

The Trinity Times

MAY 2023

Published by Trinity Lutheran Church, Saint Peter, Minnesota, a congregation of the ELCA

TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Parade of Palms by Sunday School



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	2
Children, Youth, & Families	3
Adult Education	4
Trinity Women	5
Calendar	6
General	8
Church Council & Committees	10
Contact Information	12

Celebration Singers



Executive Committee Report (in lieu of the Pastor's Report)

Over the next year, as we bring in Pastor Dr. Dave Christenson to serve as our Interim Minister, it is an important time for us, the congregation of Trinity, to renew our understanding of our Purpose to carry on the "Faith of our Founders (it's 2023) in the Language of our Children."

The role of Trinity's Congregational Council is to have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the ELCA. These are the guidelines set up in Trinity's Constitution. The Mission of the members of our congregation, to paraphrase our Constitution, is to nurture our members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of our Christian calling and to use the gifts of the Spirit for our life together for our calling in the world. To fulfill these purposes we are called to provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached, provide pastoral care to all of our members, challenge, equip and support all generations of our members with tools to carry out our calling in our daily lives and witness by reaching out to all people.

Twelve years ago or so Trinity looked to make a shift in the leadership of our congregation. We were fortunate to bring in a strong leader as Pastor, have several full-time staff and over several years create the full-time position of Church Administrator. That structure brought us a decade of stability. Over the decade many of the roles previously completed by the congregation were managed by our multiple full-time staff.

Much like society, the Lutheran Church and Trinity has changed in the last few years and our financial ability to support multiple

full-time leadership staff has also. While we could view our current situation as troubling or frustrating, when we review the Mission of Trinity and what we as members of the congregation are called to provide for ourselves, our children and all people, this is an exciting opportunity for each of us.

Now is our opportunity to take on on leadership and supporting roles as the council plans and prepares for Rally Sunday in September and ensures our ability to support our Mission remains as strong as ever.

The Church Council has been overjoyed to see our members already take action by immediately stepping up to support the needs of the 8:00 a.m. worship service when it returned.

Many hands make light work. This is Glorious work in the name of our Father. There are and will be many roles for each of us to fill using the gifts we have been blessed with as we continue to Gather to worship, Grow in faith and Go in service.

New Staff

The Personnel Committee has been working very hard these past few months and we are pleased to welcome 3 new members to the Trinity Team. Don Carlson is the new Building Supervisor, Josie Lust is the new Financial Supervisor, and Paul Matzke has been hired to serve as Choir Director beginning next fall. All three bring many special gifts to the Trinity Community. Please introduce yourselves as you see them around the church. We are grateful that God has brought them to help support the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church. May we Gather, Grow and Go together.

~ Personnel Committee



Don Carlson
Building Supervisor



Josie Lust
Financial Supervisor

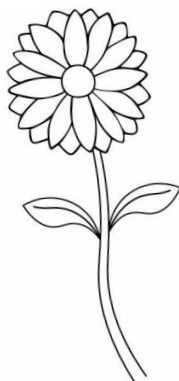
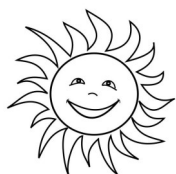


Paul Matzke
Choir Director

thank
you

We appreciate your support for
our trip to Christikon this summer!

Youth--Karissia, Ben, Ryan, Brady & Noah
Chaperone--Alie & Jim

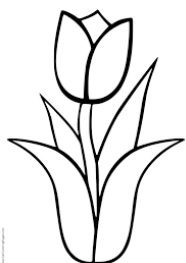


May Good Morning Song

Good morning to the ants,
Good morning to the sun,
Good morning to the bees
buzzing round,



Good morning to the garden,
Good morning to the grass,
Good morning to the worms
underground.



Donations Needed For Local Shelter

Trinity Mission Committee will be collecting donations of items needed to service residents at the Union Street Place. This shelter offers emergency housing in St. Peter for single women and families who are homeless or need a place to stay. Guests at the shelter work with a case manager to overcome identified barriers to successful housing. Guests can stay up to 90 days working towards achieving goals and establishing skills and knowledge for them to be successful on their own.

