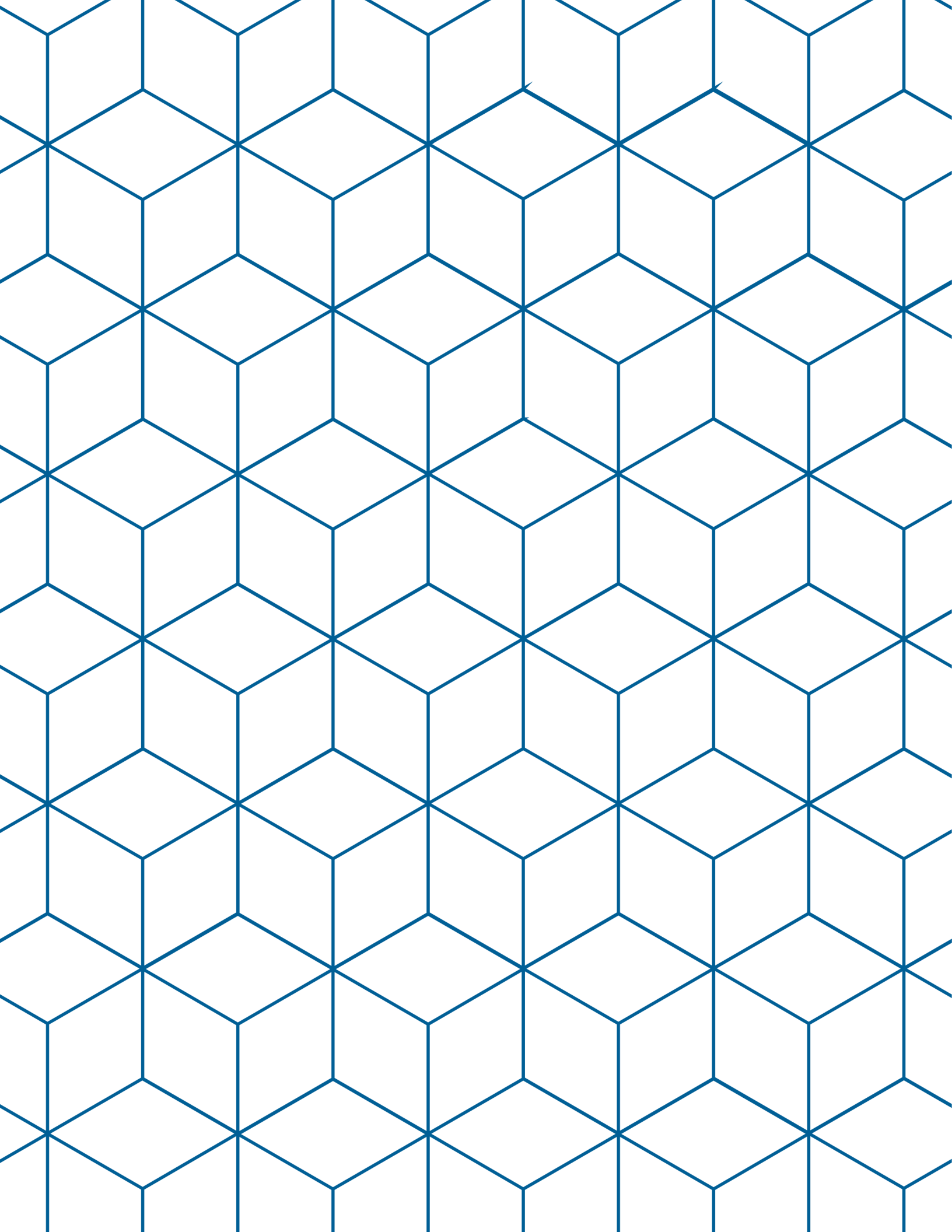


HERE FOR
GOOD
— TRINITY CHURCH —

OUR STORIES OF GENEROSITY



TRINITY
CHURCH



Introduction

PASTOR MATT PEARSON

As we embark on our Capital Campaign, we are excited to introduce the theme “HERE FOR GOOD.” This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to making a lasting impact in our community and beyond. We invite you to join us on a journey of reflection and generosity.



Guided by Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up,” we are reminded that our collective efforts and dedication to sharing the Good News of Jesus, we will yield incredible fruit in our community.

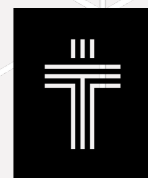
Within the pages of our generosity book, you will find stories that illuminate the impact of our ministry at Trinity and the stories of Trinity people’s generosity. These narratives highlight the profound ways our church has touched lives, fostered hope, and created a vibrant community. We hope these stories ignite genuine excitement and inspire you to reflect on your own journey of generosity.

As you read, consider how your unique contributions— time, talent, and treasure— can further empower Trinity to be HERE FOR GOOD. Your support is vital as we strive to expand our outreach, enhance our facilities, and continue to serve those in need.

Together, we can make a lasting difference. Let us embrace this opportunity to sow seeds that continue to establish Trinity “Here For Good”, knowing that our efforts will lead to a harvest of blessings in our community and beyond.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. We are grateful for your partnership and commitment to seeing Trinity thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Pearson', with a long, sweeping underline.



TRINITY
C H U R C H

Unexpected Influence

JACOB HAUSMAN

Since moving to Papillion in 2011, my family and I never planned on joining a church. My wife and I were raised as Lutherans, but we stopped practicing our faith after high school. Like many people, we became focused on things like careers, education, and money.

Despite achieving those things, we still felt something missing.

Then one day, out of the blue, our son looked at me and said, "Dad, I want to go to church." I believe that was God's way of getting my attention because nothing else would have worked. When my son asked, I knew it was serious.



We began looking for churches in our area, and Trinity Church caught our eye because of the music and the welcoming environment shown on their website. We hadn't been to church in about 25 years, so we didn't know what to expect. But when we arrived, everyone greeted us warmly and made us feel like we belonged.

