

Times of Trinity - May 2022



Trinity Lutheran Church  
1401 Madison Ave.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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# Times of Trinity

May 2022

## Welcome to the Building Project Edition



The building project is finally wrapping up. It has been a long project but by the end of this month most of what was planned will be done. There will be a few things to do this summer such as landscaping and parking lot modifications and striping, but the majority of inside items will be completed. We have a new volunteer coordinator (Rachel Moen) and she will coordinate the help needed to move the staff downstairs and empty the upstairs classrooms for paint and carpet. Rachel will also line up some help to empty the semi-trailers. Those fun things should happen in May.

Thanks to everyone for all their patience on the long project. It took way longer than expected, and everyone's patience has worn thin waiting for completion. I know mine has. While it may have taken longer than expected, I am happy to report that we are not over budget. This congregation has shown time and time again the willingness to support projects and this building project may have been one of the largest. But the support is even larger than the size of this project. It is somewhat bittersweet to have been debt free for so long and now have a large loan to payoff. However, we now have a large enough space to grow and support the ministry that continues to be done at Trinity.

~ Written by Shawn May (Thanks to Shawn for writing all the building updates for this newsletter edition.)

## May Worship Times

**MAY 1, 8, 15**

Worship Times: 8:30AM & 10:30AM  
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30AM

**MAY 22, 29**

Worship Times: 9:00AM  
Coffee & Fellowship: 10:00AM

**SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES BEGIN MAY 22**

All of our worship services  
continue to be available online.  
[www.trinitylutherandl.org](http://www.trinitylutherandl.org)

### Building Celebration

**Easter:** The temporary soft opening of our new and remodeled spaces for a one-day only occupancy.

**May:** We should have full access to all of the space.

**Grand Celebration:** A grand celebration is planned for August 21st when all of the project should be completed. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss the celebration.

**125th Anniversary  
AND  
Grand Building  
Celebration**

**Sunday, August 21**



The Gathering Space

### Room to Grow

The reason for the building project was that we were out of space to do the ministry that we wanted to do. With 80 different groups using the church, there was no more space and groups were being turned away. This project was really a continuation of the 1999/2000 project as that project was cut down due to not being able to fund raise for the amount needed. Then the 2017 Systems Task Force worked to address the space issues, but ultimately concluded that an addition to the building was the answer.

The original 1960 building project and the 1999/2000 addition totaled 19,991 square feet. The 2021/2022 building project added 9,705 square feet.  
**Our building is now 29,696 square feet.**

## Challenges and Delays

The original hoped for completion date of the project was Christmas 2021. Then the date was extended to the end of January, then changed again to the end of February and then again to the end of March. By Easter, we were finally able to get "Temporary Occupancy" for one day only while finishing touches were being completed.

**Why did it take long?** There were four main reasons for the missed completion dates:

- **Engineering:** Tying the new structure into the existing building was a tough engineering task, and engineering the high peaked roof over the choir room alone added at least a month to the project.
- **Labor Shortage:** The labor shortage is real and the construction trades especially feel the lack of help available.
- **Supply Delays:** Waiting for materials and shifting to alternative materials because the original was not available was a common occurrence.
- **Change Orders:** The building project generated over 30 change orders from the original plan. Some of those changes were quick but others added weeks to the project.

## What Was Accomplished?

During fundraising, a colorful brochure was handed out highlighting the needs of our existing building and how that was hampering our ability to conduct our ministries.

**The brochure made note of the following issues:**

- Unwelcoming Entrance with a small entry, a narthex that quickly became cramped, and a small covered drop-off area.
- Sanctuary needed better lighting, had a cold chancel, and a poor layout of the children's area in the same alcove as the bell storage.
- The upstairs carpet was dated, worn, and had asbestos underneath.
- The balcony railing was too low for safety and the seating did not provide a good view of the sanctuary.
- The office space was inadequate to house all the staff members, there was no office space storage, there was no privacy for confidential conversations, and the work room was located across the narthex.
- The office reception area was not inviting for visitors.
- The meeting areas were always booked by the 80 different groups that use the space. Groups were being turned away and meeting spaces were constantly being rearranged for different groups.
- The choir room was too small for the choir participants, the acoustics in the room were poor, and the sheet music storage and robe storage was cramped.
- Storage, storage, storage. The garage was full and not climate controlled, Sunday school classrooms are used for storage, chair and table storage was in a hallway, and even emergency exits were used as storage.