Donations of the following items will be collected until May 27 and can be dropped in brown boxes in the narthex.

- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, etc.)
- Gently used/new bath towels, hand towels and wash clothes.
- Gently used/new twin sheets, blankets and pillows.
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, cleaning spray, etc.)



Adult Forum



Join us Sundays from 10:30 am to 11:30 am in the church Library.

At the April 16 forum, Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson, was chosen for our first book club reading. You may sign out a copy on the clipboard on the Narthex counter.

At the adult forum on May 7, we will be showing the video of Just Mercy, and will have pizza lunch as it is about 2 hours in length.

The May 21 forum will be a discussion of the book. All are welcome!



From the Green Team

Even though it feels like summer has started early, May is another month to help our pollinators survive. Have you heard about No Mow May? It is a program though the city. You may register through the police department or at the Recreations and Leisure Service in the Community Center.

It is designed to allow bees and pollinators a chance to thrive as they come out of hibernation! Studies show that pollinators have increase up to 5—fold in areas where mowing has not occurred.

For more information about participation & registration can be found at: <https://www.saintpetermn.gov/536/No-Mow-May>

Adult Education

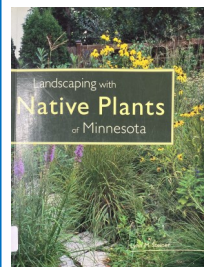
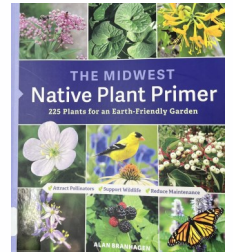
May



Featured in the Church Library

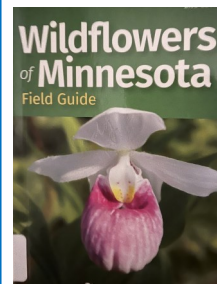
Trinity Lutheran Church is a redeemed community empowered by the Holy Spirit to care lovingly and responsibly for God's creation. (Archive Mission Statement from Trinity's 1999-2000 directory.) Enjoy these featured books as you begin YOUR Mission:

The Midwest Native Plant Primer, 225 Plants for an earth-Friendly Garden, (13.2 Bra), by Alan Branhagen. Add these superstar plants with proven advice that everyone can follow.



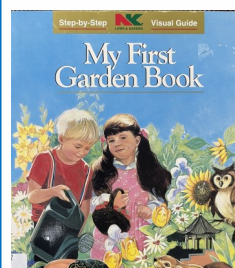
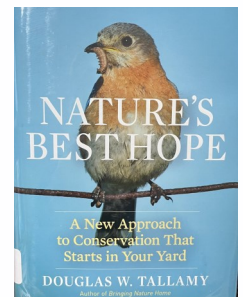
Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota, (13.2 Ste), by Lynn M. Steiner. Connect nature and our state's natural heritage and gain the satisfaction of creating a native-plant landscape.

Braiding Sweetgrass, (13.2 Kim), by Robin Wall Kimmerer. A factual, objective approach that can be enriched by the ancient knowledge of the indigenous people.



Wildflowers of Minnesota, Field Guide, (13.2 Tek), by Stan Tekiela. Full page photos and descriptions of over 200 species makes wildflower identification easy.

Nature's Best Hope, (13.2 Tal), by Douglas W. Tallamy. How each of us can help turn our cities, towns, and world into engines of biodiversity and human health. Change starts in your backyard.



My First Garden Book, (J 13.3 Cel), by Albie Celfe. Adults can walk hand-in-hand with children into gardening experiences and activities.

Hack Your Backyard, (J 13.2 Ahr), by Niki Ahrens. Outdoor nature projects with step-by-step instructions to help youngsters learn how to tell the temperature from cricket's chirps, study the stars, find hidden colors in leaves and more!

Meet And Greet Potluck

Meet and welcome our New Interim Minister, Pastor Dave Christenson and his wife Janell.

