

# 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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WEBSITE: WWW.TRINITYBISMARCK.COM

September 2020

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*Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. NRSV*

On Sunday, August 16th, it was two years since we lost the “Queen of Soul”, Aretha Franklin to the bonds of heaven. I was always a big Aretha fan, as ‘rhythm and blues’ is one of my favorite genres of music, and no one since Ella Fitzgerald could ‘phrase’ like Aretha. Besides her signature songs from the 1960’s, I also really liked her later work like “Freeway of Love”, “Who’s Zoomin’ Who?” and “I Dreamed a Dream”, her cover of that song from Les Miserables. One of her lesser chart successes is a favorite of mine, “Ever Changing Times” from 1992. This duet with Michael McDonald includes the lyric:

*“I see that clock upon the wall, well it don't bother me at all. It's an ever changing time”*

It is an ever changing time. Since the second week of March, we find ourselves living out our days and nights in an environment of which we have no sense of prior experience that we could use as a template for how to maneuver through these anxious times. As I write this article on Tuesday, August 18th, Pastor Mark, Gracia, Heather and I have just finished a brainstorming session for putting together a template that will help us continue to be a congregation that *welcomes, equips* and *sends* out God’s children of every age to be faithful and fruitful ambassadors of God’s love in Christ to an everchanging landscape. We will continue to dream and dare into new ways of being a church that connects and builds upon the sturdy foundation we all claim as God’s beloved children.

It is an ever changing time. We can’t change the clock upon the wall...well I guess we play with time a bit in the spring and fall with DST, but we can’t stop time from moving forward. Who knew that “Who’s Zoomin’ Who” from 1985 would have a completely different application context in 2020? Amid all the changes that happen in life, remember Hebrews 13:8, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Christ’s love for us remains the same, his gifts to us remain the same, regardless of that clock upon the wall.

Until next time, Pastor Lee

## Message from Pastoral intern, Colin Neuharth

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

I would like to take a moment to say how excited my family and I are to be working with and in the ministries of Trinity, and introduce myself and my family. My wife, Kristina, and I are both native South Dakotans, and we have spent most of our careers in North Dakota, calling North Dakota home. We have three daughters – Kjerstin age 6, Kaelyn age 4, and Kathryn (Katy) age 1. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, playing piano and organ, fishing, and riding motorcycle. I have many passions in ministry including preaching, worship leadership, and rural ministry experiences. I am very excited to work with and among all of the wonderful people of Trinity and Grace Lutheran churches, working together for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I also continue to take classes at Wartburg Seminary in order to pursue ordination in the ELCA. Please know that if you have any questions or just want to talk my door is always open (physically and virtually) for conversation (and coffee, lots of coffee.)

In Christ,  
Pastoral Intern Colin

## Moving toward autumn days

As we enter into the Autumn season, Jesus tells a series of parables in the gospels to describe this life with God that in Matthew is called “the kingdom of heaven.” In Jesus’ parables we find that mercy meets justice head on. In one parable, a king is the model of unexpected forgiveness for a great debt. In another, a landowner hiring day laborers pays the same wage to all, no matter what time of day they began their work. And in yet another, a king extends a wedding invitation to those in the streets when others more likely to respond reject the initial invitation. Jesus’ stories surprise his listeners, causing them to rethink their place.

God surprises those who are on the *outside* and invites them in. In what ways have we found ourselves on the margins, or noticed others who are neglected? God also surprises those who are on the *inside*, confronting them with their privilege. In what ways have we exploited our status at the expense of others? In Philippians, Paul the apostle puzzles about his own elevated station in life as a Pharisee, but then rethinks everything that might be considered “gain” now as “loss,” “because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”.

*Mercy* might be the joyful refrain for our communal lives with God. We can laugh at Jonah, and at ourselves, as we say along with the reluctant prophet, “I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing”. Can we imagine a church named “The Church of Second Chances” (or third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh)? Are there stories you can tell or invite others to tell about starting over that might be connected to renewal of ministries in your congregation? In those stories, and in the readings that shape this season, we can come to realize that the adage “The church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints” is just right for us! The readings for September and October touch on mutual forgiveness, laboring in the vineyard, loving God and neighbor, service, and who is really doing the will of God.

## Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson—gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com

Youth and Children Ministry Coordinator

### Rally Day Kick Off!

Sunday, September 13 @ 10 a.m.

Wednesday, September 16 @ 6 p.m.; Meal at 5:15 p.m.  
Outdoor Peace Chapel—Bring a chair or blanket!