My wife, who's more outgoing, started helping teach children about Jesus, and I got involved with the Tech team. We also began observing the Sabbath and applying the lessons from the "A Different Way" series to our lives. Our outlook started to change, although I still have a lot of work to do.

For the first time, we donated money to something other than ourselves. We volunteered our time without expecting anything in return. We also began reading the Bible and reflecting on Jesus' teachings. I started researching and found truths that felt like they were meant for me, even though they were written nearly 2,000 years ago.

Jesus emphasized the importance of loving God above all else and loving your neighbor as yourself. When we saw an opportunity to support the Little Miracles initiative, we couldn't pass it up. I was struck by how a small donation could make such a big difference for so many families.

We also chose to support Trinity Church because they are transparent about how they use contributions and their operating expenses. As a business owner, I understand the importance of transparency and appreciate their openness in the newsletter.

Generosity is something that spreads to those around you, especially to children. I learned it from my father, who would work extra jobs just to take me to Husker football games. Now, my son is learning that when you're given much, much is expected, and it's our responsibility to help others for the good of our community.

I believe Trinity has a bright future, and I hope more people join. My parents had a negative experience with church, which affected my view. I never took the time to read the Bible and understand what Jesus really said.

I feel like I was the one lost in the story of the 99. I had wandered off, but God kept giving me chances until my son asked, "Dad, can we go to church?" That was the moment that brought me back, and now we plan to stay.

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?"

Matthew 18:12



"Max is the glue that held our marriage and family together. He's the one that inspired and reignited our faith."

Never Too Young

COLLIN NASH

I wasn't really looking for anything when I first came to Trinity, since I was young and my parents brought me. But looking for a church at college, I looked for a place like Trinity - a place that felt like home and where I could belong; a place where God could help me grow and where I could help others grow in their relationship with Jesus.



When I became really involved in Trinity Students, I truly felt like Trinity was MY church home. This would have been when I was around 15 years old, when I became a bit more mature and started to grow into who God called me to be - more of a leader of others and more of a follower of Jesus.

I really appreciate the way Trinity encompasses the whole family. There is something for everyone, of all ages, to grow closer in their relationship with Christ. The womens', mens', kids', and students' ministries do such a great job of providing a place for everyone.

I learned generosity from my parents who give, and they set a good example for me. I then felt like I was called by God to give through the church. I started giving financially to Trinity after feeling convicted by one of the messages about it. I realized even though I was a teenager, I could still support with what I was able to give. I am now in college and don't attend Trinity as often, so I've switched my giving to my church at college.

It makes me feel like I belong when I give my money and time to help the church continue to help others grow.

I hope the next generations also feel convicted by God, to not just be hearers at church but doers. The Church is only our home when we treat it like one and take care of it. And the church is not just the building, but the people and the body of Christ.

Taught to Tithe

MIRIAM SMITH

I came from a large catholic family. My dad was the family's leader. You could not ask for anything of any consequence unless you asked my dad. My mom agreed with his decisions, unless, behind the scenes, she would want to offer another perspective. My mom never held a "paying job" so she was always available. All of my friends were welcomed and treated like family by my mother and father. As an adult, I was looking for a church home with a family that obeyed the Father and had everyone's best interest in mind.



The feeling of home (at Trinity) did not come easy. I was a church leader at my previous church. I was part of a legacy group that gave council, discipline and comfort to others, both younger and older than me. We would say "seasoned" saints. I was looking for someone to accept me into the Trinity family. BUT GOD assured me that He accepts me and placed me where I worship, minister to others, learn and build community. I thank God for new friends like John and Elizabeth.

Trinity embraces all ages in all areas of the church plan. We minister internally, locally and internationally. We are not perfect, and after going through a change of leadership myself, I encourage members to stay put, even when things get tough. God is making the decisions and He is using people who follow His instructions.

I grew up Catholic, and as a young adult, I learned that Jesus was in the Baptist church too. My church home in Milwaukee (moved to NE in 2022) taught giving with this formula:

1. RESOLVE relationships before giving to the LORD.
2. GIVE the TITHES and your offering.
3. PAY Yourself.
4. PAY your bills on time
5. BUILD generational wealth.

This formula has worked for me!

I believe that we can't pick and choose what our Father has asked of us. I do know it takes time, effort and discipline to be financially responsible, but the Bible says we have not because we didn't ask Him. We are supporting God's mission through Trinity.

I pray that the baton of worship, serving and giving be continued to the next, and next generations. His words even included those not yet born.

Involvement is Key

JANET NODDINGS

I moved to Bellevue in June 2019. Trinity was my first choice as a church home because my mother, daughter and her family were members. Coming to church with them gave me a chance to see the grandchildren every week.



But it wasn't long before I felt the call to become more involved.

In the fall I joined a Bible study, affectionately known as the Tuesday Afternoon Women's group. There were about 20 women in the group when I joined the first meeting and the group leader Marilyn K made me feel right at home. Sandi F and I had both lost our husbands that year, and we connected right away.

Then COVID hit. Being kept at home was actually a blessing for me, because I'm the ultimate introvert. I was also helping my mother navigate the COVID process and getting her to vaccination appointments. But throughout the year of COVID, Marilyn hosted Zoom meetings so that many members of our Bible study could still meet virtually a couple of times a month. I also made good use of the access to online Sunday services.

When COVID was finally over and we moved to the new church building, I was looking for new friends and activities. I tried a couple of meetups with women from the local community, but I found those experiences unsatisfying and shallow. One Sunday in church, one of the pastors gave a call for help in Sunday school (aka Trinity Kids). I'm not cut out to be a teacher, but I asked if I could help in other ways. Sheila K showed me the ropes - there was plenty to do. The next summer I helped Carrie N decorate for VBS. After 3 years, I am still involved with Trinity Kids. I have a great team of ladies who help me decorate for a new theme every month. We decorated for this summer's VBS "Set Sail" and we're planning something wonderful for Boo Bash in October!