After completion of the building project, all of the items will have been addressed and even more. More asbestos was found on a hot water pipe and was removed. An accent wall was added in the hallway and library. New carpet and flooring was installed in nearly every room, even the newer Sunday school rooms, stairway by the kitchen, and the youth room bathroom. More cabinets were added for storage than originally planned and some older cabinets will be refreshed. The bell tower closet is now insulated and heated and will provide more efficient storage. The sanctuary has three ceiling fans once again and the new larger fans will provide better air movement. The fire protection sprinkler system was installed throughout the entire building. The south parking lot entrance will be expanded this summer to provide better winter access. And many more details that were not part of the original plan.

### South Parking Lot/ New Storage Area



## Crunching the Numbers

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, it was voted on and passed to increase the Continuing Resolution to \$3.3 million for the building project. That \$3.3 million included the fundraising that was completed in 2019, the architects' fees, a 6% contingency, and the cost of the building construction. As of April 2022, we have spent \$2,686,530 of the \$3.3 million. While there are more bills to pay, they are not expected to go over the \$3.3 total.

While fundraising for the project kicked off in September of 2019, some donations had started by January of 2019. As of March 31st, 2022, donations are \$44,000 higher than expected since September of 2019. We have raised \$1,372,019 as of March 31st, 2022. All pledges will expire by May of 2023 and it is projected that another \$140,000 will be donated to the building project by then. After that, while there are no formal pledges, anyone can still donate to the Building Fund until the loan is paid off.

**Currently, Trinity has one loan for the building project and that loan is for \$1.8 million. That is only a 5-year loan and will need to be refinanced in May of 2026. Each month, we pay over \$11,000 in interest and principal on that loan.**



### South Parking Lot/ Choir Expansion

## Stormwater Management

The Pelican River Watershed District required a sediment basin because the construction put the church lot over the impervious surface limit. Impervious surfaces like buildings and pavement generate large volumes of runoff which contribute to poor water quality. The constructed sediment basin west of the sanctuary will collect stormwater and allow the sediment to filter out of the runoff water. The basin will be dry during most times of the year, and given the sandy soils, probably never look like a wetland full of water.

The sediment basin has already been seeded to a mix of native flowers and grasses. These native plants spend their first several years growing deep roots to survive during drought. Because of that downward growth, what you'll find above ground will be annual weeds until the native plants can out-compete those shallow-rooted weeds. It may take 3-5 years before those native plants start looking beautiful above ground. We don't want to mow or spray the native planting, as that can damage the young native plants. Any noxious weeds will be pulled or the seed heads clipped off so they don't reproduce. The other annual weeds can be left in place as they provide shade and help keep more moisture in the soil for the native plants to use. Until the seeded native plants have set their deep roots and start sending up their flower heads, we will just have to be patient knowing that the native plants will eventually grow into the native pollinator garden we want.



## Room Names

In an effort to help everyone feel more welcome in every area of our new and remodeled building, some of the rooms have new names. You will see the room names posted outside the rooms when the signs come in.

Then...  
The Narthex  
The Library  
The Choir Room

Now...  
The Gathering Space  
The Fireside Room  
The Loft

Then...  
The Youth Room  
The New Conference Room  
The Copy Room

Now...  
The Community Room  
The Meeting Room  
The Work Room



The Synod has sent us some candidate names. We are in the process of setting up interviews in May. We continue to look to the Synod for more candidates. The process could take a while depending on the number of candidates we receive to review and then ultimately interview. We want to find the best candidate that will lead Trinity in our journey to minister to our congregation, our community and beyond as we do God's work in His world.

We ask that you continue to pray for our committee as we search for the next leader God has planned for us.

