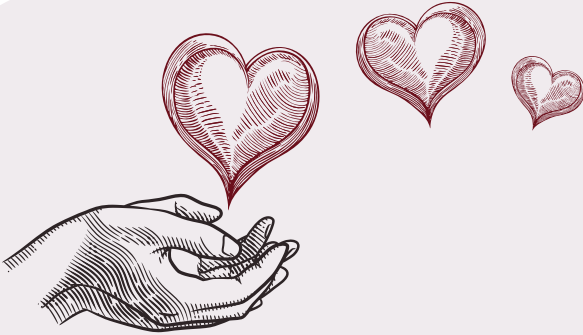


“The only thing that counts
is faith working through love.”
Galatians 5:6



LIVING *Generously*
LOVING *Boldly*

A generosity initiative of
Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools
FALL 2025



Children and families from Trinity Schools, the church, and the community, gathered for National Night Out in August 2025

“The only thing that counts
is faith working through love.”

Galatians 5:6



This is the heart of our life together at Trinity. Faith is not only what we believe — it is how we live. And faith comes alive when it shows up in **generosity, compassion, courage, hospitality, and community.**

This fall, *Living Generously, Loving Boldly* invites us to reflect on how **God is calling each of us to embody these gifts**, not out of a sense of obligation, but as a bold and loving response to God’s grace. Together, we are **part of a story** that is bigger than ourselves — a story where God’s love moves through worship, learning, service, care, and welcome.

The ministry of Trinity is only possible because of **God’s grace** and the **faithful response of people like you.** Your prayers, your presence, your service, and your financial gifts all make a difference — not only within these walls, but in our neighborhood and far beyond.

As you read these pages, **we invite you to approach them prayerfully.** Ask God how your life — your time, your care for others, your presence in community, and your financial gifts — can be an **expression of faith working through love.** Whatever your response, know that it will join with the gifts of others to strengthen our shared ministry and extend Christ’s love in our neighborhood and in the world. Together, we are building a community where **faith is active, love is bold, and generosity overflows.**

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo
Lead Pastor

Bill Rankin
TLCS Council President

Generosity

Strengthening Ministry Together

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Generosity is our joyful response to God's grace. When we give, we are not simply meeting a budget — we are making ministry possible. Every gift strengthens worship, discipleship, outreach, education, service, and care at Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools, allowing us to live generously and love boldly in our neighborhood and beyond.

Through *Living Generously, Loving Boldly*, our shared goals are to:

- ♥ **Engage fully in prayer and discernment** — inviting 100% of the Trinity community to seek God's leading in how they will participate. Find a weekly devotional guide later in this brochure.
- ♥ **Sustain or grow financial commitments** — ensuring the resources needed for vibrant ministry in the year ahead.
- ♥ **Select 2026 Mission Giving Fund recipient(s)** — extending love and support beyond our walls. More information on the following pages.
- ♥ **Reach our 2026 Mission Budget target of \$1,236,334** — representing a 5% increase over 2025 budgeted contribution income, to strengthen and expand the ministry God has entrusted to us.



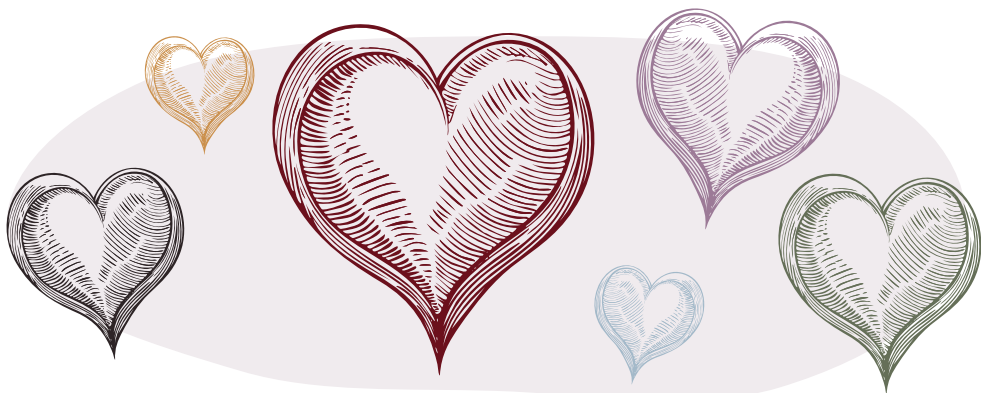
LIVING *Generously*
LOVING *Boldly*

Missional Budget

Our annual budget is more than numbers on a page — it's a ministry plan. Every dollar given supports the work of *Living Generously, Loving Boldly* through six core areas of ministry:

