



*Nurturing a Living Faith
with Open Hearts
and Serving Hands*

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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MARTHA HARRISON, PASTOR
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December 1st, 2025 E-Newsletter

Note from the Pastor

Pastor Martha HarriSon, harrison@trinitybismarck.com, ext.6

Dear friends,

Advent is here. Our theme for our Advent journey this year is “What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent.” In the description of our Advent series, the authors say this:



Luke’s Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: “In the time of Herod...” This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ’s birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: “Do not fear.” When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God’s redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, “Here I am, Lord.” When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

Throughout this series, we will focus on the following themes: 1. In the time of Herod, we long for God to break in, 2. When we’re running out of hope, God is at work, 3. Even in our fear, we are called forward, and 4. When you’re afraid, give me your hand. We hope you will journey with us through this Advent season. There is also a devotional booklet available in the narthex that follows these themes. So, make sure you grab one.

My hope and prayer for you throughout this Advent season is that you take some time to connect with God, to feel God’s presence in the midst of this hectic season, to dig deeper into this story that we have heard so many times and maybe see it in a different way.

There are so many things going on at Trinity this month. Check out the calendar and join us when you can.

Blessings,
Pastor Martha

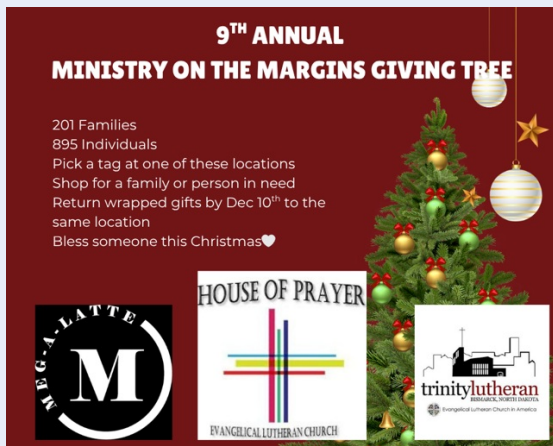
Christmas Happenings

Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 14th @ 6 p.m.

What is a Blue Christmas Service? Blue Christmas is a quieter, more contemplative service sometimes with prayer stations. This service recognizes that Christmas isn’t always a joyful time for everyone. Some of us are grieving, are lonely, or are facing other challenges this Christmas season. For some, we are just looking

for a quiet moment during an already hectic season. A Blue Christmas service offers that time of quiet reflection and a space to feel whatever it is you are feeling. Click on the images to enlarge.



Recent Announcements

Funeral

We extend our congregation's sympathy to the family of Marlene Janko. Her funeral was at Trinity on Monday, November 24th @ 11 a.m. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Thrivent Members

Have you directed your Thrivent Choice Dollars to a charitable organization yet? Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. You can help support us by directing them towards Trinity for various ministries the church is involved in. Contact a staff person for more information.

Radio Broadcast & Livestream Sign-Up

The sign-up will be available in the Narthex for 2026 soon. More information to come!

Mental Health Moment

Submitted by: Joan Inman, member of Trinity's Mental Health & Substance Abuse taskforce

"We are all broken, that's how the light gets in."
--- Earnest Hemingway

When I read this quote it reminded me of the Out of Darkness Walk and our Trinity Lutheran Church team name "Into the Light". It added a new perspective to the suicide prevention walk because we are all in the dark at times and need the reminder of the light shining in our lives - the light of God's unfailing love for us all, no matter who we are, what we have done or not done.

I also read this sentence recently that struck me. "You're always one decision away from a totally different life." Make it a good decision!

Letter from Grace Lutheran Church in



This letter was written to the members of Trinity Lutheran on behalf of the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church in Driscoll, ND. Click on the image to enlarge.

Grace Lutheran Church
Driscoll, North Dakota
November 10, 2020

To Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support and kindness during our final service. Your hospitality, compassion, and the beautiful worship service meant more to us than words can express. Trinity Lutheran's support of our congregation, the warmth of the fellowship brought by our visiting pastors, will all be greatly missed.

Grace Lutheran Church is and was a place of faithful followers. The congregation has supported many in their faith journey and will continue to do so even after its closing. We are proud to have Trinity Lutheran members among those who started their faith journey here in Driscoll. While our congregation is no longer worshipping at Grace Lutheran, we intend to stay connected and continue our fellowship in new ways.

We are as Bishop Craig's sermon said, grateful. It is with deep gratitude and love that we say goodbye to our church home. We are grateful for so many years, the changing people in the pews, and the abundant support from our partner, Trinity Lutheran Church.

