	Ginny Dahlin
Secretary:	Jo Rust
Treasurer:	Esther Niverth
Birthday Cards:	Nancy Gereau
Anniversary Cards:	Nancy Gereau
Devotions:	Pastor Diane Srutowski
Altar Guild:	Joanne Carlson
Purchasing:	Esther Niverth

Nominating Committee:

Ginny Dahlin	2017
Melissa Wicklund	2017

Respectfully Submitted,

**Ginny Dahlin
Melissa Wicklund**

ALTAR GUILD REPORT – 2017

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

**Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Carlson
Altar Guild Chairperson**

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CARD REPORTS – 2017

In December 2016, Nancy Gereau agreed to take over the Card Mission from Ginny Dahlin.

That month, 14 birthday and 3 anniversary cards were mailed.

In 2017, using the church calendar, 28 anniversary and 104 birthday cards were mailed.

In April, using the online company Treasure Abounding, eleven boxes of cards were ordered with twelve cards in each box. Three of the boxes are designed for Anniversaries, two boxes are appropriate for children birthdays, and three boxes apiece are appropriate for men and women birthdays.

Reimbursement for the cards and stamps was made by Trinity Church Women.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gereau

Vacation Bible School Report – 2017

This year was our biggest VBS program ever, with over 40 kids and 17 adult and young adult helpers from three churches! Kids from Calvary in Rapid River, Christ the King in Escanaba, and our little church in the woods went to Paul's early Roman church - we had the Colosseum and the Parthenon in front of the church, Roman pillars that reached the ceiling, an amazing working catapult, an awesome chariot, and Pastor Diane in a toga! We also had some young folk from the unchurched community attend, and are praying they will find their church home with us here in Stonington.

Each day on our Roman adventure, we learned a Bible point where we introduced our Bible story for the day. We sang songs, and met Brutus Flavius Macro (aka the amazing Bob Nachtwey) – who was Paul's grumpy guard. We experienced a Bible Story in Paul's prison cell, did crafts at Ginny's Marketplace, had snacks at Annie's First Century Snack Shack, played games, watched movies at the Roman Cinema with Brutus, had lunch, and ended the day with celebration and singing.

There were so many volunteers this year who helped make our first ever joint Vacation Bible School a success that it would be impossible to list them all. Just know that our little church is incredibly blessed with an amazing group of people willing to roll up their sleeves and do the good work every day. We also had helpers from all of the churches involved which made our VBS run fairly smoothly with all the kids – ranging in ages from 3 to 17!

Thank you, my Trinity family, for allowing me to continue this ministry, and to grow and expand it beyond anything I could imagine was possible. We look forward to VBS 2018 where we will be Shipwrecked on a desert island, and rescued by Jesus! Tentative dates are June 12 – June 15, 2018! Get ready for sand, palm trees and tiki huts!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sundstrom-Young

CONFIRMATION REPORT 2017

2017 proved to be another exciting year for our five Confirmation students. Kathy Olson and I worked with Daisy, Scotty, Danny, Kerry and Trey as they finalized their studies and prepared for their affirmation of baptism. We met throughout the year after worship. The students did reports on various books in the bible, studied the creeds, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's prayer. We had lively conversations about practical applications of theological concepts to guide and strengthen our students in their faith journey. We explored the responsibilities of confirmed members in our congregation.

In February, the confirmands once again participated in worship by assuming the responsibilities of lector, acolyte, greeter, communion assistant and usher. During the summer, four of our confirmands attended Fortune Lake Bible Camp with full scholarships provided by youth designated funds in the Greg Larsen Memorial Fund. We are grateful that this memorial fund provided the opportunity for our students to attend this "place of grace" and create memories reconnecting with old friends and making new one. They all slept in the new "tree houses" and enjoyed every minute of their time at camp. In May and June, the students helped extensively with vacation bible school. They were a wonderful leadership presence for our first ever joint vacation bible school with area congregations.

On December 17th, after writing their amazing faith statements and being assessed by me and the council to have successfully mastered the necessary components of their faith studies, all five students affirmed their baptism during worship and the congregation celebrated with an ice cream social.

It has been a privilege and an honor to guide these five confirmands in their preparation for confirmation. We will continue to meet monthly as a youth group, attend the "Marked" event in February at First Lutheran, Gladstone, and participate in our vacation bible school.

Pastor Diane Srutowski

**TRINITY CHURCH AND GROUNDS REPORT – 2017
LAKEWOOD CEMETERY REPORT - 2017**

We had three burials this year. Things were pretty quiet this year. Ken Clement did a great job keeping the church lawn looking great this past summer. Unfortunately, the lawn service did not get the cemetery grass cut for last Memorial Day. In their defense we had a lot of rain, but it won't happen again. If you have any questions please contact either Orville Pedersen or Ken Mosher.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - 2018

The audit of the Trinity Lutheran Church financials has not been turned in to date. The report of the auditing committee will be passed out upon completion at the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee Report 2017

Church council has accepted three resignations (effective 12/11/17) and one term expires. Council elected Ken Clement to fill an interim council position vacated by the council election of Mary Sigfred as Treasurer. Sue Young was elected by council as the Interim President at December 11, 2017, special council meeting. Joanne Carlson was elected as interim Financial Secretary by council upon the acceptance of the resignation of Ann Hager. The council will elect officers at their council meeting on February 11th. The Nominating Committee has nominated the following: Nancy Gereau, Esther Niverth, Joanne Carlson, Marcella Froberg and Ken Clement for council. Nominating Committee nominates Shelly Sundstrom and Linda Wicklund for Audit Committee.

<u>Church Council</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Nominated</u>
John Hager (resigned)	2 nd	2018	Nancy Gereau
Esther Niverth	3 rd	2017	Esther Niverth
Ann Hager (resigned)		none	Joanne Carlson
Jayne Peterson (resigned 12/11/17) 2019			Marcella Froberg
Mary Sigfred	1 st	none	
Sue Young	2 nd	2018	
Ken Clement	1 st	2020	Ken Clement

Cemetery

Orville Pedersen, Sexton

Ken Mosher, Asst. Sexton

Daren Johnson	7 th	2018
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Ken Clement	1 st	2018
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Randy Olson	2 nd	2018
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All members are current for 2018

Auditing committee

Linda Wicklund	8 th	2019	Linda Wicklund
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Joanne Carlson	3 rd	2019	Shelly Sundstrom
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Nominating Committee

Carol Mosher	2 nd	2017	Carol Mosher
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Donna Dawson	4 th	2017	Donna Dawson
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Gail Petersen	3 rd	2017	Gail Petersen
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Delegates for Synod Assembly

Diane Srutowski

Sue Young

Delegates for Conference Six

Gail Petersen

Submitted by Carol Mosher, Donna Dawson and Gail Petersen