

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

LEE HERBERG, INTERIM LEAD PASTOR

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October 2019

Reformation Day

As I write this newsletter article, the date is September 12th, 2019, which happens to be 'National Chocolate Milkshake Day'. Who knew? Not me. I guess I should purchase one of those 'National Day of...' calendars so I could be ready for these occasions to celebrate. My daughter Mikaela would certainly have wanted to know that July 23rd, 2019 was 'National Hot Dog Day'; I would have celebrated 'National Cheesecake Day' a week later on July 30th and what good North Dakotan would have let 'National Tater Tot Day' slip by last February 2nd without making a tater tot casserole?

On October 31st, 2019, we will celebrate 'Reformation Day' for the 502nd time. More than a national day of recognition, it marks the time we pause to honor the work of the reformers, primarily Martin Luther, for their critique of church practices which were not rooted in scripture. The reformation changed the course of European society at a time in which the common people were far removed from the affairs of the church in the world.

In my short time with you good people of Trinity, I can readily observe that you are not removed from the affairs of the church in the world but are actively engaged in making a difference not only in your community but through your benevolence and 'heart to hand' activities demonstrate an ongoing reformation attitude! On Wednesday evening, September 18th, groups of confirmation students and their guides joined other members of Trinity in filling over 1,000 backpacks with food for distribution to 'at need' children in the community through the Bismarck school system. When I was in school back in the day, backpacks were unknown...you just carried your books crooked in your arm or maybe used a book strap. A church would never have a 'fill backpacks with food' night or would have known what that would have been for.

To be 'reforming' is to always be reshaping one's ministries to the needs of the community in our midst. During this time of transition at Trinity, the congregation has spent thoughtful, quality time assessing our present ministries as well as our hopes and dreams for the future in Trinity's Ministry Site Profile. The Ministry Site Profile is serving as a springboard for discussion as the Call Committee does its fine work on our behalf interviewing candidates. As we celebrate Reformation Day again this year, let's keep dreaming of new ways to be the church and then boldly act on those dreams for the benefit of God's good creation.

Until next time,
Pastor Lee

Call Committee update

The Call Committee has interviewed a candidate and have brought the name to the council. And we are super excited! We will be making an announcement on Sunday, September 29 and Wednesday, October 2. The candidate will also be at church on Sunday, October 6 for a meet and greet between services and on Wednesday, October 9. A special congregational meeting to vote on our candidate will be held on Sunday, October 13 following the 10:30 worship service.

For more information you can contact the church office.

Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson—gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com

Youth and Christian Education Coordinator

Car Bash & Halloween Party



All Church School age kids and their families are invited to join us for a Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 30 from 7:15 pm following worship till 8 pm for some fun, games, and treats! Wear your costume and join us! If we get a car, we do the car bash as well!

Renewed Compassion and Concern

Although autumn starts with a bang—the pews are often fuller, the singing is more robust, faith formation programs are up and running—fatigue likely sets in between September and October. Once refreshed by summer, the intensity of fall settles in and it can seem overwhelming. It's not just what's happening at church; it's also what's happening everywhere else. Practices, meetings, and work and family commitments crowd in around people, causing weariness. If you listen long enough, is it possible to hear this in the worshipping assembly as the robust singing in September becomes softer, more subdued, in October?

Do the disciples in Luke's gospel experience a similar fatigue? You can't necessarily hear it in the disciples' voices; in several of the gospel readings for this season, the voices of Jesus' disciples are almost entirely silent. Are they out of breath? In one instance in which we hear a brief word from the disciples, their engagement with Jesus sounds frazzled, fatigued. And if they are fatigued, then no doubt they are also anxious and afraid. As the gospel readings reveal, discipleship is a contact sport—with Jesus and with the world, all the while in the presence of the promised Spirit—and it's not an easy one at that. The promise that energizes discipleship is not its ease, yet in all things, Jesus never leaves them. Following Jesus is often difficult because of where Jesus leads or what Jesus asks the disciples to do, or because the picture the disciples had of what was supposed to happen is not the way things are unfolding, or because they are plain out of breath. Yet in this struggle the disciples are not abandoned. Jesus is with them. Jesus is with us.

We recently heard the story of the lost coin and sheep (Luke 15:1-10). Both reveal how Jesus finds us where we are at. This is no small feat. The pictures Luke paints of a shepherd searching for one sheep and of a woman searching for one lost coin seem ludicrous. Yet, to Jesus, everyone is important, everyone is worthy. The Pharisees and scribes don't understand this wide welcome. Their measure is the law; Jesus' measure is mercy.

— Sundays and Seasons

4-5 Grade Retreat

A fun overnight of games, life story, and fun at Camp of the Cross near Garrison. The event starts at 7 pm on Friday, October 18 and ends at 4 pm on Saturday, October 19. Cost is \$35. Please see Gracia by October 10 if interested.



Lunch @ First

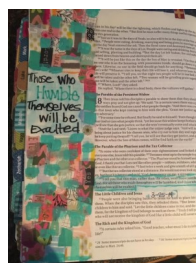
A free meal for youth in grades 9-12 served at First Lutheran Church (across from BHS). Youth from all schools are invited. Lunch is served Thursdays from 11:00 to 1:15 starting October 3. Meals are provided by 4 ELCA churches in Bismarck including Trinity.

All Ages Welcome!

Volunteer with Trinity at Papa's Pumpkin Patch!

Trinity is working the North Concession stand (green garage) at Papa's Pumpkin Patch in October to raise money for our youth ministry. Help us out and support Trinity Youth! Go to trinitybismarck.com and follow the pumpkin patch link to sign-up.

