

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 PAUL SCHICK AND PASTOR GARY ERDMANN, INTERIM

FAX: 701.223.3561 . TRINITY@TRINITYBISMARCK.COM . 8:30 AM RADIO BROADCAST . 1270 AM (KLXX)

WEBSITE: WWW.TRINITYBISMARCK.COM

December 2018

A Message from Pastor Paul Regarding His Upcoming Departure

Dear Trinity,

As many of you have probably already heard, I will be departing Trinity to start a new call in Rio Rancho, NM sometime in the first few weeks of January. And I have to begin this message by giving thanks to you for the tremendous blessing that it has been to serve as your pastor. But while my family and I are excited to begin this next chapter of our lives, I know that the timing of my departure may come as a shock given Pastor Steve's recent retirement. Therefore I would like to provide some context into what is driving our decision to move on at this time.

The biggest factor in our departure is the desire to be closer to family, especially my mother-in-law, who has been battling an aggressive form of cancer over the last few years. In recent months her prognosis has changed for the worse, and so despite the many wonderful things about serving at Trinity, we feel a deep desire to support and be present to Stephanie's mother in the time that we have left.

It has been a great honor and joy to get to know you and share in ministry together. And despite the many unknowns facing Trinity, I want you to know that you are in very good hands with your council leadership and Pastor Gary. And more importantly, God has a plan- for each of us and for Trinity! And I cannot wait to see what God has in store for you in the coming years!

Until then, I look forward to cherishing the remaining months we have together. And I will certainly keep you in my prayers, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul Schick

Musical Moments

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

JOIN US FOR HANDEL'S MESSIAH

On Sunday, December 2nd, Trinity is sponsoring and hosting the 89th annual community performance of Handel's *Messiah*. We are blessed and grateful for this amazing tradition! The community chorus, chamber orchestra, and soloists will fill Trinity with the beautiful music and message of Christ's birth as we usher in the season. Preconcert music starts at 7 PM and the Messiah begins at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and may be purchased at the door or in advance at the church office. Come and invite a friend or neighbor to join you for this festive and joyous tradition!

WORSHIP & CHRISTMAS COOKIE SOCIAL - SUNDAY, DEC. 23

Take a moment to step away from Christmas bustle and business to quiet your heart in worship and adore the coming Christ Child! On December 23rd, we will join together in one worship service at 10:00 AM. You are invited to bring a plate of Christmas goodies to share during coffee fellowship in the Community Center. Coffee will be available starting at 9:15 AM and will continue for a time following worship.

CHOIR ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Do you love singing Christmas music? Why not plan on singing with the Christmas Eve Choir at the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service? Join us for rehearsals on **Sunday, December 9th and 16th from 9:40-10:20 AM** and **Sunday, December 23rd at 8:30 AM**. It would be helpful in planning if you email Joanne and let her know of your interest. Thanks!
swonger@trinitybismarck.com

CHRISTMAS EVE-CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

If you can help serve communion at the 5 or 11 PM services on December 24th or the 10 AM service on December 25th, please sign up on the worship and music kiosk in the narthex. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Weekly Advent Worship

Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. & Sundays: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Church School Christmas Programs

Wednesday, December 12: 6:30 p.m. & Sunday, December 16: 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24: 5:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25: 10:00 a.m.

No worship Wednesday, December 26

Sunday, December 30: 10:00 a.m.

Children & Youth

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



Christmas Adventure!

Saturday, December 15

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 and books for kids you can borrow for a week or two. 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 12 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 am. Join us!



Senior High Youth Group

For youth in 9th through 12th grade. We meet Wednesdays in the lower youth room at 8:00 pm. Come as you are for a time to relax and grow together in faith!

Lunch at First

All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to a free lunch every Thursday at First Lutheran (across from BHS). The meal is provided by various churches in town during the school lunch periods. Youth from all schools are welcome!

Greeting from Pastor Gary, Interim

Dear Friends in Christ

I am writing my first newsletter article to you as Interim Pastor of Trinity Lutheran. The term "interim pastor" may be something rather new to many of you since Pastor Steve has served this congregation for over 30 years. But now, he has ventured into something new, which has left this congregation wondering what's next?

So what's with all this "newness" in the life of the church? In the life of Trinity Lutheran? Well, the simple answer is, it's just time. It is time for something new. I think most of you are familiar with a classic passage in the 3rd chapter of Ecclesiastes, where the author begins with, "There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven." Well for Trinity Lutheran, that time is now.

So this time of transition is new indeed. But it's also an exciting time for all at Trinity Lutheran.

Over the next year I will be sharing with you my call to the ministry and how that changed my life. Never expected it, and quite frankly didn't know what to do when I was first faced with it. But let there be no doubt, my life became new.