Join us Sunday, June 11, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring your family and your favorite dish to share!

(Plates, utensils, lemonade, and coffee provided)



Thank you for the music (ABBA 1983)...

Annette Meeks, music director extraordinaire, will be retiring from Trinity's music program after 30+ years of directing various choirs. We will honor Annette for her dedication to Trinity on Sunday, May 21, during the coffee hour. Join us and thank her for all the years that she brought beautiful music to Trinity.

Festival of Nations

A Festival of Nations will be held on Saturday, May 6, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Johnson Hall at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds. Please join the Good Neighbor Council in celebrating the diverse cultures of our neighbors.



Bible Study

Third Monday of each month at 1:30 pm at Realife Cooperative

Women of the ELCA

The SW MN Synod spring convention is Friday, May 5, in Slayton, MN. Check our WELCA bulletin board for registration or contact Nancy Kruger if interested in attending with her.

The 'Spring Fling' luncheon is on Saturday, May 6, at 10:00 am.

The SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the ELCA will be Friday, May 5, at Shetek Lutheran Ministries near Slayton, Minnesota. Make plans now to attend and join your sisters in Christ as we gather to "Renew, Redo, and Rejoice!" Come to the one-day convention for worship, speakers, displays, and fellowship! A tentative convention schedule and registration forms are located on the WELCA bulletin board. Car pooling available.

Many Thanks!

The WELCA group would like to thank everyone who brought soup, served soup, or ate soup at the soup suppers this past Lenten season. We served approximately 45 people every Wednesday evening and hopefully that number will increase next year. We'll be back!

Personal Care Kits

The Trinity Women of the ELCA will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits through May 31.

Items needed for the kit:

One light or medium-weight bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

One sturdy comb

One metal nail clippers

Please put items in the bins in the narthex marked "Personal Care Kits."

Thank You!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1 5:30 pm The Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	2 9:00 am Trinity Women Mission Quilters 5:00 pm Mission Committee Meeting 5:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm CYF Committee Meeting 7:00 pm All Committee Meetings
7 8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Adult Forum	8 5:30 pm The Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	9 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
Mother's Day 14 8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Adult Forum	15 5:30 pm The Kitchen	16 9:00 am Trinity Women Mission Quilters 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
21 8:00 am Celebration Singers Rehearsal 8:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Annette's Farewell Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Adult Forum	22 1:30 pm Hope Circle At Realife Cooperative 5:30 pm The Kitchen	23
28 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service	Memorial Day 29 Offices Closed 5:30 pm The Kitchen	30 7:00 pm Green Team Meeting

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30 am Staff Meeting	4	5	6 9:00 am Set up for WELCA 10:00 am WELCA Spring Fling
10 9:30 am Staff Meeting	11	12	13
17 9:30 am Staff Meeting	18	19	20
24 9:30 am Staff Meeting	25	26	27
31 9:30 am Staff Meeting			

Minutes continued from page 11.

- Worship, Music and Arts: The Easter Garden looked lovely. The summer worship time will be 9:30 am.
- Mission: They collected for March Food Shelf 209 lbs of food and \$222.50. They will be collecting items for Union Street Place in the future. The highway cleanup is scheduled for Earth Day, April 22. Scandian Grove church has joined in helping with The Kitchen.
- Adult Education: They have scheduled April 16 they will be starting a book Kick Off. April 23 will be presented by Trinity's Green Team with "Plants to the Rescue". April 30 is the discussion on "Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask".
- Stewardship: Volunteer appreciation to celebrate Earth Day with wildflower seed packets. The Time and Talent sheets will be done earlier with a possible fair of sorts where committee chairs are available to answer questions.

Responsibilities Assigned:

- Meredith/Personnel Committee will need to meet to review our practices regarding sexual misconduct policy.
- Volunteers needed for a Narthex Refresh Team.
- Stewardship will put together a ballot to determine how to use the Family Fresh funds.
- All Council members need to check their boxes on the office counter at regular intervals.