I am still a member of the Bible study group. This summer I also started an IF Table under the guidance of Juli Staab. Soon I'll be helping with Little Miracles in whatever capacity Rachel needs. The friendships I've made at Trinity and the projects I've worked on, have filled my life with purpose. Retirement has been joyful, purposeful and fulfilling. Trinity has given me so much more than I can ever give back.

My hope for Trinity is that it continues to welcome the stranger, the person who is uncomfortable, unknown, and introverted. I want Trinity to bless others the way I've been blessed!

Bold Faith

NICK & RACHEL STAAB

Rachel and I have attended Trinity for most of our lives. I was plugged into the church at a very young age since my mother worked (and still does) for Trinity. Rachel started attending in middle school. Both of us became very active in the church when Matt Pearson came on as youth minister. The youth program under Matt's leadership was a fantastic environment to grow in our faith.



Trinity is very welcoming and has a strong community to surround oneself with. The church has many different ministries and activities to plug into, whether it be Monday night basketball, cafe and play, small groups, etc.

Proverbs 11:24
One gives freely,
yet grows all the
richer;
another withholds
what he should
give, and only
suffers want. (ESV)

As believers, we are called to live generously with both our time and our finances. God has blessed Rachel and I with hearts that enjoy giving; as we've grown in our faith, we understand that all that we have been given has come from God. Odd as it sounds, we've found that the more we give, the more we see God's blessings in our life.

We are all called to give to the local church. Trinity is in a great place to help expand the Kingdom of God in our community, and we recognize that financial support is necessary to help ensure that goal.

Our hope for Trinity is that it be a place that **BOLDLY** proclaims and stands on biblical truths. Our prayer is that Trinity and its members stay off the fence and align fully with God's will; that we do not suffer the same problems as the churches in Sardis and Laodicea (Revelation 3).

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Legacy of Generosity

TODD DARNOLD

I was blessed to be a "preacher's kid" so I was raised in the church. This taught me the importance of supporting both the local and missional church from a biblical and practical perspective. But I would say I truly learned generosity by watching my grandparents support their church and community. They were incredibly generous people and sought out ways to be generous. I feel we have a long way to go to match their example.



When Stacy and I were married and started to be blessed with an income, we decided we would make giving a priority. When we were younger - and without children - we gave financially but gave even more of our time. We were blessed. As we aged and moved communities we prioritized growing our giving to church and to charities with an important mission.

We came to Trinity via Papio Creek Church. We were looking to attend a church that taught the Word of God, had strong youth programs, and engaged the community. We probably first felt at home when we moved into the new building and were able to feel a sense of permanency. The move was accompanied by joining a small group, being able to rejoin youth programs post covid, and playing basketball on Monday nights.

When we landed at Trinity we found a church authentically seeking to benefit the community and those who attended the church. We were inspired to invest in the church's mission and haven't regretted it for one minute. We really appreciate the outward missional focus of Trinity, without a loss of care for the current Trinity community. We choose to support Trinity financially because we see the good it is doing in our community and in the people who attend the church. We believe in the mission of Connecting People to Christ and see that Trinity is finding success in this mission.

Over time, Trinity has only sharpened its missional focus and brought on excellent staff to strengthen internal ministries as well. We have been blessed to be a part of Trinity and see that others are as well. We pray that the church will continue to live out its mission of Connecting People to Christ because we believe that once people understand Christ's love they will be drawn to Jesus, be saved, changed, and then draw others to Jesus. In this process Trinity will grow Christ's Church.

Our greatest hope is that we raise a generation of people who show Christ's love to all people in all that they do. We believe that if we do this people will fall in love with Jesus and show this love to others as well. This will create a virtuous cycle the will ultimately fulfill the Great Commission.

I remember the first time I understood that my grandparents were responsible for a church improvement. I was proud, but more importantly, the church was made better. I also remember the first time I learned they went on a mission trip to Central America to drill wells and to minister to children. I was proud, but more importantly, the world was made better and the gospel was taught to people who may have never otherwise heard it. I also remember tough times in my father's rural churches when budgets were tight. It was impressed on me early and often that giving was imperative.

God's Timing

KARLENE HYLEN

We were not looking for a church, but God had a different plan. One of my high school daughters' closest friends invited her to youth group on Wednesdays. Our previous church did not offer the robust youth group that Trinity offered and we had been praying for a while for God to lead us in the right direction for our precious four junior high and high school daughters. Those years are a pivotal moment in their Christian walk with God. All four daughters were blessed.

Also with all the sports and activities our girls were involved in on Sundays, we were hoping to find a church with worship options during the week. God more than provided. Trinity offered a Monday night evening service! Monday nights blessed our family with worship and the angelic voice of Elaine Stoner — God is amazing!



Our first time attending Trinity Church the members in the pews next to us went out of their way to welcome us. They were so warm and the pastors were great! When we decided to become members and attended classes the best advice I got was to serve in the area of the church where it makes you happy. So I signed up for nursery. I was blessed every Sunday while blessing the little ones with the gifts God gave me. I am so blessed to serve in the kids ministry at Trinity for over 15 years. God is truly amazing.

I learned generosity from my parents. They did not have a large income but always gave to the Lord. God was a light in their home.

My greatest hope for Trinity is to keep God's light shining at Trinity. If we keep our focus on loving people, God will do the rest.

God is amazing and we are only giving the Lord what is his. So much to be thankful for. The Lord asks only a small portion of all the many gifts he gives us so freely.

Blessed to Give

CAROL & ED GATES

In November, we will celebrate 60 years of marriage! I was a Methodist and Ed was a Lutheran. I yielded! Trinity was his church and we both decided this was a fit for us. He knew many members, and I, a newly wed, easily met many, many friendly members. We both have always wanted a traditional service with a Biblical message, and we could always find it here!



It was so easy to get involved. I am easily swayed to do rather than sit idly by wishing things should be a different way. I immediately joined choir, Bible studies and ladies service activities. Ed served on Council and call committees and we both were in a Connection Group for years. The studies delving further into the Bible were so interesting and helpful to continue on our personal growth. When our first child, our daughter, came into our lives, our pastor here at Trinity was eager to come to our home to bless and welcome her. We truly felt like we were home.

