

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

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January 2020

A Happy and Blessed New Year to all!

“Old habits die hard” goes the old saying. How true that is! Perhaps that is why our New Year’s resolutions tend to get recycled every year. The old is comfortable and familiar...the new untried and foreign. We come to a new year wanting people, things, life in general to be better and then find we brought all the old baggage of life past along with us.

For centuries people believed that Aristotle was right when he said that the heavier an object, the faster it would fall to the earth. Aristotle was regarded as the greatest thinker of all time, and surely he could not be wrong. Anyone, of course, could have taken two objects, one heavy and one light, and dropped them from a great height to see whether or not the heavier object landed first. But no one did until nearly 2,000 years after Aristotle’s death. In 1589, Galileo summoned learned professors to the base of the leaning tower of Pisa. Then he went to the top and pushed off a ten pound weight and a one pound weight at the same time. Both hit the ground below at the same instant. The power of past belief was so strong, however, that the professors denied their own eyesight. They continued to say that Aristotle was right. The learned professors missed the new truth and clung on to the old error. Old habits die hard.

In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright sent a telegram from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where they were carrying on their flight experiments, to their sister in Dayton, Ohio. The telegram said *“First sustained flight today, fifty-nine seconds. Home for Christmas.”* Their sister took the message to the Dayton newspaper, and the next morning a brief news item appeared under the headline, *“Popular local bicycle merchants will be home for the holidays.”* The newspaper missed the point. They failed to see that the Wright brothers were doing a new thing.

You and I have been to the manger again. We have seen the Christ child. In Christ, God was coming to dwell with us in a very ‘new’ way. The gift of Christ is to be a gift of ‘newness.’ The birth of Christ is to bring new meaning to life, new meaning to each day, new meaning to how we relate to one another in this ‘old’ world.

We will soon be in the season of Epiphany on our church calendar. Epiphany begins on January 6th, following the twelve day season of Christmas which began December 25th. The season of Epiphany will last until Ash Wednesday on February 26th, 2020. Besides its central meaning commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles from the adoration of the Magi, or wise men, epiphany can also mean a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience. In other words, an epiphany is an ‘aha’ moment.

As we begin this new year of living together in God’s grace in this place, may we have some ‘aha’ moments. May we find newness of life, newness of purpose, newness in our faith walk as we follow this child, born in a manger for you and for me.

Until next time,

Pastor Lee

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for February 23, 2020, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The later date allows Trinity to be able to include the financials for Trinity's Trust Fund.

The Council will present a budget and a slate of nominees for the elected leadership positions. The choices made at this meeting chart Trinity's direction for 2020. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Many many thanks!

- ◇ for organists, Amanda Samuelson and Scott Houser.
- ◇ for the wonderful, dedicated singers in Chancel Choir, Sunday Praise Team, Wednesday Praise Band, and small group ensembles.
- ◇ for our brass players at Christmas and Easter.
- ◇ for Susan Lundberg and Stephanie Delmore for making the church beautiful for Christmas.
- ◇ for the dedicated volunteers who serve behind the scenes with projection, communion, scripture reading, greeting, ushering, funerals, baptism hosts, Handymen, Altar Guild, Quilters, Banquet volunteers.
- ◇ for Cathy Nelson's work with worship clipboards for the kids.
- ◇ for the generous sharing of financial gifts and memorials which directly support worship and music funding for many special projects.
- ◇ for all council, board, and committee members.
- ◇ for Dick Smith, our visitation pastor.
- ◇ for all who worship here at Trinity. May we grow in our love for the Lord, our joy of being together in worship, and our desire to serve God's people in the world!

Sign up for Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University at Trinity!

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join our *Financial Peace University* class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together! Interested? Join us at **Trinity Lutheran Church** starting **Thursday, January 23, 2020**.

This 9 week class will be held downstairs in the Triniteen Room from 7:00p.m.-8:30 p.m. ending on March 19. Feel free to call or text Dan Welsh @ 701-955-0278 your questions or sign up at fpu.com/1108968 !

New office hours

Effective January, 2020, the church office will be closed on Fridays.

Radio Broadcast

To sponsor a broadcast for 2020, please sign up at the Welcome Center, or call Jan in the church office. The cost is \$200. This is an important outreach ministry of Trinity.

Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson—gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com

Youth and Christian Education Coordinator



**Save the Date for
Vacation Bible School!
June 1-4, 2020
6-8 p.m.
Age 4 to Grade 5**

High School Service Project



January 9 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Ministry on the Margins. We have 6 slots reserved. See Gracia or Nick to claim one. For grades 9-12. Join us in serving our neighbors!

Sunday Parent Group

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 12 from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. We will have a coffee bar, treats and an opportunity for a casual conversation after a short video. We will be done in time for you to pick your kids up from Sunday School.



Check out all the happenings!

