

**2025 Annual Report
Trinity Episcopal Church
Aurora, IL**

**February 8th, 2026
Review of Fiscal Year 2025**

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Good Shepherd, you have called us each by name to follow you. We follow you here to this time, to this place known as Trinity Episcopal Church, in Aurora, Illinois. Through grace, you have called us to be part of you, the true vine. Through union with you we are in union with our brothers and sisters, for all the branches are part of the Vine and find their life in you.

In the Eucharist you call us to remain in you, to remain in a union of love. Your love for those who are yours is like the love of the Father for you. Apart from you we can do nothing. In you, with you, and through you we can bear much fruit.

There are a variety of tasks among the members of the Body – the Body which is always in the process of being built up. Together with you, the source of our unity with one another, each of us is called to carry out his or her own particular work. You, our cornerstone, have called us to be “living stones,” to continue building a spiritual temple for worship to the glory of the Father.

Today, humbly, we lay before you the results of our work this past year. We pray you will find them an acceptable gift. We ask for your continued guidance. **Amen.**



Membership in the Church

(A SUMMARY OF THE CANONS)

The National Canons address membership in the Church and the expectations the Church places on those members:

1. Members of the Church are those persons who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with water, and whose baptism has been duly recorded in this Church. Adult members are those persons sixteen years of age and older.
2. All adult members of the Church are expected to be confirmed in the Church, or if they have been confirmed in another Christian Church by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession, to have been received into this Church.
3. All members are considered to be communicants of this Church who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the previous year in this Church.
4. All persons in this Church are expected to celebrate and keep the Lord's Day and participate in the Church's public worship.

Communicants in good standing are those who have:

- A. Attended corporate worship on a regular basis in their Church unless they have been prevented from doing so for good cause;
- B. Have been faithful in the giving of their time, talents, and treasure for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

**2026 ANNUAL MEETING
With 2025 Annual Reports**
February 8th, 2026

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Clerk
3. Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Report of the Nominating Committee
5. Report of the Rector
6. Report of the Wardens
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. Standing Committee and Miscellaneous Reports
9. New Business
10. Courtesy Resolutions
11. Closing Prayer & Adjournment

THE VESTRY

Sr. Warden: Guy Stephens

Jr. Warden: Marilou Clohessy

Treasurer: R. Thomas Herget

Clerk: Cathie Patterson

2026

Cindy Olson
Cecilia Seabrook

2027

John Heath
Douglas Tucker

2028

Tom Herget
Karen Dolan

Mission Program and Ministry Staff

Rector: The Rev. Denzil J. Luckritz (Priest-in-Charge as of February 2, 2025)

Director of Music: Gregory Gyllsdorff, FAGO, ChM

Sexton: Gary Gorney

Office Manager: Rob Borchert

Sandwich Board: Linda Barber

Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Alternates to EITHER Deanery Chapter OR Convention

TBA

Parish Standing Committees

FINANCE: R. Thomas Herget, Treasurer, (Chair) Denzil Luckritz, Rob Borchert, Marilou Clohessy, Cecilia Seabrook.

STEWARDSHIP: R. Thomas Herget

PHYSICAL OPERATIONS/PROPERTY: Marilou Clohessy, Rob Borchert

LITURGY/WORSHIP: Fr. Luckritz, Greg Gyllsдорff

OUTREACH: Marilou Clohessy, Rob Borchert, Karen Dolan, Lisa Luckritz, and Cathie Patterson

PERSONNEL/STAFF: Marilou Clohessy (Jr. Warden/Chair), The Rev. Denzil J. Luckritz (Rector)

Parish Organizations

Jubilee: Linda Barber, Gale Blogg and Rob Borchert

Altar Guild: Lisa Luckritz, Sue Drake, Karen Dolan, Linda Barber, Gale Blogg, Malcom Blogg, Rob Borchert

Flowers: Linda Barber

Licensed Worship Leaders and Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Chalice Bearers: Rob Borchert, Gale
Blogg, Linda Barber, Cecelia Seabrook, and Marianne Evans

Ushers: Gale, Malcom and Richard Blogg, Marilou Clohessy.

Counters: R. Thomas Herget, Marilou Clohessy, Rob Borchert

Choir: Mellissa Athos, John Heath, Cathie Patterson, Guy Stephens, Janet Stephens, Matthew Stephens, Wendy Stewart, Elspeth Stanzil, Kyndel Trejo.