Join us outside at the Peace Chapel as we kick off church school this year! We’ll start with a special Rally Day worship including the giving of Bibles to our 3rd Graders. After worship we’ll have a family friendly devotion and Easter egg hunt! Yep, Easter eggs! They were filled before we went online and have been safely stored upstairs so come join in the fun! On Wednesday come early for a meal of grilled hotdogs, fruit/veggie, chips, and dessert all served safely to you. Please bring a filled water bottle for your beverage. See you there for the fun!

### Backpack Service Event

Wednesday, September 16 @ 6:45 p.m.

All ages from kids to adults are invited to get involved in this fun service opportunity. We’re joining forces with United Way to sponsor their “Backpacks for Kids” for a week. Wednesday, September 16 after worship we’ll be packing the bags and getting them loaded up into the tubs for each school. We’ll also need volunteers to help deliver totes of bags to schools the following Wednesday, September 23. See Gracia with questions!



## Church School & Confirmation Plans!

Yes! We are having Church School & Confirmation this fall! We’ll be trying some new things and will shift as we see how things work. Families will have the option to choose either in person or online Church School and Confirmation. Should Bismarck Public Schools as a whole move to all online classes we would move to all online church school & confirmation. See the back page of this newsletter for the NEW weekly fall schedule.

#### CHURCH SCHOOL – IN PERSON OPTION

Our in person option will be a half hour taking place in either the Community Center or Fellowship Hall so we can do some social distancing. An opening time including the Bible story will be presented to the whole group before breaking up into age groups for some activities and discussion. Sundays 9:45—10:15 a.m. or Wednesdays 6:45—7:15 p.m.

#### CHURCH SCHOOL – ONLINE OPTION

Our online zoom lessons will be all ages so families with multiple children can do it together on 1 device. The lesson will include a little music time, the Bible story and some activity or discussion.

#### CONFIRMATION – IN PERSON OPTION

To allow for social distancing, we will divide up into grade levels and alternate Grades 6-7 one week and Grades 8-9 the next week meeting in the Fellowship Hall Wednesdays following worship.

#### CONFIRMATION – ONLINE OPTION

Our online option will include zoom confirmation lessons and all the other expectations, just done a little differently.

**TO REGISTER** – Go to [trinitybismarck.com](http://trinitybismarck.com) and click on the ‘church school & confirmation registration’ tab under news & events.

# The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com  
Banquet Director



Currently, The Banquet is serving all of our meals “carry-out” which helps us to follow CDC and local social distancing guidelines and keep both volunteers and guests safe. We have open dates available if you would like to put together a small group (4-8) to sponsor a meal. The cost runs from \$450 to \$1,000, depending on the meal. Marion Kiefer is retiring from her marketing position with The Banquet. Mike Reiner has been chosen as our new marketing manager. We thank Marion for her many years of service to The Banquet! If you would like to see the dates available to sponsor a meal, call Mike at 701-793-8394.




## Adopt-a-Block Food Distribution

As part of The Banquet's affiliation with the Dream Center Network we introduced the Adopt-a-Block program. The Dream Center Adopt-a-Block Food Distribution Truck visits 6 locations each week distributing grocery product to those in need. You will be asked to fill out a short intake form at the Adopt-a-Block truck location-it's easy!

Money Saved On Groceries  
Means More For Life's Other Necessities.

Help for Today & Hope for Tomorrow

Monday 4:30-6pm

South Central High School

East Parking Lot

406 S. Anderson St. Bismarck

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Wednesday 4:30-6pm

Jeannette Myhre School

East Parking Lot

919 S. 12th St. Bismarck

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Friday 4:30-6pm

Tatley Place

(Just South of Tatley Meadows)

Corner of West London Ave. & Manchester Street Bismarck

Tuesday 4:30-6pm

Lewis & Clark School

South Side of School

600 14th St. NW Mandan

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Thursday 4:30-6pm

New Song Church

Parking Lot

3200 N. 11th St. (Behind Menards)

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Saturday 3-5pm

River of Hope Church

Parking Lot

1996 43rd Ave. NE Bismarck

For information contact Jim Barnhardt at 701-955-2150 or e-mail jim.barnhardt@msn.com



Thank You to Our Partners:  
Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry  
River of Hope Church  
Jack's Food Pantry

# Stephen Ministry



## Lights on!

The handle of my hairbrush glows in the dark. I assume this is a natural characteristic of the plastic, since I can't think of a reason someone would need to find and use their hairbrush in the dark. The faint glow does do one important thing, however; it reminds me of a Bible verse. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.* (John 1:5, NRSV)

John 1:5 reminds me that, even in the darkest times, there is a light and that light is Christ. I am not alone in the dark. I may not be able to see everything around me, but being able to see that there is light gives me comfort. And if I head toward that light, I am going in the right direction.

