

# 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

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December 2019

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## Advent

### Luke 2:12

*12 "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." NRSV*

Back in 1971 when I was in my freshman year at Minot State College, the Canadian rock group Five Man Electrical Band released a song entitled "Signs". The song "Signs" was a social protest song that was typical of 70's angst that contained these words as part of the lyric... *Sign, sign, everywhere a sign, Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind; Don't do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?*

Many signs are negative...designed to keep order and in that sense they are a necessity. I like stop signs, yield signs, slow down signs and the like to help keep the roadways safer. We become accustomed to all kinds of signs—traffic signs, 'for sale' signs, warning signs, medical signs.

Amid all the signs we are surrounded with in this life, we also encounter a new sign, a sign that ushers in something beyond us. As we journey now into Advent, we journey into the mystery of God who prepares to come to us in a new way, in flesh. Luke retells the account of the shepherds abiding in their fields, putting in an ordinary day, who through an angelic presence of God are given the sign. *"This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."*

Will we notice this sign amid all the other signs the world puts before us? Especially at this time of year, we are bombarded with signs that remind us that time is running out to buy that perfect gift at the mall or on-line. Modern signs remind us that we need to move faster and faster to get everything done before Christmas. God's sign is not reflectorized, like the 'Legendary North Dakota' license plate, or flashing with LED's to get our attention. Yet this sign is for the entire world to see. This sign is before us, behind us, indeed all around us. God is coming in flesh to be with us. This Advent, we will again sing the words of the old Advent hymn *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."* The word Emmanuel means "God with us".

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child, look for signs of God at work in the world right around us. In this time of giving, ponder the gift given us of new life in Christ, and look for signs of God's love at work. Take time to gaze into the eyes of a child who is taking in the wonder they see in the world that still looks fresh to them. God is with us...Emmanuel. May this *'sign of signs'* wrap you with joy again. As you wrap your gifts this year, remember that God continues to wrap you in the warmth of his word, the light of his grace. Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Until next time,  
Pastor Lee

## Welcome new members!

We are happy to welcome the following members who joined Trinity on Sunday, November 10th.



Sydney Sweep and Billy Bauman



Edgar Kilber

## Advent & Christmas schedule

### Weekly Advent worship:

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

### Church School Christmas programs:

Wednesday, December 11th, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 15th, 10:30 a.m.

### Christmas Eve:

Tuesday, December 24th, 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day:

Wednesday, December 25th, 10:00 a.m.

**No evening worship:** Wednesday, December 25th

**Sunday, December 29th:** One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

**No evening worship:** Wednesday, January 1st

**Please note:** Starting with our new church year this Advent, Trinity will be reformatting the liturgical calendar. Beginning this Advent, the sermon on Wednesday will be the same as the previous Sunday. This follows the standard format of Sunday beginning the new liturgical week. Thank you!

## Christmas baking needed

Christmas goodies will again be shared with our homebound this year.

If you are willing to share your baking, or a little fruit, please bring it to the church office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11th.

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



## Children & Youth

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

Youth and Christian Education Coordinator



## Christmas Adventure!

Saturday, December 14

Trinity Community Center

Lunch served from 11:30 to Noon.

Free Will Offering

Activities from Noon to 1:00 pm include cookie decorating, ornament making, and more. Everyone is welcome! Invite a friend and join us!

## Church School Christmas Programs

Church School kids will be presenting Christmas Programs during worship on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m. Join us!

## The Reason Christmas Experience

High Schoolers! Join us for The Reason concert with bands and speakers on Thursday, December 5 at 7 pm. You pay \$5 and we'll cover the rest. For grades 9-12. See Gracia or Nick by December 3 if interested.

## Sr High Youth Group

Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm. Come hang out, play some pool or ping pong, have some treats. For grades 9-12.