Lectors: Mellissa Athos, Linda Barber, Karen Dolan, Greg Gyllsdorff, John Heath, Lisa Luckritz, Cathie Patterson, Guy Stephens, Cecilia Seabrook, Marilou Clohessy, Wendy Stewart

Hospitality: Marilou Clohessy, Cathie Patterson, Michelle Donnelly

Nominating Committee Report 2025

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Vestry seeks candidates to fill upcoming vacant positions on the Vestry, including Wardens, Treasurer, and Clerk positions. They additionally seek individuals who are willing to serve as Delegates or Alternates to Convention and Deanery.

At the 2024 Annual Meeting: Guy Stephens was elected Sr. Warden (exp. 2025)
Marilou Clohessy was elected J Warden (exp. 2025)
R. Thomas Herget was re-appointed/elected Treasurer
Krystal Donnelly was appointed/elected Clerk

This year terms for Karen Dolan and Tom Herget expire.

A heartfelt thank you to Karen Dolan for her faithful service to the church.

The following candidates will stand for election at the upcoming annual meeting:

Cathie Patterson

Appointment/election as Clerk

Mike Corr
Tom Herget

Three year term to Expire in 2028

**Tom Herget is eligible for re-election.
Representatives to the Diocesan Convention and Deanery (TBA).**

2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Covering 2024 Annual Reports

February 16, 2024

Present: Athos, Borchert, T. Herget: Malcomb and Gale Blogg, Barber, Clohessy, Trejo, Stewart, Guy & Janet Stephens, Denzil Luckritz, Gyllsdorff, Heath, Stanzil, and Patterson. Tom & Susan Drake, Gyllsdorff, Present on Zoom: Wayne and Hannelore Mueller, Tucker, Lisa Luckritz, Seabrook, Donelly
The information in this report reflects and comments on the reports presented in the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes. They should be consulted for a clearer understanding of the events of 2024

Father Luckritz called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

Rob Borchert was appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting.

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Report of the nominating committee were presented and voted in as Vestry and delegates.

Father thanked Karen Dolan and Trish Tousignant for their service on the Vestry

Karen Dolan and Tom Herget were elected to serve three year terms ending in 2027.

Tom Herget will continue as Treasurer.

Cathie Patterson will be Clerk of the Vestry

Guy Stephens will remain as Senior Warden and Marilou Clohessy will remain as Jr. Warden.

Linda Barber, Karen Dolan, Cathie Patterson Linda Barber were elected as Representatives to the Diocesan Convention and Deanery. Greg Gyllsdorff was elected as an Alternate.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the slate of the nominating committee.

Report of the Rector

In addition to his written report Fr. Denzil reported that out of the 4 Congregations he had served at Trinity was his favorite. He expressed thanksgiving that the Diocese had allowed him to continue at Trinity as Priest in Charge. God has certainly been working overtime to make this happen.

He asked for and received a motion to accept the Rector's Report as spoken and written.

The motion passed.

Report of the Wardens

Senior Warden: Guy Stephens; Guy referred the Congregation to his written report as did Marilou Clohessy as Junior Warden.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Warden's Reports as presented.

Report of the Treasurer.

In 2024 we were budgeted to lose \$4,000. We actually ended the year \$1,000 ahead. We ended the year with \$16,000 in the checkbook; something that hasn't happened for a long, long time.

Due to Fr. Denzil's retirement our 2025 Budget is projected to end the year with a \$4,000 surplus..

Designated Funds. Ended the year with \$26,000 in our Designated Funds; the largest amount in the Grant line item with \$7.00 toward finishing up the Chancel area.

Funds Under Management of the Church: While the Endowment and Memorial Funds are held by Morgan Stanley, we direct how the funds are invested. The Endowment Fund ended the year with a balance of \$863,000. The Memorial Fund ended the year with a Balance of \$57,000 which has been bolstered by a donation of \$5,000.

Allocation of funds: Periodically the Finance Committee reviews and sets maximum and minimums for different sectors of funds and then monitors our investments to assure that they stay within those boundaries. The Stock area currently exceeds our maximum due to appreciation of the Stocks.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the financial reports as presented.

The Finance Committee was praised for its stellar work.

