

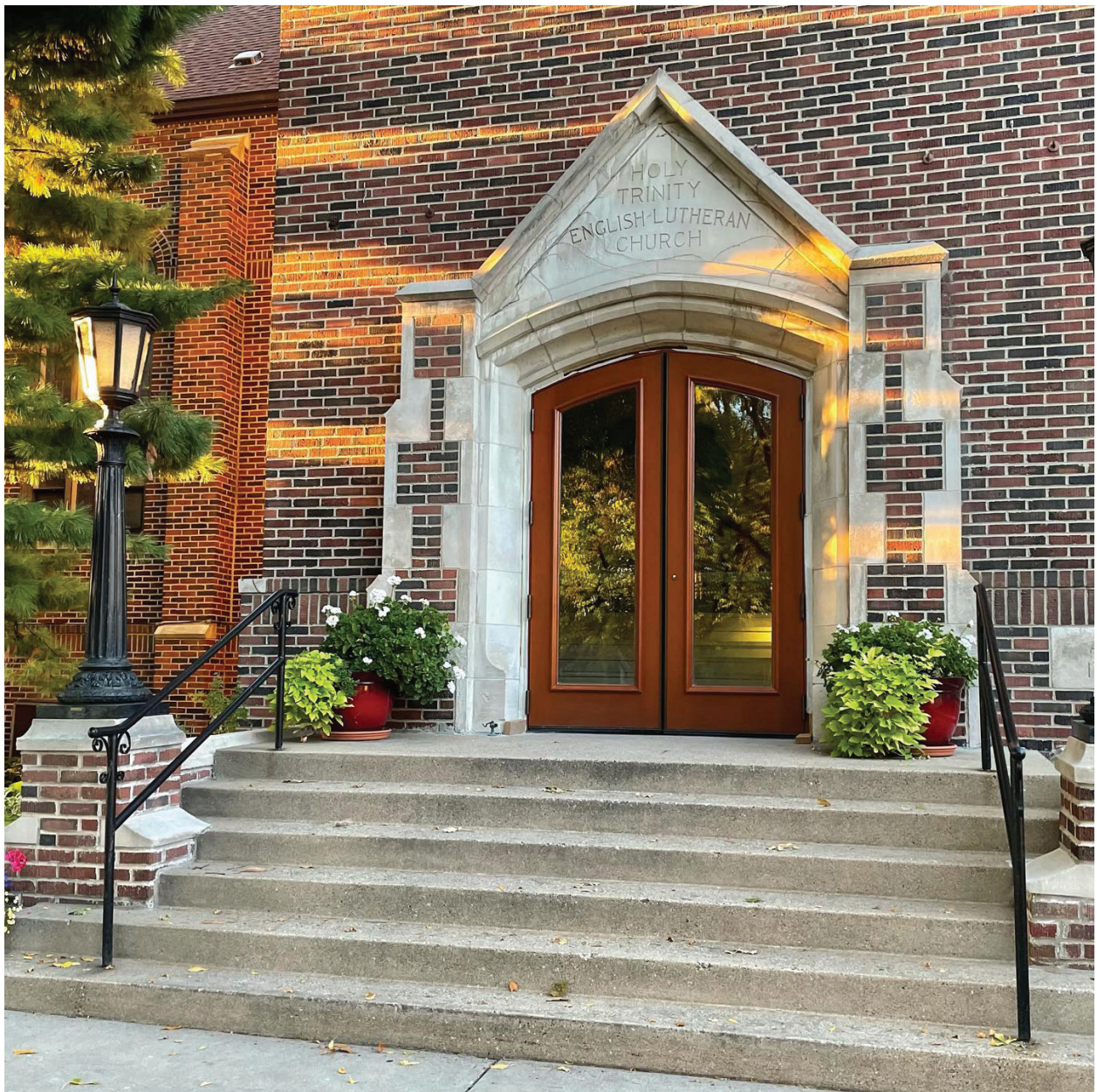


HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"So then let us pursue the things which tend to peace,
and things whereby one shall build up another."*

~ Romans 14:9



Dear friends,

We are called to pursue the things which tend to peace. This past year further revealed that we cannot undertake this work alone. As individuals, we need one another. Collectively, we can rely on the church not only to sustain us but also to enable us to find a deeper spiritual life and engagement with each other and our larger community.

