



Trinity Team

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In community with one another, we are called to be the embodiment of God's love in the world.

The title expresses the mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Edmonton (TLC). This mission was defined at the General Assembly of TLC in 2019 and was supported, and endorsed, by everyone in attendance. Before that happened there were long discussions and research on this matter.

To understand this a little bit better we have to ask ourselves: "What is the church?"

Today, many people think of a church as a building or a religious organization. The word "church" comes from the Greek word "kyriakos" ("belonging to one Lord"). The basic meaning of "church" refers neither to a building nor to any organization, but only to "Kyrios", the "Lord" Jesus Christ. Jesus never ordered the building of churches or the formation of organizations. The community, or church in the biblical sense, stands for a group of people whom God has called out of a life of sin and death: „But you are God's chosen and special people... God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things he has done." (1. Peter 2:9).

The church is the body of Christ, of which Jesus is the head. "The body of Christ consists of all people who believe in Jesus Christ, from the first Pentecost (Acts 2) until the return of Christ".

So, the church is neither a building, nor a denomination, nor a confession, nor an organization. According to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ - made up of all who have put their trust in Jesus Christ for Salvation (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13). The church community is found where members of the church follow the principles of the "body": encouraging, teaching and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ according to 1. Corinthians 12 (But God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ.)

Question: "What is the mission of the church?"

In the book of the Acts of the Apostles 2:42 we have a text which could be seen as a mission statement for the church, "They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together." Based on this biblical passage, the tasks/activities of the church are: (1) teaching the Bible, (2) place of congregation for believers, (3) communion and baptism, (4) prayer.

The church is supposed to teach the biblical scriptures so that we can be well-founded in our faith. The church should be a place of community where Christians meet as brothers and sisters and honor one another (Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do your-



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self - Romans 12, 10), admonish each other (My friends, I am sure that you are very good and that you have all the knowledge you need to teach each other. - Romans 15, 14), are friendly and helpful to each other (Be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ. - Ephesians 4:32), encouraging one another (This is why you must encourage and help each other - 1 Thesalonians 5,11), and most importantly, treat each other with love (From the beginning you were told we must love each other. - 1.John 3:11).

The church is intended to be a place where believers can celebrate the Lord's Supper and remember Christ's death and bloodshed for our sins (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). According to Acts 2:42, another task of the church is prayer. The church should be a place where prayer is encouraged, taught and practiced. Philippians 4:6

...see **Mission** - page 2

Bishop's Message

Dear Beloved of God -

On a regular basis I have folks ask me, what are you reading? Many know that I read ferociously, with several books always on the go, ranging from popular novels to church leadership, poetry to mystery novels, light reading to heavy-duty reading. Over the next few months and columns, I will be sharing some excellent reads.

Recently I have appreciated a newly published book which is very accessible. A great resource for small group study and conversation, and/or for congregational councils: Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder and Tess Pinkstaff, ©2023 Fortress Press, Minneapolis.

What might God be up to amid the seismic changes the church and our culture are undergoing? What opportunities will congregations encounter if they rediscover and follow God's leading?

Leading Faithful Innovation offers a practical, hands-on approach to addressing this challenge, a process that culminates in the hope that comes from following the Spirit.

Leading Faithful Innovation explores Acts 16:6-15, the story about the biblical Lydia, to embody the key themes of this book. Jesus' followers are led by the Holy Spirit on a path where the destination isn't clear when they start. The road isn't straightforward. They discover where to go by listening, acting, and reflecting. They must practice being hosted by others in neighborhood spaces they don't control. They are redirected multiple times as dead ends lead to open doors but not necessarily the open doors they expected. Throughout, they must depend on God's leading, not their own strategies and plans.

This is the kind of journey that characterizes much of what we read in the New Testament about the early church. The Jesus movement was about a group of strangers and friends being joined together by God into a community practicing a distinct way of life that crossed cultural and geographical boundaries. That movement was animated by the life-giving Holy Spirit, which broke down walls, bound people together, and freed them to take risks in love. It was a subversive movement that called into question the predominant narratives and structures of the day.