Committee Reports

Ushers – Thanks to the Bloggs, Marilou

Amnesty Center – see Barber's Report.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Covering 2024 Annual Reports (Continued)
February 16, 2024

Sandwich Board – A copy of the Sandwich Board’s Annual Report is available upon request.

Altar Guild: A comprehensive report was provided. Lisa thanked her volunteers.

Outreach: Dolan praised the Congregation for its generosity, citing the huge response to the 50 children requesting Christmas presents.

Music: Gyllsdorff praised the Choir for its continued improvement. There is a possibility of sharing choirs and bell choirs between the St. John’s, Naperville and Trinity. There were three concerts during the year: Greg Gane, AGO Young Artist of the Year, Gyllsdorff and Evensong.

Property Report: Work on Chancel continues, there were no repair costs related to the boiler this year. See property report..

Liturgy: On line viewership exploded showing significant growth in all areas. Lost 4 members, gained 5. 1 baptism, 1 marriage coming up.

Fellowship: Mardi Gras feast celebration at 6pm, March 6th, 2025 with Trivia by Herget to follow! Possibility of another Church using our Parish Hall on Sundays

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the committee reports as presented.

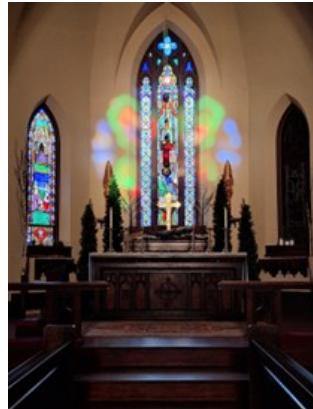
New Business - None

Courtesy resolutions as specified.

Closing Prayer

Dismissal at 11:02 am.

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Rector's Report

During my years in ministry, I have learned time and again that church is a place of humble recognition that we can't do this life alone. We need each other - we need community. Our community celebrates with us in our joys and is the place where we can lay our brokenness at the altar. Our faith life is what feeds us for the journey. Trinity is a community that is rooted in Christ's love and committed to healing, support, and love.

As a new year begins, I'm filled with gratitude. As I began my ministry as Trinity's Priest-in-Charge, 2025 was definitely one of the more challenging of my ministry, yet this community adapted in creative and caring ways. With my retirement, it becomes vital to search out how Trinity moves into the future. The Vestry is exploring how Trinity might do that. It will, no matter what model is adopted, involve adaptation and change. This reality isn't particularly new, as Covid19 involved adapting too – and we did that well. We forged a new way of connecting online. It was "perfectly imperfect", and your encouraging words urged us onward. We learned that this online experience cast a wide net and more people than ever joined us for Sunday worship. This new way of being has remained a vital part of who Trinity is today. Perhaps the ultimate silver lining of the pandemic was Trinity's beginning the online Daily Morning and Evening Prayer services. Aided by Marilou Clohessy and too many others to name, Trinity has continued eight online services a week since then and will for the foreseeable future. They have connected us in ways we never expected. These services provide a source of calm and spiritual growth . . . a gift to us all.

I appreciate our vestry (Guy Stephens, *Sr. Warden*; Marilou Clohessy, *Jr. Warden*; Thomas Herget, *Treasurer*; Cathie Patterson, *Clerk*; Karen Dolan, John Heath, Thomas Herget, Cindy Olson, Cecilia Seabrook, Douglas Tucker). Zoom vestry meetings were never a part of the plan, but our Vestry members persevered and did what was needed and thrived: manage the finances, make important decisions, oversee building maintenance projects, while holding Trinity in prayer and enabling our important ministry to continue, albeit in new and different forms. **Thank you.**

I appreciate our Senior Warden, Guy Stephens, for his years of service as Senior Warden and many more as a vestry member. We thank you! His tireless, non-anxious, no-drama, steady leadership is deeply valued. **Thank you.**

I appreciate our building maintenance "team", especially Marilou Clohessy, Rob Borchert, and Gary Gorney. You've accomplished more than we could have hoped to do this past year. "On time and under budget" has been the motto, in spite of the challenge to complete the chancel project and the unending boiler issues. By caring for our buildings, we can look forward to filling them with ministry and love. **Thank you.**

