

# 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 4<sup>TH</sup> 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

December 2017

---

## COUNTING THE DAYS

One of my favorite activities before Christmas is to use an Advent calendar to mark the days before the holiday. Every day there is a new little window to open . another surprise to be discovered. There is something deeply satisfying about seeing fewer and fewer windows left to open until the big reveal of Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve.

Therefore, it was no surprise to me to learn that the secular world has been offering very different versions of Advent calendars. There's a high-end department store in London which offers a luxury beauty Advent calendar.+ Every day you open a window to reveal a different beauty product. It sold out almost immediately.

Alcohol is very popular in Advent calendars. You can get calendars that offer a wide variety of your favorite beverage to sample each day . beer, wine, gin, whiskey. They aren't cheap . the basic whisky samplers start at about \$450 but the 'old and rare whisky' calendar retails for \$1,500 - with the 'very old and rare' version costing \$15,000! Obviously, a drink a day will make the time to Christmas pass more quickly.

You can get calendars offering perfume, nail polish, and Legos. Kellogg's is offering small boxes of cereal every day. There is even a calendar with daily treats for you cat or dog.

Of course, some religious leaders are denouncing this as an affront to the true meaning of Christmas claiming it is nothing but crass commercialism. But I chose to see it differently. At its heart, Christmas is the celebration of a gift . a gift given in the very flesh and substance of this world. God wants us to enjoy the blessings of this life as gifts from God. The difference between crass commercialism and a blessed Christmas is that grateful hearts can enjoy life and realize that enjoyment is only increased by recognizing God's hand behind it all.

· Pastor Steve

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Weekly Advent Worship**—Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. and Sundays: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**Church School Christmas Programs**—Wednesday, Dec. 13: 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17: 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve**—Sunday, December 24: 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day**—Monday, December 25: One worship service: 10:00 a.m.

**No worship** Wednesday, December 27

**Sunday, December 31:** One worship service 10:00 a.m.

## Musical Moments

Joanne Swonger · swonger@trinitybismarck.com  
Director of Music and Worship

### Handel's Messiah

The Messiah will be performed at Trinity Lutheran on Sunday, December 3rd. For the 88th year, the community chorus, soloists, and chamber orchestra will bring this glorious music to life in praise of the Prince of Peace!

**Pre-service music begins at 7:00 PM** with seasonal choral selections provided by the Bismarck High School Choir under the direction of Brian Saylor.

**Handel's Messiah begins at 7:30 PM** with Andrew Miller, Director and Laura Prokopyk, Concertmaster of the Missouri Valley Chamber Orchestra

**Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and may be purchased in the church office or at the door.**

### Reception Volunteers

Help with the Messiah Reception by emailing Joanne Swonger or by signing up in the lobby to + **Bake and share 2-3 dozen cookies or bars. Or + Serve a shift on a Reception Hospitality team from 7:30-10 PM or 8:30-10:00 PM.** Thank you!

### Music of the Season

**Handbells** play carols Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:15-10:30 AM in Trinity's north lobby. Join us at our 5:30 PM Wednesday rehearsals - November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. You will only have to ring one bell, so it will be super easy and fun! This is a PERFECT opportunity to experience the joy of bell ringing if you've never tried ringing before! Indicate your interest - email Joanne swonger@trinitybismarck.com.

**Christmas Eve Music** Christmas Eve at Trinity is full of beautiful musical traditions that bring joy to our hearts as we worship our Savior on the night of his birth! You are invited to join us in creating praise for our Lord in song by sharing your gift of music through:

**Trinity Third Street Brass Ensemble**  
Playing for Christmas Eve 5 PM worship service  
Rehearsing Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM  
and Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM

**Christmas Eve Chancel Choir**  
Singing for Christmas Eve 11 PM worship service  
You may sit with your family and still sing with the choir!  
Rehearsing, Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM

**Special Vocal or Instrumental offerings are also welcomed.**

Please email interest or questions regarding any of these opportunities to Joanne — swonger@trinitybismarck.com

## Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson · gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com  
Youth, Family Life, and Christian Education Coordinator



### Christmas Adventure!

Saturday, December 16

in the Trinity Community Center

Lunch served from 11:30 to Noon.

Free Will Offering

Activities from Noon to 1:00 pm include cookie decorating, crafts, and games. Everyone is welcome! Join us!!

### Resource Center

Check out Trinity's Resource Center! It's full of books and videos for folks of all ages. We have several Christmas books and videos as well as Veggie Tale videos. It's right at the top of the steps on the 2nd floor by the church school rooms. To check out an item simply sign it out on the sheet by the door.

### Church School Christmas Programs

Church School kids will be presenting Christmas Programs during worship on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 am. Join us!

## Merry Christmas!

May the love that came  
that Christmas night fill  
all your days with  
joy and light.