Actions Taken:

- Motion M/S/P to approve the agenda for the April Council meeting.
- Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the March Council meeting.
- Motion M/S/P to approve Jamie Seitzer as member of Finance Committee for a 2-year term.
- Motion M/S/P to approve Mari Feder as member of Worship, Music & Art Committee for a 2-year term.

- Motion M/S/P to approve a motion to adjourn.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Trinity Lutheran Church is situated on the ancestral homeland of the Wahpeton, Wahpekute, Sisseton, Očhéthi Šakówinj, and Dakota people. We also acknowledge that we as a church body have a variety of thoughts and feelings as to how we should reconcile this fact. We as a church commit to continuing the important work of challenging ourselves and our congregation to live the love of Christ in all we do.

*Spring***By William Blake****Sound the flute!****Now it's mute.****Bird's delight****Day and night;****Nightingale,****In the dale,****Lark in sky,****Merrily,****Merrily, merrily,****to welcome in the year...****Publishing Requests**

If you have an announcement or article for the newsletter please remember to submit the Publishing Request Form with all the required information. We have copies of this form in the office. If you need a form, email editor@trinitystpeter.org and a form will be sent to you. Submission for announcements are due by 12:00 pm on Wednesday. Submissions for the Newsletter are due by the 20th of the previous month. Information other than relevant Trinity information may need approval.

Trinity in Transition

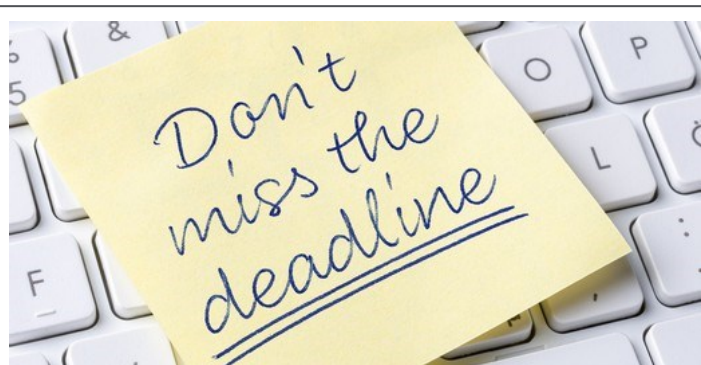
Members of Trinity, please make note of the following during this period before our Interim Pastor begins on June 1, 2023. When the Synod approves our agreement with the Interim Pastor we will introduce him.

- Until June 1, the Executive Committee is meeting with staff in place of the pastor to maintain the church calendar, set weekly worship plans and ensure all functions of Trinity continue to thrive.
- Until June 1, if there is a concern or a need you would have contacted a Pastor about, please contact Kristen and she will have someone from the Executive Committee contact you.
- The members of Trinity's Church Council are available to listen to you, answer your questions and/or take your questions to Committee or Council meetings to be addressed.

The Church Council asks you to pray for Trinity and our continued mission to Gather, Grow and Go.

Pulpit Support this Spring:

April 2	Pastor Laura Aase
April 6	Pastor Rebecca Sullivan
April 7	Pastor Grady St. Dennis
April 9	Pastor Grady St. Dennis
April 16	Pastor Dave Christenson
April 23	Pastor Laura Aase
April 30	Pastor Dave Christenson
May 7	Pastor Laura Aase
May 14	Pastor Bob Broeder
May 21	Pastor Laura Aase
May 28	Pastor Dan Buendorf



*Any committees or individuals that have information for the **June** newsletter need to have it turned in no later than May 20.*

*Please use the **Publishing Request Form** which is available in the church office and send the information to: editor@trinitystpeter.org. Thank you!*

Offering Options



We are so fortunate to have very generous members and friends that help us Gather, Grow and Go! If you are interested in supporting our ministries here are some options for you:

Text: send message to **844-373-8817** with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25).

App: download Vanco Mobile through your app store.

Web: click on the Give button on our website.

Mail: 511 S 5th St, St. Peter, MN 56082

Thank you for your support!

