

ST MATTHEW TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

CONGREGATION
ANNUAL REPORT
OCTOBER 4TH, 2020



St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Annual Meeting

October 4, 2020

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July 2019 – September 2020

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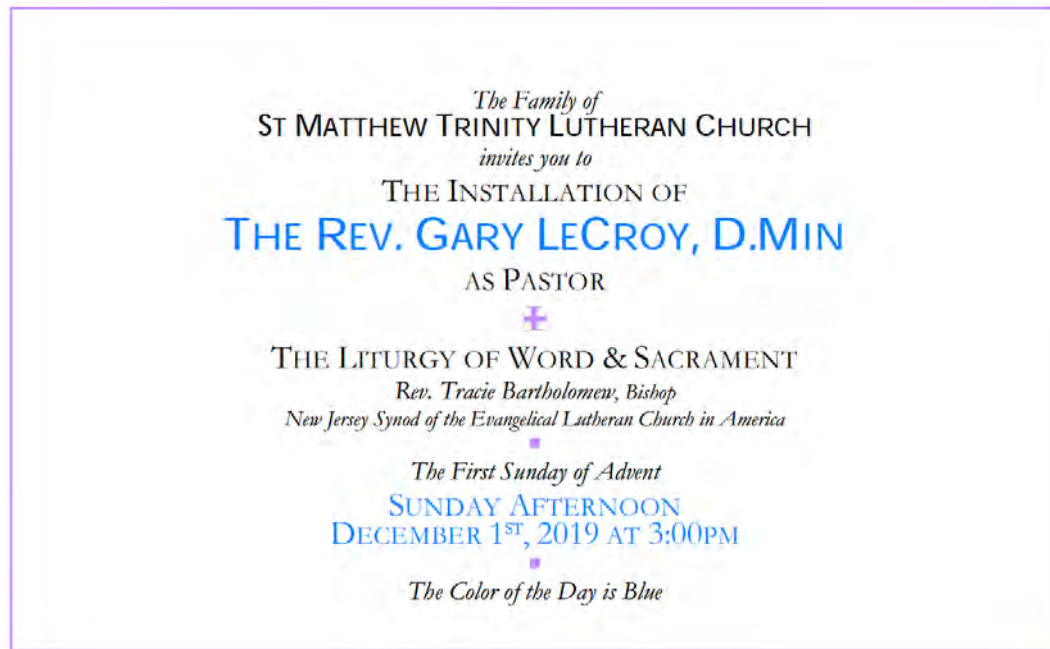
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PASTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy, D. Min.

Pastor Gary was installed as Pastor of St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church on December 1st, 2020. There was a beautiful snowfall that day.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Daniel J. Stoll, Church Council President

It has been an honor to serve as St. Matthew Trinity's president for the past +2 ¾ years. As the longest presidential term in SMT history comes to an end, the running joke on Church Council has been that since we changed the church calendar to start in July instead of January and the pandemic delayed the first 2020 Annual Meeting in June, I am plotting to rig the election like a benign dictator and stay on as president in perpetuity. In an election year full of uncertainty, I can promise a peaceful transition to a new president.

All kidding aside, I have learned in this role that the state of St. Matthew Trinity in 2020 is strong; the dedication of bedrock leaders like Mark Singleton, Jen Meusel and Leslie Neve providing an incredible foundation to build on; the joy and excitement of emerging leaders like Courtney Kochuba, Melissa Long, Stephen Nemy, Rebeka Schleifer and Sarah Pickerel to push us forward; and the amazing gift of time and talent given so generously by Carol Singleton, Terri Matteo, Mindy Rostal, Chise Koyama, Al Miesemer, Joseph Miles, Bernadette Oberndorf and many others.

Pastor Gary LeCroy was called to St. Matthew Trinity and installed on December 1, 2019. Our congregation has been blessed by his love, compassion, commitment to service and his thoughtful and inspiring sermons that have helped deepen our relationships with God. His hopeful messages in the time of a pandemic have been a source of strength for all of us.

The shock of the passing of our beloved Minister of Music Richard Brode will be felt for a long time. I shared what I learned about Richard in my interview with him a few years ago in the Music Ministry report. His impact on all of our lives will be cherished forever.

Here are some of the highlights at SMT from the past year:

- Church attendance was growing throughout the year to over 60 people in February 2020.
- With the help of students from Stevens, Pastor Gary arranged for Sunday School to bring children closer to stories of the Bible during worship service. Pastor Gary also has a gift for making children feel part of the service.
- After COVID-19 forced us all to stay home during the lockdown, we continued worship service through Zoom and Facebook Live. Over 400 people viewed our first "Virtual Worship" on March 22nd and we will continue to reach people online going forward.
- The "Worship and Exile" team of Pastor Gary, Richard, Mark and Rebeka did an incredible job each week to bring us together through worship and music. Courtney and I worked hard to make sure the livestream and Zoom reached the audience.
- The congregation was able to participate in Lunchtime Ministry when we created a monthly "LTM at Night" dinner for those who are hungry, seek a warm meal and the fellowship of community. It

was a new experience for many of us to cook for 50-60 people and the volunteers created a special evening atmosphere with music and serving warm food.

