

We Love to Tell The Story...

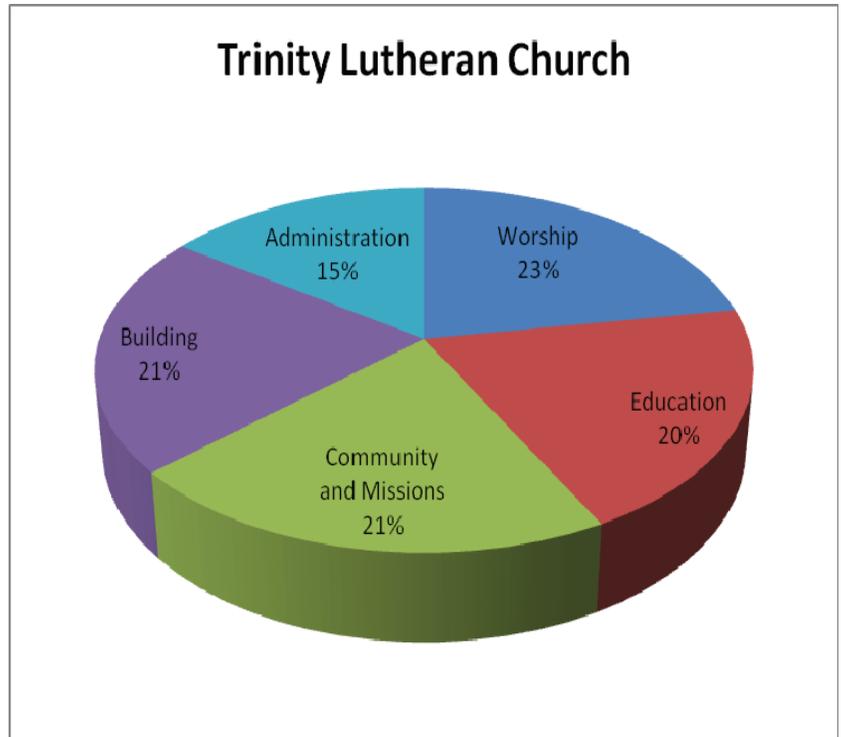


... “of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.” **At Trinity we love to respond to this wonderful story of God’s salvation in Christ Jesus, ... through words, but most of all through the work of the people.**

Trinity’s response to God’s story is told through the sharing of the Word in sermons, worship and music; it is told through the sharing of our lives together in fellowship with one another; it is told through our mission and ministry in the community, in our nation and throughout the world. **Our response to God’s story are the many ministries that thrive in our congregation and touch many lives.**

Each year, our Church Council prepares a detailed budget for the coming year and outlines how the gifts we receive will be used. **The chart to the left provides an overview of where your offerings go.** It unfortunately cannot show where and how the time and talents of our many volunteers are utilized, but we hope it provides a better understanding of how your gifts work for us.

This is a narrative budget, with stories and charts, meant to tell our response to God’s invitation to tell His story. It is our hope that **this will provide you with a way to interpret the Church Council’s plan, by showing a great variety of the things that happen here at Trinity.** They are only made possible by the generous giving and faithful sharing of time, talents and treasures of our Family in Faith. **THANK YOU!**



Further we hope this narrative budget will paint a beautiful Family Portrait of our church - a vibrant and inspiring image of our life together. May it encourage you **to spend thoughtful, prayerful time to consider how God is calling you to give back a portion of what you have received, in gratitude and commitment, and in compassion and care.**