We look to the year ahead as a time of **Tending**. As a community of faith, we have an opportunity to engage this work in specific areas—worship, reparations, rebuilding, relationships, and creation care. This booklet shares several stories of the impact we are making together and outlines some specific aspirations for 2022.

Whether you worship online or in the sanctuary, whether you are a new member or a seasoned member, you are an integral part of this community and our ministry together. Thank you for your generosity and other contributions to our life together. We invite you to give in the year ahead, as generously as you are able. Each gift is meaningful. Financial gifts, individually and collectively, are a critical part of our ministry. Please plan to join us in the sanctuary or online at **10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 17**, as we offer our financial commitments to further the work of peace.

Thank you for being part of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church community. We are grateful for your prayerful consideration of the ways in which you can give generously of your time, talents, and treasures in 2022, as we tend to peace and build one another up.

Peace,



Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen



Pastor Angela T. Khabeb



Pastor Doug Mork



Steve Murray, Council President



Drew Lindorfer, Financial Stewardship Chair

2020-2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Number of videos on the Holy Trinity Vimeo account pre-pandemic.....	19
Videos on the Holy Trinity Vimeo account today.....	375
Online worship services in 2020-2021.....	78
Music graphics created by staff for online worship.....	266
Digital recordings of hymns, psalms, and other music for online worship.....	350
Total number of iPhone videos submitted by staff for weekly worship videos	936
iPhone videos that were deleted before submission	1,985,929,385
Devices in attendance at Christmas Eve worship.....	412
Weeks of youth choir rehearsals on Zoom	40
Recordings submitted by youth choir members and pieced together into choir recordings	250
Videos created for Godly Play, Trinity Village, and Confirmation students	93
Zoom meetings or forums that Holy Trinity hosted in 2019.....	0
Zoom meetings or forums that Holy Trinity hosted in 2020.....	162
Zoom meetings or forums that Holy Trinity hosted in 2021.....	337
Sundays with in-person worship (so far) in 2021.....	19
Rent forgiven for our building partners, who suffered significant pandemic hardships	52,677
Solar panels installed on flat roofs.....	111
Square feet of roof rainwater that is diverted from storm drains and into our rain gardens.....	8,000
Weeks of food and basic necessity distribution after the Uprising.....	13
Number of people served during summer distribution.....	42,000
Volunteers needed to make distribution happen	2,100
Percentage of volunteers who were non-church members.....	80
Diapers given to the community after the Uprising.....	68,480
Advent boxes distributed to active member households.....	266
Drivers needed to distribute 266 boxes.....	18
People who shared a hope or lament for the public art project with Angela Two Stars.....	425
Grants received to expand our work.....	7
Grant funds put to work for worship, young adult ministry, vocation, and creation care.....	95,087
New members formally received.....	27
Days until next new member welcome.....	60

Tending Worship: Expansive Language in Liturgy and Prayers

Responding to Holy Trinity's members' consistent requests for more expansive images in Sunday morning worship and to the congregation's goal to grow in competency and commitment to issues of gender and sexuality, in late 2018, Pastor Ingrid formed a team of fifteen church leaders (including Pastor Angela and David Sims) from nine faith communities to commission a new expansive language liturgy. The group was inspired by the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color, and the 10th anniversary of the ordination of LGBTQIA+ leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as the ELCA's newly published social statement entitled *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*.

After having spent time with the voices of feminist, womanist, and mujerista theologians and musicians, and having been awarded a Ministry Imagination Grant from the Minneapolis Area Synod, the team then contracted with two writers—namely, Tamika Jancewicz, a Black Lutheran pastor from Maryland, and Emilie Casey, a Queer pastor who serves as the Director of Chapel Ministries at Yale. The contracting of these writers took place just weeks after Minneapolis, along with the rest of the world, witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd. Given these circumstances, the commissioners felt called to create an expansive



Pastor Emilie Casey

language liturgy not only relating to gender and sexuality, but also to race and culture. They were pleased that these two writers, with very different social locations, graciously agreed to work together to create something that would bring a richness and depth that could not be achieved by one individual working in isolation.