Visitation of church members is extremely important, especially since we are among the aging membership of the church. But for the life of the church, the youth activities, which abound, are extremely necessary and are getting better all the time.

Generosity has always been a part of both of our families. Of course, it was important to make certain needs were met in the home. But giving is certainly more rewarding than receiving. We were both from farm families and gardens, orchards, raising chickens, etc., were everyday things. It was always easy to help out when someone needed help with food etc. The church giving meant sharing other financial gifts.

Nothing worthwhile is free. Even the smallest gift should be considered if that is the best you can give to the Lord. Think about your many blessings. Think about your church and what you want it to be. Think about your child's religious learning and training and its importance in your lives. The world is changing so fast. Our church family must be grounded in the teachings, faith and belief in the saving grace and love of our Lord God. Financial gifts are gifts from giving hearts.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'"
Acts 20:35

We are in the midst of growing pains. That's good. Churches without growth will die. Trinity has an excellent location, staff, and congregation to see that onward and upward is our goal. We are excited to move into the next step forward.

I Found My Village

ALICIA GREINER

When my family first moved to Papillion, we were looking for a church that was first and foremost Christ-centered, had a strong youth program, and was a place we could make some quality connections given we didn't know anyone in this area.



Trinity easily became our church home. We were almost immediately invited into a connections group and we started attending Cafe and Play. I could tell this was going to be "my village". In the past 2 years we have lived here, I have many memories of Trinity being there when we needed it. One recent incident that is prominent in my mind, was when my youngest son had an allergic reaction at cafe and play and every single person stepped up to help me out in every way possible.... New clothes for me and my son, buckets, bags for soiled clothes, wipes, and one staff followed me home to help care for my middle child while I cared for my sick youngest child. She even made lunch for my family. Trinity turned a very stressful situation into a very manageable one. Not to mention I also felt an outpouring love from this community as the texts came rolling in all day that people were praying for my son and genuinely cared for us.



I appreciate that Trinity makes it a point to connect people to Christ. I love all of the community events and connection groups. I feel its really important to not only surround yourself with Christ-centered friends but also find ways to connect those who do not yet know Christ and help them feel welcome. My family especially loves the children's ministry at Trinity. We are thankfully a part of Trinity Kids and I have been lucky enough to have helped with Vacation Bible School the past two years. I appreciate the resources that have gone into these programs and have definitely seen a positive impact with my children.

I learned to tithe from my parents. My parents always gave with a grateful heart and it never seemed like an obligation. They were always very generous with their time and gifts, and willing to support whatever missions project came up in the church.

I want to support Trinity Church because they have shown us so much love and have truly been our village. I not only want to support Trinity as a way to say thank you, but also so the church can further help our community and connect others to Christ. I want others to feel welcomed and cared for, just has my family felt when we first came to Trinity.

My hope for Trinity is to continue to grow and reach more and more non-believers and teach them about the love and grace of God so they too will know and love Him. I want Trinity to continue to be the "village" that our community needs and know they will be supported and cared for.

Traditional Generosity

CANDY WILLIAMS

I was raised in the Lutheran church in a small town in North Dakota. The church was the center of many activities growing up - from weddings, to funerals, to youth group and bible camp. We moved around with the Air Force for many years and attended churches sporadically. I didn't realize how much I missed having a "home church" until we attended a wedding at a rural church here in Nebraska and the "eternal light" above the pulpit reminded me of my home church. I felt God leading me to once again be a part of a church family and to give that to my children, who were now of confirmation age.




We came to Trinity over 30 years ago at the original Halleck location. I had checked out other churches in the area (including other denominations) but when I attended a service here it was like coming home. The uplifting music also set it apart. My mother, and then my father, passed away during our early years here and the comfort I got from both Pastor Jorgensen and Pastor Riley was like a "hug" passed on from God. Pastor Riley helped me see that I truly could bring everything to God, no matter what I was feeling.

When Pastor Erik talked about our proposed new building, he referred to it as a "Mission Outpost". Our church has always been about service, but I think this new building was the catalyst to making us more about getting "out of ourselves." I love the common area where generations interact between services and our new worship team is phenomenal in the ways that it strives to bring us all together and to bring us "out into the world." I look forward to coming to church every Sunday because I know that whoever is sharing God's message will be preaching from their own deep faith and I can feel that from them whenever I encounter any of them. The music stirs my soul.

*Hebrews 13:16
Do not neglect to
do good and to
share what you
have, for such
sacrifices are
pleasing to God.*

Growing up in a big family in a small town, no one really knew what anyone else had financially. We weren't poor, we weren't rich. We were like everyone else and just didn't think about materialism much. We were also very protected from the rest of the world. As an adult, I've become much more aware of how good I really had (and have it). We went through the Dave Ramsey financial class at church, and I think that was the first time that we seriously looked at our finances and talked about tithing.



It opened our eyes to all that God has provided for us and made us think seriously about what God expects of us with our time and our "talents" (finances).

A church cannot grow, or even survive, without the financial support of its members. We have a large building in a great location that brings in new people each week simply from its visibility. There are practical bills that need to be paid to keep it going - heat, lights, mowing, snow removal. Just like you have to maintain your home to hold its value, we need to maintain our physical space. In order to serve our members and potential new members we need to have a staff that is fairly compensated - and we have a staff right now that is second to none. The staff and the building are there to support us "within" so we can go out and do things to support the world "outside" our walls. Little Miracles, backpacks for holiday meals for school children, Thanksgiving meals for the needy, our mission in Sierra Leone - so many needs that we haven't even begun to know of. God expects us to give of both our financial gifts and of our time -- we are one boat, and we need to all row it together.