The service was truly a celebration of faith, fellowship, and God's enduring love. The meal that followed was not only delicious but also a time of shared memories, comfort, and connection. We are deeply grateful for the care and effort you put into making the day so special for our congregation.

As we move forward, we take comfort in knowing that the spirit of Grace continues on through the love and unity shared among our Lutheran family. Thank you for walking beside us in faith and for being a shining example of Christian fellowship.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sally Seibel Matt & Sandy Mumby
On behalf of the Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church

November Food Drive

Thank you for the overwhelming support for our November food drive for Ministry on the Margins. In partnership with Apple Creek Elementary School, we were able to gather roughly 1500 lbs. of food for Ministry on the Margins! Trinity members also raised \$3,890 in monetary donations to support the food drive. There was a need in our community, and all of your generosity really came through to support this cause. Thank you all and God bless!



Trinity Trivia

Each E-News, we are sharing some Trinity-related or scripture-related random facts. A question will be posed here and the answer revealed in the next E-News. Work together with your friends and family to try and figure it out!



How many years did Clarion Larson conduct the "Messiah" choir?

45

55

65

Results from Last E-News:

Q. Including this year, how many years will the "Messiah" have been performed in Bismarck?

A. 95

There were 17 people who answered this one correctly - congrats!

Check back next E-News to reveal the answer and for a new question! You can submit any suggestions to Klarissa in the office. Thanks!



Poinsettia Donations

We are now receiving donations for our Christmas display of poinsettias. We will be purchasing 36 poinsettias this year. Poinsettias can be ordered for Trinity shut-ins, as well as for those who wish to take a plant home **after Christmas worship**. If there are more than 36 poinsettia donations, the extra funds will go to our 2025 offering benevolence, Youth Works. Poinsettia donations are \$17. Any donations and accompanying dedications will be listed in the Christmas bulletins & E-News. Turn the form & your payment into

the office or offering basket **by Tuesday, December 16th**.

[Poinsettia Form](#)

Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson - Youth and Children Ministry Coordinator; gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com, ext. 5

Youth Happenings

We have many fun youth opportunities throughout the year!

Information is also available on our website.

Click on images to enlarge. Questions? See Gracia.



Faith & Family Resources Available!

As part of our ministry we encourage families to have faith conversations with each other and their friends. To help with that, Trinity is offering a variety of resources at a suggested donation. These resources will be available going forward (not just a couple of weeks). Please check them out in the Narthex! See Gracia with questions.

**CHURCH SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

Wednesday, December 17
@ 6 p.m.

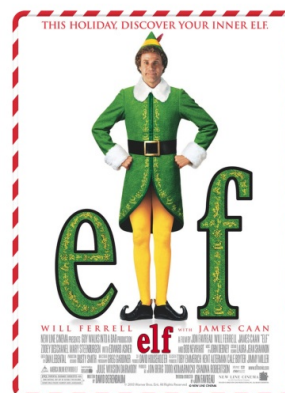
Sunday, December 21
@ 10:30 a.m.

 **trinitylutheran**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Join us for this fun
INTER-ACTIVE Experience
of the Classic Christmas Movie "ELF"!

Sunday, December 21 @ 2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall ~ All Ages Welcome!



We'll be stopping
the movie every
once and awhile
to have our own
fun with indoor
snowballs, treats,
and more!



Trinity's New Members



Alesha Bartenhagen



Becky & Scott
Parkin



Layton Hrubes &
Austin Petterson



Gordon Sonnenberg



Jeremy, Treana &
Ashley Berreth



Jayden & Kristina
Prill



Arletta Hanson



Jim & Gloria
Mattheis



Beth Tibke



Jim Renner &
Mary Adams



Terry Bakke



Bill & Shirley
Zinsli



Dean Eichele



Gwen Weeks

**November
2025**



Advent Kick-Off Event

*Past Event: Sunday, November 23rd
Fellowship Hall*

Many thanks to everyone who joined us and helped with our Advent Kick-Off Event today! We had sloppy joes, a Hot Cocoa bar, and several DIY crafts and ornaments that were a hit! Special thanks to our Community Builders and Faith Formation Committees for planning this!



