

# 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

GARY ERDMANN, LEE HERBERG, INTERIM LEAD PASTORS

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

WEBSITE: WWW.TRINITYBISMARCK.COM

September 2019

---

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Transition. Interim. Change. Three words that hadn't been used much at Trinity in the past, let's say, 100 years or so. But they have been used in the last year, and have become words that are front and center today. And for me, to be a part of this process has been a blessing. That probably sounds a little strange since the normal reaction of a congregation that is transitioning between pastors is one of fear and uncertainty. And I know that many at Trinity felt that way 10 months ago. But to see how the ministries and worship of Trinity have grown past these emotions is quite simply, a blessing; a blessing to watch and a blessing to experience.

My first phone call was with Trinity's congregational President, Jim Lewis. I never would have thought a friendship would evolve from that. And to have an opportunity to work with Beth Campbell for the last 8 months has been just a joy. Two individuals who had time each week to talk; God-fearing Trinity-loving people. If ever there was a need for two dedicated presidents to take on some challenging work, well, let's just say God does provide, and did, with these two.

And to have the opportunity to watch God work amongst the people of Trinity lacks definition. I am speechless. But it says a great deal about Trinity. I remember when I first had a chance to meet with the staff. They didn't know what to expect, but they embraced the challenges and the uncertainty and were so willing to accept this new "stranger". And what they did for me as we worked through this interim process will never leave me. It's hard to explain special relationships.

And would anyone describe a congregation that numbered about 3,000 as a family? I would here. It is not very often that a special closeness and connectedness is felt in such a large group, but you have mastered it at Trinity. I wouldn't know where or how to start with names. I do know that as the needs arose, the individuals just appeared to address them. Unbelievable.

But as Solomon would say, everything has its time. And now it is time for me to wish all of you well. There is one thing clear about interims, they have a definite beginning, and a definite end. For me, my end at Trinity will be September 30<sup>th</sup>. Although some may feel this is going to be another "change" to endure, it really isn't. You are much closer now to calling a senior pastor than you were last November. And one cannot look back and say that we were ever alone or abandoned in this process. God has been at your side and mine all along, and He will never leave you. Not now, not ever.

Today, the call committee is busy sorting through the names of interested pastors. And this will continue. In the meantime, Pastor Lee Herberg will continue with the ministries and leadership at Trinity as the transition progresses; it will be nice to have someone many of you already know.

Both my wife and I are looking forward to our remaining time at Trinity. You will always be in our prayers, and God's arms.

Pastor Gary  
Pastor Gary

**Pack a Backpack for Kids with United Way!**  
**Wednesday, September 18 at Trinity. Watch bulletin for sign up and more info!!**

## Fall worship schedule

September 8, we return to two Sunday worship services: 8:30 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (Blended)

Wednesday (Contemporary) worship continues at 6:30 p.m.

## Council update

The church council and its boards and committees have been very busy this summer moving forward on many different projects.

The Council continues to monitor worship attendance. Sunday worship numbers have stayed steady, but our Wednesday numbers have declined. We would love to hear from those of you who attend Wednesday worship with your thoughts and suggestions. Feel free to contact a council member or leave a message in the church office.

As fall arrives, so does the beginning of our budgeting process. While our finances look strong on paper, those numbers do not reflect our current staffing levels. The associate pastor position has been vacant since January and the music & worship position has been vacant since May. We've asked our financial director Julie Schaffner to provide more information to help us all understand our current financial situation. (see page 3)

We look forward to Pastor Lee Herberg beginning his service at Trinity on September 1. Pastor Lee will work with Pastor Gary before he leaves the end of the month. Pastor Gary has requested that we do not have a party for him, but we would encourage you to reach out to him and thank him.

A work group has been formed to update Trinity's by laws. If you are interested in participating in the work group, please contact the church office.

The Property Board, Music & Worship Board and our sound technicians worked together to develop a plan to move the sound board and projection system to the main floor of the sanctuary. The wiring and equipment will be moved soon. A new desk and cabinet will be built to house it at a later date. Thanks to the Trust Fund for provided the funding for this project.

A job description has been developed for a new Music & Worship Director and the position is being advertised.

The Family Life Board is organizing a ministry fair to be held Wednesday, September 4 and Sunday, September 8. This will be a great opportunity for the congregation to learn more about our boards.

## Lutherans in Leather

Have a motorcycle? Want to go for a ride with church friends or meet some new people? They go for a ride and eat supper together before coming home.

Join them on Mondays, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23. Meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m.

## Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson—[gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com](mailto:gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com)

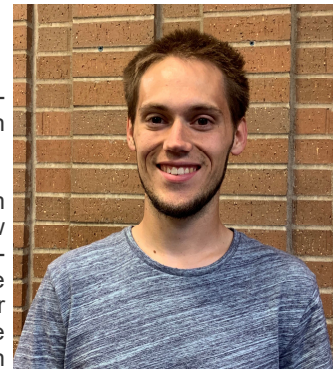
Youth and Christian Education Coordinator

## Meet Nick Peterson!

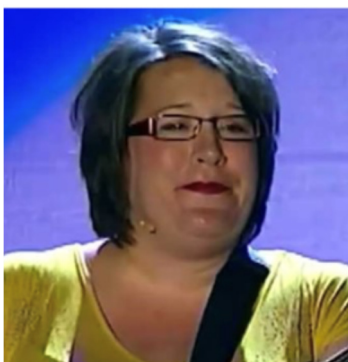
Nick was recently hired as Trinity's part-time Sr. High Youth Director.

My name is Nick Peterson. I'm 23 and from Horace, ND but now live here in Bismarck after graduating from BSC last spring. I've worked at Camp of the Cross for the past five summers. I have two brothers (who have both also worked at camp). I enjoy cycling, camping, and listening to podcasts.

I'm really excited to be working for the church! It's a dream come true. I can't wait to see how God uses me in this position.



## Western ND Youth Gathering!



Join youth from all over Western ND for a fun 3 day event during teacher's convention break. Rachel Kurtz, singer and speaker who wrote 'I am my life to make a difference' will be there with us.

We start the afternoon of Thursday, October 17 and go to noon on Saturday, October 19. Enjoy speakers, music, break out sessions, a service project, night-life, games and more while staying overnight

at the Grand Hotel in Minot.

Cost is \$75 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.

## Church School & Confirmation Kick-Off!

Church School will begin Wednesday, September 4 & Sunday, September 8 for kids age 3 to grade 5.

Confirmation will begin Wednesday, September 12 for youth in grades 6-9.

Please register new students with Gracia Johnson at 223.3560 or [gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com](mailto:gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com).

# The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com  
Banquet Director



## Calling all gardeners!

The Banquet will gladly accept donations of homegrown fresh produce. Garden fresh vegetables are given to the guests to eat at home. Donated produce can be brought to Fellowship Hall and put on the long tables by the entrance door Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 9am-4pm. It is important that **NONE OF THE PRODUCE IS HOME-PROCESSED**. It all must be in its "natural state" due to health codes. Thank you in advance!



## ADOPT-A-BLOCK Food Distribution

As part of The Banquet's new affiliation with the Dream Center Network we are introducing the Dream Center Adopt-a-Block program. Adopt-a-Block is a program where the Dream Center Adopt-a-Block truck will go to select neighborhoods and distribute grocery items to those in need. To receive the grocery items you will be asked to fill out a short intake form at the Adopt-a-Block truck location...it's easy!

**South Central High School**

**Parking Lot**

406 S. Anderson St. Bismarck

**Mondays**

**5:30 pm-7:00 pm**

**Jeannette Myhre School**

**Parking Lot**

919 S. 12th St. Bismarck

**Wednesdays**

**5:30 pm-7:00 pm**



For more information contact Jim Barnhardt  
701-226-4524 or e-mail jimbarhardt@msn.com

## Pastoral ministry

**Wedding:** Loren Fuhrer and Jana Heiser

**Baptisms:** Aubree Jane Kaiser; Kendall Elaine Foster; Steven Thomas Skeen; Cannon Robert Wentz; Rorik Christopher Wentz; Ryan William Peterson; Rayden Leigh Peterson; Bryar Robert Schneider

**Funerals:** Charles Lindberg; Ardyce Miller; Carol Houser; Bernice Palmer

# Stephen Ministry



## Someone else may need it more than I do...

That's the response we occasionally get when offering a Stephen Minister's care to someone who is going through a tough time. From one perspective, this is a generous response that reflects concern for others. There are probably others who are experiencing difficulties and could benefit from a relationship with a Stephen Minister. BUT – what if the Stephen Ministry team doesn't know who that "someone else" is???

If you are declining care because of concern for someone who hasn't even been identified...

- You miss the opportunity to receive care;
- A Stephen Minister misses the opportunity to use his/her knowledge and skills to provide that care and support;
- Both you and a Stephen Minister miss the opportunity to develop a relationship that can enable both of you to grow in faith.

If you accept the opportunity for care by a Stephen Minister now, you might even be the person who helps to identify that mysterious "someone else" who could use care in the future. And, because you experienced Christian care, you might be better prepared to support and encourage that "someone" as a friend, until he or she is ready to accept care from a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry can only provide care when someone has identified his/her own need or has given a friend or relative permission to make a referral. If you have a need now, please tell a Stephen Leader (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner). If you know of someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister's care, even for a short time, encourage him or her to request that care or ask permission to bring that person's need to the Stephen Leaders.