I was someone who had spent most of his time in school. I finally received a PhD in Natural Products Chemistry, did a couple years of post-doctoral study, and found a faculty position in the College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota. My life, I thought was set. In fact I was able to return to NDSU as a professor. I had several research grants in Pediatric Oncology, I was teaching, and life was good. All set until retirement I thought. But then came that pesky Holy Spirit and suggested rather strongly that it was time for something new. And God proceeded to turn the lives of my wife and I completely around. Instead of closing in on retirement after 20 years in academia, I found myself in seminary, and my wife living in Fargo at the County Inn and Suites.

Can a scientist become a pastor? Oh I struggled with that, and with my "new" school loan. But in the end the answer is yes. Because as terrifying as change and newness can be, all things are possible with God. And I must emphasize that God leaves no stone unturned. My wife, who had settled into her career as Health Information Administrator at Essentia, just as they were preparing to open, was also part of this plan. God cared for her as he did me. In fact this new life has taken us to Tanzania 7 times, something we never dreamed would be possible.

So at Trinity Lutheran, newness is in the air. I am honored and anxious to take this journey with you, and eager to learn more about this special congregation.

God's blessings and Peace, Pastor Gary

Stephen Ministry



I'm Overwhelmed!

The holiday season is a time of great expectations, especially the expectations we put on ourselves and what we "should" do to make the season bright and memorable (like a Norman Rockwell painting). Instead, we often find the season is full of rushing, trying to do too much, and agonizing over what didn't get done or wasn't done according to our own high standards.

If you are already dealing with life challenges, the added stresses we tend to put on ourselves during the holidays can magnify the other challenges you are trying to address. If you know someone who is feeling overwhelmed at this time of the year, take time to listen and to validate feelings – letting him/her know that it's OK to feel the additional stress. Then, if you can, encourage the person to consider ways to reduce that stress, perhaps by simplifying the traditional activities or by sharing the responsibility for these activities.

If you are the one feeling the "holiday overload", would it help to talk to someone (such as a Stephen Minister) about it? If you think it might help, or if you need more information about what a Stephen Minister might do for you, talk to one of the Stephen Leaders (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner).

SIGN UP FOR DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY @ Trinity in January!

Beginning January 28, 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 at 7pm from January 28-April 1/ Cost- \$93 per family for course and materials. Child care may be available onsite. If interested in child care, see Jan in the church office.

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

Your gifts

Julie Schaffner – schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

October 2018

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$ 55,278.46	\$590,573.18
Expenses	\$ 58,592.07	\$631,462.58
Income less expenses	\$ (3,313.61)	\$ (40,889.40)

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.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

502 NORTH 4TH STREET
BISMARCK, ND 58501
PASTOR PAUL SCHICK
PASTOR GARY ERDMANN, INTERIM
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S.
BISMARCK, ND
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 419

*May the joy of the
Christ Child
be in your heart
this Christmas season!*



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 12.



Beer and Carols — Dec. 3 7-9 pm

Join us the first Monday of December for a night of carol singing, beverages, and fun! These events take place at the Mandan Depot Bier Hall. All persons 21 and over are welcome!

Just a reminder...

Now that Pastor Steve has retired, he will need to step away from Trinity for a while. This is good for Trinity and for him as we move forward. It gives both of us time and space to chart a new course for the future. So you will not see him in worship, and he will not be available for baptisms, weddings, hospital visits, funerals, etc. Those needs will be well covered by our church — just contact the church office. Be open and welcoming to new leadership and you will be blessed.

Trust Fund Spotlight

What's Next???



As Trinity moves forward on the search for a new senior pastor, and associate pastor, many questions will need to be answered. Who are we as a congregation? What are our strengths, our weaknesses? What role or roles should Trinity play in the future of our Bismarck-Mandan community and in our larger faith community in this country and around the world? What kind of leadership and guidance will we need? As we think about and discuss these and other questions, the Trust Fund Committee asks, *How can the resources of the Trust Fund and Endowment Fund be used most effectively in helping us reach our goals?*

These questions will be considered again and again as Trinity moves forward and changes over the years. We are fortunate as a congregation to have the Trust/Endowment Funds as a resource to support special projects outside the general budget, one-time efforts, or to provide "seed money" to get new ministries started. If you would like to provide support for these efforts now and in the future by making a gift to either the Trust Fund or the Endowment Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Karen Botine, Richard Hansen, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiand.

Welcome new members!

The following new members joined Trinity on November 18:

Dennis Bosch
Alan Henning
Lewis, Lynette, and Lofton Hinckley
Cal an Sue Kolling
Muriel Lippert
Wilbur Lippert

Women's Coordinating Council

The Women's Coordinating Council meets at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4. Please try to attend this important meeting. Your input is needed to help decide how the money collected throughout the year is distributed.

Pastoral ministries

Baptism
Jaxson Reed Huber
Funeral
Ed Blumhagen