If I eat at a great restaurant or see a good movie, I instinctively want to share that "good news" with my friends. I would love for us to be just as secure in sharing Trinity with the world. I would hope that people that come through our doors feel that they are in a safe place - where ALL are accepted. I grew up in kind of the "Kumbaya" generation and my heart hurts that our society has become so hurtful and discriminatory. I take pride in my "Lutheranism", and I hope that we continue to be known as a Lutheran church. But I take more pride in being a "child of God" and I hope that we embrace all children of God today and going forward.

Giving for God

GIGI & RICK OLSTAD

When we found Trinity, we were looking for a Church that offered a traditional Lutheran service that was similar to what we experienced when we were growing up in Minnesota.

We felt welcomed immediately while visiting Trinity Church! Our first visit was on an Easter Sunday, and of course, it was very crowded - but inviting! We then attended a Monday evening service and we were so incredibly welcomed by many people! We began to attend regularly and have attended ever since!

We appreciate the fact that the ministry of Trinity is very focused on scripture and the commitment to connecting people to Christ.

I learned generosity from my parents and grandparents! They were always quick to help out anyone and make people feel welcome. We are so grateful for the blessings in our lives that it compels us to give to others.



It is important for us to give our financial gifts as well as our service to Trinity Church. We choose to give financially to Trinity to help contribute to all the things Trinity does for others. Our Lord has given to us and we in turn give to our church.

Our greatest hope for the next generation at Trinity is to follow the Bible and share God's word with others. We hope the congregation will continue to grow and more people will be connected to Christ.

What's YOUR generosity story?

Blessed to Be a Blessing

JOSH TRESEMER

Michelle and I had recently married and just moved from our respective homes in Omaha to Papillion. We wanted to find a church “together” to call our own as we grew up different denominations.



We had been to several churches in Papillion when we moved, but felt very welcome at Trinity. Josh knew several families that were parents of childhood friends, and they were instrumental in greeting and visiting with us each week as we began to regularly attend. We also were very inspired by Pastor Erik and his messages, and just felt at home and connected. Our kids attended Little Lights and Michelle joined MOPS, which also helped her connect with other families as she was “new” to staying home with the kids after moving to part time.

We love that Trinity is anchored biblically with the truth of the gospel, but also appreciate that we have a variety of staff and members that richly contribute with their unique ways of sharing it. I appreciate the diversity in mission partners from local to global, and feel very inspired about how intentional we are as a church in mission.

Both Michelle and I witnessed our parents give generously to our churches growing up. It has anchored our understanding of how to share the gifts of God for his kingdom.

We believe that giving financially to church is what we are biblically called to do. We are grateful for the rich blessings God has given to us, and returning a portion of that allows us to experience the joys of our life in Him more richly. Trinity is our home and we are humbled by the leaders of our church that put the gifts of the congregation to great work in community, message, and mission.

Our hope is for all of us to feel called to give generously to ensure our mission of “Connecting People to Christ” endures forever.

*Give as freely as
you have received!
Matthew 10:8b*

Partner With God

CHRIS RANDALL

When my wife and I were in the interview process of joining the staff at Trinity, we evaluated a few key things that we value in a church and found at Trinity:

1. Biblically-Based
2. Quality of Leadership
3. A place for our family to grow and thrive



A memory that stands out to me was my first experience at Celebrate! It was awesome getting to see our church as a whole come together for a time of fun and fellowship. It was during this experience that it felt as if I moved from "attending" to "belonging".

We truly appreciate the PEOPLE of Trinity! The congregation is full of so many faithful and incredible families. It is the people here that makes the difference!

I learned generosity through my parents and grandparents. As a kid, I didn't recognize they were modeling a life of generosity, but thought that was "normal" for everyone. Now, in hindsight, I can see generosity doesn't come easy for everyone. I am truly grateful for the life of generosity that was modeled to me and I strive to do the same.

I believe giving is a spiritual rhythm - As a follower of Jesus, I believe everything I have been given is a gift from God. Ultimately, it is not my money, but God's money. He has called us to be good stewards of our finances and to live a life of generosity.

I love being able to support the mission of Trinity Church - It is awesome to know that my dollars are going to help connect people to Christ. It is a joy to be able to know that through my financial gifts, I get to partner in what God is doing in the lives of others.

My hope is to see more people give their life to Jesus, and for all of us to grow deeper in our intimacy with Him. My hope is that Trinity Church would be a church marked by Faithfulness.

Feels Like Home

JAYNE TIMMERMAN

My husband and I both grew up going to church. After we had kids, we found that my family church we were attending just wasn't a good fit for us. The messages and the music were too traditional. We decided to try Trinity after many of my friends encouraged us to join them.



We would attend church at the original building (before the FLC was built) and it was so crowded we had to sit on folding chairs in the lobby, and we did because we wanted to be there. Also, when my sister's family, my parents, and my cousin's family all followed us to Trinity, we knew it was our church home.

I appreciate that Trinity is a church with a multi-aged congregation. People of all ages are included in the ministry.

I learned to give to church from my parents. Dad would write a check every week for the offering plate. I also learned that there are many ways to be generous, not just with financial gifts. Giving of your time and talent is also very important.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

The only source of income for a church comes from the generosity of its members. If you want your church to thrive and grow, you have to support it financially to the best of your ability.

It seems that "church shopping" has become a trend. The family church doesn't exist like it used to. I hope that Trinity members put down roots and become involved, make Trinity their family church and stay because they want to.

Rooted in Faith

LAURA BECK

My family and I started at Trinity in 1999 when I was only five. We left a previous church because they had hired a new pastor who had different beliefs that didn't follow the Bible. My parents wanted a church that aligned with their beliefs and values and that didn't succumb to the world's views. My parents had friends that went to Trinity and had invited them to attend. We instantly connected with Trinity and my parents decided it was a good fit for our family.



One of my first and favorite memories was when Joan McAleer was my 2nd grade Sunday school teacher. I received my first bible from the church that year. At the end of the year Joan gave me a pink cross bookmark that she had hand knitted and I still have it today. She was the sweetest woman and I loved learning about Jesus from her. Sadly she passed away in 2013 but I will never forget the impact she had on my Trinity journey. I truly started to feel at home when I got more involved with youth group and when Matt Pearson became the youth pastor.