Many church leaders today find themselves on an unexpected journey. We are learning/re-learning how to be led by God's Spirit like the early followers, exercising both patience and the willingness to move quickly and responsively. This journey means learning to pay attention to the Holy Spirit in new ways.

Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Tessa Pinkstaff (each from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota) build on Scripture, theology, and the latest leadership and change theories to guide church leaders on a journey toward grassroots, participatory spiritual growth.

Innovation, for the authors, is defined as the adoption of a new practice in a community. Innovation is not invention, rather it is the adaptation of Christian community life and witness to changing cultural circumstances. Something which the church has always done. Above all, innovation recognizes the agency and activity of God. God continues to create, re-create, restore, reconcile, and heal the world. Faithful innovation is about joining the Spirit's movement.

This faithful innovation begins with a three-step process: listen, act, and share. Listen – listen to God, one another, and our neighbours. Act – try something new based on God's leading. Share – reflect on your actions and share your story. Real-life stories and supportive spiritual practices make each step toward effective change accessible and actionable.

The book then examines how these steps change the culture of a church, establishing a new, biblically grounded way of being church. The authors present leadership practices that invite readers to redefine their leadership identity, accept the loss of their role as the primary driver of their congregation, and discover new hope and possibility. These topics are again fleshed out with real-life stories and undergirded by suggested practices.

The authors believe that the church's future is waiting to be discovered not inside the walls of church buildings or in committee meetings but on journeys into the neighbourhood, "outside the gate" at the "place of prayer" (Acts 16:13 where the spiritually curious gather in dynamic relationship with both the Spirit of God and the Lydias of our own day.

It's worth a read.

Shalom, +Larry

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom, +Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

... **Mission** - from page 1

encourages us: "Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God."

Another mission of the church is to make known the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). The church is called to share in the Good News with words and deeds. The church should be the lighthouse of our society that leads people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church should do both: to make the Gospel known, and to equip members to proclaim the Gospel themselves.

So, with all that was said, what is the role of the church? I like the explanation in 1. Corinthians 12:12-27. The church is the "body" of God - we are his hands, mouth and feet in this world. We are to do what Jesus would do if he were physically on this earth. The church is to be "Christian", "Christ-alike", and "Christ-following".

And that's why our mission hits the nail on the head: In community with one another, we are called to be the embodiment of God's love in the world.

- *Pastor Reichel*

Save the Date

In our continuing efforts to maintain open communication and connection, church council invites you to join us for a Brown Bag lunch following the service on **October 29, 2023**. Bring your own lunch, beverages will be provided. We look forward to enjoying fellowship and faith centered conversations with you.

Council Update

As you may have seen in the bulletin and weekly emails or heard in the announcements over the past few months, church council has been looking at the mission, vision and priorities that were the product of many months of hard work in 2019-2020. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, church councils in the past few years needed to focus on the urgent priorities of managing the church through all the changes of the pandemic. Now our church council is re-grounding ourselves on the mission statement and priorities from this work as listed below:

Mission statement: In community with one another, we are called to be the embodiment of God's love in the world

Priority Areas:

Priority #1: Improve the feeling of connectedness among all the people at Trinity.

Priority #2: Encourage all people who encounter Trinity to see the face of Jesus.

Priority #3: Discern and implement specific ways to reflect God's radical love into the world

As part of this first priority, church council invited congregants this summer to stay after a service to chat about improving the feeling of connectedness at Trinity. Thank you to all those who chatted with us, filled out a survey form, or sent in suggestions by email.

We heard some strong common themes coming through, such as many people highlighting that joy comes to them from their faith, from music, from nature, from family and friends, and from enjoying and sharing good food. We heard how much gratitude there is for the people at Trinity, and that the relationships and connections between people here are the foundation of this community.