- LTM was granted a “Streatery” on 8th Street to serve our guests practicing the necessary physical distancing required during COVID. Special thank you to Mark and Pastor Gary who fought their way through the Hoboken Parking Authority to make it happen.
- The congregation’s dream to renovate our space on Washington and 8th Streets was completed in the past few weeks. The SMT Center is a dynamic and attractive storefront on Washington Street bringing more visibility to St. Matthew Trinity. The expanded renovated space will provide the congregation new avenues to worship and experience fellowship together, meet the needs of existing partners and 12-step groups and will help cover church operating expenses by renting the space to the community within COVID-19 guidelines and when the pandemic passes. Managing the SMT Center construction and finances was a true team effort, including my wife Reni who is an interior designer at Convene. She secured about \$10,000 in furniture donations from her company to the SMT Center. She also collaborated with Richard on the interior design expanding on the vision of our architect Rob Hegedus. Our contractor Douglas Duque was a wonderful partner to work with on the renovation. Mark, Pastor Gary, Richard, Chise and I represented the Building Committee – I loved working together on making The SMT Center a reality. The Grand Opening will be coming soon!
- It wasn’t easy to get the SMT Center to completion, and thoughtful decisions had to be made – including the sale of SMT’s property at 1237 Garden Street, given to the church by Al Poletti. The congregation voted in January 2020 to approve the sale of the house; and for funds to be used to finish the SMT Center, make repairs to the church property, and create an investment fund to help secure the future.

Thank you to everyone who has served on Church Council: Leslie, Mark, Jen, Courtney, Chise, Al, Terri, Stephen; and a special thank you to our tireless treasurer Carol, and everyone who volunteered their time, talents and efforts to help St. Matthew Trinity fulfill its promise!

Faithfully,
Daniel J. Stoll



MUSIC MINISTRY

Richard G. Brode, Music Minister, as told to Daniel J. Stoll before he joined Bach, Beethoven, Handel, Mozart, Liszt, Chopin, Brahms and all of his favorite composers. Richard will always be with us.

Words cannot describe the shock of the passing of our beloved Richard on September 25th after he was tragically hit by a SUV in Times Square. His music soared through the St. Matthew Trinity sanctuary for nearly 20 years. No one who saw him play will forget how he pounced on keys, pushed and pulled valves, and leapt on the pedals of the original 1877 Jardine Organ in the loft creating an awe-inspiring sound ever since he had become music minister in 2001.

“What you are looking at is a big orchestra with 28 different instruments,” he said of the 1,600-pipe organ. “It takes a ton of planning to look at each hymn to see how the music reflects the lessons of the gospel, to envision the poetry. The music and the scripture speak to each other.”

Richard’s deep love for music began in 1969 while he was a student at University Heights in the Bronx, the Arts and Sciences campus of New York University (now Bronx Community College). Even though he was a math major, he enrolled in a music history course and was enthralled by the composers he was learning about. When his church where he grew up in Astoria, Trinity Lutheran Church, asked if he would be interested in learning how to play the organ, Richard’s curiosity was piqued.

“I never really liked taking piano lessons when I was growing up,” he said. “But at least I learned how to play. And I thought it would be fun to try to play the music I was learning about in school.” He practiced for months going back and forth from the Bronx and Astoria in between classes. His feet wouldn’t act independently making learning how to use the pedals difficult.

But he persevered and finally, the last Sunday in June, in the same church where he was baptized, he played his first notes in front of his congregation. “Sounds from heaven,” Richard recalled, noting he was playing an Ernest M. Skinner organ, “the Rolls Royce of organs,” he said with a gleam in his eye.

Richard switched his major to music history and began a lifelong journey exploring the intricacies of Bach, Mozart, Handel, Beethoven and the other great composers that would eventually lead him to St. Matthew Trinity in Hoboken.

A lifelong New Yorker, he actually found himself in Hoboken a year before he would come to St. Matthew Trinity. After a steak dinner at Arthurs Tavern, Richard and his friends strolled up to Castle Point, the highest point in Hoboken, for the view of New York City. They circled through the Stevens campus coming down the steep 8th Street incline where Richard was surprised to see a Lutheran church. “I thought to myself, wow, this church looks pretty neat,” he remembered.

St. Matthew Trinity needed an organist a year later and the congregation couldn’t believe it when they found Richard. Thus began Richard’s next chapter of his life with the people of St. Matthew

Trinity Lutheran Church. When he arrived, he immediately started to make changes to enhance the musical experience at the church. He tore up deep red carpet in the balcony that was absorbing the sound. He removed wood paneling that had been blocking stain glass windows allowing the morning light to beam through the chamber. He had the pipes thoroughly cleaned.