Church Council Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2023

Present: Kayla Siewert, Meredith Young, Rita Gibbs, Alie Hermanson, Nancy Kruger, Jeff Feder, Carolyn Dobler, Nancy Roessler, Jim Timmerman

Absent: Kristie Gurrola, Marc Bachman

Devotions: Rita

A. Business Discussed:**1. Staff Report**

- Marc Bachman has been sitting in on the Wednesday staff meetings since the end of Pastor Joy's tenure. Marc submits this report.
- The transition back to 2 Sunday services has been positive. Many thanks to Kristen, Judy and Annette for their assistance in making the transition smooth.
- Services are based on the liturgy prepared by Sundays and Seasons, which Kristen has made sure is ready each week. All the music for the spring was prepared previously by Judy and members of the worship committee. The music, other than the post Sermon hymn, are set through May.
- It is recommended we create a checklist to be followed to lock up the building at the end of evening events and that the church run through the process with anyone locking up prior to the event.
- Services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.
- All committees are asked to be available to provide support on Easter Sunday.
- A group is needed to strip the altar after Maundy Thursday service
- All services will be live streamed.
- Worship committee will be sure any necessary parament changes are made.

- Staff supports Baccalaureate service being within a Sunday service rather than a stand alone service.
- An announcement will be placed in the Easter announcement page regarding First Communion.
- Staff will meet with the funeral home to create a funeral checklist. There are services which are being duplicated and services often completed by the funeral home.
- The funeral home should have a name to contact during the funeral. Generally they just ask the kitchen staff.
- Name tags if Trinity volunteers during funerals would make sense.
- The calendar on the website and Facebook are wrong. Apparently changing the time of the service would mean repopulating the workers and other details in the program.
- Kristen is contacting the Pulpit Support each Monday to gather their readings and Sermon Hymn.
- Judy Schultz would like the land recognition state-

ment to be included in the bulletin. My response was that we will wait until an Interim Pastor is on duty to provide input.

- Church hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day are 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.
- Staff have appreciated how committees have taken ownership of their committees and events.
- The choir director position should be posted and interviews held in April.
- This isn't from staff – a reception recognizing Annette's 34 years of service will need to take place prior to May 14.
- Recommend Facebook be open to each committee chair to post happenings and announcements.
- Some type of announcement review should take place.
- Would also require a Facebook posting statement.
- Pastor Joy had shared that Confirmation plans would be shared. Who has those plans and are we going to engage with the confirmation students in Sundays and after Easter?
- It is becoming apparent that a monthly meeting should be set for our non-paid volunteers who play weekly roles within the church. (Kitchen, Quilters, Video, Sunday School, Confirmation, Soup Supper)
- The key pad is functional. Marc will work to get codes set up during April.

2. Treasurer's Report

- The offerings as of March 31, 2023 were \$74,511
- The total expenses through March 31, 2023 were \$86,220
- Expenses exceed offerings by \$11,709
- The checking account balance as of March 31, 2023 is \$53,175
- Note: Offerings were up slightly in March (\$23,543) over February (\$22,260), but still below March 2022 (\$25,893)

3. Financial Update

- The Library Committee has requested a paper cutter since the ones Trinity currently has do not work for their purposes. This was discussed and agreed to as it will come out of their Endowment fund.
- A van for the Christikon trip has been reserved.
- Last month the council approved the changes to our church insurance. As a part of that Trinity will need to complete a survey regarding our procedures related to preventing sexual misconduct. Much of this information will apply to our hiring processes and annual reviews. I assume we will need to meet with Personnel to review our practices.
- Marc has spoken to another party interested in purchasing the two houses owned by Trinity. Nothing is imminent but the investigation continues.
- Carolyn will be sending out the first quarter giving reports. It was decided that Trinity will send out the first quarter each year via mail (after setting them in the narthex for a few weeks to reduce postage expenses) with a request to please call the office if members prefer a mailed report the remainder of the year. All other quarterly reports would be

sent via Breeze.