I appreciate the dedication Trinity had when I was younger, and continue to have, for the youth. Matt Pearson is one of the reasons I still attend Trinity to this day. He made a huge impact on my life as the youth pastor and I can account for many others he had an impact on as well. It is important to pour into the youth to give them the knowledge and support for a solid foundation in Jesus. I think Chris and Amanda are doing a great job with the youth today. They have lots of activities, trips, and bible studies that help fuel the youths' faith. The youth are our future and Trinity has done a great job to help with that future.

I learned generosity from my parents. My parents taught us to give back to the church, whether that was in donations or our time. They always had a willingness to serve. My dad dedicated his time to council and committees, and taught junior high Sunday school for years. They both have volunteered to help with communion, Sunday school, VBS, events, etc. They enjoy giving back to a community that has supported and given so much to them.

I choose to support Trinity because of how much they have supported and helped my faith journey. I want to support the future of the church and the people that it will help. I want to make Trinity feel like home for many to come.

I hope that Trinity continues to seek the future while not forgetting their history. They have made great strides in the last few years and I know they will continue to grow and change in the ways that are needed for the church to flourish. I hope that everyone who comes to Trinity will feel welcomed and accepted the moment they walk in. I hope that they will continue to push the envelope with their missions, connections with people, and service to the community.

Power of Connection

VICTORIA TOMANEK

I was planning to move to Papillion because that was where my fiancé and I planned to establish. He was already living in Papillion and attended Trinity. He grew up at Trinity and his family has been part of the church for many years. I wanted a place to worship with my fiancé (now husband). I wanted a place that made me feel at home and connected with good people and other families. A place that I would feel like I could grow and stay connected in my faith as I was about to enter the next phase of my young adult life.



After we were married, my husband and I attended Trinity fairly routinely. I enjoyed it and loved the people, the worship, and the atmosphere. It was after my husband and I joined a connection group that I really started to feel like Trinity was MY church home (not just his). It was just what I needed to grow spiritually as our family started to grow. I will admit when we were first asked to join both my husband and I were hesitant, not sure if we wanted to add that commitment to our life but we decided together to give it a chance. We were very surprised at how much we loved it and we started scheduling around our group gatherings because we didn't want to miss that time with friends and God.

It was that group of people that helped us through our challenges as our family grew and when we were surprised with a twin pregnancy when we already had 2 young ones at home. It was our Trinity Church family that brought us meals and helped us get through those first few weeks/months of our sleepless life with 2 newborns and 2 young toddlers.

The other thing that has helped me feel like Trinity is MY church home was getting involved in serving, at first it was in hospitality and then Trinity Kids. The more I made Trinity my home and connected, the more I wanted to be involved and continue to see Trinity grow and support people, which is why I am now involved in church leadership.

Trinity is all about connection. It's about finding a place you feel surrounded by people who support you, lift you up, get you through the hard times, rejoice with you in the good times, and help you grow deeper in your faith walk and connection to Christ. It's a place that brings me joy and happiness when I'm there. When I'm feeling down, lost, or just like something is not right inside my heart, I can walk in and feel peace and connected to people who truly care and most importantly connected to Christ.

Something I remember from when I was a kid helped teach me generosity. I witnessed my parents putting money into the offering plate. They would even get us involved and we would each get \$1 to put into the plate as we passed it down the aisle. As an adult, I had a better understanding about budgets and where our offering went. My husband and I committed to give to Trinity because we both felt like it was and is making a big difference in our life. We both also give our time and serve. This part really allows us to connect and feel like we are part of this church family. We both enjoy being part of something important and showing our children what it looks like to serve, sacrifice, and give to people and the church.

I want to continue to see Trinity grow in its connection to the people who call Trinity church home but also to those people in the community who don't know Jesus. I love seeing new people come through the doors and then see them come back. I have a few people in my life that don't know Jesus or make worship/church a priority and it's those people I want to see come through those church doors. I want Trinity to continue to disciple and reach the community so those people/family in my life feel comfortable to come , then make connections, and then keep coming back! I also need Trinity church in my life, to help me be a spiritually healthy and be good Christian wife, mom, sister, daughter and friend. I need support and help to keep my marriage strong and to help me parent and raise my children up to be grounded in their faith. I want to see my family and marriage continue to grow in our faith and connection with God. I love the discipleship changes and growth that is happening and I want this to continue. I want to support our church staff so they can dream and grow their ministries to be able to pour the love of Jesus into my personal life but also into the church body and our reach our community.



Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

Deuteronomy 16:17

My greatest hope for Trinity is that we can be willing to grow, change, and adapt, while staying grounded in the Bible, to help connect with people in our community and the next generation. There is anxiety and fear in our community and in our homes but if we can connect people to each other and Jesus then they and the next generation can make an impact on our community. to spread the love and peace of God's Kingdom! This allows us and the next generation to feel the love of Jesus on this side of heaven!

Impacting Lives

AMBER CLARK

When we stepped through the doors at Trinity Church (a little over a year ago), my husband, Caleb, and I were primarily looking for a strong youth and children's ministry for our three kids. We desired a church that prioritized outreach on a personal level and preaching that would connect with our hearts and align with our goals for our family.

It didn't take long to feel like Trinity was our home. Our immediate observation was the intention placed on community and how much fun everyone has together!



When church became something the whole family was excited about again, when Sunday mornings weren't just an obligation, when it wasn't "for the kids", when we would consistently come home both feeling the Spirit moving, we knew Trinity was home. The children's and student ministries continue to build our kids' confidence in their faith and the focus on intergenerational connections means Trinity is a place for anyone and everyone.

Both our parents modeled generosity well. My first memories of personal giving come in the form of both time and money; I'm one of eight kids and on Sunday morning my dad would hand each of us a one dollar bill to put in the plate. Times have changed and so have methods of giving but the principle remains the same: God will provide. We often arrived early and stayed late on Sundays to accommodate anyone who needed a ride or prayer or counseling or all three.

