

# 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

December 2020

## Advent—2020

For the past several years, Sirius XM dedicates a few channels to playing Christmas music to get us in the mood for the season. This year, the programming began on November 5th, so true to form, I tuned my car radio to Sirius XM channel 73, which is called "Holiday Traditions." The focus of this channel is Christmas music from the 40's through the 70's which is my speed. There are great tunes from the swing era and big bands, Ella Fitzgerald, Bing Crosby and "White Christmas" and songs from the movie "Holiday Inn", plus all the Motown greats with the Supremes and Christmas songs from the Carpenters. Sirius XM also offers more contemporary options like "Holly" but I just can't listen to Madonna's version of "Santa Baby" anymore...but that's just me.

So far, listening to these songs has not put me into the Christmas mood yet...I wonder why? Take the 1963 song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year", recorded by Andy Williams. My folks had the "The Andy Williams Christmas Album" which included that song, and that album got played over and over again at our house growing up. Here's part of the lyric -

It's the most wonderful time of the year  
With the kids jingle belling  
And everyone telling you to be of good cheer  
It's the most wonderful time of the year

It's the most wonderful time of the year  
There'll be much mistletoeing  
And hearts will be glowing  
When loved ones are near  
It's the most wonderful time of the year

There'll be parties for hosting  
Marshmallows for toasting  
And caroling out in the snow...

The song has kind of lost its magic this year...it just makes me sad about the present reality and the reality of "Christmas past". Another song playing just this morning as I drove into work was "Whatever Happened to Christmas?", recorded in 1968 by Frank Sinatra from the album "The Sinatra Family Wish You a Merry Christmas" which we also played at home growing up. This song certainly takes on new meaning this year...

Whatever happened to Christmas? It's gone and left no traces,  
Whatever happened to the faces or the glow,  
Whatever happened to Christmas, to the Christmas way of living?  
Whatever happened to the giving, the magic in the snow?

Remember the sights and the smells and the sounds, and remember cheery calls,  
Remember how love was all around, whatever happened to it all?  
Whatever happened to Christmas, bells in the streets were ringing,  
Whatever happened to the singing, the songs we used to know.  
Whatever happened to this Christmas, and when it disappeared from view.

This year, maybe more than ever, we need to remember that Christmas is in our heart...Christ comes to us "Emmanuel"...to be with us forever. We may not be able to 'sing' those lovely carols together in church...but I plan to sing out in the shower! Christ will be there in the manger...for you and for me. The darkness of this present time has no power over the 'Light coming into the world.' Be safe and warm everyone...toast some marshmallows anyway...and remember that we are never left alone in darkness...it really is the 'most wonderful time of the year!'"

Until next time,  
Pastor Lee

# Congregational Relationships

Heather Baumann—baumann@trinitybismarck.com

As we have been talking about Stewardship, I am brought to a verse in the book of Romans. Paul is talking about us being a living sacrifice to God. He writes in Romans 12:6-8 how we all have been given different gifts so we can do those things well. In verse 7 he says "If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well."

We want to give each one of you an opportunity to use the gifts God has given in the many ministry opportunities we have here at Trinity. As we serve or minister to others it emotionally and spiritually recharges us. It gives us a deeper meaning to life as a servant of Christ. It helps us to discover our purpose. I could tell you story after story of how serving/ministering has changed my life and so many others.

Take a moment and check out our Ministry Opportunities link on our website.

## Welcome new members!

We are happy to welcome the following people into our church family:

Pastor Mary Lou Aune; Scott and Susan Boehm; Crystal Brunner & Johnny Thompson, Olivia Ristau, and Zoe Brunner; Pastor Lee Herberg and Mikaela Herberg; Ashley Kittleson & Zach Hoerner; Chris and Jena Lee Narum, Nadalie, Lochlan, and Thielen; Pastor Mark and Jan Narum; Dean Natwick; Colin and Kristina Neuharth, Kjerstin, Kaelyn, and Kathryn; Debra Porsborg; Madison Schnabel and Lucas Meier; Jim and Marci Silrum.