## Check out all the happenings!

[trinitybismarck.com](http://trinitybismarck.com)



Instagram  
[trinity\\_bismarck](https://www.instagram.com/trinity_bismarck)  
Trinity Lutheran - Bismarck



Facebook  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Bismarck

# The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com  
Banquet Director



## What is Hunger in North Dakota in 2018?

(Data taken by Great Plains Food Bank)

Hunger in North Dakota 2018 consisted of 2 surveys - an agency survey and a client survey. **The agency survey** was an online survey sent to partner agencies (food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens) of the Great Plains Food Bank. It asked questions about logistics, operations, challenges and capacity. A total of 175 agency surveys were completed for a response rate of nearly 60 percent. **The client survey** was administered by face-to-face interviews. Trained volunteers asked clients a series of 81 questions about their personal situations, household demographics, tough choices, coping strategies and use of nutrition programs. A total of 516 clients participated from 54 different sites. **HUNGER IN NORTH DAKOTA 2018 REVEALED...**

- 75 percent of Great Plains Food Bank clients reported living with a chronic disease and 84 percent of those reporting dealing with more than one.
- 13 percent of households served include veterans.
- 78 percent of Great Plains Food Bank partner agencies need more food to meet the need.
- Clients reported using a food pantry an average of 11 times per year.
- Clients reported making an average income of \$12.54 per hour and an average annual income of \$17,690.
- Just 11 percent of clients reported they were in excellent health.
- Nearly half of clients make difficult choices between paying for food and paying for gas for their car.
- 57 percent of partner agencies reported serving more clients than the previous year.
- Clients receiving food assistance reported that the following issues also impact their lives: Chronic disease/health conditions (44 percent); affordable housing (43 percent); lack of transportation (40 percent); poverty (35 percent); available housing (27 percent); quality housing (24 percent).
- HIND interviewed a total of 516 clients, 175 partner agencies and 52 volunteers at 54 sites taking 316 volunteers hours to complete.

The Banquet was one of Great Plains Food Bank partnering agencies in collecting this data and are now working with Great Plains Food Bank with the Adopt-A-Block program. Together we are making a difference in our community!

# Stephen Ministry



## Did I do the right thing?

Have you ever second-guessed yourself? You made a significant decision that affects others as well as yourself, and now you are wondering if it was the "best" or the "right" thing to do. You analyze all the "what-ifs" and find yourself re-thinking the whole situation, even when you should be getting a good night's sleep.

You made the decision – placing a loved one in a care facility because home care just didn't work anymore; you applied "tough love" to a family member who needed to take responsibility for him or herself rather than remaining dependent on others; you asked for hospice care because a family member is nearing the end of life; you made a career change that will require adjustments for the entire family. The decision had to be made, and you were the one who had to make it, but still – you wonder.

Sometimes it helps to discuss the situation with someone who is outside the decision, and who can help you see the entire process through another set of eyes. Perhaps talking with a Stephen Minister would help you see how you made the best decision you could with the information, resources, and support available to you. Perhaps you just need reassurance that your feelings of uncertainty – or even guilt – are a natural, normal response to a major change in your life and the reactions of others to that change.

If you feel that discussing your decision and the follow-up to that decision with a Stephen Minister would be helpful to you, contact one of the Stephen Leaders (Margaret Fiechtner, Karen Botine). If you know someone who is going through this type of situation, encourage them to consider a Stephen Minister's support, even for a short time. It could make a difference!

## EXCITING NEWS!

For those of you who may not have heard, on October 13, Trinity voted to call Pastor Mark Narum as our Senior Pastor and Pastor Mark has accepted that call! He will start at Trinity on February 24th, 2020.