Our financial support of Trinity is a response to the evidence of impact both for our family personally and on others who benefit from the various ministries enabled by the generosity of Trinity Families.

I hope we're known as the people that love well. I hope we're known as people that challenge each other to be the best version of themselves. I hope we pursue holiness. Mostly, I hope that no matter where you go from here, you've encountered God. That's really all that matters.

Cheerful Giving

DONNA SCHERZBERG

We were new residents of Papillion, looking for a church for our young family. Craig's brother and sister in law (Marty and Connie), along with their sons, were members of Trinity and loved it. The first time we visited we knew we felt comfortable and it was a good fit for us. We were happy to be attending a growing church sitting by our extended family after living away from Nebraska for twenty years.



Trinity felt right for us as we watched our three daughters along with their cousins attend Sunday School and confirmation together. Each Sunday we were inspired by Pastor Jorgensen's heartfelt and meaningful Bible-based sermons. We felt a friendly environment week after week.

Now thirty some years later I whole-heartedly love our mission statement. What could be better than connecting people to Christ?? I see this happening all around the church as friends gather before and after sermons to chat with others. The sermons are solid, Biblically-based lessons, and there are lots of ways to bring new people into our church.

My parents were both very generous people. As my sister and I were growing up, they felt the calling to give regularly to their church and to their community. The Bible says God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving is such an uplifting feeling knowing we are helping the church grow as well as helping those who are in need and could greatly benefit from the generosity of others.

Giving is an act of obedience but it is also repaying what we have been given. Giving is showing gratitude, trust and an abundance of joy!

My hope for Trinity is that it will always be a place where people want to come and worship. A place where they feel refreshed and inspired to be more like Jesus. I pray the next generation will realize through Trinity that although times are very different now from early Biblical days, the one constant is the love and our salvation we find in Jesus.

Give More = Receive More

CHRISTINE MYSLINSKI

When we moved here from Germany in 1993 it was very important to me to find a church home where I would be together with people who share the same faith.

Trinity felt like home when I met my children's teachers at Trinity, and when I found out that Pastor Jorgensen led a congregation in Steubenville, Ohio, where my husband David was born, it felt like God was showing us where we needed to be.



I love that Trinity is an intergenerational church where everyone is represented; our beautiful elders, middle agers, young families, babies, teens. Our church is buzzing with life and possibilities.

I learned generosity as I grew in my faith - as I learned that everything I had was God's first and that I didn't deserve any of it. It made it easier to let go of money or other things. Then, the most curious thing happened - the more we gave, we never went without.

• Good will come to those •
• who are generous and lend •
• freely, who conduct their •
• affairs with justice. •
• Psalm 112:5 •

Why do I support Trinity financially? That's easy - if I didn't support Trinity it might not exist the way it does now. In order to keep or better what we have, we all need to pitch in.

My greatest hope is that Trinity will continue to grow and go strong and that it will be church home for many families yet to come.

A History of Generosity

KAREN & FLOYD VAN BRIESEN

When we chose to move to Papillion it was because it was on the edge of Omaha. I was looking for a small town to raise our sons. We rented a house one block from Trinity and across the street from Val Christiansen (mother of Nancy Aken).



Not knowing anyone in town, when she said “hi” to me outside, I walked over to meet her. As we visited, she asked if we had a church. I told her we had been attending Lutheran churches, and she told me many things about Trinity, and invited me to try it out. Val not only became my first friend here, but she became my best Christian friend, walking alongside me in my journey of faith.

Later that same day, Pastor Lorentzen walked over from the Trinity parsonage and welcomed us to the neighborhood, inviting us for Sunday. Another neighborhood couple who belonged to Trinity were the first to invite us over for a meal. These times of caring people bringing food, visiting, and praying for us - along with so many times since then - told us we had found a home at Trinity. This is exactly what we wanted then, and now - a church that reached out to people and made them part of their church family.

I have really appreciated that Trinity is a church where God is first and foremost and spreading the Gospel to others is a priority, but is also unique in trying new things to achieve that goal. I value and cherish my Lutheran liturgies and traditions because I grew from baptism with them. It feels comforting and makes me feel secure when we use the traditional liturgies at times even today.

Trinity over the years has kept these traditions, yet has been able to invite and welcome people from all backgrounds, faiths, and no faith. The welcoming love that I personally felt back in 1975 for me and my family is the same feeling we should want others to experience, even though our styles of worship and programs we offer may vary.

We should never lose sight of our Lutheran belief that life on earth is only a preparation for the life we will share in Heaven - which is only possible because Jesus died on the cross. Our ultimate goal should be that we will continue through the generations to tell others about Jesus’ story. We do this through worship, fellowship, serving, financing and reaching out to others.

Generosity is an overall trait of being a believer in Jesus’ story. He wants us to be generous in each of the previously mentioned areas in telling His story. My parents were my first teachers of generosity. We didn’t have a lot financially, but we gave a lot to people in other ways. If money was low for someone, our family and our church family stepped up to provide wherever there was a need.

We support Trinity financially because it is important to us that Trinity continues to be generous in all areas. Even in our weakest times, we can show future generations that we can be generous in showing our love for Jesus. Trinity has its weaknesses, and God knows them. But Trinity sure makes God smile!

Strengthening Families

CARRIE NASH

I grew up in the Catholic church, and after several years of attending alone when our first two boys were young, Kasey and I made the decision to look for something different - somewhere more conducive to a young family attending services together. We stumbled upon Trinity, and immediately felt a connection to the preaching, and overwhelmingly welcomed by the people.



Our first memories of attending services include the group of older women who sat behind us and constantly commented on our boys and what a beautiful family we had. This continued as we grew our family with two more kids over the next few years, and continues today with so many people showing interest in where and how our kids are doing!