- 🕊️ **Worship & Hospitality (43% | \$613,667)** — Creating space where all are welcomed, inspired, and nourished through meaningful worship, music, and fellowship.
- 🕊️ **Schools, Preschool & CDC (17% | \$246,205)** — Providing safe, caring, and faith-rooted learning environments where children thrive and families are supported.
- 🕊️ **Discipleship & Faith Formation (17% | \$239,557)** — Nurturing faith at every stage of life through Bible study, confirmation, youth ministry, intergenerational learning, and spiritual growth opportunities.
- 🕊️ **Service & Justice (13% | \$180,511)** — Acting for justice, compassion, and systemic change through ministries like Neighbors in Need, Living Water, Esperanza, quilt-making for Lutheran World Relief, and advocacy work.
- 🕊️ **Outreach & Community Engagement (5% | \$79,937)** — Building partnerships, responding to community needs, and sharing God's love with neighbors near and far.
- 🕊️ **Care Ministry (5% | \$73,843)** — Walking alongside members and friends through prayer, pastoral care, and tangible acts of support in times of need.

When we give generously, we are not just funding programs — we are investing in lives, relationships, and the ongoing story of God's love at work through Trinity.



Figures represent 2025 budget. Personnel, facility, and mortgage expenses are divided proportionally between the Core Ministries. "Service & Justice" includes benevolence funds: 7% for Synod Mission Support and 2% for the Mission Giving Fund.

Compassion

Meeting Needs, Near and Far

*"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness, and patience."*

COLOSSIANS 3:12

Compassion is love in action. At Trinity, compassion takes many forms: warm quilts stitched for Lutheran World Relief, hot breakfasts and essential supplies shared through our Neighbors in Need program, clean water brought to communities through Living Water, shelter for families built with Esperanza International, and deepening connections with Volunteers of America as we anticipate the opening of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center. These ministries are **tangible expressions of faith working through love** — meeting needs, offering hope, and embodying God's care for the world.

One way we extend compassion beyond our walls is through Trinity's **Mission Giving Fund**, which designates **2% of our annual contribution income** to support local ministry partners. In 2025, our congregation chose Cocoon House, providing shelter and support for youth experiencing homelessness, as the recipient of these gifts.



Neighbors in Need – Saturday breakfast shared with our community.



Esperanza 2025 – Building hope with a family in Tijuana.

"Compassion is the radicalism of our time."

DALAI LAMA

Mission Giving Fund Options

In 2026, we will again **prayerfully select a Mission Giving Fund recipient** (or recipients) whose work reflects God's compassion in meaningful and transformative ways. Read more about each option, prayerfully presented by the Congregation Council, and make your voice heard on your commitment card.



The Access Project is a collaborative movement empowering youth in South Snohomish County, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and underserved young people. Through mentorship, mental health support, and community programs like peer mediation, art, sports, and leadership development, The Access Project helps youth feel valued, connected, and equipped to thrive. By investing in this work, we help create safe spaces where young people can grow with confidence and hope.

Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking (BEST) Alliance works to prevent human trafficking and support survivors by equipping employers with tools to create safer workplaces and meaningful job opportunities. Through awareness campaigns, employee trainings, and partnerships with businesses across the U.S. and beyond, BEST addresses the root causes of trafficking while opening doors for survivors to rebuild their lives. Supporting BEST extends Trinity's compassion to a global movement for freedom, dignity, and justice.

Lynnwood Neighborhood Center Service Providers. The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center, now nearing completion, will bring together trusted organizations to serve families and individuals in South Snohomish County. Partner agencies include the Boys & Girls Club, Medical Teams International, Cocoon House, ChildStrive, and many more. Choosing this option means our Mission Giving Fund will be distributed evenly among all service providers at the Center, multiplying the impact of our generosity across a broad spectrum of community needs — from childcare and health care to housing and education.

Courage

Stepping Forward in Faith

*"Be strong and courageous...
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

JOSHUA 1:9

Courage in generosity means trusting God enough to **take a step forward** — not out of obligation, but as a bold and loving response to God's grace. Every gift matters, not because of its size, but because of the faith, prayer, and love it represents. Together, our commitments make ministry possible at Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools and extend Christ's love far beyond our walls.