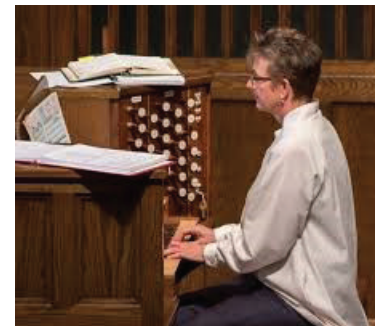
After receiving the first draft of their work, the team then searched for a musician and found Anne Krentz Organ, who serves as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL. Her approach to worship is grounded in the understanding that "a number of individuals come together on a particular occasion from a variety of places, with wide ranging gifts, at various disparate points on their faith journeys. As the group inhales together and begins singing,

the Holy Spirit breathes life through the community. The collective act of singing allows for and encourages participation by all: children, youth, and adults; people firm in faith and people full of questions. Each voice matters. Each voice is valued, not for its vocal quality but for the person it represents."

For the past several months, Pastor Tamika Jancewicz, Pastor Emilie Casey, and Anne Krentz Organ have been shaping a liturgy entitled *Sighs Too Deep for Words* (Romans 8:26). This resource gives special attention to women's experiences in scripture and in everyday life, and it invites embodied prayer. This is a liturgy rooted in scriptural accounts of the breaths, sighs, groans, and shouts of God, humanity, and all creation. The writers have aimed to craft language and music that is not only theologically rigorous and aesthetically beautiful, but also clear, adaptable, and singable. May we pray and sing without knowing exactly what to say, for it is when "we do not know how to pray as we ought" that the "Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."



Pastor Tamika Jancewicz



Anne Krentz Organ

In addition, Pastor Ingrid received a small grant from Duke University to commission 85 writers from around the country to pen 189 new prayers of the day to accompany the Revised Common Lectionary (read: the readings we use in worship).

Alongside our partners in this project—Grace University, St. Michael's, Edina Community, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Augsburg University, Luther Seminary, and Bishop Ann Svenningsen from the Minneapolis Area Synod—we expect to pilot the liturgy and prayers in worship at Holy Trinity in 2022.

Tending Reparations: Gentrification and Housing

The Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Community Working Group, as directed by the priorities outlined by the congregation at last year's annual meeting, is actively working on ways to impact our shared community through the wise use of the proceeds received from the Trinity Apartments renovation sale. They have come together around the idea of supporting Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)-led institutions, families, and individuals to build wealth equity in our community. The working group is currently supporting two different initiatives:

Holy Trinity entered into a purchase agreement with MIGIZI to buy its former property at 3017 27th Avenue South after their building was destroyed during last summer's uprising. The intention is to buy and temporarily hold the property until a BIPOC-led institution is in position to own and develop it, keeping it out of the hands of for-profit developers, thus slowing the roll of neighborhood gentrification.



Kelly Drummer

MIGIZI Executive Director, Kelly Drummer, will offer a reflection on our partnership at both services on Sunday, October 10. She will also be the adult forum speaker that day. Please plan to attend! For more information on MIGIZI, please visit their website: <https://www.migizi.org>

The Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Community Working Group has also felt a deep calling to actively address the racial wealth inequality in this community. There is a serious affordability problem in the housing market, particularly in the Longfellow neighborhood. Earlier this summer, Holy Trinity members gathered in a virtual adult forum to discuss the racial disparities in home ownership in Minneapolis and the role of institutional racism in housing in our community.

The working group appreciated hearing various perspectives and ideas from church members, which reaffirmed congregational energy around reducing barriers and creating pathways to home ownership for BIPOC families in this community. Acknowledging that as a congregation we have a lot to learn, and that each family or situation is different, the working group launched a pilot project with Pastor Angela and her family to support their journey to home ownership.

The Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Home Working Group is approaching these projects as acts of reparations: a call to repair for moral and material harms. We encourage members to read and learn more about the home ownership gap in Minneapolis, which is among the worst in the nation.

- In Hennepin and Ramsey counties, a little more than a fifth of Black households own their homes, compared with nearly three-quarters of all White households.
- The Black homeownership rate peaked in Minnesota in 1950 and has fallen almost every decade since then.
- The disparity between the White homeownership rate and the homeownership rate of Households of Color and Native American households in Minnesota is now the fourth-largest in the nation.
- In Minnesota, the median net worth of White households is \$211,000, compared to the median net worth of \$0 for Black households and \$18,000 for Latino/a households.

27TH AVENUE ACTIVATED IN THE FUTURE



Tending Rebuilding: Longfellow Rising

Longfellow Rising is a diverse group of business owners, property owners, nonprofit leaders, economic developers, and community partners who are working together with the mission of rebuilding Downtown Longfellow with equity, sustainability, and belonging.

