

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

PASTOR STEVE SATHRE & PASTOR PAUL SCHICK

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April 2018

Jesus' School of Unlearning

One of the funny things about humans is that we know what we want, but we often aren't very good at knowing how to get it. Take happiness for instance. Most people try to catch happiness by chasing things that one could easily attach the word 'MORE' to. MORE money. MORE stuff. MORE approval. MORE entertainment. MORE accomplishment. And underneath all of these *MORE-focused* life strategies is the underlying assumption that happiness is found in what we take from life.

And yet studies have demonstrated again and again, that the most happy people are those who place the biggest emphasis on giving, not taking. One study that surveyed happiness found that engaging in acts of generosity was the single most reliable way to find happiness. (In case you are wondering, money was linked to happiness up to the point that it took people out of poverty, but failed to add to happiness once basic needs were met.) Along with giving, the importance of *purpose* has also been making headlines. One recent study found that people with a high sense of purpose literally live longer than those without. Who knew?

So if we were being scientific about our lives, two of our biggest life goals would be to live with purpose and generosity. And in fairness, I think most decent folks think that purpose and generosity are nice things to value. And yet a lot of us (myself included) also tend to push these values to the backburner, in favor of the MORE-strategies mentioned above. And we do this because most of the loudest voices in our world reinforce the lie that happiness is found in what we take from life.

Yoda wasn't wrong when he said, "You must unlearn what you have learned." Or as God says in Scripture—"My ways are not your ways." Jesus basically says the same thing as he constantly flips the logic of our world. We like to take, but Jesus says it's more blessed to give. We like to achieve greatness for ourselves, but Jesus says the greatest ones are those who serve others. We want to be rich, but Jesus says the poor have an easier time hearing the gospel. We want to live, and yet Jesus says those who want to live must first learn to die. Faith is as much a school of unlearning as it is about new learning.

What might Jesus be inviting you to unlearn? Which of the *MORE-strategies* do you need to let go of in favor of deeper purpose and greater generosity?

May God bless as you ponder these questions, so that you might grow in his likeness.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

Musical Moments

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

An expression of thanks ...

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all who shared their gifts during worship services throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Thank you to those who provided special music during Lent and Holy Week services as we journeyed to the cross. Palm Sunday's Choir Cantata was a moving way to begin Holy Week and we express our gratitude to the many who were involved.

Easter morning was enlivened with the music of Trinity's Third Street Brass celebrating our Lord's resurrection. And of course, there are numerous people working behind the scenes to set up for communion, set up the Easter decorations and flowers, keep the projection system running, ... the list of helpers goes on and on!

Thank you all -- you know who you are! Trinity is blessed to have so many who gladly share their time and gifts to honor our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Communion Servers

- ◆ Are you looking for a new way to get involved at Trinity?
- ◆ Are you interested in something you and your family can do as meaningful service together?
- ◆ Are you already a communion server, but still have questions about setting up for communion?

We will be offering a training session for communion servers on Sunday, April 8th at 9:45 AM. Meet Joanne at the front of the church over by the piano and she will provide instruction on setting up and putting away communion, as well as how to serve.

New servers are especially needed for 10:30 worship. We encourage you to consider this ministry as a way to offer your time and talent here at Trinity.

Echoes of Easter

We are looking forward to another wonderful presentation of music at the fifth annual "Echoes of Easter," taking place at Trinity Lutheran on Sunday, April 22nd at 2:30 p.m. What a beautiful occasion to celebrate the resurrection life we find in Christ Jesus!

Groups sharing music for this year's Echoes will be the Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus, the Sisters from Annunciation Monastery, the Northern Lights Men's Barbershop Chorus, Saint Mary's Central High School Choir, as well as church choral groups from Faith Lutheran, First Presbyterian, St. George Episcopal, and Trinity Lutheran.

Beverly Everet will play selections on the organ during the service, while Scott Houser will provide the organ prelude and postlude music.

The work of Ministry on the Margins and Heart River Bridges of Hope will benefit from the free-will offering taken during the event. Coffee, cookies, and fellowship will follow the performance.

Children & Youth

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

Theo Art Event at Trinity

Sunday, April 8
2 to 4 pm
Age 6 to adult



Sunday, April 15
2 to 4 pm
Age 21 and up

Watch for more info!

Sr High Youth Group

Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Lower Youth Room.

Bring a friend as we play some games and explore our faith with Sr High Youth Director Katie Howey.

For Grades 10-12.

Trinity Camperships

Because we believe in the value of Christian Camping, Trinity Lutheran Church will provide scholarships of half the price of camp (not to exceed \$150) to anyone enrolled in Trinity ministries attending Bible Camp. To receive your campership, contact Gracia at Trinity: gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com or 223.3560.



Check out Camp of the Cross's summer camps at www.campofthecross.com.

Vacation Bible School

June 3-7, 2018

6 to 8 pm

Age 4 to Grade 5



Join us for Shipwrecked VBS this summer where kids will discover Jesus rescues them! Pick up a registration form at the youth board in the lobby or register online by going to the Trinity website (www.trinitybismarck.com), click on the 'children and youth' tab on top and then 'vacation bible school'. Volunteers are needed! Please see Gracia to help with this fun week!

The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com

Banquet Director



Kitchen coordinator needed

The Banquet is looking for a kitchen coordinator. This is a volunteer position that would work closely with Karla to plan meals with the host groups, determine quantities of food, and supervise the volunteers that come to serve the meals. If you have an interest and need more information, please contact Karla 202-4749.