I appreciate our staff, who as a result of my retirement, reduced office hours, and restricted availability have, along with the vestry, led this community and made adaptations that were crucial while also keeping our community safe. Karen Dolan guided us through new safety protocols and signs. Rob Borchert arranged for some new locks and responded to the Fire Departments requests as Marilou Clohessy handled the Fire Inspection. I can't express my gratitude to them adequately. **Thank you.**

I appreciate Rob Borchert, Parish Administrator, who perhaps wins the perseverance award. Being flexible during the transition from rector to priest-in-charge was a challenge. And to everyone who stepped in during Rob's absences, **Thank you.**

I appreciate Tom Herget, our Treasurer. In a year when details mattered more than ever, Tom kept a keen eye on our finances, planning for our financial health. Together with Rob Borchert, Tom worked in a manner that allowed us to not only survive but thrive. We ended 2025 strong financially. That is a tribute to your generosity. **Thank you.**

I appreciate Gregory Gyllsdorff, Director of Music. While there are still a number of enhancements he'd like to add to the organ, he has been patient and understanding of our financial limitations. Trinity's choir and music ministry have immeasurably enriched our worship. **Thank you.**

I appreciate Rob Borchert and Marilou Clohessy, our Online Recording experts, who make certain that our Sunday online presence is broadcast. This demanding ministry helps Trinity connect to many online "parishioners," not only local folks, but people who found us from across the country, joining us in worship and financially supporting Trinity as well. They learned new ways of filming and communicating on a weekly basis and helped me deal with the technical issues of preaching to a camera

with microphones. **Thank you.**

I appreciate the strong team of people who serve and lector each Sunday and at special services. They excel in their gift of holding us all in prayer and encouraging us to do the same. Thank you to Linda Barber, who serves, lectors, and oversees the incredible flowers and decorations that adorn the church throughout the year; Marianne Evans and Andrew Jenkins who serve at the altar; our lector teams –John Heath and Lisa Luckritz; Linda Barber and Cathie Patterson; Melissa Athos and Wendy Stewart; Karen Dolan and Cecelia Seabrook; as well as Gregory Gyllsdorff, Guy Stephens, and Elspeth Stanzil: and all of you who volunteer throughout the year for our Lessons and Carols and Stations of the Cross services when extra folk are needed. **Thank you.**

I appreciate those who work behind the scenes making sure that the necessary things are in order so that Trinity's worship services run smoothly. Lisa Luckritz together with Linda Barber, Gale Blogg, Malcolm Blogg, Karen Dolan, Sue Drake, and others who fill in as needed form our faithful Altar Guild. **Thank you.**

I appreciate the Blogg Family, who cheerfully greet people as they enter the door for worship, ushering, counting, and making certain visitors and guests feel welcome. **Thank you.**

I appreciate Michelle Donnelly and Cathie Patterson who facilitate the Fellowship Hour after church and help with potlucks, parties, and other special events. Thanks to all those who make sure there's coffee and goodies.

Thank you.

In a time when food insecurity is more prevalent than ever, you answered the call. Over 400 meals per week were prepared with Trinity's support of The Sandwich Board. Not only food, but other necessities continue to be distributed to those who are in need. Trinity is at her best. **Thank you.**

I am certain that I've accidentally overlooked someone . . . **to those folks . . . Thank you.**

To you reading this...thank you. We are small, but a spiritual force of God's Love, ever present. No matter the challenges, Trinity emerges from this past year a stronger and more flexible community, ready to serve God. I really look forward to a spectacular 2026! **Thank you.**

In Christ, Denzil+

In Christ, Denzil J. Luckritz, *Rector (and now retired, part-time Priest-in-Charge)*



Building & Grounds Activity 2025

Exterior painting - the fence, the South wall of the Parish Hall, the window trim
On the South and West part of the Church, new outlets and a light for the Choir Room,
A stainless steel countertop for the kitchen and a new door opener in the Parish Hall



Liturgy and Membership Report and Worship Status

SERVICE	YEAR	2025	2024	2023
Eucharist: Sunday	48	49	50	
Weekday	5	6	6	
Hospital - Private	3	2	25	
Baptisms	4	1	0	
Marriages	0	2	0	
Burials	1	2	4	
Morning Prayer	256	254	249	
Evening Prayer	147	153	153	
All Other	9	5	9	
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	8114	9408	8504	
Average Sunday Attendance	64	70	60	
SELECTED DAYS				
Lent I	76	82	60	
Easter Vigil/Day	110	104	77	
Pentecost	61	76	59	
Advent I	67	80	56	
Christmas	126	136	129	