His most radical change came when he engineered with Mark Singleton the move of the church's 1884 Steinway Concert D piano from the lower Parish Hall up a floor to the front of the church. This required the removal of the first row of wooden pews and the careful rigging, lifting and transport of the 990 lb. grand piano.

Richard had a deep appreciation how special his life at St. Matthew Trinity had been to him and how much he enjoyed playing. "To be honest, the organ is a beast to play," he said. "It always needs something repaired. There are five to six notes on the pedals I have never heard. But I just love playing it. I think of the 125 years people played before me...sounds from a century ago, and it's still as beautiful as it was."

Go to this link if you would like to share your memories of Richard to be included on a web page devoted to remembering his life: <https://smt.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/18/responses/new>.

SMT plans on holding a celebration of Richard's life full of music in about a year after COVID-19 is hopefully under control and we can all gather easier. In remembrance of Richard's life, any charitable donations may be made to the St. Matthew Trinity "**Music Ministry**" fund: <https://smt.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving> or sent to the office (St. Matthew Trinity, 57 8th Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030).



LUNCHTIME MINISTRY (LTM)

Spike Enzweiler, Lunchtime Ministry Program Manager

Greetings from Lunchtime Ministry!

One year ago, had anyone suggested to me that the goals for LTM in 2020 would include "keep our doors open," I would have laughed at them. At that time, we were a thriving drop-in center where our guests could do the crossword with friends, sit down for a good meal or a cup of coffee, receive a free haircut, or learn to play the guitar. During autumn of 2019, we built strong partnerships with Hoboken Charter School and Hoboken Catholic Academy, both of which sent in volunteer groups and held supply drives for us. At the start of 2020, we began working with Computers for People, a nonprofit run by an All Saints Episcopal Day School alum who got to know LTM through his time volunteering with the Sandwich Squad every Wednesday; Computers for People donated two desktop computers to us, allowing our guests to check their emails or look for jobs between cups of coffee.

COVID-19 changed everything. As the state shut down, we had to rethink our policies overnight. We decided to "furlough" our volunteers, cut our sit-down services, and distribute to-go coffee, food, and toiletries. From March through September, this is how we have been operating. We've been moved and amazed by our community's response, as they have donated money, masks, hygiene supplies, and food items.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Matthew Trinity's congregation and Hoboken's community, including former volunteers, other Hoboken residents looking to give back, and local social services sharing their resources (the Hoboken Shelter, the Hoboken Community Center, and All Saints Episcopal Day School deserve a special mention, as all three have provided tremendously useful in-kind donations), we have been able to keep our doors open and provide our guests with coffee, toiletries, a bagged lunch, and pantry items every day. And most importantly, thanks to Pastor Gary's emphasis on social distancing and masking up, none of our homeless guests have gotten sick since this past May. It takes a truly special community, and a truly committed congregation, to make this happen.

This September, we have successfully opened a "strEATery" (outdoor tables located in the parking spaces on 8th Street, directly outside St. Matthew Trinity). Similar to the strEATeries hosted by many of Hoboken's restaurants, this has allowed our guests to enjoy their food and coffee in peace or spend much-needed time with friends. It's a taste of the community that we've been missing so much.

Although our next steps, of course, depend on COVID-19 numbers and local policies/restrictions, our hope for this winter is to begin serving hot food indoors with restricted capacity for both volunteers and guests. To limit activity in LTM's kitchen, we will encourage our volunteers to prepare meals at home and bring them to LTM so whoever is on-site can warm them up and serve them.

In order to maintain and expand our services going forward, while continuing to keep everyone safe, we have applied for grants from the Episcopal Diocese of Newark's Alleluia Fund (\$6,000 granted at the end of 2019), the New Jersey Synod Fund for Mission (\$10,000 granted at the end of 2019), the Wawa Foundation (\$2,500 granted during 2020), and Walmart Community Grants (\$1,000 granted during 2020). We are also counting on another \$6,000 from ELCA World Hunger, as 2021 will be the final year in their three-year commitment of \$6,000 annually.

Financial donations for LTM during March and April of 2020 exceeded anything we have seen since Hurricane Sandy, outside of end-of-the-year giving. A Network for Good fundraiser on Facebook raised over \$1,000, and the ELCA's Daily Bread Matching Grant this past April brought in many new donors while raising over \$2,600. A YouGiveGoods drive this summer exceeded our goal of 300 items purchased, and our Amazon wish list, thanks in part to its frequent mention in SMT's newsletter continues to be bought out on a weekly basis.

Who knows what 2021 will bring? At LTM, we can be sure of one thing: the support of our congregation and our community as we provide our guests with the best services possible during these difficult times.

Thank you for your vital support of this vital ministry.