This season, every person who calls Trinity home is invited to:

- 🍷 **Pray** for God's guidance and blessing, and for our shared goal of 100% prayerful engagement in *Living Generously, Loving Boldly*.
- 🍷 **Reflect** on how God is calling you to grow in generosity this year.
- 🍷 **Commit** to a level of giving that is meaningful to you and reflects gratitude for God's grace.
- 🍷 **Complete** a Commitment Card and bring it on Commitment Sunday, October 26.

COMMITMENT CARD

Financial Commitment

Living generously is more than an amount. It is a way of life that reflects our faith in all that we do. Through stewardship of our Mission Budget, we are boldly expressing gratitude and love for our community, ensuring Trinity continues to be a place of welcome, belonging, and transformation for the sake of the world.

My/Our Financial Goals are: \$ _____ weekly _____ monthly _____ annually _____

I live plan to give: _____ Online _____ Cash, check, or other means _____

Prayer Commitment

Prayer grows and life together flourishes as we gather weekly. As we live generously and love boldly, greater strength and encouragement is ours as we seek to live in God's mission in the world.

☐ I live will pray for the "Living Generously, Loving Boldly" initiative, and for God's mission embodied through the ministries of TLCS.

2026 Mission Giving Fund

Each year, Trinity dedicates 10% of its budget to support the mission of the church. This is a special time to give to the church and to the community. Please consider your giving to the church and to the community as part of your stewardship plan.

☐ The Access Project ☐ BEST Alliance ☐ LNC Service Providers

Name(s) _____ Email(s) _____

Address _____ Phone(s) _____

Bring your 2026 Commitment Card to worship on October 26, where they will be collected as part of a prayerful offering ritual. Can't make it? Our Sunday School online: <https://www.trinitylutheran.org/sunday-school>

Living Generously, Loving Boldly

Every Gift Matters

When joined with the commitments of others, every gift — of any size — helps us reach our 2026 Mission Budget target of \$1,280,000, a 5% increase over 2025 and up to make a difference.

Amount	Monthly	Weekly	Commitment
\$100,000	\$25,000	\$5,700	\$300,000
\$50,000	\$12,500	\$2,850	\$150,000
\$25,000	\$6,250	\$1,425	\$75,000
\$12,500	\$3,125	\$712.50	\$37,500
\$6,250	\$1,562	\$356.25	\$18,750
\$3,125	\$781.25	\$178.12	\$9,375
\$1,562	\$390.62	\$89.06	\$4,687
\$781	\$195.31	\$44.53	\$2,343
\$390	\$97.66	\$22.27	\$1,171
\$195	\$48.83	\$11.13	\$585
\$97	\$24.41	\$5.57	\$292
\$48	\$12.20	\$2.78	\$146
\$24	\$6.10	\$1.39	\$73
\$12	\$3.05	\$0.69	\$36
\$6	\$1.52	\$0.35	\$18
\$3	\$0.76	\$0.17	\$9

Annual Gift Goal: \$1,280,000

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOLS

Every Gift Matters

When joined with the commitments of others, every gift — of any size — helps us reach our 2026 Mission Budget target of \$1,236,334, a 5% increase over 2025 budgeted contribution income. Use the chart below to see how gifts of various sizes add up to make a difference.

<i>Gifts Needed</i>	<i>Annual gift of</i>	<i>Monthly Gift of</i>	<i>Weekly Gift of</i>	<i>Cumulative Total</i>
1	\$300,000	\$25,000	\$5,769	\$300,000
2	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$1,923	\$500,000
4	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$962	\$700,000
5	\$20,000	\$1,667	\$385	\$800,000
7	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$288	\$905,000
10	\$10,000	\$833	\$192	\$1,005,000
20	\$5,000	\$417	\$96	\$1,105,000
25	\$2,500	\$208	\$48	\$1,167,500
30	\$1,250	\$104	\$24	\$1,205,000
40	\$625	\$52	\$12	\$1,230,000
Many	less than \$625	less than \$52	less than \$12	

Annual Gift Goal \$1,236,343



Quilts Blessed – Handmade gifts sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Creative Ways to Give

Generosity doesn't always begin and end with a check. Consider prayerfully how these options might help you step forward in faith:

- 💛 **Redirect funds** from completed commitments or expenses (e.g., a finished loan payment) to support TLCS ministry.
- 💛 **Practice Priority Budgeting** — rearrange priorities to free resources for God's work.
- 💛 **Share Increases in Income** — dedicate a portion (or all) of a raise or bonus to ministry.
- 💛 **Give from Stored Assets** — such as appreciated stock, real estate, or other investments.
- 💛 **Employer Matching Gifts** — see if your workplace will match your charitable giving.
- 💛 **Lifestyle Trade-offs** — skip a coffee, meal out, or subscription service and redirect those funds.