"Give, and it will be
given to you.
A good measure,
pressed down,
shaken together and
running over, will be
poured into your lap.
For with the
measure you use, it
will be measured to
you."
Luke 6:38

Being involved at Trinity has made the biggest difference in feeling like this is our church home. It has been the best way to develop relationships and connections, and has made Trinity a huge part of our family. Starting as a volunteer in Sunday School, then joining the staff and developing Trinity Kids really solidified my relationships with other volunteers and staff. Kasey found an amazing connection in the Men's Group on Sunday mornings. We both continue our involvement as leaders in Trinity Students, and you can still find me in Trinity Kids welcoming families or on stage with the Worship Team on Sunday mornings, as well as in the Trinity Cafe sometimes during the week. We have also been part of a connection group for over 6 years that has developed some amazing friendships with both the adults and the kids in the families.

Our four kids have grown up at Trinity and learned the importance of connecting to Jesus and peers within their Trinity family. Trinity Kids gave them the foundations they needed to grow into Trinity Students with confidence. Three of our kids have pursued Confirmation (with the fourth in the process) - confirming their baptism and claiming their own faith in Jesus. They have gained friendships and mentors in Trinity Students, and are learning the joy of serving others both in the church and the community.



Generosity was modeled to me by my parents from a young age. I remember participating in a community giving tree from the time I was in elementary school; picking names of kids in need from a tree and purchasing their wish list for Christmas. My parents made regular monetary donations to their church and community organizations, and talked to my brother and me about the importance of sharing what we have with others who do not.

Kasey and I support Trinity financially because of God's blessing on our family. We have been blessed with the means to help others with our time and talents, as well as finances, and we choose to do so because of the many ways Trinity uses those resources to bless others. While giving toward salaries and building debt may not seem exciting to some, I view it as a way to provide an opportunity for others in our community to experience worship and fellowship and to have access to resources for kids and teens to grow their faith. I also love knowing that my financial support is pooled with others' to have a greater impact on both local and global missions.

I know that my own kids may or may not call Trinity their home in the future, but their generation is searching for something greater than themselves to believe in, and I hope that Trinity can be part of their connection to God. I pray that more of the congregation can see what God is doing in the lives of many; the impact that Trinity can have and what God can do - as individuals, kids, students, families, missions, and our community - when we all believe in and support what is happening!

Give generously to him and do so without a
grudging heart; then because of this the
Lord your God will bless you in all your
work and in everything you put your hand to.
Deuteronomy 15:10

A Letter to Trinity

JIM & SHELLY PETERSEN

"For where your
treasure is,
there will your
heart be also."
Matthew 6:21



Dear members and attenders of Trinity Church. God always has a plan, and we rejoice in it! We believe it is no coincidence that by the beginning of 2026, the new Sarpy County Museum is scheduled to open on the land we sold them that lies between Trinity and 90th street looking east from our building. That gives us joy because it will serve as a dramatic contrast between what was in the past - the museum - and what already is and will be even more in the future - a living, breathing, joy-filled Trinity Church!

These days, because of mobility issues, we attend church online every Sunday. We love the music team, the videos of all the exciting things that are happening all the time at Trinity, and the phenomenal staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to be sure that all people from birth until last days are presented opportunities to serve and be served. We love that our mission, Connecting People to Christ, is embedded in the culture of Trinity. That focus makes it easy for all who attend to bring others and that as we move forward together, we keep increasing these opportunities. Most important of all to the two of us, Pastor Matt, and all who preach, focus on teaching from the gospel in ways that relate the Bible's lessons to their relevance and necessity for all of us in our own daily lives.

When we were on national staff, Shelly and I traveled the country for the church. We saw heart-breaking numbers of churches who had lost their focus and their passion for connecting their neighbors to Christ. Instead of churches, they were becoming tradition-bound museums, focused on the past. They seemed oblivious that the death of their church was near because of inward focus only on themselves. In vivid contrast, it both of us rejoice that here at Trinity we are excited about our mission and our future. To make our future even more relevant to God's work in and around Papillion, we must be a living, giving church. Over our own lives we have learned an interesting thing about that; with God, it is always *you first!*

Matthew chapter 6 is one of our personal foundation Bible verses. In on chapter Jesus talks about giving to the needy, teaches us the Lord's Prayer, fasting, not worrying and giving to the church. We have been tithers plus for years. In Matthew 6:21 Jesus says it very plainly, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Put plainly, the things on which you spend your money show your true commitments. I remember our decision to step out in faith and give 10% of our net income to the church "back then." It was scary. But an amazing thing happened that year. Somehow, we got more back in increased incidental income that year than the 10% we tithed! I know. We couldn't believe it either. It made no sense. But it's not God's job to make sense to us; it's our job to trust and believe in him with all our hearts, minds and strength. While we give our tithe to Trinity's annual budget to financially support Trinity's great staff and volunteers in our mission to Connect People with Christ, we also recognize that if we want this wonderful ministry to continue to expand, we have to pay off debt on the amazing facility that makes it all possible for us.

Now is the time for us to step up and make a huge dent in what we still owe on Trinity so we can continue to grow in every way - physically, spiritually, in Christian fellowship, children's youth, women's, men's and small group ministries. It just make sense that the larger the chunk of debt we can retire, the more quickly we can expand the physical facilities to support our growing ministries and attendance. Paying off the building gives us a chance to give even more to God's work. It will be, for each of us, over and above giving not a substitute for redirecting whatever we already give to the building fund. We ask you to give with glad hearts and generosity.

For those of you who are retired like us but want to ensure the future of Trinity's mission of Connecting People to Christ, there is a special way in which those of you who have IRA's can support this mission. It is called the Qualified Charitable Distribution Rule. Since 2006, the IRS has allowed retired IRA to make tax-free donations of their required minimum distributions (RMDs) directly to Trinity. The benefit to you is that you pay no tax on the RMD. The benefit to Trinity and to you is that you can give the RMDs as a part of your "over and above" giving to the Building Fund. Shelly and I have been doing this since the Building Fund was begun. We urge you to prayerfully consider joining us in this effort. A single phone call to your accountant or investment advisor before year's end can make this possible.

We rejoice in you and in Trinity! God richly bless you all.



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