

TRINITY TODAY

OUR CHURCH EXISTS TO **WELCOME** ALL PEOPLE INTO
RELATIONSHIP WITH **JESUS CHRIST** **EQUIP** PEOPLE WITH A
VITAL, LIVING FAITH **SEND** US INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE
IN **JESUS' NAME**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH . 502 NORTH 4TH STREET . BISMARCK, ND 58501 . 701.223.3560
FAX: 701.223.3561. TRINITY@TRINITYBISMARCK.COM . 8:30 AM RADIO BROADCAST . 1270 AM (KLXX)
WEBSITE: WWW.TRINITYBISMARCK.COM

September 2017

Making God's Love Obvious

This past month I traveled with five teens to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for our summer youth trip. This year's trip was a whitewater rafting adventure that involved four days of rafting on the north fork of the Flathead River. Each day we took to the river and each night we camped along the river, with Glacier National Park on one side and Flathead National Park on the other. It was a great trip. We had wonderful counselors guiding us on the river, beautiful scenery (including 17 eagle sightings!), and most importantly the kids had a blast.

For the final night we returned to camp and in the evening witnessed an outdoor Passion Play led by camp staff. I loved the rafting, but this play was up there as one of my favorite parts of the trip. Surrounded by nature, we heard the story of Jesus' final days, culminating in his death on the cross. It was truly powerful.

After the Passion Play our counselors led a discussion about what we had experienced. We talked about what it means to have a God who loves us so much that he would die for us. One kid was touched by Judas' story, and we talked about how all of us can relate to turning our backs on Jesus from time to time. Another kid spoke about how the story of the cross made him want to help people in need.

I love the way that Bible camps awaken faith in young and old. Indeed, it feels like God's love is more obvious at camp. Maybe it's because at camp life is organized around faith. Each morning starts with a devotion. Each meal begins with a fun prayer. Each evening involves a Bible study and/or worship.

This level of outright focus on God is not often seen in most people's everyday lives, even among Christians. But I wonder why not? Maybe God's love would seem more obvious in everyday life if we took more effort to engage in spirituality every day. People often gripe about the disappearance of prayer in schools, but maybe what's more needed is prayer in homes. People often complain that we no longer publically share the phrase "Merry Christmas", but maybe the bigger issue is that we rarely share the stories of Scripture even among friends and family. Maybe God's love is as obvious as we're willing to make it. So what if normal Christian life looked more like life at a Bible camp?

As we enter into the busyness of the fall, I invite you to reflect on how you might better organize your life and your family's lives around things that make God's love obvious. Because as Jesus said, "Those who seek will find."

Autumn Blessings to you all!
Pastor Paul

Fall worship schedule

Effective September 10 we return to two Sunday worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Musical Moments

Joanne Swonger · swonger@trinitybismarck.com

Director of Music and Worship

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir invites you to come sing with us each Sunday morning. We'll rehearse a simple song of praise at 8 AM to sing during worship. If you would prefer to sit with your family, singers are welcome to sit in the congregation and walk up to join the choir for the anthem. Come at 8 ... sing praise ... worship with your family. It couldn't be simpler to share your voice and praises at early worship!

Communion Server Coffeetime

On **Saturday, September 30th, at 9:30 AM** we will have Coffee, Fruit, and Muffins in the Community Center to express our appreciation for all those involved with serving Communion at Trinity. We will also have a short training session on setting up and putting away communion. **If you would like to participate in communion ministry at Trinity, this is your opportunity to get involved!**

Renovation and Renewal

Trinity's newly formed Renovation and Renewal Task Force is excited to consider ideas to refresh and renew some of Trinity's congregational gathering spaces! Our first priority is to provide additional accessible seating in the sanctuary. We will be communicating more information about this project soon through a congregational letter and a display board in the narthex. Please watch for upcoming information! We would like the congregation's input as we move forward with adding some additional accessible seating to benefit our membership and visitors.

Worship and Music Ideas

We are looking for ways to help Trinity's kids connect and become involved in our worship services. If this is an idea that brings a sparkle to your eye, let Joanne or Gracia know! We are especially looking for people with skills in photography, sewing, crafting, or simple woodworking to help implement some of the ideas we already have, but ALL who are interested are welcome to become a part of the conversation!



