

# 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

PASTOR STEVE SATHRE & PASTOR PAUL SCHICK

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May 2018

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## ***Thoughts on Confirmation, by Pastor Paul & Trinity's Confirmands***

*So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. - Isaiah 55:11*



As Lutherans we believe in the validity of baptizing infants and small children, because a core tenant of our theology is that God's love comes first. And so for us, we find beauty and power in the idea that God embraces us with love before we can even understand it or articulate what it means to love God back. Nevertheless, we also realize that at some point the faith that has been given needs to be embraced for it to really grow and bear fruit. And this is exactly why we have

confirmation. For Lutherans, confirmation is when young adults take ownership of the faith that has been given. Confirmation is a time for asking questions, digging deeper, and hopefully discovering that the journey of Christian faith adds hope and purpose to the journey of life. By the time you read this we will have confirmed 21 young people. Hallelujah! And as is our tradition, each of them will have written a faith statement about how they understand God and faith. But to be honest, every year before reading faith statements I am filled with a mixture of excitement and anxiety. The anxiety comes because I really want the kids to have grown in depth and appreciation of God and faith. And to be fair, I shouldn't doubt that they have, because they demonstrate their spiritual growth throughout the year. But there's always a doubter in me that worries that maybe our confirmation ministry didn't do the trick. The good news is that year after year God proves my doubting self wrong, (*Why did I ever doubt it?*), as I am filled with hope and wonder at the depth of their faith statements. And so I invite you to join me in being inspired by their thoughts on God and faith! Below are some excerpts:

- *If Jesus is love, then he is present when you donate your time to help build houses in Africa... If Jesus is love, then he is present when a mother comforts a hurting child [...] I know love, compassion, and mercy. I have seen others do these things, and since Jesus is all of those things... I know Jesus.*
- *My faith deeply defines me as a person. I've learned that we are all part of a bigger picture as servants of God.*
- *For as long as I can remember I have been going to this church, and it has taught me that I see and hear God everywhere. I see him in smiling kids' faces in church and in the amazing activities we have here. I see him in friends that I have made within the congregation, at banquets and Lenten suppers.*
- *With God I plan to live generously, happily teaching and learning in God's way to give as much as God and others have given me.*
- *In the apparent infinity of our universe, it is hard to imagine that a little, human-shaped clump of a few octillion atoms could have any significance at all, but God tells me that I mean something, and nothing could mean more to me.*

# Musical Moments

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

## On Pentecost Sunday ...

we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Flames of fire danced upon their heads. Their lips gave shape to words they didn't know as they spoke the languages of the ancient world. Such powerful and dramatic events! What did it all mean?

These were signs among Christ's followers that God's Spirit was on the move! As Christ ascended into heaven, He promised to send His Spirit of truth so He would be with the disciples always. This Holy Spirit would guide them and give them power to share the Gospel message in the world!

The power of the Spirit is not limited to some distant day in history. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther gives shape to the Spirit's role in our midst saying that the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies (sets apart for a holy purpose) the whole Christian church on earth. The Holy Spirit moves among us yet today, bringing the words and actions of God's Good News into daily living in new, unexpected ways!

**This year we celebrate the Day of Pentecost on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.** As a sign of celebration and commitment to the Spirit's presence and power in our lives each day, **you are invited to wear something RED to worship** on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> or Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Let us open ourselves to be conduits of this mighty Spirit of God ... who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies each of us! May the Spirit flow among us in a mighty way, as we do God's work and bring God's love to a hurting, broken world.

## Piano Recital ...

**You are invited to come to Anthony Vecchia's Senior Piano Recital on Sunday, May 20th at 1:00 PM in Trinity's sanctuary.** Anthony plays piano at our 10:30 worship services. A Senior at Saint Mary's Central High School, Anthony will be attending University of St. Thomas in the Cities next fall. We will certainly miss having him play for services at Trinity and wish him all the best!



## Trinity outdoor peace sanctuary

A gift of \$100 for a brick, in support of our outdoor peace sanctuary, is a wonderful way to honor and/or remember a friend, family member or loved one.

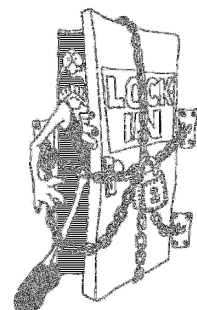
Contact the church office to order an engraved brick, which is placed on the back wall of the Peace Sanctuary.