**Rummage Sale:** October 25 and 26. Please bring items the week of the sale if possible. No electronics or exercise equipment will be accepted.

## Your gifts Julie Schaffner — Schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

### July 2019

Income

Expenses

Income less expenses

Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
\$46,805.56	\$414,179.98
\$49,453.05	\$401,173.35
\$ (2,647.49)	\$ 13,006.63

While it is exciting that income exceeds expenses by \$13,006.63 for the year, we must keep in mind the decrease in expenses are due largely to the vacant Associate Pastor position since January and the Worship & Music Director since May. When comparing the past 2 years through July 31: 2019 is \$47,268 ahead of 2018 and \$60,253 ahead of 2017. In 2019, no transfers from savings has been needed; however, through July 31 in 2018 \$10,000 was transferred and \$8,000 in 2017. Feel free to contact Julie Schaffner with additional questions.

**Kiosk Giving** – You may have noticed a new device in the Narthex; a Giving Kiosk has been installed and is up and running for your convenience. The process for giving to Trinity's General Offering (member or non-member) and Ministries can be done using the Kiosk.

**Note:** Trinity is charged an administrative and per transaction fee (e.g. Trinity receives \$96.80 from a \$100 donation).

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

## Greetings from Pastor Lee Herberg



### Intermission

My mother was a big movie buff... especially of the films of the 30's and 40's. Growing up my sister and I were exposed to most of the 'classics', some of which were very long and kept up us past our bedtimes. I remember that some of those epic movies had a built in intermission...where one could take a break before the feature resumed. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, I will begin a time with you as an inter-

im pastor, a pastor who will be with you during this time of intermission.

An intermission in a long movie is a time to take a break, but it is more than that. During an intermission, one can take a moment to reflect on what one has experienced so far and then anticipate what is yet to come. As a congregation, Trinity as a rich heritage...in other words, you are already an epic picture in progress. Remember that...you have already made a mark on your community and this world.

A little bit about me...I am 67 years old so I am a 1952 model. I was born in Williston, ND. My parents grew up in Divide County south of Crosby, ND on farms 3 miles from each other. My dad's parents came from Norway, my mom's from Sweden so I was a product of a 'mixed marriage' at that time in our culture. I retired earlier this year after 32 years as a pastor in the ELCA. Before I began my studies at Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, MN in 1983, I worked in the Aerospace Industry for 9 years as an Industrial Engineer, and as a Planning Specialist for the Space Shuttle. I am a widower with a 22 year old daughter who graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN this past May with a degree in Biology and is now a new medical student at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks. I was so proud of her on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> when I attended the "White Coat" ceremony at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks where the 77 individuals of the Class of 2023 were welcomed into the family of those whose calling is to bring healing to those who are hurting.

Perhaps you a hurting a bit too...wondering when this intermission will end and the feature will start again. Intermissions always end...don't worry! Perhaps now is the time to remember how the film started with the opening credits. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ wrote and continues to write the screenplay... we are all in good hands and the ending is worth waiting for!

Take care and enjoy these North Dakota days of summer and fall!

Pastor Lee

## Trust Fund Spotlight



### As the needs arise...

Summer is vacation time for many families, but for the Trinity family the needs continue, and so the work of the Trust Fund Committee continues through the summer. Thanks to modern methods of communication, it isn't even necessary to wait until a regular Trust Fund meeting (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month) to consider needs for financial support of Trinity's projects and activities. During this summer the Committee met by e-mail, as well as in person, and funded grant requests to upgrade the location of our audio visual equipment to the main floor, and upgrade the wiring for the projection system. Apparently, our current projectors have a life span ending soon, and the newer LED systems have a much longer lifespan. The new wiring is necessary for the upgraded projectors.

For the first six months of 2019, the Committee was able to distribute almost \$31,900 in grant requests. This included scholarship requests which will be met over the next two college semesters. We also had to pay almost \$6,200 for the annual fees of administrative functions to keep the fund alive and doing well.

We have been blessed by the importance members of Trinity have given to the Trust and Endowment Funds and their gifts/bequests to these funds. The Trust Fund Committee has been charged with investing these funds prudently, and regularly reviews how the funds are invested to achieve income goals at a reasonable cost for investment management. The reward to the Committee for these efforts is to have the privilege of saying "yes" to requests for financial support that enable Trinity to WELCOME, EQUIP, and SEND Trinity members and others on their faith journeys.

What needs will arise in the remaining months of 2019 and beyond? How will the Trust Fund and Endowment Fund be part of meeting these needs? If you would like to be part of the answer through a gift or bequest to the Trust or Endowment Funds, or if you have questions about either Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Dan Welsh, Richard Hansen, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.

Go with God and be Blessed!

### For updates on our pastoral transition

see "Pastoral Transition Updates" on our website. The Call Committee is actively meeting and interviewing.