

Trinity Lutheran Church History: 2014

Secular and Ecumenical Context

Internationally, 2014 saw the Ebola outbreak in West Africa spread to epidemic proportions. The rise of ISIS continued with several high-profile beheadings of westerners. Malaysia Airlines suffered the loss of two planes: one never located and the other one shot down over Ukraine. Conflict between Russia and Ukraine continued with Russia supporting Ukrainian rebels.

In the United States, the #blacklivesmatter movement was formed to protest white police officers who were acquitted of wrong-doing in the deaths of Michael Brown (Ferguson, MO) and Eric Garner (NYC). Marches were held throughout the country - from Miami to Los Angeles, Cleveland to Chicago to the nation's capital. The protests morphed into a national discussion not only on police tactics and race, but racial and income inequality, too. On January 1st, the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act went into effect and the purchase of marijuana for recreational purposes was legalized in Colorado. Washington state followed Colorado in legalizing marijuana on July 8th. Same-sex marriage was legalized in 12 states. Popular comedian Robin Williams committed suicide, opening discussion about depression, anxiety, and mental illness.

At Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. David Rinas remained the pastor, performing all his duties and guiding the church to help its growth. He was granted a sabbatical to work on his Latin American Spanish. This sabbatical included a trip to a seminary in Texas, two weeks at a language school in Mexico, and most Fridays off to work on his language skills. He taught a bible study for adults and made numerous visits to shut-ins and hospital patients. The church hosted its annual TrinityFest, a cookout with music, games, and other activities aimed at community outreach. David Lussier was the organist/music director and Jim Ray the president of the congregation.

Stewardship Committee

This group of people works hard at keeping the art of giving in the foremost of the congregation's minds. There are newsletter articles, Temple Talks, bulletin inserts, tithing sermons, pledging, and time and talent sheets. Education is their purpose. A group of dedicated people work to instill in the congregation the joy of giving.

This committee consists of Richard Grove, Ed Jonson, Scott Morrison, and Pastor David Rinas

Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee plans worship services, including special worship events, addresses congregational issues related to worship services, and supervises the Music Director. In 2014, Worship and Music experimented with changes to the frequency of the Joyful Noise service format and administered a survey to study the worship preferences of the congregation. Music Director David Lussier directed two voice choirs (Trinity Choir, Morning Choir), the bell choir (Bjallerklagen), led the praise band which performs during the Joyful Noise service format, and consulted with the brass choir. Special services included mid-week Advent and Lenten services; Christmas Eve services at 4:00, 7:00 and 10:30; and Holy Week services.

This committee consists of: Jon Soule (chair), Pastor Rinas, David Lussier (Music Director), Andrea

Cajolet, Annie Luhrs, Laurel Noe, and Pauline Ray

Altar Guild Committee

This is a subcommittee of Worship and Music. They take care of the altar flowers each week. They prepare the altar area (paraments, hymn numbers, candles, flowers) and the baptismal area for church services. Twice a year they do a more complete caring and cleaning of robes, silver, candles and other items that may need attention. Communion supplies are kept stocked and baptismal needs cared for. They also prepare luminaries for Christmas Eve services as well as celebration candles and place pew torches for special occasions.

Ritva Ojanen, Chairperson

Christian Education Committee

We run a Sunday School program, Confirmation, High School, and CCC (Coffee, Conversation, and Christ) adult group on Sunday mornings. Sunday School enrollment was 62 for 2013/2014 and 64 for 2014/2015. Eight students were confirmed May 18th. Christian Education ran a Christmas Pageant that was performed at the 4:00 Christmas Eve service.

Tim O'Leary & Jessie O'Leary: Co-chairs for the first half of the year

Dina Morrison: Chairperson for the second half of the year

Heather Lussier: Director of Lower Sunday School (pre-K through 6th grade), June-December

Larissa Fagundes: Director of Upper Sunday School (7th through 12th grade), June-December

Library Committee

A total of 91 books were added to the library, the majority of which were donated. Also added were 11 new DVDs and 1 CD of "Scriptures, Sermons, & Music Samples".

There are seven members on the committee.

Jan Kolba. Coordinator

Memorial Committee

All memorial gifts over \$50.00 are recorded in the Book of Remembrances located in the Repository in the rear of the sanctuary. Memorial gifts of \$100 or more are approved by the Church Council. On All Saints Day, for that year, all memorials and special gifts are dedicated in the Service of Commemoration and Blessing. This past year the following special gifts were given:

- Hand-held microphone in memory of Hulda Gilinson and Edith Vaughn
- Luncheon tables for the Luther Room in memory of Elizabeth (Beatrice) Anderson, Robert Fallon, and Helena Wilhelmy
- Building-on-Our-Legacy in memory of George Warley, Robert Fallon, Leonard Donnelly, and Alice Warley

Memorials were received in memory of Robert Fallon, George Warley, Ingrid Trainor, Sture Lundstedt, Dorothy Zitta, Leonard Donnelly, Alice Warley, Carol Folkins, and Randy Rinas.

Joan Downer: Chairperson

Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee continued the card ministry, the tape ministry (one known user), Lowell Ministry (financial support to UMASS Lowell chaplain) and TLC Greeters. Greeters are scheduled for each service.

