This week, Pastor Mark learned that our Financial Administrator had provided inaccurate information during the hiring process. Pastor Mark promptly met with Trinity's Executive Committee, and together we decided to terminate her employment. On Thursday morning, Council President Kyle Gebhardt, Council Secretary Julie Leer, and Pastor Mark met with Ms. Kinsella to advise her employment was terminated.

On Friday afternoon, after consulting with our banker and staff from Trinity's church management software and accounting company, we determined that approximately $38,000 (which was received in offering) had not been deposited in our bank. The majority of that money was in the form of checks. Late Friday afternoon, the police were informed of what we have found.

At this early stage, it looks like any check given to the church from the first of December thru December 15th is part of that unaccounted $38,000. We are asking that, after worship, you stop at the table in the Narthex to pick-up a copy of your giving statement for early December from and Executive Committee member. Late yesterday the police did recover some of the missing offering. It is now being held as evidence – we hope that it will be able to be deposited soon.

Because this is an active police investigation, we MUST be very careful about what we share at this point. We do not want to make false accusations and do not want to do or say anything that would jeopardize the investigation. As appropriate, we will update you. We have been able to secure a Financial Administrator – at least on a temporary basis. Brent Winkelman, a retired accountant, has been working at Good Shepherd Lutheran in a similar capacity. He knows the church management software very well. Brent began working with us on Friday and has already begun to put things in order. We have significant work to do.

After worship if there are questions you have – Council members or Pastor Mark would be glad to gather them. We will then share answers when legal officials tell us we can.