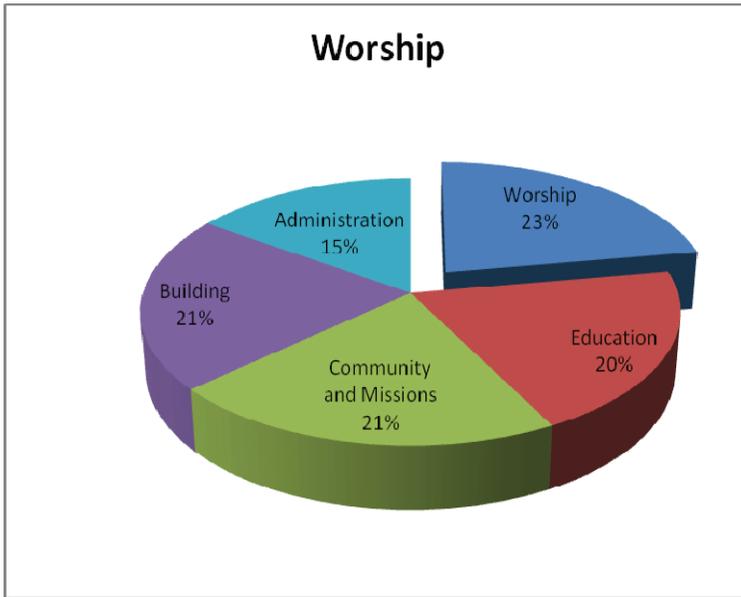
The Scriptures teach us that all that we have and all that we are come to us as gifts from God. Our response to giving to the church is one way to say "Thank You" for all that we have received, as well as to share God's hope for a better world.

The extraordinary response of **so many people through the years who have shared their time in worship, service and fellowship, the outpouring of talents given through our many ministries, and the sharing of our treasures by bringing our tithes and offerings, all contribute to making Trinity a place of wonderful welcome.** Trinity Lutheran Church has come this far, through faith. Through faith we will travel on, together, seeking God's guidance and presence in all that we do.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your Response to Trinity’s mission and ministry for the coming year and, if you are able, to grow your giving each year.

Worship

Worship is central to our congregational life and vitality. Planning weekly and seasonal worship services, preparing sermons, presiding and preaching at weddings and funerals and other worship services requires a significant amount of preparation time from our pastors, staff and dedicated volunteers.



The **Altar Guild** enhances our sanctuary with flowers, season appropriate banners, paraments and decorations. The Altar Guild also prepares the table for the Lord's Meal and the font as God welcomes a new member into his family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The **Worship and Music Committee** selects music to fit the theme of the day. Choirs, organists, the Celebration Team and other musicians add to the worship and bring God's word alive through song. When the community thinks of Trinity it is often Music that comes to mind. The talents of our congregation are a blessing!

Greeters welcome us warmly as we walk through Trinity's doors. The **acolytes** light the candles as worship begins and assist the pastors during worship. The **ushers** distribute bulletins and help direct traffic as the congregation gathers to celebrate the Word and the Sacraments. The **lectors and lay leaders** share the Word and provide assistance to our Pastors.

Worship and celebrating the Word and Sacraments goes beyond the walls of the Church. **Home Communion** is provided for those members who are unable to attend services at Trinity. **Video recordings** are made of both Sunday Services and are aired on local cable television channels.

We enjoy a variety of Worship Services, tailored to meet the needs and lifestyles of our congregation. The Saturday Evening Service is held in the Fellowship Hall and provides a relaxed, personal worship experience. The Early Service on Sunday Morning is a traditional service with organ music and traditional liturgy. The Second Service on Sunday Morning is a more contemporary service featuring the Celebration Team.

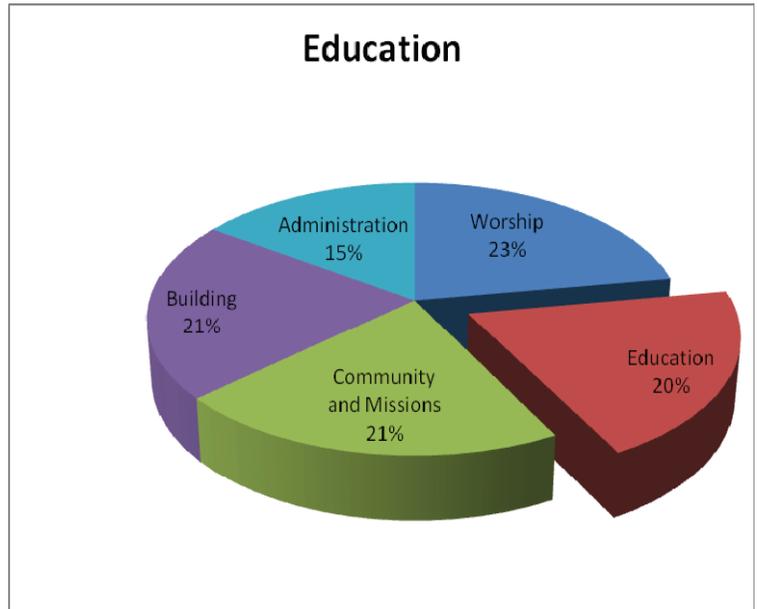
As part of the Church Council, the **Board of Deacons** oversees this area of the Church's Budget. They are the ones who make the calls to make sure there are greeters, ushers, acolytes, and lectors for each service. In addition, they send out the invitation to all of us to respond and to participate in worship and everything surrounding it.