We also heard that people have different perspectives on what it means to be a community of believers in this particular time and specific place and how to be a welcoming place. We heard that people want spaces to have these important conversations, and opportunities to gather together for activities like singing, sharing meals, and fellowship.

As church council looks for ways to implement suggestions in the coming year, we are beginning with some first steps. As you have heard, coffee time after church will be returning on Sundays when we have volunteers to prepare it. Once a month, church council members will stay after church on Sundays to be available for anyone who wants to discuss Trinity topics. We are initiating a virtual discussion option for anyone who wants to discuss the weekly Bible readings through a group messaging platform, and we are planning to have an evening activity in October for parents of school-aged children who are interested in talking about how to manage their children's screen time. In addition, we will follow up with those of you who offered to help organize particular activities and will communicate further as more events are planned.

Thank you for being part of Trinity. We on council are just one small part of the body of Christ that makes up this church, and we are grateful for all of you.

Neighbours in Distress Policy - DRAFT

'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Matthew 25: 44-46

Trinity church is in a neighbourhood where a lot of our neighbours are hungry, thirsty, overlooked or ignored. We have the opportunity to be a place where all people are treated with love, respect, and kindness. This can be difficult and scary at times as some of our neighbours are dealing with addiction and mental health issues. While trying to be the embodiment of God's love in the world we will try to do so in a way that reduces the risk for ourselves and our neighbours in distress.

1. Neighbours in distress in the church

- If someone appears to be in distress or is acting erratically a minimum of two people should approach the individual to be of assistance.
- If someone appears to be in urgent medical distress 911 should be used to contact Emergency Medical Services.
- If criminal or threatening behaviour is observed 911 should be used to contact the police while attempts are made to diffuse the situation in a calm and loving manner
- A Naloxone kit is available in the church office that can be used to revive a neighbour that has stopped breathing if a drug overdose is suspected. A short training session is available to whomever would like to learn how to use a kit.

2. Neighbours camping on church property

- If someone is staying on church property overnight a minimum of 2 people will greet the neighbour and offer to connect them to service supports and to kindly let them know that they can not stay on the property.
- If the camper is not willing or able to move on of their own volition 311 should be used to request an encampment take down.

3. Neighbours in need of resources

- the church maintains a food hamper that contains food that can be distributed to whoever asks for help. A fund exists to which people can donate money to help maintain a sufficient supply of food.
- the church has a bottled water supply that can be distributed to whoever asks for help.
- the church does not give or loan money.

[The above draft policy was developed and approved by church council to provide guidance to staff and members.]



Exploring Faith, Community, & Safe Consumption Sites



A roundtable discussion on harm reduction, spirituality, & how we can be in community together.

When: Thursday, November 02nd, 6:30–8:30pm
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014 81st Avenue
Cost: Free

CHANGE OF HEART

Live drama revealed repeatedly through the media
Mother earth having suffered too much abuse
Sheds a flood of tears she can no longer contain
Fires ablaze with a mighty force
Trees and homes burned to ashes
Absent the fragrance of flowers and cedars
Breathing no longer taken for granted

What will it take for repeated injustices to end
Mounting violence against others who are different
Under the pretext of God's will and word
An affront toward the Creator who declared all is good

The bible story of Noah takes on meaning
As does the story of Sodom and Gomorrah
Where few righteous people were to be found
Greed, hate, unkindness, ingratitude, continued to prevail
Humankind at its weakest

Has vision become shortsighted and blurry
And faith no longer belief in our Redeemer
But solely in one's capabilities
Talents obtained from God

Prayer is the pathway to a change of heart
To wonder and delight in Jesus our Saviour
Where Love manifestly leads to action.