God's peace,
Spike Enzweiler



HOSPITALITY & ALTAR GUILD

Leslie Neve

Hospitality

First, I need to thank everyone including (and I sure hope I am not missing anyone) Bernadette, Beatrix, the Jennifer's – Nilsen, Marsh and Meusel, Mindy and Joel. Siobhan and Max, Avis, Cristin, Chise, Melissa, Courtney, Laurie, Terri, Al and Katie. You all brought such good, sweet and healthy snacks for our hospitality hour after service. Maybe when we do our little Zoom chat after service now, we should all be eating something scrumptious. Hopefully we will soon be able to share our goodies in person, again.

At Pastor Gary's suggestion, in January this year we started celebrating the month's birthdays on the first Sunday with a cake and a round of Happy Birthday (and no one was washing their hands). Bernadette, Courtney and I baked or bought a cake each month. I am looking forward to the start of that sometime soon, also.

And now that we are not getting to eat all that cake and all those sweets maybe we have all lost some weight. We all wish!!!! So, until we can get together again – keep up those baking skills.

Altar Guild

During a conversation with my father about what I was doing at church, he asked me if I was on the Altar Guild, I didn't have it in me to tell him that not only was I on the Altar Guild, I practically WAS the Altar Guild. But since then, we have actually grown into a Guild of Mark, Ken, Susan, Chise, and Terri who either help set up for communion, and/or clean up after service. Thank you all!!! And thank you Richard, who I don't think trusted me to get the colors right and changed the paraments – those are the colored cloths on the altar. Right now, that does not take so much time as we are in the long season of the Time after Pentecost, when we get to look at green for so long. And with services downstairs, via Zoom the only parament piece is on the lectern. But while we were Zooming services, we did go through white, and red and now green, I hope folks are noticing.

Altar Guild at SMT also means setting up a schedule of Assisting Ministers and readers. Thank you, Mark, Ken, Bert, Chise and Courtney for assisting so ably. And to Melissa, Ken, Mark, Bernadette, Olivia, Sarah, Susan, Courtney, and Jen Meusel for reading. During August, Pastor asked if someone would read the lessons either from home via Zoom or in person in the Parish Hall. Ken, Sarah, Bernadette, Terri, Courtney and Jen Meusel stepped up to the plate, or the lectern and they have added so much to the service. And if any one else would like to join in, reach out to me at leslie.neve13@gmail.com.

And I would be remiss if I did not thank Rebekka, Mark, Richard, Dan and Courtney for all you each do to make our present-day services possible and so beautiful!! And meaningful! And of course

Pastor Gary for his thought provoking and inspirational sermons. You have so helped us Zooming at home feel like we are at church, even though I know we ARE the church. Hearing the word and your interpretation of it are so important.

Thank you,
Leslie Neve



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Terri Matteo

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace." ... 1 Peter 4:10*

The stewardship efforts at St. Matthew Trinity have continued throughout this past year. Our June annual meeting was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, this report encompasses the time from June 2019 through October 2020. SMT has consciously worked to have stewardship challenges be an important part of our message for our church family. These stewardship activities have involved dedicated efforts for the completion of our renovated SMT Center, energized support for the continuation and adaptation of the LTM ministry, and the faithful giving for the daily operations of St. Matthew Trinity.

The renovation of our SMT Center located on Washington Street has been a continuous stewardship effort for the past two years. Our church community has spent a great deal of time, energy, and love dedicating this space to outreach, caring, and hope in the heart of Hoboken. Our vibrant congregation and friends have pledged \$218,876.82 toward this effort. In addition, there is a program that we have begun where anyone may donate a brick to be placed in the entryway. We have been the thankful recipients of generous gifts from companies. We are hopeful that the SMT Center will be opened for continuous use in the very near future.

The LTM program at SMT has been a faithful expression of our ministry to those who desire food, shelter, and companionship. This program has long been a tangible outreach and was challenged this year as it had to adapt. Adapt it did. LTM never closed during this pandemic. It was called upon to be flexible and the StEatery was conceived. People in need of food and sustenance could receive both and gather at tables set out properly in the street. This ministry was supported by generous contributions, grants, and endless hours of work.

Our stewardship program in the fall of 2019 was centered on *Our Journey with God*. This theme was inspired by our *Church Council Retreat in July 2019* when we discussed the significant footprint that SMT has had in Hoboken. We were blessed with four sincere and genuine Temple Talks by members of our congregation: Melissa Long on 11/3/19, Mindy Rostal Krayner on 11/10/19, Bernadette Oberndorf on 11/17/19, and Mark Singleton on 11/24/19. Each talk shared a personal testimony to what stewardship meant to them on a daily basis and collectively throughout their lives. The Committee donated two books to be available for reading and discussion: *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane and *Enough* by Adam Hamilton. Pastor Gary sent out a letter regarding stewardship and the significance to our daily lives. Sarah Reever-Pickerel graciously assisted with a visual for footprints particularly in the city of Hoboken. Richard Brode was extremely instrumental in creating visual brochures and pledge cards that enhanced the continuous footprint of our community of SMT. There was a program to include Fun Facts focusing on the history of SMT throughout the years in Hoboken. A reference for these facts was the 150th Anniversary Journal that was compiled in large part by

Susan Long. There has been a concerted effort to have stewardship conversations be a year-long discussion as opposed to a “fall campaign.” We have continued weekly updates in our newsletter so that we can focus on giving and giving thanks to those who help us every single day. We are a very grateful community of givers. Giving has remained constant throughout these extraordinary times of Covid-19.

