

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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"...while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2 NRSV

The term 'wind' occurs frequently in scripture, over 200 times in the Old and New Testaments. In the first chapter of Genesis, we already are introduced to the reality of wind in the second verse where we read "while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." Here in North Dakota, we are well aware of the reality of wind...as in scripture, its presence is frequently encountered.

I have been thinking about the wind lately and the old children's tale of the "The Three Little Pigs". We know that in that classic story, the big, bad wolf is constantly huffing and puffing, trying to blow the houses of the little pigs down. The key to preserving one's home in this story is to use sturdy construction, i.e. bricks, to make the house solid enough to withstand the effects of the wind upon it.

Trinity Lutheran is constructed primarily of brick in order to be strong and stable in a harsh environment such as North Dakota with its wide swings in temperature and moisture. Still, mother nature does its best to try and blow even God's house down. We have been in the process of having a complete facility assessment done by Core Facility Solutions, a Bismarck, ND firm that specializes in retrofitting buildings to be more energy efficient and to leverage those savings in energy and maintenance to help offset the costs of improvements to the infrastructure.

The preliminary assessment has indicated many areas in which the integrity of the structure of the church has been compromised. One of the primary areas of concern at the moment is the state of the windows on the 1950 addition (primarily used as the Education Unit). There are 17 original single pane windows in this addition and all but 2 are rotted out at the bottom with delaminating panes of glass. In addition, the HVAC system in the 1968 addition (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall) along with their pneumatic controls are reaching the end of their life span and have required a considerable outlay of funds for repair over the past year with part of the Sanctuary HVAC system inoperable as I write this article. We are at this time waiting for a more detailed assessment to be completed in order that we may provide an update to the congregation on priorities for rectifying these issues.

We will continue to give thanks to God for the gift of walls and roof, shelter from the storms of life, and the warmth of God's grace and mercy that fills the spaces where we dwell in life including this holy space that we call Trinity Lutheran Church. In these days when we continue to largely 'shelter in place' we are reminded that God always shelters in place with us through the storms of life.

Until next time,

Pastor Lee

Congregational Update:

A priority of your council and staff is to keep you informed of happenings at Trinity. These are interesting times to be in leadership. We are striving to balance our mission to Welcome, Equip and Send people with the Good News of Jesus Christ – while at the same time attempting to keep those who gather safe. For some this has been frustrating—other denominations have opened their doors quicker, some with few restrictions. Leadership at Trinity knows that fact but also realizes our responsibility and liability for keeping those who gather here safe. We invite you to pray for wise guidance, open conversation and thoughtful decisions. Know that you can always talk to your council members or me about these issues. We will serve Christ best if we are able to move forward together.

Here are few updates about happenings at Trinity:

- Outdoor worship has gone well. We have been able to worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. During these services the Gospel has been proclaimed, Holy Communion has been celebrated and we have even been able to celebrate a baptism. The Safe Opening Task Force is discussing whether we should allow worship within the building if there is inclement weather (rain, thunderstorms) – we will keep you informed of the decision.
- The Safe Opening Task Force has agreed that it is time to open our sanctuary for funerals. We will follow these protocols:
 - Immediate family will be seated together in the sanctuary. Immediate family means those who have already been gathering prior to the day of the funeral. All others will be seated in the sanctuary using social distancing criteria which will include having every other pew blocked off and people sitting 6 feet apart.
 - As people arrive at the church they will be asked to immediately be seated, unless they are immediate family. We will provide a gathering space for immediate family.
 - We recommend that all people wear a face mask.
 - All hymnals and other items will be removed from the pew racks.
 - Music can be provided by piano, organ and soloists. We will not have congregational singing.

In other news from the congregation:

- Heather Baumann has accepted the position of Congregational Relationships Coordinator. Heather is originally from Beach, ND where she was a member of First Lutheran. She and her family now live in Bismarck – she held a position as “Welcome Team Coordinator” at Evangel, is a substitute teacher and has been a PTO President. Heather’s main role will be to help our congregation knit together Christ centered caring relationships which will include forming small group ministries.

- I have entered into a year long education process call the Missional Leaders Cohort. This is a group of a dozen or so pastors from around the country who will pray, discern and study where God is leading in this ever changing world. Walking along side this process is a group within Trinity called the Faith Innovation Team (or FIT Team). I will share more as we journey together.

God Bless,

Pastor Mark

Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson—gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com

Youth and Children Ministry Coordinator

Vacation Bible School! August 3-5 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), 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 after July 4.

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.



Check out Camp of the Cross’s summer camps at www.campofthecross.com.

↓ SAVE THE DATE! ↓

EPHESIANS 3:19 CEV
I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

boundless
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

2021 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
June 29–July 3 | Minneapolis, MN

gathering.elca.org 888-411-3522 elca.org/gathering

myle
MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP
EVENT OF THE ELCA

PRE-GATHERING EVENTS
JUNE 26-29

+Able
AN ELCA GATHERING OF
YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

#ELCAYG2021

[fb.com/youthgathering](https://www.facebook.com/youthgathering) [@elcagathering](https://www.instagram.com/elcagathering)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God work. Our hands.