Membership Information 2025

Baptisms in 2025 – Andrew Nwose, Liam Pemberton, Nils Ulrich, Otto Wackerlin
Marriages in 2025— None

Confirmations and Receptions in 2025—None

Official Transfers In 2025 – None

Burials in 2025 – David LeMaire

Senior Warden's Report

As I reflect on this past year and look to the next, I am again reminded of why so many have chosen Trinity as their church home. The fellowship as we gather either in person or online, and the support for each other, the church and its outreach have been and continue to be manifest. Much has been accomplished. As always, much remains to be done -- but it is being done -- as we look to the future of this parish. I direct you to the individual reports to see how they functions -- administration, finances, building maintenance and improvement, outreach, hospitality and others -- have been undertaken with care that goes beyond simply "doing the job" but rather shows the personal commitment of all involved. That commitment includes the support of congregants near and far, in diverse ways. If a sacrament is "an outward sign of inward grace," than at Trinity those are not restricted to the rituals of Mass or Morning or Evening Prayer. I see that sacramental light of God -- the light that shines through Christ and His example -- in our Trinity family and in all we do.

Respectfully submitted - Guy W. Stephens, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Property Report

This year's theme seems to be safety -we searched to identify safety items and corrected them: Fire extinguishers filled, exit signs made and posted, and a sketch of all the rooms and what safety items are in there, and where, so we can better get a timeline of what needs to be checked and when. We also had the fire department inspect the premises and fixed what they found; added electrical outlets to avoid excessive use of extension cords, made and hung address sign, installed lock box by Benton St. door and added a lock so door could be opened from outside (keyed to match all other outside doors), replaced the door check on parking lot side door, changed the lock on the Cloister door (also keyed to match outside doors). Thanks to the Sandwich Board we installed a stainless-steel countertop in kitchen and installed three new air conditioners. Replaced the thermostat in Church. Did some pretty up maintenance to, painted trim on parish hall, painted fence, scraped and painted some of the stucco on the parish hall.

Also, the usual boiler problems and pipe issues, main concern is pipes under the guild room which is a major problem and will be fixed as soon as possible.

No real progress on the chancel project, hopefully the carpenter will find some time in the next few months. Chapel project -- we are getting bids now.

Respectfully submitted - Marilou Clohessy, Jr. Warden

Outreach Committee 2025

We continued to provide support this past year to the same programs.

The **Neighborhood Box** is refilled twice weekly with food and items that would be useful for those without a stable home. The parishioner's monetary gift of \$940 has greatly helped in keeping the supplies to meet this need.

AID, (The Association for Individual Development) provides a range of services from developmental delays to Behavioral Health issues. They have provided us with a list each year of items that support the needs in the independent supervised homes from toothpaste to slippers etc.. This year, in addition to items collected, a check was given to them for \$780.

Beaupre Elementary School has partnered with us since 2016 and we provide some school supplies at the beginning of the school year and support families in need at Christmas time. This year we were able to give the school a check for \$1200 for the teachers to use for a specific need. In addition, school supplies and backpacks were donated. For Christmas, thirteen families had a total of thirty one children who received gifts and each family received a \$75 credit card.

In addition to all the presents and donations, the monetary gifts have reached just under \$4,000 for the year! What a blessing it is that the parish has touched so many.

Respectfully submitted for the committee - Karen Dolan Robert Borchert, Marilou Clohessy, Cathie Patterson, John Heath, Dick Blogg,

1. 2025 Budget vs 2025 Actual and 2026 Budget

TEC Operating Account \$000			
Revenues	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Pledgers, Givers	67	70	71
Investment Income	50	56	52
IDOM	7	7	7
Memorial Fund	0	0	0
Talented Tenth	0	0	0
Other	1	20*	19
Total	125	146	142
Expenses			
Buildings & Grounds	41	47	45
Clergy	32	32	36***
Diocese	11	11	11
Other Salary	29	29	31
Other	8	15**	13
Total	121	134	136
Net Income	4	12	6