This area of Trinity's mission and ministry is where **God is the host and we are invited to respond to His gracious invitation to be guests in His house.**

Education

Faith is caught more than it is taught. Trinity's education ministry provides various faith formation opportunities that foster that kind of learning environment. Trinity's youth and family education director and the pastoral staff together with the **Board of Parish Education** continually improve the existing programs and develop hands-on learning opportunities for all ages.

Classes and Bible studies are available Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Children enjoy **Sunday School** and the halls of the Education Wing are filled with their voices and laughter as they hear the stories and experience God's Word. Adults can participate in a variety of opportunities through the **Trinity Men's Group**, and the **Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** circles at the Church, their homes, and online. **Seasonal Bible Studies** are expanding and were introduced during Advent. With Dakota State University being such a large part of our community, a **College Bible Study** program was introduced. The college students self-direct this program and are mentored by volunteers from the congregation.



Trinity's **Milestone Ministry** invites parents and children to experience God's presence in their daily life and to engage in age appropriate faith practices. From Baptism through their entrance into Confirmation, the children and their parents share these faith practices, learning to grow in Faith and foster the practices in their daily lives.

Our middle school students prepare for **Confirmation** through a combination of classroom study, service projects and mentoring. High school students continue their studies with classes on Wednesday night. The **Youth Organizations** meet to learn, share and serve. These organizations plan fund raising activities to help fund special outings and trips that further fellowship and service. During the summer months **Vacation Bible School and Bible camps** invite children and youth of all ages to experience Christ.

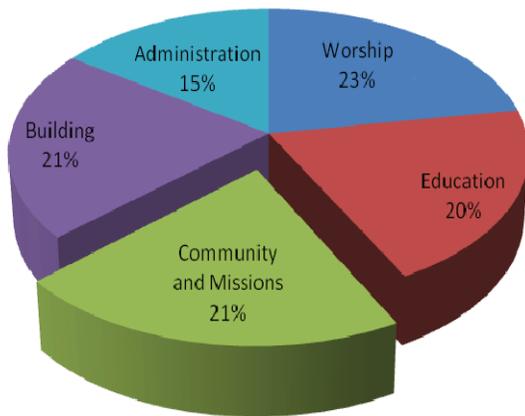
Trinity's **Youth and Family Director** coordinates all of these activities with the assistance of the **Board of Parish Education** and under the supervision of the pastors. Whether we are a student or a teacher, furthering our Faith through education, provides an opportunity to share God's guidance and presence.

The opportunities available are manifold and you are invited to respond in multiple ways. You can choose to participate in the many faith formation events available, or you can teach or mentor, **sharing God's Word through education touches lives of all ages.**

Community and Wider Mission

We reach out to serve our community and the world in numerous ways. Our pastoral staff and volunteers visit the ill, the homebound, and the nursing home residents. Our Pastors are members of various community and statewide boards and organizations that reach out with Christ's love to the world around us. Through manifold outreach opportunities we are invited to respond to the call to do God's work through our hands in Trinity's name.

Community and Wider Mission



Trinity's Care Team provides meals and sends cards to individuals and families with newborns or to those who have experienced hardship of any kind.