Stepping out in generosity requires courage, but God meets us there. As we commit what we can, in faith and love, we trust that God will use every gift to bless others and transform lives.

"You may not always have a comfortable life. And you will not always be able to solve all the world's problems all at once. But don't ever underestimate the impact you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own."

MICHELLE OBAMA



Hospitality

Making Space for All

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

ROMANS 15:7

Hospitality is one of the clearest ways faith becomes action. It's more than politeness or being friendly — it's an intentional welcome that reflects the heart of Christ. When we greet someone at the door, share a meal, remember a name, or make room for another's story, we are living out Paul's vision of faith that works through love. At Trinity, hospitality is part of our worship, our fellowship, and our daily life together — a way of saying with our words and actions, "You belong here."

"The warmness of everyone I interact with [at Trinity] shows me the light of God's love in their heart."



"I've experienced God's love within the TLCS community during both times of life's celebrations and times of grief."



"When I first came to Trinity, many smiling faces greeted me. No one was over solicitous and I was given the time to feel comfortable."



"[Hospitality at Trinity] is making people feel welcomed even when they are new. There are many who have known each other since high school, and being new is a bit intimidating in a large congregation."

"People [at Trinity] genuinely want to know you and welcome you and invite you back."

"Being welcomed and welcoming others changes each week as opportunities develop... This variety adds a richness to our community, which is something I think people enjoy and also enriches our lives and faith journey."

Community

Growing Together in Christ

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another.”*

HEBREWS 10:24–25

Community is where our **faith is lived, tested, strengthened, and shared**. At Trinity, we are not just a collection of individuals — we are a body, **knit together by God’s grace**, learning from one another, and supporting each other in our journeys of faith.

Living Generously, Loving Boldly invites us to nurture that shared life through reflection, prayer, and worship. As we listen for God’s voice together, we also listen for how God may be calling us to live generously — with our time, care, resources, and presence — so that Christ’s love continues to be shared in our neighborhood and in the world.

The devotional guide on the following pages is meant to be used in the days leading up to each Sunday in October. Each week offers scripture, music, poetry, prayers, and prompts to help you enter worship already prepared to hear God’s word with open hands and open hearts. **Set aside time during the week** — on your own, with family, or with a small group — to pray, read, and reflect. Let these devotions shape how you come to worship ready to encounter God and to respond with generosity and bold love.

In this way, prayer becomes a wellspring for action, and devotion shapes our generosity.

*“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured
by the compassionate actions of its members.”*

CORETTA SCOTT KING

Devotional Guide

The devotionals on the following pages invite us to pray and reflect each week, preparing our hearts for worship and for the commitments we will offer together on October 26.



Read

Begin with the week's scripture readings.



Reflect

Sit with the poem provided for the week.



Listen

Spend time with the song of inspiration.



Respond

Journal, draw/paint, or discuss the prompts.



Pray

Conclude with the written prayer or your own.

Week 1

Faith That Acts + October 5

Read

Psalm 37:1-9 & Luke 17:5-10

Reflect

Belief Is a Garden by Susan Noyes Anderson

Belief is a garden our hearts choose to grow.
Hope is the rich ground we need.
It takes testing and tilling, feeding and filling
to raise up the truth that we seed.

We can choose what to plant and how widely.
We can choose where to plant and how deep.
How much sun is required – how much water?
How much time to be spent on upkeep?

Once the seedlings appear, we hold sway.
Will we pull enough weeds to make space –
keep the nibblers and trampers away?
Put our interest in some other place?

Grace is given, but we must give, too.
Through our labor, we find our own part:
to nurture and reap sacred knowledge
(rooted best in a welcoming heart).

Or we can let our ground run fallow –
discard fertile seeds never sown,
dig up wilted seedlings, once thriving –
and withdraw from the garden, ungrown.