Includes 3 Parking lot and 6 for Christmas and Easter*

Includes 5 transferred to Memorial Fund**

Rector took January 2025 off. ***

12/31/25 checking balance 27



2. 2025 Dedicated Funds \$000

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
All Saints	10	14	7	19
Altar Guild	3	3	3	3
Building Maintenance	3	1	4	0
Music	5	5	5	5
In Memory funds	0	1	1	0
Outreach	2	5	5	2
Rector's Discretionary	1	2	1	2
Others	2	1	3	0
Totals	26	33	28	32

All Saints includes One to Grow On and Grants

Music includes Concert Series, Stipends, Emergency Fund and Organ Maintenance

Outreach includes AID, Back to School, Christmas Gift and Neighbor Box

Others includes Sandwich Board, St. Margarets, Amnesty, United Thank Offering and Endowment Fund Transfer

3. Funds Under Management \$000

Type of Fund	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Interest Earnings	Change in Market Value	Withdrawals/ Distributions	Ending Balance
Endowment	864	1	60	121	57	987
Memorial	57	11	2	-1	0	68
Amnesty	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	923	12	62	119	57	1,058

4. Allocation of Endowment & Memorial Fund Assets August 31, 2025

Category	Maximum	Actual
Common Stocks	50%	51%
Corporate Bonds	45%	15%
Government Bonds	20%	3%
Real assets	25%	28%
Cash & short term	5%	4%
		100%

Our On-line portal, Vanco, brought in \$13,893 during FY 2025

MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT

The Music Program continues to grow. I am particularly proud of our Adult Choir. The amount of repertoire they have at hand continues to grow, and the skills they developed bring the music to life. They are a wonderful ensemble that continues to enrich and embellish our services. Besides Christmas and Easter, the choir sang a lovely Evensong this past November. It was an especially inspiring spiritual service, and people seemed to have a kind of glow about them when it was over.

We continue the Summer Music Program, and there have been many solos, duets and trios. We are blessed to have instrumental music played, and this year we had a duet for organ, four hands and four feet. It was lots of fun to play. I have been on the lookout for at least two octaves of handbells. I hope to find some used bells in good condition. Facebook has a group called Handbell People. They can be quite helpful in finding good resources as well as bells. I hope that we will be able to keep growing both in skill and in numbers. I look forward to a healthy 2026.

Gregory Gyllsdorff, MFA, FAGO, ChM, *Director of Music and Organist*

Report from the Office Manager

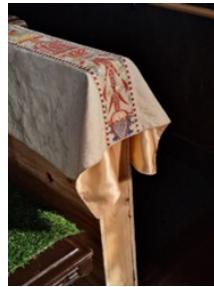
2025 was an interesting year. Father Denzil was gone for the month of January. My Brother-in-Law died in February, necessitating that I go and stay with my sister while she sorted things out. She had never dealt with household finances before and was pretty much in the dark. Came back, caught things up in the office. My deepest thanks to Marilou, Tom and Cathie for manning the fort while I was gone—three months worth of me being gone during the year. Then I almost decided to move to Phoenix to be with my Sister. I went so far as tending my resignation to be effective next September. That isn't going to happen, so I withdrew my resignation which was OK with the Vestry. So I plan on being here for the foreseeable future!

I got to read Father Denzil's report for the Annual Meeting before any of you, my readers. His theme is one of thanks. I have much to be thankful for in my life at Trinity. I am thankful for the guidance and spiritual leadership Denzil provides me. I am thankful for Linda's companionship and leadership of the Sandwich Board. I am thankful for Malcolm and Dick for stapling the bulletins, a task I really try to avoid. I am thankful for Cathie for her diligent and painstaking work on Trinity's Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation and Death Registers; for her avid support of the Neighbor Box; for her presence in all of what we do. I am thankful for the Sandwich Board. Including my awe at what has been accomplished and developed since Covid almost caused it to die. I am thankful for our music program; for Greg for his leadership and to all the choir members and soloists during the year, I plan on doing a visual tour of our organ in a newsletter this year. I am thankful for those who serve at the Altar. (My 20 years of serving were enough.) And for those who read every Sunday so I don't have to. I am thankful for Gary and Inga and my Godson Otto for their friendship and support. I am also thankful for the people Denzil thanked in his report.

I am not thankful for QuickBooks, the IRS, or the Illinois Department of Revenue.

