



TRINITY
C H U R C H



Printed May 25, 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the Larger Church Conference, a gathering of the Lead/Senior Pastors of the largest ELCA congregations. I have been deeply involved with this group over the last 15 years, serving on the Executive Team as the Treasurer for about eight years.

The conference is built around two primary objectives. First, we engage high quality subject matter speakers who share relevant and valuable insights for ministry in the local congregation. Second, we provide time for pastors to be in conversation with other pastors to learn from each other, explore best practices, and develop a better understanding of what is happening across the Church. I want to share some of my experience this year, because I believe it develops understanding and provides opportunity for the Church at large and Trinity as a congregation.

First, conversations with other pastors seemed to revolve around three primary topics.

- **Angst:** Angst is a feeling of deep anxiety or dread. Most congregations are experiencing some level of angst. The stresses and challenges in our society over the last years has introduced an almost Post Traumatic Stress Disorder impact on individuals and the community of the Church. The increase in social media and the increasingly critical nature of the news have left people impacted by and adopting a critical and irritable spirit. People are working through it. There is opportunity in the Church for much healing, reconciliation, and vision for the future. We possess the greatest tool to combat angst in all of creation. It is the love of God. John explains it this way in 1 John 4:16, "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." We can be who God is calling us to be and truly receive and express the love of God.
- **Finances:** Most Churches, like Trinity, are struggling with finances. High interest rates and lingering inflation have reduced people's financial resources. Individual and family finances are tenuous for many, reducing the financial support for Churches. Hard decisions are being made. Sometimes, the hardest decision we make is to take God at His Word and trust Him. God offers insight into ordering our finances. In Proverbs 11:25 we read, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Or in Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." God invites us to put Him to the test. I have found many times in my life that trying things God's way is always a benefit and I receive blessing.

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- **Mobility:** Congregations are experiencing increasing mobility among members and staff. The turnover in many congregations is significant. Regular worship for many now means “when I go to worship, this is my Church” rather than weekly worship or worshipping a couple times a month. Attendance across Churches has declined in the range of one third. People have done the very best they could through the challenges of the last years, but sometimes got it wrong which feeds angst. Many congregations are experiencing 20-40% staff turnover and significant reductions of staff due to finances. Staff are highly stressed by reduced volunteers causing staff burnout. There is incredible opportunity for mission and mobilization of believers to use their skills and passion to extend God’s loving grace into the congregation and community. We receive guidance for this in 1 Peter 4:10, “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Second, from the speakers who each spoke on very relevant topics for the Church and for Trinity today.

- Kaitlyn Schiess spoke on how to have political conversations in a politically charged culture. She wrote “The Liturgy of Politics” which is on my summer reading list. Her focus was on how to engage the differences of opinion and perspective while maintaining relationships. God’s gifts of grace, love, and acceptance are critical in our interactions with each other.
- Mark Deymaz spoke on developing additional income streams in the congregation beyond tithes and offerings. He wrote “The Coming Revolution in Church Economics” which is also on my summer reading list. We have opportunity at Trinity to develop our personal financial response to God and develop additional congregational resources for mission.
- The general consensus is that the Church of Jesus Christ across the country is dealing with a cluster of unprecedented challenges. My response is that historically, some of the greatest moments for the Church have emerged from pressure and duress. God is working in Trinity and through Trinity to lead us into the future He has planned for us. It is exciting to be working with Trinity and joining God in His work to seize the opportunity and Connecting People to Christ.

Your Pastor and Friend,

Pastor Dick

THE HEART OF TRINITY KIDS
IS TO EQUIP PARENTS
TO WALK ALONGSIDE
THEIR KIDS AS THEY
LEARN ABOUT & EXPERIENCE
THE LOVE OF JESUS.



TRINITY
KIDS

SUMMER PLAN FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

During our transition to find a new Children's and Family Minister, the nursery will be available at both the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. For kids pre-k through grade 5, activity packets will be available in the Commons for kids to use during worship with their family.

Adults and older students, your help is needed during this season!! Click the button below or reach out to Matt Pearson (mpearson@trinitylife.org) to find out how you can help connect kids to Christ through Trinity Kids this summer.

I can help

We have two amazing summer events this month works: Vacation Bible School and Summer Sports Camp. Please keep all the kids and adult volunteers in prayer. Ask God that He open ears and hearts for all involved to connect deeply with Jesus and that they have a blast connecting with their friends, both old and new. Also pray for good weather!



GRADES 6-12

TRINITY STUDENTS

We are filled with immense gratitude as we were able to celebrate and express our heartfelt thanks to our Trinity Students Senior Class.

At Youth Group we were able to honor our students by sharing cherished stories, speaking words of encouragement into their lives, and lifting them up in prayer for the exciting future that awaits them.

Summer Bible Study

Wednesdays from 6-7

Open Gym from 7-8



As we look towards the Summer we can't wait for what's ahead!

Whether it is through our Summer Bible Study or Summer camps, Trinity Students is serious about Jesus, while having fun in the process!

SUMMER TRIPS - UNPLUG AND HAVE FUN

July 20-24 - High School

Current 8th - 12th graders

REGISTER TODAY

July 25-28 - Middle School

Current 6th - 8th graders

REGISTER TODAY

WWW.TRINITYLIFE.ORG/EVENTS

Trinity Church is sending travelers to The Raining Season in September. Please keep the traveling team in prayer in the months ahead as God readies their hearts to shine like Jesus on their journey and during their stay.

**Matt Pearson | Nathan Lynn | Casey Hirschfeld
Carrie Nash | Victoria Tomanek | Brittany Friesen | Laura Beck**



EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

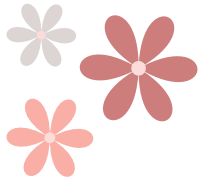
Theoretically, I am done with all my seminary classes and am in the process of finishing up my Master Assessments through Sioux Falls Seminary. This last step will officially end my seminary education and complete my Master of Divinity degree. There are a few other aspects to the process that will be happening over the summer.

