

# 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

MARK NARUM, PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF; LEE HERBERG, PASTOR

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

WEBSITE: WWW.TRINITYBISMARCK.COM

June, July, August 2020

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*Matthew 13:3 - 9 <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!" NRSV*

My cousin Norm Hanson was born to be a farmer. He wore out his toy metal tractors and diggers faster than any other kid in Divide County, ND. My grandpa took him for rides on his old John Deere Model 70 before he could walk and that 'putt putt' sound has stayed in his ears ever since. He loves machinery, dirt and seeds. Norm tries to always be in the field by April 15th or so north of Ep-ping planting his seeds into earth ready to give birth to life again. Some springs this is possible...others not so much. As North Dakotans, we know that there is no such thing as 'normal' when it comes to the weather. And this spring, we also realize that any and all sense of normal has gone by the wayside.

The gospel writer Matthew shares with us Jesus' parable of the sower. The sower that Jesus tells us about also had to deal with variable conditions. He was eager to plant, but the seed didn't always have ideal conditions for growth. Jesus is speaking here of the seed of faith that is planted in us. Will it grow? Are we a fertile seed bed ready to receive this gift of life? Do we pay no attention to our faith life, never nurturing our spirit? Do we have faith when life is going well but bail out on God when the going gets tough? Do the daily demands of life make us put our faith life in the back seat or on the shelf? Jesus illustrates the difficulty of growing seeds, of nurturing faith, in this little parable. As you receive this newsletter, Easter Sunday will have passed. The ham will have been eaten with social distancing in place, the Easter eggs found in groups of 10 or less. The danger is that we go back to being Good Friday people, not Easter people. The danger is that we become fearful again, of living in a crazy world with thorns all around us, with the demands of life making us forget what the resurrection of Christ means for us. Seeds will be planted, summer will come, harvest will gather in again the fruit of the earth. This spring, let the seed of faith and new life be planted in all of us. May we be a fertile seedbed, ready to receive this gift of life, that the gift of life given to us in faith will make a difference in how we live in the world. Have hope!

Until next time, Pastor Lee

## Congregational Update – May

Greetings in Christ's name! We miss seeing you for worship, church school, quilting or for those times people would just stop in the office. We look forward to the day when we are able to gather face to face again. In the meantime, here are several updates:

-A "Return to Worship" task force is being gathered. We could still use two people willing to help us think through what practices will need to change when we do return. The virus will not be gone and we will want to do the best we can to keep people safe and healthy.

-At the moment we continue to partner with Grace, Driscoll and St. Luke, Wishek. This is a true partnership. While we invite the people of these congregations to join us either through the radio or through Live Streaming, Trinity benefits by having another excellent leader help us with worship and an excellent leader providing Bible Study material for all three of our congregations. It is a win for everyone involved.

-Thank-you for your continued financial support of our ministry in Christ's name. Stewardship is believing that everything we have has been provided by God. I am thankful to all of you who are joyfully sharing a portion of your time, talent or treasure.

-We have worked hard to make it easier for members to give electronically. First, through our website [trinitybismarck.com](http://trinitybismarck.com), there is now a donate tab in the upper right corner. It will take you to a spot where you can give electronically through "Give+", the same provider we have been using for years. You may also add a "Give+" app to your smartphone. Search the app store and follow the directions for setting up an account. Whether through our website or through your smartphone, you have the choice of making a one-time gift or a recurring gift. Again, thanks for your generosity – through your giving ministry in Christ's name is happening.

-Trinity has applied and been approved for the Paycheck Protection Plan through the Small Business Administration. This loan will become a grant as long as the funds are used for payroll and no staff are laid off. Through this federal program, Trinity and the Banquet have received approximately \$73,000.

-A member has provided us with a Thrivent Regional Board Member Grant, \$6,000 of which will go to the Banquet. \$4,000 is available to provide grocery grants to people in need. Please let the church office know of individuals who could use this help.

-Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Services and First Communion celebration has been put on hold until this fall. We will keep the congregation updated.

-Pastor Mark continues to collect the "laments" of people from our congregation. What is it that you miss? What are you grieving? Take a moment to let us know – [narum@trinitybismarck.com](mailto:narum@trinitybismarck.com)

Blessings to all of you. May God continue to walk with you in these days.