In 2019, we had 26 pledges for the year. This has maintained the modest increase in pledges for SMT over the past five years. SMT is a grateful recipient of consistent, dependable, and faithful stewards over the years.

We do, indeed, have much work in front of us as we strive to share the word of God in Hoboken. We are called to be stewards. May we do our very best every day!

I recently witnessed the following song performed at Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s funeral. It spoke true words:

What shall be our legacy?
What will our children say?

Let them say of me
I was one who believed
In sharing the blessings
I received
Let me know in my heart
When my days are through

.....

.....

I gave my best to you.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

...James 1:17

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Matteo
Stewardship Chairperson
Church Council



PROPERTY REPORT

Mark Singleton

Greetings. As is the case every year, our beautiful, historic facilities have provided a mix of blessings and challenges. This past year and a half have been even more eventful than usual however. As always, I need to thank our Sexton Rebecca, Pastor Gary, and of course Richard for their partnership in keeping the buildings maintained and in good working order. So, here are a few of the highlights.

- What a celebration: the SMT Center is Complete! I have waited 15 years to write that sentence. The project, completed with the generous support of so many, would not have been possible without the care and input of: Dan and Reni, Chise, Richard, Pastor and many, many more. This space will serve generations to come in new and exciting ways while continuing to be a place of welcome to so many outside our congregation.
- The sale of 1237 Garden Street. The building, which was left to us by our dear friend Al Poletti, was sold this past June. The funds received not only allowed us to complete the SMT Center but will also allow us to effectuate some much-needed repairs and improvements of our facilities. A substantial endowment will remain and continue to bless us financially for many years to come. Thank you Al.
- COVID19. Around March 15th, our world changed. As we were forced to close our doors, we not only ceased to worship in person, we also had to suspend all property use. This resulted in not only a loss of much needed revenue, but a serious loss to the recovery community and others who depended on our space for gathering. I'm happy to report that we will soon again make our space available in a limited way while enforcing all recommended safety protocols. Stay tuned.
- Pastor Gary has made significant improvements to the parsonage kitchen. Thanks Pastor. Also, Pastor Gary has continued to challenge the Church Council to think about new ways to use the space. We will continue to plan...dream and vision.
- As we move past the pandemic and into a more "normal" time, we will need to evaluate our need for property management help from a potential Parish Administrator and either expanding Rebecca's role or getting her some new help as we manage new users at the SMT Center and what we expect to be increased usage.
- And speaking of the future, here is the list of priorities for the upcoming year:
 1. Major Roof repair in church
 2. Stained Glass repair stabilization
 3. Exterior repairs on 63 8th Street Façade
 4. Completion of Organ Repair

5. The brick project on Washington Street
6. Ventilation in kitchen for LTM
7. Carpet replacement in church
8. Maintenance, Maintenance, Maintenance

Thanks to everyone who contributes in ways large and small to the care of our property. It is a great responsibility to preserve and maintain our physical legacy as we grow and develop our new spiritual legacy. As we know, a Church IS NOT a building, it is a beloved community gathered to celebrate God's love and to make disciples as we grow in faith but our buildings provide a setting...and a context...and a place. I look forward to using our church property to God's glory in the upcoming year as we all remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit reminding us of what is important.

Peace

Mark Singleton: Property Minister



SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Courtney Kochuba

Facebook: /stmatthewhoboken

Instagram: @stmatthewtrinity

Twitter: @hobokensmt

It's been an interesting year and a quarter for social media, since COVID-19 forced us to move so much of our communications strategy online. However, this shift has been a blessing in disguise for us, as it's allowed our channels to grow with reach and engagement.

Since May 2019, our Facebook reach has gone up 127% and Instagram has gone up 100%. This is especially significant, since we have done less paid advertising from June 2019 – September 2020 than we did the year prior.

In terms of highest-reaching and most engaged posts, it goes without saying that our communication about Richard remains in the top three. Beyond that content, below are the top few posts on Facebook and Instagram:

- 2.8k+ Reach: News of ringing our bell at 5pm every day to say the Lord's Prayer during initial COVID-19 outbreak.
- 2.4k+ Reach: Quote from Martin Luther's 'Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague.'
- 1.5k+ Reach: Ask for Amazon Wish List items for LTM
- 1.3+ Reach: Quote from Pastor Gary's sermon during the week of May 10.