Beverly

Mulhurst – Our “Place in the Son”

Sylvia Becker

Mulhurst Camp has a special place in Trinity's history and in the hearts of many Trinity folks. It's a place where some of us attended camp as children, where many a youth and confirmation retreats were held, where our pastors served as resources and our young people as counselors, where families traveled together on a Sunday after church for a swim and a picnic, where relationships were formed, women's and men's retreats, weddings, church services, concerts held and perhaps most profoundly, *a Place in the Son*, where our relationship to God grew and was nourished.

The VISION at Mulhurst is that all are able to experience God's love in a natural setting (and a beautiful setting it is!) and the MISSION invites us into a community where all can grow in spiritual awareness and servant leadership. Notice the similarities with Trinity's mission? Experiencing God's love out in our world, sharing that love with others, creating community, and being in community with others while growing in spir-



itual awareness, preparing us to be Christ-like servants and leaders.

As our society changes, as children's and parents' needs, fears and desires change, as our church attendance and demographic, and therefore camp attendance and demographic, change, Mulhurst too has had to adapt. Some may say, "It's not the camp it once was." They're right – it's not! Like churches, Mulhurst is undergoing transition and with transitions come endings and new beginnings - grief and joy. Yet one constant remains – being a shining light, a beacon of hope and a path to God through nature for children and families, where ever they are in their faith journey. It is a place where we come out of our church buildings and into our complex, beautiful, messy world where God meets us.

...see page 8 for Servant Leader Opportunities at Mulhurst

Called into Worship

Come, praise the Lord - Psalm 134:1-2

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Regular Worship:

- English Service: 11 AM
- German Worship: 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays every month

Special Services:

- Sunday October 22 - Reformation celebration
 - Special Guest preacher: Pastor Tim Posyluzny
 - 9:30 AM German Service with Holy Communion
 - 11:00 AM English Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday November 26 - Christ the King
 - Commemoration of those that died in the last year
 - 9:30 AM German Service with Holy Communion
 - 11:00 AM English Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday December 24 - Advent 4 & Christmas Eve
 - 10:30 AM - Combined Advent 4 service with Holy Communion
 - 4:00 PM - English Family Christmas Eve Service
 - 6:00 PM - German Christmas Eve Candlelight
 - 8:00 PM - English Christmas Eve Candlelight
- Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day
 - No Christmas Day worship services this year
- Sunday, December 31 - New Years Eve
 - 11:00 AM Service of lessons and carols

Thank You to Our Guest Musicians This Summer

As the summer comes to a close and Cherie Larson's 20th season of organizing special music every Sunday during the summer at Trinity finishes up, we would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of the musicians. Thank you for coming to Trinity when Cherie invited you and for sharing your time, talent, and gift of music. We know that your offering of music draws people to Trinity during the summer. It has been a pleasure to listen to you. Thank you very much to the following musicians:



Aaron Addorisio
Anne Campbell
Vicky Dombrowska
Em Friesen
Atticus Garden
Christina Kant
Clara Knoefel
Shauna Krismer

Simanjuntak family
Sonia Skakun
Conrad Sobieraj
Micah Truong
Isabelle Wong
Yao Yao
Chloe Zhu.

A special thank you goes to our organist and pianist **Cherie Larson** who has been graciously organizing these special music events every summer since 2003!

2023 Fall Kick-off - Joint Service and Picnic



Joint English and German choir in rehearsal

Trinity celebrated our fall kick-off with a joint German & English worship service, attended by 82 people, followed by a picnic lunch in the parking lot. Thanks to all who contributed to the service and the picnic lunch.



How Did We get Here? Trinity's Visioning Process

-Sylvia Becker

*In community with one another, we are called to be
the embodiment of God's love in the world*

We've all likely had times in our personal lives when we've taken a step back to reexamine where we are in life, who we want to be, what our hopes, dreams, values are, what actions we want to take, and what our big "Why" is. Some of us even write out our personal mission statement, followed by a specific plan for how to achieve it, ensuring a greater chance of living out our life in a conscious, intentional way. As we age, as our families change, as our situations, experiences, health and society change, so too do our values and our vision for our life.