Your Gifts

Brent Winkelman - Financial Director; winkelman@trinitybismarck.com, ext. 7

YOUR GIFTS

<u>October 2025</u>	<u>Month Actual</u>	<u>Year-To-Date Actual</u>
INCOME		
Contributions	\$60,750.00	\$641,830.00
Other Income	\$5,194.00	\$83,644.00
Transfer	\$300.00	-\$434.00
Total Income	\$66,244.00	\$725,040.00
EXPENSES		
Income less expenses	\$67,532.00	\$698,966.00
	-1,288.00	\$26,074

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. Giving forms are available in the office, at the Welcome Center or on Trinity's website.

At www.trinitybismarck.com, you can give electronically to the general fund, Capital Campaign and others. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our Financial Director, Brent Winkelman at winkelman@trinitybismarck.com. Thank you again for your continued financial support.

Donate

Congregational Relationships

Ministry Opportunities

Ministry Opportunities at Trinity are available digitally. Please sign up to serve as Scripture Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Communion Servers and Tech online. **Sunday Readers should signup by the Thursday before by 10 a.m.** (Holiday weeks may vary). Click below to sign up.

Sign Up

Collection Items



Bismarck Lions Glasses

Drop off prescription glasses at the office. We will contact Bismarck Lions to come and collect them.



RMHC Pull Tabs

Pull tabs can be dropped off at the office or placed in these houses to be delivered to Ronald McDonald House.

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. 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 this list, please contact the office or let one of the pastors know.

Please pray for: Dick, Amy, Rod, Melissa, Hal, Lester, Jim, Sandy, Carsen, Courtney, Lynn, Ken, Barb, Anna, Una, Verna & Gary.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Funerals

Marlene Janko

Weddings

Doug Maus & Rachel Froelich

Gifts & Memorials

In memory of Norman Ostboe given by Ken & Karen Halldorson, Ron Staiger, Larry Strand, Kristin McIntyre, Betty Peterson, Chuck Krueger (Memorial Fund).

Upcoming Events

Click on the images to enlarge.



Re-Entry Meal & Support

*1st Thursday of the month @ 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Fellowship Hall*

We hold a re-entry meal with time for fellowship and support for people who are in re-entry and their families once a month.

We meet on the first Thursday of every month. We will continue to partner with Ministry on the Margins for this project. If you would like to help with this project, contact Pastor Martha.

Lend a Hand Ministry

*Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11th @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Break Room*

Lend a Hand Ministry enjoys some coffee and fellowship before breaking out into small groups to help with projects that care for the building. No special skills are required. All are welcome!

They meet the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please contact our Facility Manager, John Brintnell, at brintnell@trinitybismarck.com if interested.



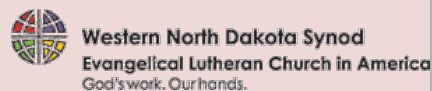
Bible Journaling

3rd Tuesday of the month @ 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Join us for Bible Journaling – where scripture & creative expression meet. We meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. All ages are welcome! Come & check it out! See Gracia with questions.



Partners in Ministry



ELCA Daily Discipleship

Click on the image to open the Daily Discipleship shared on

Missouri Slope

Check out available job openings here:

www.missourislope.com/careers

Check out their digital newsletter here:

<https://missourislope.com/hilltopper/>

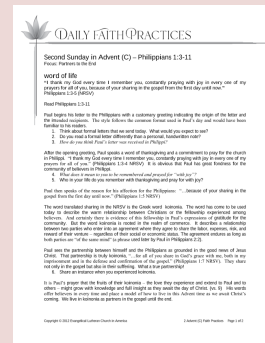
Ministry on the Margins

Ministry on the Margins is always looking for volunteers for their food pantry.

For information and to sign up visit:

www.ministryonthemargins.org

the ELCA's [website](http://www.elca.org)



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m. Blended Worship

Wednesdays

*Dinner served before worship @ 5:15 p.m.

6 p.m. Contemporary Worship

Bulletins are posted on our [website](http://www.trinitybismarck.com) under [Bulletins](#) or click below:

[Bulletins](#)

Radio Broadcast

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Radio Broadcast on 1270 Super Talk or the [Listen Live](#) link on their [website](#). You can also click below:

[Listen Live](#)

Video Worship Links

Videos are posted on our [Facebook Page](#) and on our [YouTube Page](#).

- Congregational updates posted as necessary.
- Trinity To Go posted weekly by a pastor.
- Livestream available for worship services.



Head of Staff, Pastor Mark Narum
Pastor Martha HarriSon

701-223-3560

502 N 4th St. Bismarck, ND 58501

[Contact Us](#)

Trinity Lutheran Church | www.trinitybismarck.com



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