Thank you from the Call Committee,  
Kaitlin Siewert, Amy King, Carmen Nodsle, Jodie Hatch, Brent Gerber, Ed Welke and Terry Carlisle

**"Downtown Alive" Flowers**  
Trinity members will have the opportunity to donate to the 2022 city flower project, which is supported totally with donations, on Sunday, May 1. In appreciation of your support, you will receive a potted 5" flower for your garden. If you have questions, please contact Roger Lee.

**FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!**  
**Tuesday, May 17**  
**at 11:30am**  
**in Trinity's Fellowship Hall**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**DID YOU KNOW...** Every member is assigned a service group month where you will be called upon to help with worship & fellowship, including ushering, communion, serving coffee, bringing treats, etc. We always need volunteers - so feel free to sign up to help, even when it's not your month. Please contact Rachel Moen at [rachel@trinitylutherandl.org](mailto:rachel@trinitylutherandl.org) with any questions.

**Sunday, May 1**  
**New Member Sunday**  
Join us in welcoming new members during worship!  
**Committee Showcase**  
Between services, learn about Trinity's Committees! Stop by, grab a cup of coffee, and learn more!

**Blessings to our Graduates**

Join us in celebrating this milestone with Trinity's High School seniors!

**Sunday, May 15th, 10:30AM**  
*This worship will be streamed on our YouTube Channel. We invite grads & families to join us for rolls and fruit before worship at 9:30am.*



**Alex Bettcher**



**Hailey Erickson**



**McKenna Mallow**



**Zach Olson**



**Kacy Schiltz**



**Bryson Smith**



**Rylee Solberg**



**Kate Stearns**



**Daniel Steward**



**Makenna Stine**



**Siri Vagle**



**Luther VanOffelen**



**Allyssa Witthoef**

~ The last day of God Squad, ReCharge and Confirmation C programming will be Wednesday, May 4th ~

**- TIDBITS from Teri -**

- ▶ **Tables & Chairs:** We still have tables and chairs in the garage to borrow for gatherings or rummage sales. Please contact the Church Office at 218-847-7211 to see what's available.
- ▶ **Moving Help Needed:** We will (hopefully) be moving back downstairs soon. If you would like to be on a list of people to call to help with the move, please call Teri in the office.
- ▶ **WINTER SALES** – Now is the time to be watching for sales on children's winter gear for the Coat/Winter Gear Give-a-Way in the fall. Please store items at your place until we have a storage room available. The Coat/Winter Gear Give-a-Way is scheduled for Saturday, October 8.
- ▶ **Thank you to everyone who donated to the March MN Food Share Campaign "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."** A check in the amount of \$7,337.04 was presented to Brad at the Becker County Food Pantry!
- ▶ **The MISSIONARY SUPPORT CALENDAR for 2022 is up in the Fellowship Hall.** The goal for the year is \$75 per week. Two-thirds going to our Missionary, Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, in South Asia, and one-third going to our sister congregation, Beersheba, India.
- ▶ **Worship Volunteers:** We will continue to utilize 'Sign-up Genius' on Trinity's website for signing up to help with Worship. Please watch your emails and/or texts to sign up. Or you might get a phone call from our new Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Moen. Anyone can sign up and help is needed!
- ▶ **Spring Clean Up Day:** May 21, 9am-12pm (Inclement Weather Make-Up: May 25, 5pm-8pm)
- ▶ **Mowing Volunteers Needed:** Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to help mow this summer.

Trinity's Office Phone: (218) 847-7211

Trinity's Website: [www.trinitylutherandl.org](http://www.trinitylutherandl.org)

**DON'T MISS OUT ON TRINITY VBS THIS SUMMER!**

**June 20-23rd, 2022**



**Trinity Tot Program**  
**9:00am-11:00am**  
Kids 3-5 years old

**VBS w/Luther Crest**  
**9:00am-3:00pm**  
Kids completed K-5th Grade

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SIGN UP ONLINE IF INTERESTED!**  
Adults & Middle & High School Youth! *We would love your help!*

**More info and online registration forms can be found at**

[www.trinitylutherandl.org/vbs](http://www.trinitylutherandl.org/vbs)

**\*\*REGISTRATION DEADLINE - JUNE 1ST\*\***