I feel blessed to be a part of this congregation for its inclusiveness, generosity, philanthropy and mutual love. Fr. Denzil says we are a family sized Church. I thank each of you for being my family.

Rob



Altar Guild Report 2025

The ministry of the altar guild is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, altar linens and seasonal preparation for worship. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. We mark the readings for the lectors, check the candles, prepare the elements of bread, wine and water for Communion, and help the priest and servers vest if needed. Following the service, we wash the vessels and linens, then return everything to its place.

In essence, we serve as holy housekeepers – offering the work of our hands for the Lord’s use. I give thanks for the presence and assistance of my fellow servants: Linda Barber, Rob Borchert, Gale Blogg, Malcolm Blogg, Karen Dolan and Sue Drake.

Linda is a valuable resource of what needs to be done to prepare for each season in the Church. Gale, Karen and Sue generously turn their hands to whatever the moment may call for, serving in a variety of essential ways. Malcolm Blogg faithfully ensures our communion glasses are cleaned, sterilized and returned to the sacristy each Sunday. Rob, in addition to filming the worship service, keeps a weather eye on the sanctuary light during the week in case it needs to be replaced as it burns down.

If you would be interested in helping on the Altar Guild, please reach out to me – **we can always use extra help – especially in 2026** as I will be gone one weekend each month for a class and the other members are sometimes out of town or on vacation.

I am very grateful for each of you who pitch in and help prepare the sanctuary for the various liturgical holidays as they arise. **Many hands make light work.** Trinity is filled kind people, with hearts always willing to help – thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted - Lisa Luckritz

TRINITY AMNESTY CENTER, 2025

Beginning Balance 01/01/2025	\$2,566.78
RECEIPTS	
Donations	\$ 150.00
EXPENSES	
	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance 12/31/2025	\$2,716.77

As you can see from the above report there was not much activity. I still see people coming in and asking many questions, but nothing happening as far as immigration progress. There are many things happening with Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE). I’m sure you have read and heard about in the news. We are aware that ICE could come here and have taken steps to ensure the safety of all. All I can say is pray for peace and understanding.

I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35

Respectfully submitted, Linda L. Barber, *Director*

The Sandwich Board

Dear Friends:

This year begins our **38th** year of serving our hungry neighbors. We have been serving more than 400+ meals each week. Each Thursday we serve a nutritious lunch, and at least once a month we make a hot meal. In 2025 we served 20,093 lunches compared to the previous year of 19,100. We did it!

The Sandwich Board has been fortunate to receive grants from Episcopal Charities, The Northern Illinois Food Bank, and the Diocesan Hunger Commission. At the end of the year, we received many donations. People have donated socks, clothing, household items, hats, gloves and socks. These items are a welcome addition to helping out.

The Sandwich Board could not accomplish serving meals each week without a steady, loyal group of volunteers. We could not do this without you. Pray for us to continue this outreach ministry as our numbers continue to increase each year.

Peace and many blessings

Linda L. Barber, *Director*

Trinity Episcopal Church
Strategic Planning Presentation for the Feb 2026 Annual Meeting

Purpose: To address all issues surrounding the day that Denzil truly retires, inspired by Rob & Tom's review of actual and budget income statements

Tom Herget, Treasurer, discusses the past

We have enjoyed the services of Denzil for ten years now. The best shepherd ever.

Being a smaller parish, we have always had to subsidize the costs of a full-time rector. We did this by tapping our Memorial Fund in order to balance the budget.

Here is the recent history of the Memorial Fund. As of December 31 of each year, in thousands:

2020: 220

2021: 208

2022: 149

2023: 106

2024: 60

2025: 68

We had been transferring roughly 40M a year; our two PPT grants (total about 60M) slowed the trajectory of Memorial Fund decline.

2025 was our first year of Denzil's retirement. 2026 will be his second.

In 2025, we "made" \$11M. In 2026, we forecast a "gain" of 6M

But will this go on forever? One day, Denzil could seek sunnier climates. So, we must plan for that day.

What is the incremental cost of new Rector (\$000)

Salary & Benefits: 76

Relocation: 5

Recruiting: 1

Plus, a housing allowance

Plus, increased health insurance costs if children accompany

*This would be crippling to our ability to stay the course and continue the missions that are so vital to us.

*So, the Vestry started looking at options for the future.