Marc Cajolet, Chairperson

Fellowship Committee

Main accomplishments for 2014 include: hosting funeral lunches, Fellowship potluck dinners every Wednesday during Lent and Advent, and providing coffee after both Sunday services. Elaine Jeleschkeff helped Trinity show its caring for those needing support, comfort, and thanks with the Butterfly Notes.

Members: Gail Langer, Nancy Grove, Helen Blaschke, and Karen Merrill

Property Committee

The committee has fifteen members; Jim Ray has been the council liaison. They are responsible for overseeing all of the physical church property, including the buildings, the contents of the buildings and the grounds. The committee develops and supervises a preventative maintenance schedule for our property. It oversees the work of employed maintenance staff and outside contractors. Many jobs were done this year, including: completing work on the roof, ordering bark mulch, cutting back brush along driveways, replacing burned out lightbulbs, setting up/taking down the Chrismos Tree and Nativity Scene; and replacing an out-of-date alarm panel in the boiler room. Bob Donnelly, our church sexton, maintained the property, and Marty's Landscaping was contracted to keet the driveways and parking lot plowed and sanded for the 2014/2015 winter.

Jim Ray, Council Liaison

Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee leads Trinity in inviting and encouraging members to share God's love to others within the congregation, the community, and the world. Highlights of the year include helping the Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) Chelmsford Cluster sponsor and aid Tatiana (from Guatemala), Mohammed (Iraq), the Osman family (Somalia via Syria), the Sambela family (Central Africa), and Mariatu (Sierra Leone); writing letters to senators and congress people to support Bread for the World; and taking part in the Walk for Hunger, Habitat for Humanity builds, ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands, TrinityFest, and the Alternative Giving Fair.

Food ministries include monthly donations to the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, the Lowell Transitional Living Center, and the Chelmsford Community Exchange. Congregational members serve dinner once a month at the Lowell Transitional Living Center and also donate clothing items to this shelter.

Doreen Rinas, Chairman

Trinity Seniors

Meetings for the year started in March with a visit to the American Textile History Museum in Lowell. In April the group enjoyed a Seder meal presented by Sally and Ron Warren. In May, we shared a

pizza party. In June we enjoyed lunch at The Andover Inn and visited the art gallery. In September we enjoyed a lunch at Princeton Station followed by a visit to Sally Farnsworth's grave site for prayer and thank-yous in her memory. In October we saw *Les Miserables* at the North Shore Music Theatre and ate lunch at Danversport Restaurant. In November we had Thanksgiving dinner at "The Elegant Chef" at Nashoba Technical High School. In December we held our annual Christmas potluck lunch and gift exchange. We continue to celebrate our church holidays with our homebound seniors by visiting, telephoning and praying. We support those who are in need of medical devices and appointments.
Alice Ekstrom, Coordinator

Youth Ministry Committee

Youth Ministry consists of two groups: the TLC Disciples is open to all students in grades 9 through 12, and the Middle School group is made up of youth in grades 5 through 8. This summer several youth walked the Nashua River Rail Trail to raise money for the Bishop's Ride for ELCA World Hunger. Youth served at the Alternative Giving Fair, Youth Sunday, and the Lowell Transitional Living Center. Many youth serve throughout the year as worship assistants, lectors, communion assistants, musicians, and acolytes. The youth provide meals for the Annual Meeting and Easter Breakfast. Free-will offering from these meals help fund mission trips and other activities.

Tara Zantow, Chairperson

Deanna Dixon, Advisor to the TLC Disciples

Dan Turley, Advisor to the Middle School Youth

Tyler Touch, Youth Representative on Council

2014 TLC Statistical Data

Average Attendance:

September – May 168

June – August 101

Membership:

700 Baptized Membership

447 Confirmed Membership

New Members – 9

9/21 Laurie & Bryan Bessvater

9/21 Katelyn & Dan Fawcett

9/21 Linda Mallinson

9/21 Matthew Panaccione

9/21 William Pude

9/21 Dorothy Spaulding

9/21 Michael Williams

Baptisms – 5

5/4 Vanessa Constance French

6/22 Lauren Elizabeth Fawcett

6/22 Celina Lucille Kressin

5/4 David Walter French

6/22 Andrew James Fawcett

Confirmations – 8

5/18 Diana Cajolet
5/18 Hubert Panguere
5/18 Ava Soule
5/18 Natalia Turley

5/18 Casaundra Lois Fagundes
5/18 Jacques Panguere
5/18 Nathaniel Soule
5/18 Jessica Turner

Funerals – 9

1/22 Sture A. Lundstedt
3/6 Elfrieda Lasmane Cavallari
6/19 Elmer Mortensen
10/10 Sonya G. DaCunha
12/17 Leo L. Simms

2/24 W. Edward Magiera
5/3 Alice Warley
6/28 Carol Folkins
12/13 Regina B. Simms

Marriages – 3

6/11 Veronika Fediaieva & Werner Fuchs
9/27 Kerri M. Wood & Henry C. Bailey
12/6 Valerie E. Warren & John H. Folan, Jr.

Church Leadership

Pastor – The Reverend David Rinas
Congregational President – Jim Ray

Edited by Laura Soule, December 2015