The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com
Banquet Director



It's Official!

The Banquet has recently received our IRS Determination letter for approval of our own 501C3. This opens the way to apply for larger grants such as Otto Bremmer, Bush Foundation, etc. We value our relationship with Trinity Lutheran and will make a concerted effort to continue collaboration whenever possible and maintain a positive relationship with Trinity. Thank you to Lisa Chaffee and her team at Eide Bailly for making this a reality.

Coronavirus & The Banquet:

- May 2020 Meal Total-3,060
- May 2019 Meal Total-4,061—On average down about 250 meals per week.

Adopt-a-Block Food Distribution Numbers continue to grow:

June 19th will mark the 1 Year Anniversary for the Adopt-a-Block Truck. In April, partly due to interest from both Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools, the truck expanded from serving 2 days each week to serving 6 days a week. Adopt-a-Block Food Distribution is now serving 300-400 households each week.

- 48,236 Pounds of Food Received in May
- Over 250,000 Pounds of Food Received & Redistributed-Oct. 1-June 13
- 1,837 Households Served Since June 2019 Some come every week while other have just come once when they needed the groceries.
- 2,888 Adults Served Since Inception
- 2,629 Children Served Since Inception
- 462 Seniors Served Since Inception

Please note:

As the Banquet continues to grow towards independence, beginning May 1, we are 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 on their Trinity Contribution Statement. For questions please call Karla or Julie at 223.3560.

Stephen Ministry



The new normal...

You probably hear or see that phrase every day. Those who are trying to predict what life will be like when the COVID-19 pandemic has eased are quick to tell us that: (1) life AV – after virus - will probably be different from what we were accustomed to in 2019 and before; (2) recovery will take time, probably several years for some parts of our lives; and, (3) things may never get back to what we knew BV – before virus.

The good news is that each of us has experienced “new normal” situations in the past, and we have adjusted to them. The difference this time is that everyone around us is also experiencing a new normal, and everyone is wondering, “*What’s next?*” The temptation in this situation is to complain about what is no longer possible, and to look for someone to blame. This is a common response, and it often helps to express your feelings out loud, but getting stuck in this response doesn’t help you deal with a new life situation.

Change happens, and this time it happened with little time to prepare. Since all of us are affected, we may be able to help each other adjust to the change and find our new normal. Who are the caring people in your life who can listen to your concerns (as you listen to theirs), and with whom you can discuss ways of coping and ideas for the future? What are you doing that works for you, and that might also be helpful to someone else?

How can Stephen Ministry help you or someone you know during this time? If you have ideas, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner) and share your views on what is needed.

Congratulations Susan Wefald!

We have been informed that Trinity member, Susan Wefald, has been appointed by the ELCA Church Council to the ELCA task force charged with the development of a social statement on government, church, and civic participation.

The responsibility of the task force is to prepare a social statement that addresses significant theological, ethical, public, and pastoral challenges surrounding the social institution of government.

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

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
May 2020		
Income	\$45,632.24	\$299,832.38
Expenses	\$54,297.28	\$292,788.54
Income less expenses	\$ (8,665.04)	\$ 7,043.84

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, 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. If you have questions or need assistance with electronic giving, please feel free to call Julie Schaffner. 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 Friday (if necessary)
- Bible Study Saturday with Pastor Brian Knutson of St Luke, Wishek

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.

Trust Fund Spotlight



Why is the Trust Fund important?

What happens if a necessary piece of equipment breaks down and the cost of repair or replacement isn't in the annual budget? During the winter of 2009-2010 the snow blower "died" and repair parts were no longer available. The Trust Fund was able to cover the cost of a new snow blower so sidewalks and parking lots could be kept clear of snow and safe. In the past few years the Trust Fund has also provided funds for roof repair, paint and carpet for classrooms, replacement of lights, and other property improvements that would otherwise have been postponed.

Meeting these needs is possible because someone gave a gift or bequest in the past that continues to provide income Trinity can use today.

Do you need more information about how you might make this kind of investment for the future? Talk to one of the Trust Fund Committee members: Richard Hansen, Dan Welsh, Susan Ronning, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.



Pastoral Ministry

Baptism

Halle Jae Mork, daughter of Calle and Tim Mork

Deaths

Fay Bergley
Al Kramer
Dennis Delzer
Rev. Muriel Lippert

Gifts and Memorials

In memory of Ella Nayas by Joyce Baldwin (Maintenance Fund)

In memory of Lyle Schultz by Mike and Sandi Ranum (Trust Fund); Joyce Baldwin (Maintenance Fund)

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 Mike Hanson, and John Schaffner.

Check out all the happenings!

trinitybismarck.com



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