The theme of Stephen Ministry is *Christ caring for people through people*. Notice that this does not limit the caring to Stephen-Ministry-trained people. All of us are challenged to make the light of Christ visible as we care for others, especially during their times of darkness. John 1:5 does not say how big the light is, only that it is never overcome by the darkness. The size of your light and the size of the care you give are not the important points. A friendly voice behind your mask or a “thank you” to someone might be all that is needed to change the direction of that person's day. On these hot days, a “cup of cold water” (not a tanker-load) might be just what someone needs.

Are there ways you could be a glimmer of light in someone else's life at this time?

## REFLECT

Hope ...  
in what cannot be seen, in what is not yet real.

Hope ...  
that this too shall pass, some day.

BUT, until that day,  
I do what I can do. I act in what I know.

And I trust that God's love shown in Christ will shine on me,  
will shine on my path.

Gracious God,  
I just need light for one step—and that's my next step.

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

### July 2020

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$50,580.48	\$398,183.95
Expenses	\$60,141.93	\$407,053.07
Income less expenses	\$ (9,561.45)	\$ (8,869.12)

**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. 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.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

502 NORTH 4TH STREET  
BISMARCK, ND 58501

MARK NARUM, PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF; LEE HERBERG, PASTOR  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG  
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BISMARCK, ND  
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PERMIT NO. 419

## Our new fall schedule

Sunday, September 20th

8:30 a.m. worship indoors open to the public.

- \* Social distancing will be in place using every other pew.
- \* We will strongly encourage all worshippers to wear masks while in the building.
- \* We will encourage all worshippers to leave immediately after worship—or move to their Connections Group or Sunday School gathering.
- \* There will be no fellowship.
- \* Pews will be sanitized after worship.
- \* At this time there will not be congregational singing inside.

10:30 a.m. worship outdoors at the Peace Chapel.

Wednesday, September 23rd

5:15 p.m. meal offered weekly for worshippers.

6:00 p.m. worship indoors open to the public.

Videos are posted on our Facebook page and at [trinitybismarck.com](http://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. You can also Live Stream on our Facebook page. Bulletins are posted on the website.

We are happy to partner with Grace Lutheran in Driscoll.

## Trust Fund Spotlight



### As the needs arise...

Summer is vacation time for many families, but for the Trinity family the needs continue, and so the work of the Trust Fund Committee continues through the summer. Due to the COVID 19 virus pandemic, we have seen an upheaval of everyday life. There has been a difference in the way that we worship, and in the way that our committees meet. This year, the Trust Fund Committee has been meeting via electronic means to continue their efforts to ensure that the Fund is well taken care of in this crisis.

We have been blessed by the importance members of Trinity have given to the Trust and Endowment Funds and their gifts/bequests to these funds. The Trust Fund Committee has been charged with investing these funds prudently, and regularly reviews how the funds are invested to achieve income goals at a reasonable cost for investment management. The reward to the Committee for these efforts is to have the privilege of saying "yes" to requests for financial support that enable Trinity to WELCOME, EQUIP, and SEND Trinity members and others on their faith journeys.

What needs will arise in the remaining months of 2020 and beyond? How will the Trust Fund and Endowment Fund be part of meeting these needs? If you would like to be part of the answer through a gift or bequest to the Trust or Endowment Funds, or if you have questions about either Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Hansen, Dan Welsh, Susan Ronning, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiland.

## 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 Arlys Bracht, Kristin Shaw, LeRoy Walker, Ken Thomsen, Wendy Schweitzer, and Larry Thompson.



## Pastoral Ministry

### Baptisms

Hazelinia Kuntz, daughter of Justin and Billie Kuntz  
Thielen Raic Narum, son of Chris and Jenalee Narum  
Helen Elizabeth Wahl, daughter of Mike Wahl and Amy Oster  
Tinsley Marie Baumgartner, daughter of Desarae Frey and Shelden Baumgartner

### Deaths

Florian Kiefer  
Ethel Thompson  
Doug Jessen  
Marjorie Robinson

## Gifts and Memorials

In memory of Florian Kiefer by Hal and Sheila Peterson  
(Maintenance Fund)