We welcome Trinity's new head custodian, Dale Fleck

Dale was raised on a farm near Flasher and has lived in Bismarck since 1977. He and his wife, Kathy, have 3 children and 4 grandbabies. Dale worked 15 years as an Ag mechanic and retired in July after 27 years with

Bismarck Public Schools as head custodian. His hobbies include fishing, camping, hunting, gardening and remodeling homes and farm buildings. Welcome to Trinity, Dale!

Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson · gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com

Youth, Family Life, and Christian Education Coordinator

Concert

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music followed by coffee & treats! The Concert will feature Don Engbrecht and the Elks Men's Chorus. Sunday, September 17 at 2 pm at Trinity. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Trinity Youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018.

Carnival & Car Bash

Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:15 pm following worship. What is a Car Bash? For a free will donation, all ages are welcome take a hammer or sledge hammer and bash an old car! We'll also have root beer floats and carnival type games. Hammers will be provided. All donations will go towards Camp of the Cross Building Campaign.

Houston 2018



Trinity will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, 2018. The Gathering is a 5-day event that happens every 3 years, involving inspirational speakers, fun music, interactive learning, and a hands-on effort to share God's love through serving others. We hope you will join us along with around 30,000 youth and their adult leaders from around the country! It is open to youth in grades 8-12. Please see the youth board in the lobby or Gracia for more information. Registration form with a \$150 deposit is due by Oct. 1. Watch the bulletin and email for dates on informational meetings.

Church School & Confirmation

Our Church School & Confirmation Ministries will start up after Labor Day. Church School is for children age 3 to grade 6 and meets Wednesdays from 7:15 to 8:00 pm or Sundays from 9:30 to 10:20 am. We kick off with Rally Day on Wednesday, September 6 and Sunday, September 10. Confirmation is for youth in grades 7 to 9. Sessions start with orientation on Wednesday, September 13. For more information or to register your child, please contact Gracia in the church office.

Western ND Youth Gathering



Join youth from all over Western ND for a fun 3 day event during teachers' convention break. We start the afternoon of Thursday, October 19 and go to noon on Saturday, October 21. Enjoy speakers, music, action tracks, a service project, night-life, games and more while staying overnight at the Grand Hotel in Minot. Cost is \$100 and includes all meals and a free t-shirt. If you have money in your fundraising account you can use it for this! For grades 9-12, contact Gracia for more information and to register by September 29.

The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz · Sadowsky@trinitybismarck.com

Banquet Director



Stephen Ministry



I don't want to bother anyone...

The Banquet is expanding!

The Banquet is excited about the upcoming Tuesday meals and we are looking for regular volunteer coordinators and security for our Tuesday meals. Community volunteer involvement is unbelievably generous and the community need is tremendous! The Banquet would not exist without volunteers. If you feel this is something you could fit into your schedule once a month, please contact me at 202-4749.

If you are interested in hosting a Thursday meal and your business or church can't come up with the 30 volunteers, your group can be combined with other small groups. This would enable you to share both the cost of the meal and the volunteer duties. We don't want anyone or any group to pass up the opportunity to serve.

You can get more information on our website:
www.bismarckbanquet.com.

Sometimes people hesitate to ask for care or even say "No thanks" when care is offered because they don't want to be a bother or a burden to others. Joni Eareckson Tada has a different perspective on asking for or accepting care from others. Joni became a quadriplegic following a diving accident when she was a teenager. For the past 50 years she has depended on others to provide assistance even for little physical annoyances. In the pamphlet, *Making Sense of Suffering*, she wrote, "When someone is going through hardship, it gives an opportunity for others to exercise their gifts in a supportive way." Imagine that! By accepting care, you enable your caregiver to do what he/she has been called to do. You allow him or her to use God-given talents. Both of you can benefit from the care that is given with Christian love and accepted as one more sign of God's grace and mercy.

Once a Stephen Minister is trained and commissioned he or she looks forward to using what was learned to give Christian care, support, and comfort where it is needed. It is an opportunity to follow Jesus' example of caring for others and to grow in faith through this service.

Would the support and care of a Stephen Minister help you through whatever difficulty or frustration you are facing right now? If so, talk to one of the pastors, to a Stephen Leader (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner), or fill out the green Confidential Care Request card in the pew rack and drop it in the Confidential Care box at the Welcome desk in the lobby. Stephen Ministers are ready and waiting to walk with, comfort, and support you. If you know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister's care, please encourage that person to request a Stephen Minister, or make a referral (with the person's permission, of course).