Twice a year groups of 8-12 go to **worship with the inmates at the SD State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.**

Another way we serve is by volunteering to help **work at the Banquet and the Gathering.**

Trinity also is the home to a **Preschool** and we are the sponsoring organization for the **Boy Scout Troop 5.** We open our doors to various other community organizations.

Be The Church Sunday has given all of us an opportunity to provide a real presence in our community. Each Spring, working with Saint John Lutheran Church, a sea of yellow shirts can be seen raking leaves, cleaning windows, greeting and helping shoppers, singing and truly **Doing God's Work.**

Trinity's outreach in Christ extends far beyond our own community.

The Trinity quilters, the **Piecemakers** take scraps of fabric and turn them into something beautiful that brings warmth, comfort and security to people as near as Madison and as far as the other side of the world; school kits, layettes and other kits are assembled annually by dedicated volunteers.

Missions of the Month provide support to a myriad of organizations throughout our area and across the entire globe. These missions are supported through special offerings and one of the loudest and most enjoyable moments of our worship services – **Jingle Change!** Following the kid's talk, the children carry their metal pots down the aisles while the congregation tosses in their loose change. As they shake the change in their metal pots, their smiles become contagious and the small handfuls of change grow into healthy support for these worthy missions.

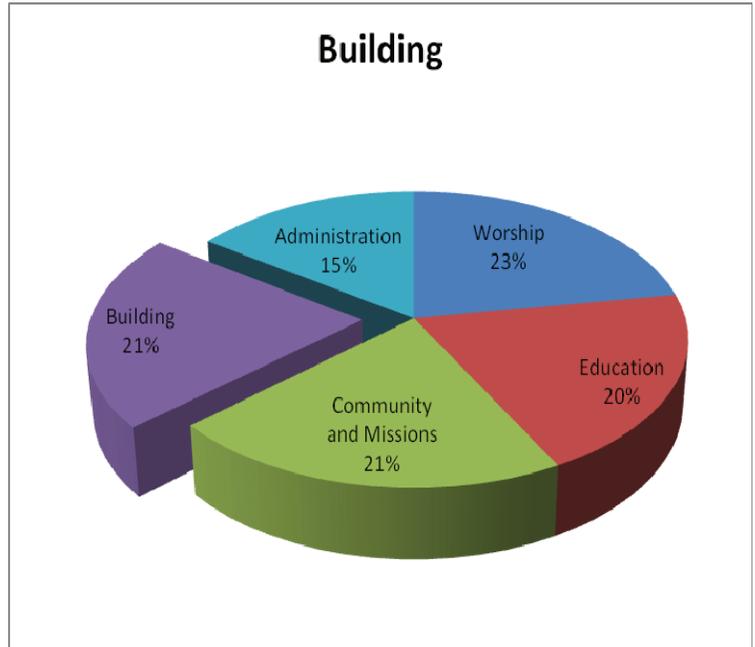
Through our **financial support of the work carried on by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America,** we respond to Christ's call to visit the sick and minister to the underserved in our state, nation and around the world. The **Board of Deacons** oversees those mission endeavors and orchestrates those manifold opportunities.

Building

Whether in use by our congregation or various community groups, **our building provides a welcoming gathering place for all people**. Our custodian and **Board of Trustees** take great pride in and care of our historic facility, including preventive **maintenance, energy conservation, updates and repairs**.

It is imperative we keep our facilities well maintained and welcoming to all. Many of the costs associated with the building are fixed costs or costs that will not vary depending on usage. In other words, regardless of the number of people who use our facilities, the expenses will remain relatively the same. Thus, the Board of Trustees is always looking to improve the efficiencies of the overall operations.

Future expansion and major updates are reviewed carefully by the Board of Trustees. Such projects are not funded by the operating budget. Special appeals or fund raising activities are necessary to provide this funding.