4. **d.e.i.B (diversity, equity, inclusion, Belonging Committee)**

- d.e.i.B Committee shared experiences that drew them to this group and the work they are doing.
- They explained the steps that would need to be taken to become a congregation that is Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner. This is a process that would take time as Trinity works through the steps. They are requesting funds for the RIC training program. Council will discuss this further.

5. **Personnel**

- The Financial Support Specialist position has been posted.
- The Building Supervisor position has been filled by Don Carlson and he will begin on April 19.
- Youth Director position description is not firm at this time.

6. **Council Appointments**

- Names were brought forward by council members to fill vacancies on council and committees.
- Jamie Seitzer was nominated to join the Finance Committee for a 2-year term. See Action Item 3.
- Mari Feder was nominated to be a committee member for the Worship, Music & Arts Committee for a 2-year term. See Action Item 4.

7. **Narthex Refresh**

- There will need to be a small team to meet 2 to 3 times to come up with some inspiration to enliven our Narthex area. The Miller Study had suggested making it a more welcoming space for new people and members.
- There are funds of \$1,000 from the receipts from Family Fresh available to use towards this. Stewardship will see about a ballot or vote with options for members to decide how to use the funds.

8. **Committee Reports**

- Property Committee: Met with Don Carlson as candidate for Building Supervisor. They will be looking at potential future duties that may be added to the Building Supervisor position.
- Community Life: They will be packing goodie bags for the graduates. Plans are ongoing for Annette's retirement celebration on May 21. We are looking forward to a potluck to welcome Pastor Dave in June.
- Children, Youth and Family: The Christikon trip fund raiser went well. Funds needed for Christikon are estimated at \$5,500. It was suggested they put their updates in the Trinity newsletter. They will be doing a pizza party to celebrate the end of the confirmation year.

Minutes continue on page 8.

COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Avery Bachman, Marc Bachman, Mikkel Haugen, John Lammert, 2 vacancies

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Wendy Bachman, David Detlefson, Casey Dunker, Jennifer Lammert, Sarah Nelsen, Meredith Young

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Carolyn Dobler, Darrel Jodock, Jim Kruger, Marc Bachman, Thomas Young

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 6 vacancies

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Al Behrends, Nancy Hanson, Bill Nelsen, Kris Rosacker, Barbara Simpson, Jim Timmerman, 1 vacancy

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE: Katherine Dunn, Alie Hermanson, Eva Kracht, Gretchen Lind, Will Nelsen, Kristi Portugue, Nancy Sizer, Maggie Weideman, 1 vacancy

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE: Cathy Carlson, Nancy Kruger, Vonnie Nelson-Borgmeier, 2 vacancies

MISSION COMMITTEE: Mel Bexell, Sandi Francis, Sarah Conlon, Kristie Gurrola, Beverly Pillers

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Paul Albers, Jeff Feder, Duane Krenz, Cody Olstad, Leo Strong, Barry Wood

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Jason Bexell, Brenda Dent, Carolyn Dobler, Edi Thorstennson, 2 vacancies

WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE: Deb Dixon, Paul Matzke, Nancy Roessler, Cary Albers, Mari Feder, 1 vacancy

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kayla Siewert (President)

Meredith Young (Vice President) *Personnel Committee Chair*

Rita Gibbs (Secretary) *Nominating Committee Chair*

Marc Bachman (Treasurer) *Finance Committee Chair*

Jim Timmerman *Adult Education Committee Chair*

Alie Hermanson *Children, Youth and Families Committee Chair*

Nancy Kruger *Community Life Committee Chair*

Kristie Gurrola *Mission Committee Chair*

Jeff Feder *Property Committee Chair*

Carolyn Dobler *Stewardship Committee Chair*

Nancy Roessler *Worship, Music & Arts Committee Chair*

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Stamp

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www.trinitystpeter.org

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday
8:30 am to
12:00 pm

Contact Information

Lead Pastor:

Church Secretary:

Church Administrator:

Organist/Pianist:

Celebration Singers Director:

PraiseBAND Director:

JOY! Choir Director:

Kristen Thomas

Judy Maharry

Annette Meeks

Avis McDaniel

Nancy Sizer

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