Funds from the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Justice Fund allowed Longfellow Rising to host a variety of community engagement circles this past year. In our listening sessions, community members named the best things about the area surrounding the Lake and Minnehaha Avenue intersection:

1. Authentic diversity and inclusivity of the spaces, owners, and people.
2. Lake Street and 27th Avenue as an arts, culture, and food destination in the Twin Cities.
3. A strong community banded together to support one another.
4. Investment by property and business owners that makes it a great place to be.

Community members also named what they want to see moving forward:

1. Create opportunities for BIPOC land and business owners to grow wealth. Develop in an equitable and culturally appropriate way.
2. Establish a mix of uses that draw a diverse group of people (businesses, restaurants, cultural uses, professional offices, affordable housing, and art/production space).
3. Provide spaces for social gathering that are intercultural, welcoming to all, and provide for interaction and healing.
4. Develop facilities that are innovative, energy-efficient, and sustainable.

Longfellow Rising's work has produced very promising preliminary designs for the rebuild and redevelopment of this area, which include:

- The Oddfellows Building rebuilding on its site (on the southeast corner of 27th Avenue and Lake Street).
- A new plaza that would connect 27th Avenue, the library, and Holy Trinity's rain garden.
- Buildings co-developed by Pangea World Theater and Gandhi Mahal Restaurant.
- Projects that meet fundamental standards: generate long-term, sustainable wealth through deep, meaningful relationships and diverse ownership; prioritize people over profit; actively center marginalized voices and communities in decision-making, planning, and actions; promote the role of the arts and culture in creating and sustaining justice for all; and prioritize long-term planning over short-term gains.

We are committed to seeing and healing the ruptures that caused the Uprising, and forging healthy, cross-cultural, and cross-sector collaborations. The McKnight Foundation recently recognized Longfellow Rising's approach as a model for rebuilding along Lake Street and committed to providing funding for each of the affected nodes along the corridor—Minnehaha, Bloomington, Chicago, Nicollet—to engage in similar planning processes.

Tending Relationships: Letters, Lectio, and Luther

Relationships are the heartbeat of our ministry. Below are three stories of how community members tend to one another.

LETTERS: Seventy years ago, Holy Trinity member Sally Parks started sending birthday and anniversary cards to family and friends. Twenty years ago, as her circle aged and encountered illnesses and isolation, she added get well and thinking of you cards. She now mails ten to twelve handwritten notes each week, some to those she's known her whole life and some to those she's never met. Speaking about her quiet and impactful ministry, Sally says that as she's gotten older, she's unable to volunteer in the ways that she used to. She writes, saying, "This is my little way of reaching out to people to remind them I am praying for them. It's my way of bringing them a message that they are loved and not forgotten. The hour I spend each week brings me so much joy in return."



Sally Parks



LECTIO: As part of the Communities of Calling Initiative at Holy Trinity, a group of members began meeting for Lectio Divina, which is a contemplative way of reading scripture that was established as a monastic practice by Saint Benedict in the 6th century. Writing about her experience in the small group, Sandra Hisakuni says, "Oh my goodness, what a lifesaver. We had our first meeting in person just prior to the COVID lockdown of March 2020. Then we launched into Zoom life, and just this summer we've started to meet in person again, and how wonderful that has been. Because of all of the upheaval of the past nearly two years now, participating in the Lectio group has been a balm to my soul." Another group member, Kathy Howe, writes that "As we become closer friends we are more able to be open with each

other and talk about what the Scripture means to our own lives in this particular moment. It adds such richness to my life to share Scripture. It's a wonderful way to support each other and be the Church together."

LUTHER SEMINARY: Mollie V. Hamre was one of three seminary interns that Holy Trinity hosted this year. She says that "the summer was full of navigating change, learning about how we continue to "do" church in innovative ways, and full of new friendships both on and off screen...One memory that comes to my mind in particular are the pilgrimages that Deacon David and I held for congregants. These pilgrimages included a walk around the neighborhood followed by a conversation discussing the way we've been impacted in the past year with COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd. I can recall that each time we walked the path, I had more "wonderings," as Deacon David would say, about the amount I have to learn as an ally to confront racism in the church. I watched as each group we took processed the art, tags, and marks on the community that the Uprising and protests left on our pilgrimage path. In the eyes of those that walked with us, I saw confusion, sadness, shock, and so much more, reminding me of the importance of processing this time as a community. As we continue to navigate COVID-time together, I am beyond thankful for my summer at Holy Trinity and the community that was built that has given me a second home in Minneapolis. I hope to continue to attend and be present at Holy Trinity as I carry on my journey in seminary! Thank you so much again, from the bottom of my heart."