These posts are significant, as it informs us what our audience wants on their social media feeds — that is, a sense of community, spirituality and guidance. Our social media strategy was made up of a few core components, especially over the last few months:

- News of online services, including promotion of services, monitoring/engaging with community online during service, sharing sermon thoughts post-service.
- Daily Prayers of Intercessions posts
- Thankful for Stewards posts (thank you for penning those, Terri!)
- LTM and strEATery news updates
- SMT Center updates

We will continue most aspects of this strategy as we head into the next year, especially given that we will still have much of our congregation who is remote. As always, I am blessed to be able to share the news of our church with our larger community and always welcome new ideas/team members, if you'd like to join in the fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Kochuba



TREASURER REPORT

Carol Cusack

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well and safe.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Treasurer for the last 3 years or so. This report is for financial year July 1, 2019 – June 30th, 2020. This year, especially the last 6 months have been nothing like I have ever experienced before.

The finance committee, Dan Stoll, Pastor Gary, Melissa Long and I met every other month, or more if needed. I would like to thank the committee for their input and support. I would also like to thank Jennifer Meusel and Mark Singleton for their valuable input especially for their help with the COVID-19 Relief Grant and with the sale of the Garden Street property. I especially would like to thank Melissa for keeping donations and financial records up to date in CCB, all done remotely.

During the pandemic, I worked from home in Hoboken at my real job which enabled me to go to the church office – usually once a week- and Haven Savings bank to make deposits – with mask on of course and hand sanitizer nearby at all times!

The treasurer and financial secretary are in charge of recording all donations, any other income and expenses in CCB and QuickBooks (our accounting software) whether these donations come in on Sundays in person or during the week by mail or from online banking. This year, donations were mostly online or mailed into the office.

Each month the treasurer presents a financial report to Church Council. The treasurer has responsibilities of reconciling all bank accounts and credit cards in QuickBooks every month and paying bills and salaries. We would like to thank the counting team for their help on Sundays up until shut down due to COVID-19. We pay an accounting firm to review/verify our quick book entries every quarter and to keep our balance sheet in order.

Some Highlights for the last year since the beginning of July 2019.

- Our rental property on 63 8th Street continued to be a steady source of income, however there were some property income changes this year.
 - Hourly space use revenue was severely impacted due to the virus, this impacted rentals in the Parish Hall and SMT Center.
 - The SMT center closed for renovations in early in September of last year, and the opening of the center was delayed due to the virus. Stop by and see the space, it is beautiful, and we cannot wait to start using and renting this space again on a regular basis.
 - Rental income from the Garden Street property stopped in Jan 2020, the tenants moved out due to putting Garden Street on the market.
- We are grateful to the congregation for their pledges and donations which help pay salaries, maintenance and utility bills, office supplies etc. Donations from the congregation have

remained steady this year, unfortunately there has not been growth due to the virus/shut down.

- World Hunger and Lunch Time Ministry remained steady this year throughout the pandemic. Our donation to ELCA World Hunger for last financial year was \$1,566. Donations to LTM donations were up this year mainly due to the virus. People donated to the LTM StrEatery as well. If anyone has time, come over and see the strEatery any morning Monday-Thursday, you can see Pastor Gary and Spike working hard.
- Before shutdown Sunday school teachers from Stevens were being paid \$35/hour on Sunday mornings usually for 2 hours. There were 2 teachers each Sunday.
- Spike continued to get grants for LTM.
- Prior to the shut down, LTM at night continued and we held Pastor Gary's Shrove Tuesday night in partnership with All Saints Parish. This was a fundraiser for LTM. Empty bowls did not happen this year.
- In June-July of 2019 donations were received for the clock renovation and for a new freezer for LTM.
- Our 2019 ELCA/Synod pledge deficit was caught up and paid in 2020, \$11,500.
- Our pledge to the ELCA/ NJ Synod for 2019 - 2020 is \$15,750, we have sent \$9,000 to date. Our pledge increased by \$750 this year.
- The parish administrator left in April and has not been replaced to date.
- Donations to the renovation of the SMT Center totaled \$232,000 including brick donations. The total cost of the renovation was \$307,000. We bridged the difference with some proceeds from the sale of Garden Street. We are grateful to the congregation for their donations to the renovation project. We will get the bricks project completed soon. Shout out to Reni Stoll for her contributions to the design of the SMT center space and to her company for donations of furniture and floor tiles. Thanks Reni! Big thanks to the SMT Center renovation committee for their tireless work, Pastor Gary, Dan, Richard, Mark, Chise, Reni and to Terri for keeping track of donations.
- The Mortgage on 63 8th street as of June 30th was \$55,892. The mortgage will be paid off in 2024, payment is \$1,400 per month.
- In June of this year our property on Garden Street was sold. Feeling blessed to have been left this property by our friend Al Poletti RIP. Proceeds from the sale were divided as follows:

\$517,618.01	ELCA credit union account
\$517,618.01	BCB Bank account
\$122,500.00	SMT Havens operations account and bridged SMT renovation expenses.
Total \$1,157,736.02	

Our goal is to invest these funds in high interest accounts with the help of an independent financial advisor.