A home in the garden crowns effort,
yielding blossoms of virtue and peace.
A home in the world plants reliance
upon thin things that crumble, then cease.

Belief is a choice, not a handout.
It's a hand up, a reach for the stars.
If we fail to claim what's beyond them,
the only light lost will be ours.

Shine bright. **Choose the garden.** It flowers.

Listen

Firm Foundation (He Won't) by Cody Carnes



Respond

Where do I find it difficult to trust God fully?

How have I seen small acts of faith make a big difference?

What step of generosity or bold love
might God be asking of me this week?

Pray

Gracious God, you call us to commit our way to you and to trust your promises. Strengthen our faith, even when it feels small, and teach us to act with courage and love. May our lives reflect your generosity, and may all we do give glory to you. Amen.

Week 2

Love That Sacrifices + October 12

Read

Psalm 111 & Luke 17:11-19

Reflect

When Giving Is All We Have by Alberto Ríos

We give because someone gave to us.

We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.

We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,

We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,

Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,

But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,

Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.

Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you

What I had to give—together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

Listen

Thankful by Johnny Lang



Respond

What blessings in my life call me to gratitude today?

How do I show thanks to God in ways that also bless others?

What might sacrificial generosity look like for me in this season?

Pray

God of abundance, you have given us every good gift. Open our hearts to gratitude that overflows into compassion for others. Teach us to love in ways that cost us something, so that our lives reflect the sacrificial love of Christ. Amen.

Week 3

Love That Seeks Justice + October 19

Read

Psalm 121 & Luke 18:1-8

Reflect

Love, I Am by Elizabeth Jacobson

All day *this thought*
had me reeling—
did not vanish
and then return—

was persistent
like a ceiling
leak pinging into tin.
Opaque rain all day—

what am I
to myself:
two feet on
some land

when upright;
a backbone with branches
when supine? Thoughts
become

weary—
and merely announce
linearity. Love,
I am

so wary of this
happiness, when
it floods in— when
it tumbles to a halt

—a rough cut ruby
at the center of a silver bowl.
Rain is the loneliest color
then lake, then shade.

Listen

Lean On Me by Bill Withers



Respond

Where do I see injustice in my community or the world?

How am I being called to pray persistently for justice?

What resources or gifts can I offer to help make God's justice real?

Pray

God of justice, you hear the cries of all who long for help. Give us persistence in prayer and boldness in action. Use our hands, voices, and resources to lift up the lowly and bring your healing to the world. Amen.

Week 4

Love That Unifies + October 26 (Commitment Sunday)

Read

Psalm 84:1-7 & Luke 18:9-14

Reflect

When Death Comes by Mary Oliver

When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse
to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles-pox;

when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,
I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,
and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,
tending, as all music does, toward silence,

and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

Listen

One Love/People Get Ready by Bob Marley



Respond

Where do I need to approach God with more humility?

How does God's mercy bring people together across differences?

How can my generosity be a sign of unity and shared purpose?

Pray

Merciful God, you welcome us with grace when we stand before you in humility. Unite us in your love, and make us one body in Christ. May our generosity bear witness to your mercy and build a community of hope, strength, and peace. Amen.



Folks from Trinity marching in the annual Seattle Pride Parade.



Celebrating creation & community while worshipping at Lynndale Park

Commitment

Sunday, October 26, 2025

*"The only thing that counts
is faith working through love."*

GALATIANS 5:6

In the coming weeks, we'll journey together through worship, prayer, and reflection, exploring how **generosity, compassion, courage, hospitality, and community** are alive in the ministry of Trinity. Each step is an opportunity to listen for God's call and to consider how your own faith might work through love in new ways.

On **Commitment Sunday, October 26**, you are invited to **bring your filled Commitment Card to worship**. This will be a day of joyful offering, as together we place our commitments before God as acts of faith, gratitude, and bold love.

Between now and then, you are encouraged to **engage fully**: worship each week, use the devotional guide, and pray for God's leading in your response. Your prayerful preparation will make Commitment Sunday a true celebration of God's faithfulness and of the ministry we share.

May this season open our hearts, deepen our trust, and inspire us to live generously and love boldly — for the sake of the Gospel and the good of the world God loves.

Commitment Sunday

October 26, 2025

Celebration Worship at 10 AM + Potluck at 11:30 AM

*"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide
what kind of difference you want to make."*

JANE GOODALL



**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOLS**
BUILDING † BELONGING † BECOMING