Guy Stephens, Senior Warden, discusses the future:

Current clerical shortage

At the Diocese – trend to lay leadership; rectors, the bishop

What is important to us about TEC (note: this is a five-way tie, not a ranking)

Building – 150 years old; beauty

Rector – intelligence, approach

Music – robust; organ, instrumental, vocal

Outreach

Programs for those in need – Beaupre, AID, SB, etc.

To those distant – zoom, Facebook
Members – team, support

What are things that are not our strengths (note; this is a six-way tie, not a ranking)

Revenue/expense when it comes so a full-time rector

The distance many members travel (note – most other parishes have this demographic)

The expense of a 19th century building

No air conditioning

Backups for key functions

No youth or children; aged population

Options

Hire another full-time Rector; replicate what we currently have; fill the pews; enhance on-line

Lay leadership

Series of supply rectors coupled with frequent Sunday morning prayer

Even supply rectors are more difficult to find

For example, St. Philips of Palatine – just like TEC – now searching for part-time rector

Align with a nearby Episcopal parish – St. David's in Aurora

Align with a nearby Episcopal parish – Calvary in Batavia

Align with a nearby Episcopal parish - St. John's in Naperville

Consolidate with an Aurora area non-Episcopal church Lutheran ELCA in full communions – we now have a common communion, including music, which is so similar

Go virtual only

Become mission of Chicago diocese

Use endowment fund (EF) as we did the memorial fund to support a new full-time rector

Vestry Weeding out:

The Vestry considered all of the above, the likely and the unlikely

The 9 Vestry members indicated their preference for initial pursuit:

Status quo – 9 members

Align with local Episcopal parish – 9 members

Lay leadership – 6.5 members

Subsidize with capital from Endowment Fund – 5 members

Align with local Lutheran parish – 4 members

Become mission of Diocese – 2 members

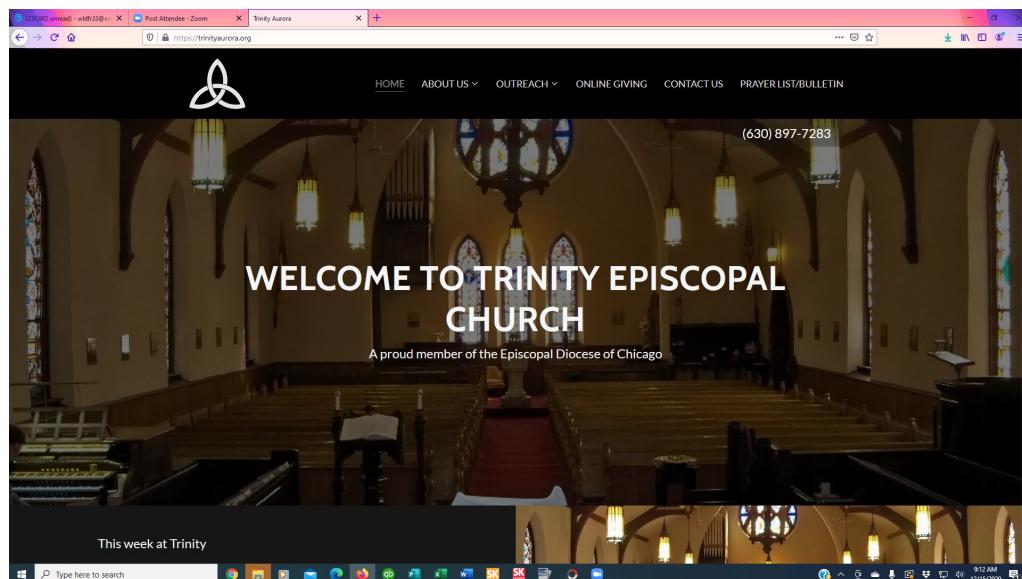
Virtual only – 1 member

Now we need your input

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



www.trinityaurora.org



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The Rev. Denzil J. Luckritz, *Priest in Charge*
Gregory Gyllsdorff, FAGO, ChM, *Organist and Choir Master*

Vestry — Prior to the election of new Officers

Guy Stephens *Sr. Warden*; Marilou Clohessy *Jr. Warden*,

Karen Dolan, Cecilia Seabrook

John Heath, Douglas Tucker, Cindy Olson

Tom Herget

Cathie Paterson, Clerk