In summary, while funds were taken from reserves to pay bills in February, there were events that helped boost cashflow.

- Steady donations from some members. Thank You!

- An Endowment CD was cashed out at the end of March for \$23K.
- A small business bailout grant due to COVID- 19 was received at the end of April for \$5,000. (IRS Treas 310). This money is going towards general church operations.
- ELCA NJ Synod Disaster Relief, \$1,500 obtained by Pastor Gary. This went to LTM opening expenses.
- Just to mention in September of this year we received a COVID-19 relief grant from the Synod for \$10,000. Funds will go to the church, lunch time ministry and the Pastor's discretionary fund as needed.

Finally, I would like to mention Music Ministry. We are all heartbroken with the loss of Richard our music minister for almost 20 years. Richard's dream was to complete the renovation of the beloved Jardine Organ. There was \$13,000 raised some years ago towards this and Richard had committed to raise the balance of funds needed to complete the job. We had a generous donation recently of \$5,000. We are committed to completing the renovation with Pargallo Organ company. Richard's music will be missed but we will continue to hear his beloved Jardine organ being played once renovations are complete. R.I. P. Richard. You are missed.

If anyone would like any additional information regarding finances, please email me or anyone from the finance committee. Again, thank you everyone for your financial and moral support. I am very grateful!

Respectfully submitted by,
Carol Cusack



St. Matthew Trinity - FY20 FINANCIAL RESULTS

FY 19-20 <i>(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)</i>	FY20 BUDGET	FY20 ACTUAL	Actual vs. Budget (%)	NOTES
INCOME				
FY19/20 BUDGET				
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	\$147,074.00	\$149,118.78	1.4%	
Directed Giving	\$5,340.00	\$6,969.98	30.5%	Boosted by gift to fix Clock Tower
General Church Giving	\$140,200.00	\$136,213.40	-2.8%	
Interest + Other	\$1,534.00	\$5,935.40	286.9%	+ \$5,000 grant for COVID-19 from US Treasury
LUNCHTIME MINISTRY	\$68,580.00	\$90,394.50	31.8%	
Directed Giving - LTM	\$30,480.00	\$47,820.50	56.9%	Donors & companies supported during Covid crisis
Grants and Community giving + Other - LTM	\$38,100.00	\$42,574.00	11.7%	
PROPERTY	\$110,460.00	\$99,991.65	-9.5%	Loss of Garden St. rental income
TOTAL INCOME	\$326,114.00	\$339,504.93	4.1%	
EXPENSES				
FY19/20 BUDGET				
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	\$277,804.54	\$260,018.38	-6.4%	
Bank & Insurance	\$15,402.13	\$24,856.45	61.4%	
Christian Education	\$4,575.00	\$985.00	-78.5%	COVID-19 limited Sunday School and Youth programs
Community Giving Spending	\$1,740.00	\$12,022.44	590.9%	Budget did not account for SYNOD contribution
Maintenance Expenses	\$9,600.00	\$8,465.77	-11.8%	
Office Expenses (including Utilities)	\$41,400.00	\$36,404.35	-12.1%	Less printing
Outreach & Communication	\$6,000.00	\$2,785.63	-53.6%	Not as many events to promote
Pastor Benefits & Allowances	\$43,164.00	\$37,941.81	-12.1%	
Staffing	\$141,459.12	\$123,955.10	-12.4%	Departure of office administrator
Worship	\$14,464.29	\$12,601.83	-12.9%	
LUNCHTIME MINISTRY	\$44,550.72	\$60,035.89	34.8%	Shift to account for Pastor & Sexton Time Spent for LTM
Community Spending	NA	\$2,817.45	NA	
LTM - Food Supplies	\$11,052.00	\$7,823.02	-29.2%	
LTM Pastor Salary	NA	\$4,432.18	NA	
LTM Program Manager	\$28,098.72	\$29,404.35	4.6%	
LTM Sexton Expenses	NA	\$6,486.75	NA	
Utilities	\$5,400.00	\$9,072.14	68.0%	
PROPERTY	\$34,535.00	\$36,083.24	4.5%	
1237 Garden St Maintenance	\$1,200.00	\$3,140.52	161.7%	Repairs to help sell property
Mortgage Interest	\$3,960.00	\$2,911.14	-26.5%	
Property Taxes	\$29,375.00	\$30,031.58	2.2%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$356,890.26	\$356,137.51	-0.2%	
NET PROFIT/LOSS	-\$30,776.26	-\$16,632.58	46.0%	

SMT Center Project (2018-2020)	
Total Donations	\$232,000.00
Total Expenses	\$307,000.00
	-\$75,000.00

Note: The \$75,000 gap in project costs was covered by anonymous loan, which was paid back using the funds after the sale of the house on 1237 Garden Street in June 2020.