The Banquet was born 13 years ago. Tudy Fennern raised her baby until she (The Banquet) turned 7. Now, at 13, she wants to develop into a beautiful butterfly and expand her wings. But she's not ready yet. I need the community's help to guide and prepare her to take this grand step of serving 7 days a week and to get our own free-standing facility. That means I need to make our community aware of The Banquet and sign new businesses/churches/organizations up to host a meal.

I ask that you tell everyone you know about The Banquet so we can let this butterfly take off and soar!

Job and the mystery of suffering

An Adult Bible Study by Pastor Steve - April 29, May 6 & 20

9:45am in Fellowship Hall

Nothing challenges our faith more than when suffering strikes our lives. Countless attempts have been made to explain the cause and reason for suffering, and one of the greatest of these is the book of Job. Unlike the stereotype of Job as a faithful person patiently enduring the tragedies of life, the Bible shows him as an outraged adversary to a God who seems silent in the face of suffering. As Job argues with his friends and finally hears from God, we are invited to explore the mystery of suffering and discover some new perspectives for our own lives.

Stephen Ministry



I am strong...

There are times in life that call for strength, but even strong people grow weary, and weary people often find that the "hill" of challenges or problems suddenly looks more like a mountain, and they just don't have the energy to begin climbing. Even those who can and do handle all sorts of situations on most days may benefit by sharing the load with others once in a while. Sometimes, a burden shared, even through talking with a good listener, is a burden reduced to a more manageable level.

Being strong doesn't have to mean "going it alone". Sometimes the strongest thing you can do is to acknowledge that you can use your strength more effectively if you have a little help. By asking for help, you may also be giving someone else the courage to ask for help when they need it.

Is trying to handle everything alone taking too much of your time and energy? Would it help if someone were to walk beside you and share your burden for a little while? If so, talk to one of the pastors or to a Stephen Leader (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner), about receiving care from one of Trinity's six Stephen Ministers. You can also 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.

Pastoral Ministries

Adult Baptism: Ava Brereton

Funerals: Elaine Zimbelman; LeRoy Vander Linden; Jan Benz; Grace Lippert



Your gifts

Julie Schaffner – schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

February 2018

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$ 58,186.04	\$120,696.49
Expenses	\$ 66,248.93	\$129,508.21
Income less expenses	\$ (8,062.89)	\$ (8,811.72)

Electronic Giving - Trinity's offers the option of Electronic Contributions as a simple way to contribute. This

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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

You are invited!

You are invited to be a part of our new church directory. Lifetouch will be taking pictures again at Trinity on May 4-8, and possibly in June. We hope you will want to be a part of this directory and we hope to have as many individuals and families as possible included.

To make an appointment, please call Cindi Offerman at 701. 720.9757. There is no sitting fee and every person or family photographed will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 portrait.

We need YOU to make our new family album complete!

Beer and Hymns

April 2 7-9 PM

This event takes place at the Harvest Brazilian Grill in Mandan, (308 W Main St). All persons 21 and over are welcome!

Giving made easy

Have you ever considered giving your offering electronically? It helps the church manage cash flow and allows you to support our ministry even if you are away. For more information contact Julie Schaffner at 223.3560 or email Schaffner@trinitybismarck.com.

Rummage Sale

Trinity's annual spring Rummage Sale will be held in the Community Center on Friday, May 11 from 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 12 from 8:00 a.m.—Noon. **Please note:** Electronics and exercise equipment will not be accepted. Please wait to bring items the week of the sale, if possible.

Trust Fund Spotlight



Who gets the turkey platter?

Some of the biggest disagreements among family members seem to arise over who gets which possessions after a loved one dies. Often those disagreements focus on the simplest items, such as the cracked turkey platter that is no longer usable, but which occupied the center of the table for every Thanksgiving meal that anyone can remember.

Perhaps you don't need to make a decision about a turkey platter, but do you have plans for the distribution of your estate? If your plans include a bequest to Trinity, where do you want that bequest to go? If your intent is that the bequest be permanently invested in the Trust Fund where only the investment income is spent, the language in your will, insurance policy, or other part of your estate plan must state that Trinity's Trust Fund is to be the recipient. If the language states that the bequest is to "Trinity", it will not automatically go to the Trust Fund. It may be used for other worthy purposes, as determined by the church Council. If your intent is that the principal of the bequest be spent, rather than permanently invested, this should also be stated. This type of bequest will be placed in a dedicated account and used for the purposes you specified.

Estate planning can be a way to express what is important to you, and can also be a gift of love to your family. Make certain your wishes are carried out by (1) putting your wishes in writing, and (2) discussing your plans with your family and with those who will be responsible for carrying out your wishes. If you have questions about how the Trust Fund would fit into your plans, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Karen Botine, Richard Hansen, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.

Trinity new member orientation classes scheduled

New members will be accepted on Sunday, May 20 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. It includes those being confirmed and those transferring from other Lutheran congregations.

We extend an invitation to all of you to take part in our new member classes from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Triniteen Room downstairs. (in the elevator push "BR.") The classes will be held on Tuesday, May 1 and Tuesday, May 8.

We urge you to attend at least one of these classes in order to join Trinity this spring. Classes will be offered again in the fall.