The same can be said for every organization, including a church community. When Church Council began this visioning process, our primary motivation was to have a vision/mission that would clearly guide us in our decision making as we carry out God's will. We had no idea what the end result would be; in fact, the process could have led us to the very same mission statement we had at Trinity for years. What was important, though, was the process AND, in the end, a mission that would be widely and often communicated and serve as our compass moving forward.

This was a long process! Longer than most and interrupted by the complexities of the pandemic. It's not possible to outline every step here, but the process included several visioning workshops, brainstorming sessions, professional reading, prayer, examination of other church mission statements and Biblical passages addressing mission, many TEAM articles along the way to inform and ask for feedback, sermon series, announcements in church, phone calls, zoom meetings, discussion at AGM's and reviews of congregational surveys, lists of what our members value, and other church documents.

We asked lots of questions: How do we live in community in this time? How do we BE the church now? How do we fulfill God's mission here on earth and what is that mission anyway? How do we satisfy the longing for spirituality in our society and among our members? How do we journey forward while taking into account the unique pressures of our age?

A few key thoughts on visioning that were helpful at the beginning and guided us through the process were:

- Visioning is about **Who** we are, **What** we do, **What** we stand for and **Why** we do it
- A mission statement should be compelling, biblically shaped, clear, articulate, accessible, concise
- A mission statement has the ability to marshal energies and resources and direct their use and to inform staffing needs

- Our mission should be known by **EVERYONE**, be at the centre of thoughts, decisions, worship, prayers, projects, events

On first read, our mission statement might seem simple but there is so much to understand and uncover theologically, spiritually and practically about the components of this mission: about community, about being the body of Christ, about the nature of God's love. To provide more detail about what this mission statement really means and to incorporate feedback we received, we drafted some key belief statements:

In community – We believe...

- That we share a common humanity and we are part of God's whole creation.
- That how we relate to one another is part of how we relate to God.
- That a spiritual life requires community, which gives us a grounding, an earthiness, and holds us responsible and accountable as we look into the eyes of our neighbour.

Embodiment – We believe...

- That God came into our world through the person and life of Jesus. When we look at Jesus, we can see the true nature, character and substance of God.
- That what Christ did in and for the world of his day through his physical presence, we continue in and for the world now.
- That this understanding of our God as embodied (in us) has implications for every aspect of how we relate to God and to each other – how we pray, how we look for healing and reconciliation, how we seek guidance, and how we understand community, worship and mission.

God's Love – We believe...

- That God's love is unconditional, freely given and sacrificial, full of kindness, justice, healing, grace, and hope, and we know how to love because God first loved us. The world is changed with God's love.
- That loving God means loving each other, even when that's difficult and risky. Love means compassion for the vulnerable, weak, voiceless and defenceless, including God's creation.
- That love requires of us justice and that part of that justice is working toward reconciliation with all people, particularly those who have experienced oppression in the name of religion.

How Did We get Here? - Trinity's Visioning Process (continued)

*A vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.
- Joel A. Barker*

Realizing that having a mission without goals and strategies is futile, we got to work specifically asking: What actions would best help us to advance our mission? In order to strengthen our ministry and to grow in our mission, what do we need to focus on at Trinity? What do we have in place at Trinity and do really well? Where are some of the areas we can strengthen? If we had to prioritize, where should we put our energies?

Our priorities became:

- 1) Improve the feeling of connectedness among all the people at Trinity
- 2) Encourage all people who encounter Trinity to see the face of Jesus and
- 3) Discern and implement specific ways to reflect God's radical love into the world.

Again, it's not enough to have a priority/goal – you need to identify specific measurable strategies (actions) in order to realize each goal. And so, Council began work on identifying those strategies. What we realized in the process, through your feedback and our experiences in the months of the pandemic and post pandemic period, was that it was not wise or beneficial to put our energies into all three priorities at once. We needed to focus on Priority #1 (*to improve the feeling of connectedness among all the people at Trinity*) first in order to have the grounding (and the COMMUNITY!) necessary to encourage the other two priorities. Could we create further circles of love at Trinity that would strengthen, sustain and renew us in our

faith and in our love for God and one another? How might we do it? How can we do better at becoming a community that supports, loves and nourishes one another?