## Pastoral ministry

**Baptisms:**  
Maylin Christian  
Brody Christian

**Funerals:**  
Curtis Bracht  
John Olsrud  
Helen Schatz

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

### October 2019

	Year-to-date Actual	Actual
Income	\$54,997.27	\$576,124.38
Expenses	\$55,539.76	\$569,194.25
Income less expenses	\$ (542.49)	\$ 6,930.13

**Electronic Giving** - Trinity offers the option of Electronic Giving 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. If interested, you may call the office for more information or complete a Simply Giving form and return to Julie Schaffner. The form is available in the office, at the Welcome Center, or on Trinity's website.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

502 NORTH 4TH STREET  
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## Holiday Piano Concert

Brayden Drevlow's piano Christmas concert will be held at Trinity on Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. Brayden gave a wonderful concert here earlier this fall. He is phenomenal!

Brayden is a concert pianist from Thief River Falls, Minnesota. He enjoys performing and traveling all around the world, bringing his music to unique people in unique places; from piano bars to royalty. Drevlow performed in September as the featured soloist with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. Join Drevlow as he plays holiday favorites and debuts his personal arrangement of Tchaikovsky's immortal Nutcracker Ballet. Invite friends and family for this fun and interactive concert! No tickets required, however, free will donations will be appreciated following the concert.

Check out [www.BraydenDrevlow.com](http://www.BraydenDrevlow.com) for more information.

## Christmas Caroling!

All are invited to join us for Christmas Caroling at St. Gabriel's Community on Sunday, December 8. We will meet at Trinity at 1:30 p.m. and carpool over together to start caroling around 2 p.m. for 30-45 minutes. All ages welcome!



## Christmas Offering for Charles Hall Youth & Family Services

Charles Hall Youth & Family Services provides foster care services to youth between the ages of 10 & 19. These boys and girls come from across the state of North Dakota and live in one of our 3 residential homes in Bismarck. The mission of Charles Hall Youth Services is to assist at-risk youth in making a successful transition from troubled adolescence to mature adulthood through providing a nurturing and therapeutic environment where at-risk youth can realize hope and learn the life skills needed to build on their innate strengths, develop emotional security and psychological resiliency.

A representative from Charles Hall will be with us during worship on Wednesday, December 11 and Sunday, December 15 to share more about their services. Join us in supporting Charles Hall this Christmas. Make a donation by leaving a gift in the offering plate or church office. Please make checks payable to Trinity but mark it for Charles Hall.



## Trust Fund Spotlight



### EQUIP...

The Trust Fund was created "to enhance the work of the Church...". This means that the Trust Fund is one of the ways in which Trinity carries out its mission to Welcome, Equip, and Send. When we have welcomed people to Trinity, how do we EQUIP them with a vital, living faith?

Once again, people are part of the process. Faith is nurtured through worshipping together, through church school classes, confirmation instruction, Bible study and other adult education opportunities. Trust Fund grants support the radio broadcasts that bring God's Word to persons who cannot worship "in person" with us. These grants may pay for the broadcasts themselves or to improve the equipment that sends the message out. Trust Fund grants have provided new and better equipment for church school and confirmation classes to use in developing the faith of our youngest members, EQUIPPING them for their lifelong walk in Jesus' footsteps. The Trust Fund is also providing financial support for the new position of Senior High Youth Minister, to strengthen the church and faith connection with the post-confirmation age group. And, each year we send some high school graduates off to post-secondary education with a Trust Fund scholarship and a reminder to seek a church home wherever they are attending school, so their faith can continue to grow.

If you have questions about EQUIPPING others through a gift or bequest to Trinity's Trust Fund or Endowment Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Dan Welsh, Richard Hansen, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for February 23, 2020. The later date allows Trinity to be able to include the financials for Trinity's Trust Fund.

## Quilts for sale

Our Trinity Quilters have quilts for sale for \$50. If you are interested in purchasing a quilt, please contact the church office. They also thank you for your continued support, whether it be fabric, bed sheets, or monetary donations.

## November Food Pantry Challenge

Due to your wonderful generosity, we far exceeded our request for 500 items for our pantry! Thank you!!

Items and monetary donations are always appreciated throughout the year, as the needs are ongoing.