Probably the largest of these projects in recent years is the **Fellowship Hall Renovation Project**. Completed at a cost of just over \$110,000, we found out how much the Fellowship Hall means to us. Not just because of the cost of the project, but also by the fact we could not use it during the construction phase. We began a special appeal, **Building Trinity**, to help fund the project. Through the support of individual congregation members and groups throughout the Church, we have nearly reached our goal! Although our fundraising activities will continue, we should all be grateful to the outpouring of support.

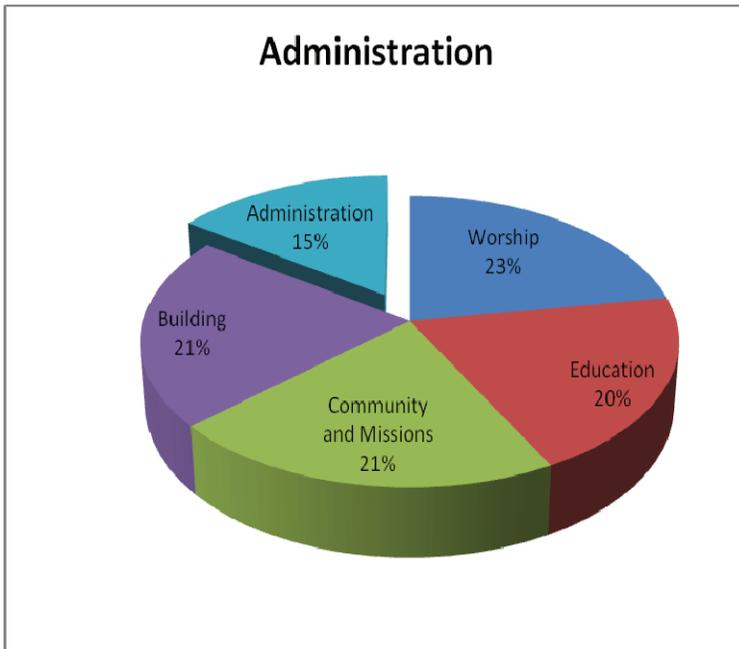
During the fundraising campaign, the congregation was asked to share **“What the Fellowship Hall Means to Me”**. The many stories we received showed that the Fellowship Hall is more than just a room. It is a place full of memories. To be without it, even for a short period of time, reminded us that it is more than the brick and mortar foundation of the Church building. It is also the foundation of fellowship on which we have built our Family of Faith at Trinity.

As we look to the future, many technological changes are available to improve the efficiency of operations and accessibility and usage of our facility. Preserving the historic architecture of our Church will guide our decisions as we look to incorporate these changes into our Church home.

The Church is more than a building, but as we have seen, our building is more than a building! It houses our ministries, it holds our memories, and it provides a foundation for our Family in Faith. It truly is **God’s House**.

Administration

As with all organizations, some costs and expenses can not be simply identified as belonging in one area. Additionally, many of the **duties of our pastors and staff cross over all areas of the operation of Trinity**. These expenses have been identified as the cost of administration and fall under the control of the entire Church Council.



Trinity is a vibrant community and gratefully extends a warm welcome to all, including **responding to organizations' needs** by allowing people to schedule activities for personal and public use. The administrative staff coordinates all scheduling needs, day to day **office activities**, mailings, ordering and purchasing office and kitchen supplies, recording communion cards, collating and sending the **monthly newsletter**, etc.

Church records of pastoral acts such as baptisms, weddings, confirmations, and funerals are kept through the administrative staff of Trinity. Our **financial gifts are recorded** diligently and entered into the church's accounting system weekly to provide us with accurate quarterly financial statements. **Bills are paid in a timely manner.**

We are blessed with friendly voices greeting us as we call or as we come to the church office with our questions and personal needs. Your gifts help to keep our staff working effectively and with adequate equipment such as computers, printers, copiers, etc.

Thank You for your Response

We hope this information has helped you understand where your offerings go and how they are spent. **The budgetary process is not taken lightly by the Church Council**. Each Board within the Council prayerfully considers the needs of the ministries of Trinity that they oversee.

The extraordinary generosity of our congregation through the years has given us a legacy of sharing: Sharing God's Word, Doing God's Work.

Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Trinity Lutheran Church Council