St. Matthew Trinity - FY21 BUDGET

FY 20-21 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)	FY20 ACTUAL	FY21 BUDGET	FY21 Budget vs. FY20 Actual (%)	NOTES
INCOME				
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	\$149,118.78	\$179,700.00	20.51%	
Directed Giving	\$6,969.98	\$6,200.00	-11.05%	
General Church Giving	\$136,213.40	\$138,000.00	1.31%	If we could increase monthly giving +\$2,000, church would break even Projected interest from investment fund (6%)
Interest + Other	\$5,935.40	\$35,500.00	498.11%	
LUNCHTIME MINISTRY	\$90,394.50	\$80,400.00	-11.06%	
Directed Giving - LTM	\$47,820.50	\$40,000.00	-16.35%	
Grants and Community giving + Other - LTM	\$42,574.00	\$40,400.00	-5.11%	
PROPERTY	\$99,991.65	\$72,488.00	-27.51%	
TOTAL INCOME	\$339,504.93	\$332,588.00	-2.04%	
EXPENSES				
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	\$260,018.38	\$244,700.00	-5.89%	
Bank & Insurance	\$24,856.45	\$20,000.00	-19.54%	Mark renegotiated insurance for buildings
Christian Education	\$985.00	\$1,200.00	21.83%	
Community Giving Spending	\$12,022.44	\$18,000.00	49.72%	Includes \$15,750 SYNOD committment
Maintenance Expenses	\$8,465.77	\$9,000.00	6.31%	
Office Expenses (including Utilities)	\$36,404.35	\$36,000.00	-1.11%	
Outreach & Communication	\$2,785.63	\$3,500.00	25.64%	
Pastor Benefits & Allowances	\$37,941.81	\$41,000.00	8.06%	
Staffing	\$123,955.10	\$104,000.00	-16.10%	
Worship	\$12,601.83	\$12,000.00	-4.78%	
LUNCHTIME MINISTRY	\$60,035.89	\$72,206.20	20.27%	Shift to account for Pastor & Sexton Time Spent for LTM
Community Spending	\$2,817.45	\$2,800.00	-0.62%	
LTM - Food Supplies	\$7,823.02	\$9,000.00	15.05%	
LTM Pastor Salary	\$4,432.18	\$15,196.00	242.86%	
LTM Program Manager	\$29,404.35	\$29,500.00	0.33%	
LTM Sexton Expenses	\$6,486.75	\$6,610.20	1.90%	
Utilities	\$9,072.14	\$9,100.00	0.31%	
PROPERTY	\$36,083.24	\$35,300.00	-2.17%	
1237 Garden St Maintenance	\$3,140.52	\$2,400.00	-23.58%	
Mortgage Interest	\$2,911.14	\$2,900.00	-0.38%	
Property Taxes	\$30,031.58	\$30,000.00	-0.11%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$356,137.51	\$352,206.20	-1.10%	
NET PROFIT/LOSS	-\$16,632.58	-\$19,618.20	-18.0%	



This Church

This church confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; our Creator, Redeemer, and Advocate.

This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

This church believes in the Word of God, and receives God's Word in Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate; in proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel; and in the canonical Scriptures, the inspired and written Word of God, which provides the authoritative source and norm for proclamation, faith and life.

This church accepts the historic creeds (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian) as true declarations of the faith, and the Lutheran Confessions as faithful witnesses and interpretations of the faith.

This church is gathered around God's Word and Sacraments, and its worship flows into witness and service that proclaims God's love to this broken world.

This church, awash in God's baptismal grace, creates a safe place for all of God's children.

This church, knowing its unity in Christ and uniquely gifted for ecumenism by its confessions, works in God's kingdom as a bridge-church for diverse traditions that share this faith.

This church maintains a deep and abiding commitment to ministry with children and youth.

This church engages in global mission with deep respect for the rich gifts of our brothers and sisters in other lands and so understands this mission engagement as primarily focused in accompaniment.

This church believes that the risen Christ is encountered daily in God's world, and so we commit ourselves to be a public church, working for justice and peace for all.

This church continues a rich heritage of theological reflection and discernment and is dedicated to strong theological education in preparing leaders.

This church believes in the vocation of the baptized to ministry in daily life, translating Sunday's faith into Monday's world.

This church is committed to interdependence in its three expressions and as the vision for networks of mission agencies in the United States and throughout the world, including Lutheran Services in America, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Disaster Response, and the Lutheran World Federation.

This church is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



ST MATTHEW TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where tradition & inclusivity meet

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