My term as Council Chair ended as Council explored these questions and invited feedback. As a worshipper at Trinity now, I know that Council continues to work with the mission, priorities and strategies, prayerfully listening and discerning where to go. I am heartened by the continued focus on connection, by people stepping up to take on worship service roles and signing up for providing Sunday coffee, by choirs and groups beginning again, by the connections made through the faith discussion group, yoga classes, Bible and book studies, and with community members, by music and liturgy intentionally chosen to help us grow in our mission, by the new faces I see in worship services, and by Council's recognition and gratitude reflections. I am immensely enjoying and inspired by Pastor Erin's sermon series focusing on our mission and specifically on connection. All of these are gifts and steps toward renewing connection.

A mission statement, and all that goes along with it, is a starting point, a work in progress. Rarely is it perfect, rarely does every part speak to everyone, rarely does it encompass everything that a church is. I believe our mission statement has something that each of us individually and all of us collectively can be excited about and work toward – being together in community as we learn more about God and God's will for us, acting as the hands, feet, heart and voice of Jesus in our broken world and learning more about God's boundless love and sharing it with others.

Pastor Erin - National Convention Report

From the start, the experience of being a national convention delegate was positive and enlightening. Being the first in-person convention since before the pandemic, delegates, staff, and volunteers were excited to be reunited once more and to break bread together.

The format of the convention was somewhat different than the format of previous conventions: the four major motions addressing a) ableism, b) racism and white supremacy in the church, c) climate change, and d) homophobia/transphobia/biphobia were all presented by task forces. The members of each task force had conducted research, shared personal experiences, gathered ideas and generated recommendations to the National Church Council.

Each task force was then given four separate times to present to the convention: a) their initial presentations and recommendations, b) answers to questions submitted by the delegates, c) small group/round table work, and d) the final vote. While there was a variety of opinions about how effective the format was overall, I personally found it to be a fair balance

between hearing different voices and opinions while still managing our time effectively. The recommendations of all 4 task groups were approved by the assembly.

Two motions were voted on together in communion with our Anglican siblings in Christ: a) a recommendation to amend the resolution on Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel, and b) a recommendation to be in full communion with our Moravian siblings in Christ. ELCIC delegates voted to pass both motions.

Rabbah Gila Caine, leader at Temple Beth Ora here in Edmonton, travelled to Calgary to share her response to the initial resolution (on Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel). She shared that some of our wording had effectively engaged in colonial power and, instead of showing support in our call for peace, displayed a lack of understanding around the contexts, histories, and situation between Israel and Palestine. As hard as it was to hear, I was proud that our national church leadership listened to Rabbah Caine's words and chose to *(see Convention on page 8)*

Servant Leader Opportunities at Mulhurst

It is a challenging and exciting time to be involved in camp ministry, a ministry that is perhaps needed in the lives of children now more than ever. If you feel called to serve in this way, here are some opportunities:

- Volunteer to be a Trinity representative for Mulhurst Camp
- Serve on the Board of Directors (we need you, especially our young people's voices!)
- Serve on a Camp Committee (Property, Fund Raising, Communication, Finance)
- Apply to be a staff member at camp next summer (Camp Counsellor, Life Guard, Leader in Training, Camp Cook)
- Express interest in the vacant position of Executive Director of Mulhurst Camp

(Contact Interim Board Chair, Sylvia Becker, or Trinity Representatives Maria Mayan and Darlene Schindel for more information. Contact information through the church office.)

... *Convention from page 7)*

bring the resolution back to the people for us to reconsider. It demonstrated that, as an organization, we are learning to listen to the marginalized and to step into new ways of journeying together that uplift in love and peace.