## Six Weeks on Money

Do your personal finances keep you up at night? Does talking about money make you cringe? Imagine what it would mean for the ministries of our church if we were able to tell stories of how we as God's people were thinking and feeling differently about money and personal finance! Take a positive outlook on saving, spending, and generosity!

Trinity Lutheran is participating in an ELCA pilot program on personal finance called "Six Weeks on Money." This is a six-week program that focuses on viewing money management and personal finance in a positive, faith-driven way. **It is:**

**BIBLICAL:** What Jesus says about money and God's abundance.

**ACCESSIBLE:** For all incomes, backgrounds, and situations.

**FLEXIBLE:** Non-judgmental and realistic approach to credit cards and home mortgages.

**HOLISTIC:** Neither "pro" or "anti" wealth. Focus on a healthy relationship with money by helping people align with core values.

This is an all-digital course with opportunities for several small discussion groups. The program will start on or around January 25th. Trinity is offering this program to families at a discounted rate with the understanding of participants providing feedback on the course experience. More information will be forthcoming as the course start date approaches. If you or someone you know is interested in taking this course, or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastoral Intern Colin Neuharth! ([neuharth@trinitybismarck.com](mailto:neuharth@trinitybismarck.com))

# Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson—gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com

Youth and Children Ministry Coordinator

**Church School Christmas Program Premieres Online on our Facebook & YouTube Channels December 13 at 2 p.m.**



## Church School Zoom

In addition to our in person and video options starting in December we will offer a special zoom for church school families each week. It will be a fun way to connect with other kids and families while we grow in faith together. Watch your emails for specific times and dates and contact Gracia with any questions.

## Senior High Youth Group

For youth in grades 9-12. We have a couple service projects this month. Contact Gracia and watch emails for more info.

## Check out all the happenings!

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



Instagram  
trinity\_bismarck  
Trinity Lutheran - Bismarck



Facebook  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Bismarck



YouTube  
Trinity Lutheran—Bismarck

## Christmas special offering

Our special Christmas offering will go toward "The Good Samaritan Fund," a community needs fund here at Trinity.

In recent months we have seen an increase in requests to help people in the community who are in financial crisis. We are especially seeing a need for rental assistance, often for single parents trying to keep a roof over their kids heads.

# The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz—karlabice@yahoo.com  
Banquet Director



# Stephen Ministry



**I miss you...**

How many times have you heard this from someone you used to see on a regular basis? I experience this every Sunday morning when I sit on my perch in the choir loft and look at the empty pew where you used to sit during the 8:30 service. I know there are good reasons why you aren't there. I may have heard that you are OK, and I am grateful you are taking care of yourself, but I do miss seeing you. And then... I get a phone call from someone who says "I heard you read the Scripture this morning" and I know that we shared worship.

When I was a teenager, I heard a pastor speak about being a prisoner of war and sharing what we would now call "virtual" Holy Communion with other prisoners. The prisoners could not see each other, and they had neither bread nor wine to distribute, but they had memories. As one of them recited the Words of Institution they all paused to remember past occasions when the bread was placed in their hands and they sipped the wine from a common cup. They remembered the people with whom they had shared this experience, and gave thanks that even without the physical elements they had been reminded of the gift of life they had all received.

This pastor and his fellow prisoners saw an opportunity for sharing and strengthening their faith where others might have seen nothing. And that reminds me how fortunate we are to have multiple ways to share God's Word and strengthen our faith, and to be part of the same community of believers, even as we "social distance".

*Future Home*

**DC DREAMCENTER**  
BISMARCK

**Adopt-a-Block  
Food Distribution**

**The BANQUET**  
A Community Meal

The Banquet will be relocating to the new Dream Center Bismarck being built at 1805 Park Avenue. As part of the relocation, The Banquet will be responsible for construction and furnishing of the commercial kitchen. Estimated cost of the kitchen is about \$500,000, including the build-out itself, vent hoods/ducting, grease trap, appliances and fire suppression system.