### Special Easter offering

Our special Easter offering this year was Heart River Bridges of Hope. Total amount received was \$1,745. Thank you for your donations!

## Children & Youth

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

Youth and Children Ministry Coordinator

### Family Faith Idea

Go on a Prayer Walk (or drive)! Simply take a walk in your neighborhood or maybe drive to a different part of town. As you walk, take time to stop and pray for your neighbors or for people who work in specific businesses, schools, etc.

### Vacation Bible School! June 1-4, 2020, 6-8 p.m. Age 4 to Grade 5 Register today!



Join us for Rocky Railway VBS this summer where kids will discover that Jesus' power pulls us through! Pick up a registration form at the youth board in the lobby or register online by going to the Trinity website ([trinitybismarck.com](http://trinitybismarck.com)), click on the 'children and youth' tab on top and then 'vacation bible school'. Volunteers are needed! Please see Gracia to help with this fun week!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Watch our website and your emails for updated information as we make decisions about VBS in early May.

### Butter Braids have arrived!

You may pick them up. Just call 223.3560 when you arrive! We are closed Friday afternoon.

### Camperships

Because we believe in the value of Christian Camping, Trinity Lutheran Church will provide scholarships of \$150 to anyone enrolled in Trinity programs wishing to attend Bible Camp. If you require additional financial assistance to attend camp, please let us know. To receive your campership, contact Gracia at Trinity: 223.3560 or [gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com](mailto:gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com).



Check out Camp of the Cross's summer camps at [www.campofthecross.com](http://www.campofthecross.com).

### 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



You Tube  
Trinity Lutheran—Bismarck

# The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com  
Banquet Director



The Banquet will continue to only be handing out to-go boxes throughout the month of May. This applies to our Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday meal service. Numbers at The Banquet have gone from 1,000 meals per week served in house to 700 to-go meals each week.

Adopt-a-Block has not been affected and we will continue providing groceries as usual. The food distribution has gone from serving 2 days each week to serving 6 days per week. We now serve Monday at South Central, Tuesday at Lewis & Clark School in Mandan, Wednesday at Jeannette Myhre School, Thursday at New Song Church, Friday at Solheim Elementary and Saturday at River of Hope Church. Adopt-a-Block has gone from 160 households each week to 450-500 households per week with each household receiving a substantial amount of groceries.

As part of the Adopt-A-Block expansion a couple of donations were made:

- Tricia Zenke at Five Star Storage donated the use of a 35' storage unit for 90 days for nonperishable food storage.
- We have been using the walk-in freezer and cooler at the American Legion Ballpark (Larks) thanks to Kevin Klipfel at Bismarck Parks and Rec.

If you or anyone you know is struggling during this difficult time, or is worried where their next meal will come from, please direct them to The Banquet or Adopt-a-Block. We welcome anyone and everyone, no questions asked.

Please visit [thebanquetnd.com](http://thebanquetnd.com) for our hours, days and locations of service.

## Please note:

As the Banquet continues to grow towards independence, beginning May 1, we will be administrating all of our financial deposits and providing a year-end tax donation statement to all donors. Trinity members **will not** see donations made to the Banquet after May 1 on their Trinity Contribution Statement. If you have any questions, you may call Julie Schaffner or Karla Eisenbeisz at Trinity.

# Stephen Ministry



## What's Your "Cup of Cold Water"?

Children's voices singing a song over the phone, chalk drawings on my sidewalk, cartoons and jokes e-mailed by a former co-worker who understands my quirky sense of humor, the friendly voice (behind the mask) of a stranger in the grocery store. These are just a few of the "cups of cold water" I have experienced in the last few weeks. Each of these experiences brightened my day a little, or a lot, and the best part is that none of them required major effort or expenditure of any money. So often it is the little things that can make a big difference – like the cup of cold water that tastes so good when you return hot and sweaty from your solitary walk.

When I read my usual on-line news reports, I always look for the "Good News" items. It's amazing how many ways people are finding to do something good for someone else, and how often these "somethings" are started by children or adolescents. It's a way for us to recognize that others do exist, even when we can't make personal contact, and the way these efforts are received emphasizes how much these little contacts are needed. A recent fortune cookie "fortune" told me to *"Give what you have. To someone it may be more important than you think."*

What do you have to give? If it is a suggestion that your friend or family member might benefit from the care a Stephen Minister could provide during these challenging times, contact one of the Stephen Leaders (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner) for more information.