Bible Journaling Pop-Up



Monday, October 14 at Boneshakers Coffee (1501 Mapleton Ave.) in their meeting room. Come and go as you are able from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Beginners to experienced Bible Journalers of all ages are welcome at our informal group. We'll have our tub of supplies available so if you're new to Bible journaling you can just come and try it out.

For Questions, contact Gracia at 223.3560 or gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com.



October 25 and 26.

Please bring good, clean, used items the week of the sale if possible.

No electronics or exercise equipment will be accepted.

The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com
Banquet Director



Adopt-A-Block Food Distribution Truck

The truck has been out every Monday and Wednesday since June 19th. At South Central High School we set a record of 60 households served this past Monday. Wednesdays we serve at Jeannette Myhre School and are expecting to easily top 75 households this week.

All 5 of the Dan's stores are now donating product to Adopt-A-Block as are both Cash Wise stores, and this week Master Bakery. We also continue to be supplemented by Great Plains Food Bank.

As of September 9th, the Adopt-A-Block truck had served a total of 424 individual households and 719 children. The number of people coming to the Adopt-A-Block truck continues to increase as awareness increases.

Stephen Ministry




What kind of person can benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

Someone like Eve. Do you suppose, in the years after being ejected from Eden, she ever asked herself why she had listened to the serpent? Did she go over that event again and again, and wish she had behaved differently? Were there days when that first sin was front and center in her thoughts?

Sometimes it isn't the major traumas of life that wear us down. The weight may come instead from all those "would-a, could-a, should-a" decisions and behaviors we regret, but that we keep reliving. The apostle Paul knew about this and described his struggles: *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.* (Romans 7:19, ESV)

Sometimes our past behaviors even lead us to believe we are beyond hope – and this is another weight we carry. The New Testament is full of reassurances for us. For example: *In him (Christ) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his (God's) grace.* (Ephesians 1:7, ESV); and again, *If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9, ESV)

When you are still carrying the decisions and behaviors of the past on your shoulders every day, would it be helpful to explore some of God's promises with another Christian – perhaps with a Stephen Minister? Do you need to find some of those reminders that God is still with you and still loves you – even when all you can see is your unlovable side? If you feel you could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, contact one of the Stephen Leaders (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechter).



DREAMCENTER
BISMARCK

Great Plains
Food Bank

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 jimbarnhardt@msn.com

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

August 2019

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$52,335.94	\$466,515.92
Expenses	\$50,282.96	\$451,456.31
Income less expenses	\$ 2,052.98	\$ 15,059.61

Kiosk Giving – A Giving Kiosk has been installed in the Lobby 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).

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502 NORTH 4TH STREET
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Messiah

Join us for rehearsals, beginning October 13th, for our 90th anniversary performance of Handel's Messiah. Rehearsals will occur every Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at Trinity until our performance on November 24th!

We will have 1 Saturday dress rehearsal before the concert on the 23rd of November.

If you would like to join us, just show up at 4 pm on October 13th with your singing voice and score. If you don't have a score, we will have some for check out as well.

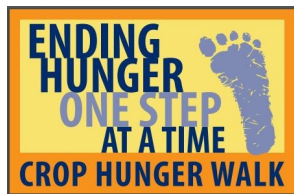
See you October 13th!

CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

It's the 50th Anniversary of the Bismarck-Mandan Cropwalk for Hunger. Join us as we celebrate!

Sunday, October 13 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
12:30 Registration, Education fair for kids! Music!

1:30 Walk (you can walk as far you want)
Families and pets welcome!
See Gracia for more info.



REBUILDING TOGETHER*GREATER BISMARCK/MANDAN

This is the leading non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to repairing homes, at no cost, for people from all walks of life who own their homes, but because of physical or income limitations, properly maintaining a home can be an impossible task. If you know of someone who would like to be considered for home repairs addressing safety, security and weather-proofing their homes, you may stop by the office for an application and additional information.

Pastoral ministry

Baptism: Rylen James Gregory

Funerals: Randy Fix; Henry Wisness



Trust Fund Spotlight



Avoid the Last-Minute Rush...

Was December a busy time for you last year? If it wasn't, you are probably in the minority. If it was, eliminate one thing from this year's December to-do list to give yourself a little break. Make your gift to Trinity's North Dakota Tax Credit Endowment Fund (the Endowment Fund) this month or in November. If you give now, your gift will begin to earn income sooner, you will have one less thing to remember in December, and you will avoid the end-of-the-year busy time in the church office.

Just to remind you...

- The minimum gift is \$5,000 given within one calendar year to any one entity (such as Trinity's Endowment Fund) and the maximum is \$25,000 (or \$50,000 for a married couple). The total gift may be given at one time during the year, or as several smaller gifts that total at least \$5,000.
- The tax credit is 40% of the charitable deduction allowed by the IRS, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year per taxpayer (so the net cost to you will be less than the amount of your gift).
- The credit can be carried forward up to 3 years if it cannot be used completely in one tax year.

To make a gift to the Endowment Fund, pick up a copy of the Gift Agreement forms in the church office. A copy of the forms will be returned to you for your tax records after they have been signed by a member of the Trust Fund Committee. If you make several gifts to the Endowment Fund during the year, complete a separate Gift Agreement for each gift.

All gifts to Trinity's ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund must be given without restrictions. If you wish to restrict your gift to a specific purpose, it may be given to the Trust Fund, but it will not qualify for the ND Tax Credit.

We extend a big thank you to the family of former members of Trinity Lutheran. They moved away, but did not forget their former church home. The Trust Fund Committee was notified by family survivors that the estate of their parents included a \$25,000 endowment to the Trust Fund. This gift is greatly appreciated and serves as an example of how members can continue to contribute, even after they have gone from our world.

If you have questions about providing financial support to Trinity through either the Trust Fund or Endowment Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Dan Welsh, Richard Hansen, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.