# The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz · karlabice@yahoo.com

Banquet Director



Happy Holidays from The Banquet!!! We have been very busy these days serving up to 900 meals per week.

The Freise family has once again agreed to host the Christmas meal which will be served on Dec. 14th. There will be a sign up sheet in the lobby to volunteer.

Thanks to the gracious gift from J & R Vacumn of \$6800 we have purchased a chest freezer. This has already been such a blessing as Great Plains brought donated roast beef which will be used for several meals.

Because we are now currently serving 800-900 meals per week, we are looking for regular volunteer coordinators and security. 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. 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](http://www.bismarckbanquet.com).

*Merry Christmas*



## Pastoral Ministries

**Baptisms:** Alexa Mae Gumke, Blayse Nelson, Moel, Aiden Ezra Doll, Gage Allan Simpson, Mika Rengh Doll

**Funerals:** John Anstrom, Eleanor Sathre

# Stephen Ministry



## Sharing a Light...

As a child you may have enjoyed trying to find your way through a dark house or just playing hide-and-seek outdoors on one of those moonless, starless nights. When you are going through a dark time in life, however, it's not so much fun. Often, when we are in the middle of a life crisis, it seems there is no light at the end of the tunnel in any direction.

If you are walking through a dark night, it's helpful when someone with a flashlight illuminates your path. A Stephen Minister may do this with you when you are walking through the darkness of your life situation. He/she will do this by listening to your concern, by reflecting what you have said, by asking questions to clarify what you have said. Hearing your words and thoughts from someone else's mouth might help you to see your situation differently, or to shine a light on something you hadn't considered before. This might enable you to look at your situation differently, to see how you might respond to it in a new way, or just reassure you that you are not alone. Your Stephen Minister may be the one to help you see the glimmer of light in the darkness that you are living in. Would this be helpful to you?

If you would like the Christian care and listening ear of a Stephen Minister, 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 Center in the lobby. Six Stephen Ministers are ready and waiting to walk with, comfort, and support you.

## Global Marketplace for Christmas!

Ixcan Ministries is coming once again to Trinity! They will sell beautifully hand crafted items created by the Guatemalan artisans of the Ixcan before and after worship on **Wednesday, December 13th and Sunday, December 17th**. They will also be available at Christmas Adventure in the Community Center on **Saturday, December 16th from 11:30 AM -1:00 PM**.

## Your gifts

Julie Schaffner · schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
<b>October 2017</b>		
Income	\$ 59,853.76	\$559,279.78
Expenses	\$ 59,607.47	\$617,200.39
Income less expenses	\$ 246.29	\$ (57,920.61)

**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  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 419

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.
- The Women's Coordinating Council meets at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5. Please try to attend this important meeting. Your input is needed to help decide how the money collected throughout the year is distributed.

## Beer and Carols

December 4 7-9 PM

Join us the first Monday of December for the Christmas edition of Beer and Hymns, a night of spirited carol singing, beer (and other drinks) and fun! These events take place at the Harvest Brazilian Grill in Mandan, (308 W Main St). All persons 21 and over are welcome!

## Christmas baking needed

Christmas goodies will again be shared with our shut-ins this year.

If you are willing to share your baking, or some fruit, please bring it to the church office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13.



## Welcome new members!

The following new members joined Trinity on November 5:

Mitchell and Erin Becker  
Justin and Cristie Dockter, Haley and Jaden  
Landa Gunderson  
Montana and Kelsie Howes  
John and Cathy Van Middlesworth, and Jason

## Trust Fund Spotlight



### EQUIP...

The Trust Fund was created to enhance the work of the Church. This means that the Trust Fund is one of the ways in which Trinity carries out its mission to Welcome, Equip, and Send. When we have welcomed people to Trinity, how do we EQUIP them with a vital, living faith?

Once again, people are part of the process. Faith is nurtured through worshipping together, through church school classes, confirmation instruction, Bible study and other adult education opportunities. Trust Fund grants support the radio broadcasts that bring God's Word to persons who cannot worship with us. These grants may pay for the broadcasts themselves or to improve the equipment that sends the message out. Trust Fund grants have provided new and better equipment for church school and confirmation classes to use in developing the faith of our youngest members, EQUIPPING them for their life-long walk in Jesus' footsteps. The Trust Fund is also providing financial support for the new position of Senior High Youth Minister, to strengthen the church and faith connection with the post-confirmation age group. And, each year we send some high school graduates off to post-secondary education with a Trust Fund scholarship and a reminder to seek a church home wherever they are attending school, so their faith can continue to grow.

If you have questions about EQUIPPING others through a gift or bequest to Trinity's Trust Fund or Endowment Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Karen Botine, Richard Hanson, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.