Our capital campaign will begin in December to raise funds to complete the kitchen. If you would like to donate to this campaign, please mail contributions to The Banquet, 502 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Bismarck, ND 58501.

Meals served this year as of October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 32,134! An estimated 4,800 meals to complete 2020 totaling 36,934.

A huge THANK YOU to all of the churches, businesses, service groups, organizations and individuals that have sponsored all of these meals in this hard year of 2020. The Banquet is looking forward to 2021!

## Messiah

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, there will be no Messiah performance this year.

**Radio Broadcast**

Please help our radio ministry by sponsoring a broadcast for 2021. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center, or you can call Jan in the church office at 223.3560. Cost is \$250.

There are only 18 Sundays left to fill!

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

	Month	Year-to-date
<u>October 2020</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income	\$130,621.56	\$641,042.83
Expenses	\$ 63,628.01	\$592,271.23
Income less expenses	\$ 66,993.55	\$ 48,771.60

**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.

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NON-PROFIT ORG  
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BISMARCK, ND  
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PAID  
PERMIT NO. 419

## Our schedule

8:30 & 10:30 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.

### Wednesdays

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 under 'Media – Trinity YouTube'.

- Thoughts of a Prairie Pastor— Sunday at 7:30 a.m.
- Congregational Updates Friday (if necessary)
- Bible Study Saturday with Pastor Brian Knutson

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 and YouTube. Bulletins are posted on the website.

## Pastoral Ministry

### Baptisms

Austin Kaleb Schenkel  
Bowen Hood Burckhard

### Deaths

Pamela Hovden, Louise Fricke, LeRoy Walker, Vera Hetland, Judi Korbl.

## Christmas baking needed

Christmas goodies will again be shared with our shut-ins this year.

If you are willing to share your baking, or some fruit, please bring it to the church office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9th.



## Christmas Worship Service Schedule:

Council has decided we will have in person worship on Christmas Eve. Worship times will be:

2:00 p.m.    3:30 p.m.    5:30 p.m.    10:00 p.m.

\*If you plan to attend an in-person worship service you **will need to make reservations**. We will only be able to seat 140 people at each service. Reservations can be made on-line or by calling the church office starting December 21<sup>st</sup>.

\*We will not exceed the Governors mandate of 150 people in the sanctuary.

\*All people must wear masks.

We will also provide a Pre-recorded service, with more music. Bulletins for this service will be on our website so you can print them off and sing along if you would like. This service will premier on You Tube at noon on Christmas Eve. Since it is on You Tube you will be able to watch it at any time you would like.

The 5:30 p.m. service will be broadcast on 1270 AM.

Christmas Day there will be no in person worship, instead we will premier a Christmas Day Worship on You Tube at 10:00AM. Again, bulletins will be available on our website so you can engage worship.

With the ever changing COVID Pandemic, council reserves the right to make changes to the above plan.

## Gifts and Memorials

**In memory of Fred Schilling** by Virginia and Rick Johnson (Memorial Fund); Tom and Kari Stromme (Memorial Fund); Mike and Renae Baltzer (Banquet.)

**In memory of LeRoy Walker** by Steve and Paula Schilling (Memorial Fund); Bob Wefald (Memorial Fund); Scott Houser (Memorial Fund); Harley and Margaret Swenson (Memorial Fund); Hal and Sheila Peterson (Building & Maintenance); Jan and Lynn Froeschle (Memorial Fund.)

**In memory of Barb Schweitzer** by Weldee and Stella Baetsch (Camp of the Cross.)

## 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 are 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, Wendy Schweitzer, Clint Fuller, Donna Burns, Mike Hanson, Luann Hanson, Mike Baltzer, Melissa Lewis.