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



Blue shirt of the month



Our first Blue Shirt of the month is Marion Kiefer! Every first Monday of a new month, we will be highlighting one of our very own Blue Shirt volunteers. These volunteers are regular volunteers that are instrumental in helping The Banquet run smoothly and efficiently each and every day.

Marion has been with The Banquet for 13 & 1/2 years! She has loved seeing the amount of community involvement grow within The Banquet over the years. She shares that she would love more people within the community to see the need for The Banquet, as we have so many people coming through our doors and to our Adopt-a-Block program each week.

One of Marion's favorite Banquet memories was when a local sponsor donated stuffed animals. Marion loved seeing how a small act of kindness went such a long way and made such a huge impact to the children who got to take home something special.

"I believe I have been blessed. It is time to give back, it has been time, and it will always be time."

Thank you, Marion for all that you do for our community and The Banquet!



Pastoral ministry

Funeral:
Luther Kristensen

Stephen Ministry



I can do this myself...

If you are a parent, you probably experience mixed emotions when one of your children begins to do something independently that used to require your help – feeding him/her self, driving the car (alone), going off to college or that first home-away-from-home. It's a natural part of the growing-up process, and you want your child to become independent, but still – your role in this child's life changes, and that can be painful.

Stephen Ministers experience some of these same emotions when a care receiver says, "Thanks for your support and encouragement. I'm ready to move on without your help." This is the goal for every Stephen Minister as he or she enters a caring relationship. It's gratifying to see that a care receiver has adjusted to a new reality after a tough time, but this new step for the care receiver means the relationship that developed between care receiver and Stephen Minister during their weekly meetings will change, or perhaps end entirely.

How long does a caring relationship last? Long enough to give the care receiver the support he or she needs. This could be as little as a few weeks, or it could be several years.

Who decides when a caring relationship ends? The care receiver makes this decision when he or she feels ready to move on without the Stephen Minister's support. Often, the Stephen Minister has noticed that the care receiver talks about the original issue less often, that the weekly meetings have become less intense and perhaps more social, or even that the care receiver is willing to meet less often. The Stephen Minister and the care receiver may discuss these changes and plan for ending the relationship at a time that is comfortable for both of them.

What happens next? Again, this depends on the care receiver. Some care receivers and Stephen Ministers have developed relationships that neither wants to give up completely, so they agree to meet periodically as friends, rather than as caregiver and care receiver. In other cases, the relationship may end completely. Each caring situation is unique.

Are you at a point in your life where some Christian support and encouragement would be helpful in getting through a tough time? If so, 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.

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

November 2019

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$54,744.70	\$630,869.08
Expenses	\$49,321.08	\$618,515.33
Income less expenses	\$ 5,423.62	\$ 12,353.75

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.

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502 NORTH 4TH STREET
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Martin Luther King Celebration

Monday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity

This year's keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Stone, director of choral activities at Bismarck State College. Music will be provided by a community choir, which will rehearse at Trinity at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the choir. Refreshments will be served following the event. Please join us!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who shared your Christmas baking with our homebound. You made it possible for us to really fill the plates. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and means so much to our homebound members!

Funeral workers needed

If you are willing to help serve lunch occasionally, following a funeral, please call Jan in the church office at 223.3560.

Sermon podcasts available online

You can listen to podcasts of our pastor's sermon at our website—trinitybismarck.com. There is a link on the home page. Just click on it and enjoy. The sermons are posted the following Tuesday each week.

Happy
New Year!

Trust Fund Spotlight



Planning Ahead...

The start of a new year is traditionally a time when people resolve to make some type of change that will improve their lives... lose weight, develop and follow a budget, eat less (or more) chocolate. Typically, most New Year's resolutions have been abandoned within a month or two. Just ask the staff at any exercise facility. Why not make a different kind of resolution for 2020?

If you are unable to make decisions, do those who will make the decisions know what you would want? Have you provided for guardianship of any minor children? Do you have health care directives? Have you planned for the distribution of your estate? Putting your wishes in writing in the appropriate legal manner can be a gift in itself.

If your plans for the distribution of your estate include a bequest to Trinity, the language used to express your wishes is important. If your intent is that the bequest be permanently invested in the Trust Fund where only the investment income is spent, the language in your will, insurance policy, or other part of your estate plan must state that Trinity's Trust Fund is to be the recipient. If the language states that the bequest is to "Trinity", it will not automatically go to the Trust Fund. It may be used for other worthy purposes, as determined by the church Council. If your intent is that the principal of the bequest be spent, rather than permanently invested, this should also be stated. This type of bequest will be placed in a dedicated account and used for the purposes you specified.

Estate planning can be a way to express what is important to you. Make certain your wishes are carried out by (1) putting your wishes in writing, and (2) discussing your plans with your family and with those who will be responsible for carrying out your wishes. If you have questions about how the Trust Fund would fit into your plans, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Dan Welsh, Richard Bjornson, Richard Hanson, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.

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.