Mollie V. Hamre

Tending Earth: Solar Installation

At the congregation's annual meeting in January, we voted to approve a statement of urgent concern for the care of creation. The statement reads:

God has blessed humankind with an abundant planet as our home, a habitat teeming with life, clean air, fresh water, awe-inspiring in fruitfulness, complexity, and beauty. We share this vast Earth community of life with all creatures, both human kind and other kind. As people of faith, we acknowledge that the human vocation is to "till and keep" Earth as a garden, even as we draw from it all that we need to live (Genesis 2:15). The Christian peoples of modern Western Europe and the United States of America and the economic systems we have developed are failing disastrously in this calling. Driven by a will to dominate both nature and neighbor with a culture of aggressive industrialization and economic imperialism, we have badly abused this home. Furthermore, we have unjustly burdened colonized and Indigenous Peoples with a deteriorating environment, loss of life, removal from homelands, worsening impacts of climate change, and the loss of species and habitat. Yet despite the dire state of the living world, we believe that we can still curb our destructive ways – and must do so urgently – if only we hear God's call, open our eyes, and lend our hands to the restoration of creation.

Therefore, as members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, we resolve:

- To feature the principles of Creation Care prominently in church communications, services, and programming, and to use these channels to call our congregants to urgent action in defense of God's living world.
- To participate actively and effectively in broader actions that promote environmental concern and justice within our local, national, global, and faith-based communities, recognizing that fundamental system changes are needed. In particular, we pledge to support the leadership of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and Youth communities in efforts to gain environmental justice and a sustainable future for all.
- To conduct all church business – including its investments, facility improvements, maintenance, purchasing, and waste management – in a manner that minimizes our carbon footprint and promotes clean air, clean water, and biodiversity.

After a decade of faithful commitment on the part of many, Holy Trinity has a solar array. To finance the \$89,000 system, the church took advantage of funds from the Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Home Fund, a "Green Streets" grant we received from the City of Minneapolis (equal to \$21,964), and incentive payments we will receive from Xcel over the life of the system. Our solar team devoted hundreds of hours contacting and comparing eight solar installers. Ultimately, we selected an African-American owned firm, Renewable Energy Partners, who included 80 hours of training for installers-in-training into the bid.



Tending Earth: Solar Installation (continued)

We expect about 43% of our electricity (in a normal, non-COVID year) will be generated by the system—more in summer, less in winter. Most importantly, we are addressing climate change by using the sun's energy to produce electricity and saving over 43,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually. We expect to flip the switch on the system on or around All Saints Day (November 1), a fitting time to remember those who have come before us and those who will come after us. May our actions now honor the generations to come.



APPEAL GOAL: INCREASE OFFERINGS BY \$55,000

As we look to 2022, we ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your financial commitment to the work of this congregation. At a time when the circumstances have provided significant resources and, at the same moment in time, unanticipated challenges, our Holy Trinity congregation relies on the foundational offerings of members for stability and growth. We hope to increase offerings by \$55,000, which will allow us to hire a talented musician to lead the congregation's song, to refine our abilities to provide meaningful online engagement opportunities for worship and education, and to replace our fifteen passenger van with a safer alternative for our children and youth. Together, as we respond to the stewardship invitation to live generously, we will reach our goal. Thank you!

We appreciate your making a pledge that will help us plan ahead to achieve a balanced budget and to pursue creative programming.

Weekly Offerings	Current Number of Giving Units	Number of Giving Units Needed to Reach Our Goal
\$0.05-4.99	39	42
\$5-9	25	30
\$10-19	29	33
\$20-29	26	28
\$30-39	12	14
\$40-49	13	15
\$50-59	19	21
\$60-69	12	14
\$70-79	5	6
\$80-89	6	7
\$90-99	3	4
\$100-124	4	5
\$125-149	7	8
\$150-199	6	7
\$200-299	5	7
\$300-399	2	3
\$400+	4	4
Total Weekly	217	248

The congregation was offered a generous matching gift of up to \$9,400 to spur new giving from households that have not been able to give in the past or from seasoned givers who are able to increase their financial gifts in 2022!