## Prayer list

Prayer is an essential part of our faith life. As part of the body of Christ we are called to pray for others who are sick, hurting or in need of healing. With this in mind, we will be adding a prayer list to our bulletin. Names will be added only with the permission of the person being prayed for or an immediate family member. If you would like your name added to the list please let Jan or one of the pastors know.

Please pray for: Elin Hoechst, Mike Hanson, Muriel Lippert, Margaret Fiechtner.

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

### March 2020

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$61,989.78	\$192,034.81
Expenses	\$61,959.82	\$185,264.01
Income less expenses	\$ 29.96	\$ 6,770.80

**Electronic Giving** – During this unprecedented time, Trinity continues to provide support and ministries for its members and those non-members seeking guidance, food and spiritual direction. We thank all those who have joined in this mission by providing financial support. Now we ask for your continued financial support. On Trinity's website [www.trinitybismarck.com](http://www.trinitybismarck.com), we have updated and simplified different ways to give electronically. The DONATE button allows you to give a recurring or one-time donation, donate using PayPal or credit card. You may also complete a Simply Giving form and forward to Julie Schaffner. If you have questions or need assistance with electronic giving, please feel free to call Julie. Thank you again for your continued financial support.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Join us Online! Our Schedule

Videos will be posted on our Facebook page and at trinitybismarck.com under 'Media – Trinity YouTube'.

- Thoughts of a Prairie Pastor Monday at 10 a.m.
- Congregational Updates Tuesday at noon (if necessary)
- Church School Wednesday at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday Worship at 5 p.m.
- Congregational Updates Friday (if necessary)
- Bible Study Saturday with Pastor Brian Knutson of St Luke, Wishek
- Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. (edited version)

Sunday 8:30 a.m. – Radio Broadcast – join us on 1270 Super Talk or the 'listen live' link on this website.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. – Live Stream on our Facebook page. Bulletins are posted on the website.

We are happy to partner with St. Luke in Wishek & Grace Lutheran in Driscoll.

## RUMMAGE SALE NOTICE

Due to COVID-19, the spring Rummage Sale has been cancelled. Watch for more information regarding the fall sale.

Due to lack of storage, we are no longer accepting items until close to the week of the sale. Thank you for your cooperation! Just a reminder that we do not accept electronics or exercise equipment.

## Deaths

**Terry Watson** — Died March 28. Services to be held later.  
**Ella Naves** — Died April 12. Graveside service later.  
**Velma Ohlhauser**, mother of Arlyn Ohlhauser, died April 9.  
**Cleo Wagner**, mother of Mark Wagner, died April 14.  
**Ida Deppert**, mother of Cindi Offerman, died April 25.

Please remember these families in your prayers.

## Gifts and memorials

In memory of **Terry Watson** by Audrey Solheim (Trust Fund)

In memory of **Ella Naves** by Audrey Solheim (Trust Fund); Kirsten McIntyre (Memorial Fund); Marilyn Campbell (Trust Fund); Julie Roe (Trust Fund); Mike and Sandi Ranum (Trust Fund)

## Trust Fund Spotlight



### In a time of worldwide discord...

What a time for all of us. The Covid 19 pandemic has caused a considerable amount of fear and soul searching for everyone. Trinity is still maintaining its presence via electronic means and the Trust Fund is no exception. While not meeting in person, the Trust Fund Committee continues to work for you. The blessing is that this virus cannot affect the Trust Fund directly, but the virus can work its evil onto you, the owners of the Trust Fund. We pray that everyone is safe and well at this time.

You can make your gift to Trinity's North Dakota Tax Credit Endowment Fund (the Endowment Fund) and Trust Fund throughout the year.

- 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 \$10,000 per individual (or \$20,000 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 ask you to remember that the Trust Fund is a long term commitment to Trinity Lutheran Church. Its sole purpose is to protect Trinity and its goal to provide meaningful, prayerful good to its members and worthwhile projects. We are all one in God's family, and we will prevail in this time of hardship.

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: Susan Ronning, Dan Welsh, Richard Hansen, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.