# Children & Youth

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

## Save the Date!

**Lock-in at Trinity for  
youth in grades 8-12!  
Friday, May 25  
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. If you require additional financial assistance to attend camp, please see Gracia. To receive your campership, contact Gracia at Trinity: 223.3560 or gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com.



Check out Camp of the Cross's summer camps at [www.campofthecross.com](http://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](http://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.

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](http://www.bismarckbanquet.com).

## 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.

## Summer worship schedule

Effective Sunday, May 27, we will have one Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. throughout the summer months.

Wednesday worship continues at 6:30 p.m.

# Stephen Ministry



## What will my Stephen Minister think of me?

Sometimes we hesitate to ask for help or to share our deepest feelings because we fear what others will think of us. Perhaps you have even been told "you shouldn't think that way" by someone who meant to be comforting or reassuring. You don't have to hear such messages very often to decide that it's best to keep your feelings to yourself, even if these feelings become increasingly heavy to carry inside you.

Your Stephen Minister will see you first as a fellow brother or sister in Christ who is struggling with a concern, a sorrow, or a frustration. He/she will accept that the feelings you express are a true representation of what's going on inside you right now, and will not "grade" them as good/bad, appropriate/inappropriate, or on any other scale. Your Stephen Minister will see you as someone who needs Christian care and support, and will be prepared to listen as you express your feelings and work through them out loud. It's likely that you will find this response from your Stephen Minister helps to lighten the load you are carrying.

Is concern about what others will think keeping you from asking for a Stephen Minister's help? If so, talk to one of the pastors or to a Stephen Leader (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechter), about what happens during a Stephen Minister's care, and about receiving care from one of Trinity's 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

**Baptisms:** Sawyer Anthony Howes; Ryker Ole Aarhus; Carson Adam Hertz; Nash Remington Abdallah

**Funerals:** Alan Person; Dianna Hegle; Lila Krueger

## Your gifts

Julie Schaffner – schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

### March 2018

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$ 59,787.21	\$180,483.70
Expenses	\$ 66,514.36	\$196,022.57
Income less expenses	\$ (6,727.15)	\$ (15,538.87)

**Electronic Giving** - Trinity's 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.

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502 NORTH 4TH STREET  
BISMARCK, ND 58501  
PASTOR STEVE SATHRE  
PASTOR PAUL SCHICK

NON-PROFIT ORG  
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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 June 1-3. 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.

## A Message from Pastor Paul about Sabbatical - April 24 — May 22

Pastor Steve and I are thankful to serve in a church that includes a sabbatical policy for ministry staff, which is granted every 5 years. This summer I am reaching nearly 6 years at Trinity, which means that it is time for my sabbatical. For my sabbatical I will be traveling with my family to Europe for a few weeks, visiting friends and sightseeing. Additionally I plan to save some time in reading and reflection, centering on topics that can further my pastoral development.

Thank you for this privilege and blessings to you and Trinity during my time away!

## 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

### Let's Go Camping!



Mission trips, the ELCA Youth Gathering, and Bible Camp are important faith formation experiences for many young people. We are fortunate to have a Bible Camp, the Camp of the Cross, close enough to Bismarck for many of our children and youth to participate. It's true, however, that costs for camping have risen, and may be just a little more than some families can handle. Because of Trinity's Trust Fund we are able to address this issue.

At their March meeting, the Trust Fund Committee approved a grant of \$3,000 to the campership fund that is already part of Trinity's budget. This will enable Trinity to increase the value of the camping scholarships (or camperships) that are available for those children and youth who would like to have the Bible-camping experience this summer. This grant was made possible by income the Trust Fund earns from invested gifts and bequests received over the past 30+ years. Because all gifts are permanently invested and only the income from those investments is spent, the March grant may include income from a gift that was given even before the 2018 campers were born!

Perhaps you had faith formation or faith-growing experiences that you would like to make available to others. Your gift or bequest to the Trust Fund, or your gift to the ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund, can provide income that could be used for future faith-building opportunities for many different age groups. If you have questions about contributing to the Trust Fund or the Endowment Fund, 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.

For questions please call the church office at 223.3560.