Reformation 500 Festival Worship

**Sunday, October 29th at 11 AM,
Bismarck Event Center**

The ELCA churches of Western North Dakota invite you to join together as a community of faith in worship to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Festival worship will include uplifting music, a sermon by Bishop Mark Narum, and the celebration of Holy Communion. *Trinity will not be having worship or church school on October 29th so all of us can enjoy this once in a lifetime event!* Save the date and stay tuned for more details!

Your gifts

Julie Schaffner · Schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

	Month	Year-to-date
	Actual	Actual
July 2017		
Income	\$ 54,969.36	\$389,392.50
Expenses	\$ 57,826.29	\$428,638.69
Income less expenses	\$ (2,856.93)	\$ (39,246.19)

The \$54,969.36 income for the month reflects an \$8,000 transfer from Trinity's Contingency Restricted Account to aid in offsetting the monthly and year-to-date deficit.

Electronic Giving - Trinity offers the option of Electronic Contributions as a simple way to contribute. This would allow you the freedom from worry or concern whether you are out of town, on vacation or wondering how to budget your contributions. Please stop by the office to fill out the form.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

502 NORTH 4TH STREET

BISMARCK, ND 58501

PASTOR STEVE SATHRE

PASTOR PAUL SCHICK

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S.

BISMARCK, ND

POSTAGE

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Women's Ministries



Bible Study leaders

- The leaders meet with a pastor the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call Jan in the church office prior to that day.

Rally Day "Luther luncheons"

Wednesday, September 6 at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m. on Trinity's 4th Street Lawn

Come and enjoy an event for the whole Trinity Lutheran community to celebrate the beginning of the church school year. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is in October, so our Rally Day events will be a Lunch with Luther!

WED. Wed provide good German bratwurst, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Free will offering.

SUN. Wed provide some good German bratwurst and hotdogs...you just bring yourself and a dish to share.

Sign up for Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University at Trinity

Beginning September 12th, Trinity is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a nine-week course that will teach you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

Info: Schedule- Tuesdays, 7-9pm from Sept 12th-Nov 7th / Cost- \$93 per family for course and materials / Free child care available onsite.

Registration: For more information and registration see the display in the lobby or visit online @ daveramsey.com/fpu/classfinder

A Talk with Luther, Sunday September 17 from 9:30-10:20AM:

This September Trinity will be visited by Martin Luther himself, (as played by Rev. Marv Mutzenberger). During the education hour Rev. Mutzenberger will lead us through a program consisting of imaginary conversations+ that explore various topics of Luther's life.

Come to Fellowship Hall and learn the story of this founding father of the Reformation!

Trust Fund Spotlight



What Does Your Gift Mean?

Do the gifts of your time, your presence, your prayers, and . . . your financial support, make a difference to the young people of Trinity? Here's what Emelie Swonger, one of this year's scholarship recipients has to say about what you have meant to her:

Throughout my time at Trinity, I have found myself tremendously blessed by the love and support of our church community. Seeing the smiling faces of Trinity's members each Sunday never ceases to warm my heart and constantly reminds me of the Christ-like love we are called to share with one another. However, I don't think I truly realized how much Trinity meant to me until I left Bismarck to attend Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. Once that first Sunday away from home rolled around, I quickly discovered that finding a church to meet my spiritual needs would not be easy. Although many of the churches I visited had excellent worship opportunities, I struggled to form connections within the congregation and felt like an outsider every time I came to worship. Then one of my professors suggested that I attend American Reformed Church, just two blocks from campus. Little did I know that it would become the ideal place for me to continue to grow in my faith. There I found a community of brothers and sisters in Christ that welcomed me with open arms and embraced me with an overwhelming, Christ-like love. Every Sunday, I continue to be amazed by their heart for Christ and for the world.

When I try to describe what it means to be a recipient of Trinity's Trust Fund Scholarship, I can only think of the deep gratitude I feel for the incredible opportunities this scholarship has given me. It is such a privilege to study at the college of my dreams and there is not a single day that goes by where I take that for granted. With Trinity's prayers and financial support, I look forward to the academic year ahead and all the ways I can continue to share the love Trinity has so generously given me down through the years. Thank you for providing this wonderful ministry for the young people of our church community.

Your ongoing support for each other as members of a Christian community is an important gift to help each of us . . . young, old, and in-between . . . grow in faith. If you are interested in providing financial support through the Trust Fund or Endowment Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Karen Botine, Richard Hanson, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.