It was exciting, too, to be a part of the reception of the Moravian church into full communion! We were all invited to share in a Moravian Love Feast, and it was a joy to witness both Lutheran and Anglican siblings wholeheartedly welcome our Moravian siblings into relationship together. It was an historic and prophetic moment, to be sure.

Overall, I was honoured to be present at the Special Convention/Joint Assembly 2023 this year. It was a delight to be present with our Anglican church family, and I was deeply impressed at the level of research and work our Lutheran task forces gave to each of their respective motions.

We have much work to do as a National body going forward. Take heart in the repeated ongoing invitation to such relationship from all our task forces representing particular communities, from our Anglican and Moravian families in Christ, from the Indigenous Church and local Indigenous elders, and from the Jewish community. Some of the calls to action may seem daunting, but this is where the Holy Spirit thrives. And the exciting news is that we are called to dwell with Her in the midst of all the new life being called into existence.

Faithfully Yours, Pastor Erin Thomas

For more information on the resolutions – please see the ELCIC convention website:

[Resolution on Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel](#)
[Resolution to be in full communion with Moravian church](#)

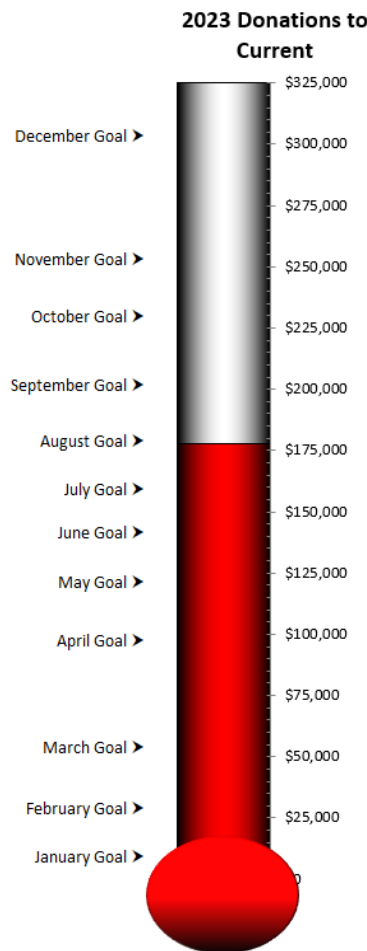
[Task force on Ableism](#)

[Task force Addressing Racism](#)

[Task force on Carbon Neutrality \(climate change\)](#)

[Task force on homophobia/transphobia/biphobia](#)

Financial Update



By now you have probably noticed the giving thermometer in the Atrium. It has been displaying the total donations to current (the operating funds for Trinity) on a monthly basis against the projected income. Our current budget distributes the projected donations by month based on the monthly giving patterns over the last 10 years (the year to date giving goals for each month is shown on the left hand edge of the thermometer.)

As of the end of September we have received \$178,000 in donations to current; which leaves us approximately \$22,000 behind our September budget goal. While this is concerning, it is a donation gap that I believe we can close

by year end.

By October 15 you will find your donation summary for the first 9 months of 2023 along with a more detailed financial update in your mailbox. Statements not picked up by October 23 will be mailed out.

As we approach Thanksgiving Sunday I am so thankful for the steadfast support of members for the ministry here at Trinity. Even though our in-person attendance on Sundays is currently less than 2/3 of what it was pre-pandemic, our members' financial support has been very consistent.

May you have a joyous thanksgiving.

- Frank Thede, Treasurer

The Trinity Team is a publication of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta. The Team is published 3-4 times a year - in August, in December, and in April under the auspices of the Communications Committee.

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The Team is intended to serve the members of Trinity Lutheran Church as a comprehensive communications tool. The editors welcome your comments or questions. Please submit all Team articles, information, comments or questions to: Trinity Office
office@trinity-lutheran.ab.ca

or drop them off at the church office - Attn: Trinity Team

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