At the end of May, I will be doing a Luther Seminary Faculty Approval interview. Then, at the end of summer, I will take part in a Synod Candidacy Approval interview that will officially make me a candidate for a first call.

I am so thankful for the support of Trinity through this process and also very excited to be done with the seminary.

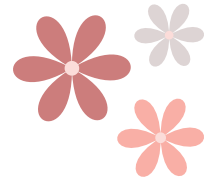
Again thank you for your support throughout this process.

Matt Pearson, Pastor in Training



Genesis 2:18

We were not made to do life alone.
We are made to embark life in community.



My vision and hope for Trinity Church is that as a congregation we engage in the kind of community that God calls us into. God is relational therefore we are too. God has existed in relationship – as Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

This exchange has been going on for eternity. It means that our God has been relational forever. He created us out of relationship and for relationship. We are relational because it's who God is.

What that means for us is that we are called to help each other, promote each other, serve each, and love each other.

Sundays, starting Sept. 10th we will be hosting a 6-week discipleship course on community. It's going to be a great time to engage in what a deeper and Christ-centered community looks like. We are encouraging every to participate. Add these dates to your calendar.

More details and registration coming this summer.

We need YOU...

Trinity Church's hospitality team is in need of more people like you. This team strives to create a warm and welcoming environment for all who step through our doors, especially our first-time guests. To continue cultivating friendly Sunday morning experiences, we are seeking to grow our team with additional, friendly individuals who are passionate about helping everyone be welcomed and feel part of our church family. No prior experience needed, just a desire to serve Jesus and His people. If you are interested, please email me at mrandall@trinitylife.org for more information. I would love to provide further details and answer any questions you may have!

Morgahn Randall | Connections Minister

[We love to Serve](#)



SUCCESSION PLANNING

In the Bible, Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that for everything there is a season. For our Trinity Church family, we are entering into a new season as Pastor Erik nears retirement and our Pastor-In-Training Matt becomes fully ordained. In the weeks and months ahead, we will form a small succession planning team made up of council and congregation members and begin preparing for this transition. We anticipate the overall succession process to take up to two years, but that timeframe might vary as we move forward.

We ask for your prayers for God to guide us through this process. We also ask for you to consider volunteering to help. If you want to be involved in succession planning, use this [link](#) or the QR code below to let the Church Council know. We look forward to forming up the team that will guide us through this transition to a new season at Trinity.



Your friend in Jesus,
Marcus Schmidt, Council President

STAFFING UPDATE:

In May, Kayla Florum resigned her position as Trinity's Children's and Family Minister. We have been blessed this last year by the work she has done with kids and their families. Her passion to see them come to know Jesus and her guidance to help families walk out faith with their children has brought tremendous growth in homes and in this church. She has encouraged and fostered a love for worship, as well as coordinating a great team of volunteers. Kayla's last day is June 15.

On Sunday, June 11, following the 9 & 10:30 services, we have opportunity to celebrate Kayla and the good work she has done. You are invited to a cookie fellowship and to bring cards and encouraging words to share with Kayla as she leaves this role and returns to the Millard District as a Special Education Teacher.

We are taking applications for the [Children's and Family Minister](#) position through June 12. Please contact me with questions about this role.

Matt Pearson
mpearson@trinitylife.org

MEMBERSHIP COURSE



45-minutes to learn about Trinity Church

Whether you are new to Trinity Church or you've been here a long time, this short course is your opportunity to learn who we are, how we love Jesus, and where you fit into the mission God has called us to. RSVP at [nextsteps.guide under events](https://nextsteps.guide/under-events) or with the QR code to the left. There will be food, time to get to know one another, plus childcare if needed.

July 30 at 11:45 a.m.
Connection Room 2

ALL ABOUT GROUPS

Little Miracles is a ministry to moms in need during their baby's first year of life. Each month, mom's submit their needs via an online form. Then our team leader organizes requests and shares the needs with the members of this Serving Team.

[Join the Team](#)



TRINITY
LITTLE MIRACLES

NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Wednesday, May 24
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

This group is for post-high school young adults.
Connect for

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 06/02 - DeAnna Bottrell
- 06/03 - Dorothy Mattea
- 06/04 - Tom Vitamvas
- 06/07 - Jean Daniell
- 06/17 - Jim Petersen
- 06/22 - Carol Richey
- 06/22 - Darrel Smith
- 06/28 - Polly Dietz

Happy Anniversary to those Married 50+ Years

- 06/03/72 - Lyle & Cheryl Hamrick
- 06/11/66 - Rudy & Marilyn Krueger
- 06/15/52 - Norm & Ruth Schuessler
- 06/23/62 - Darrel & Ellen Smith
- 06/24/72 - Rich & Pam Kuper
- 06/24/67 - Arlyn & Peggy Montgomery

Newly Married

- 05/13 - Andrew and Taylor Tuthill

Baptized into our Faith Family

- 05/07 - Harlee Ryan Stubbe, daughter of Ryan and Erin Stubbe.
- 05/07 - Easley Nicole Dornbusch, daughter of Chris and Ashley Dornbusch
- 05/28 - Mac James Scherzberg, son of Justin and Elaina Scherzberg
- 05/28 - Lane Wilson Shafer, son of Dwight and Natalie (Moore's) Shafer

Sympathies to the family of

- John and Ann Holmstrom on the loss of Ann's father.

Health and Healing

- Shelly Petersen
- Scott Johnston
- Sharon Schwartz

OUR VISION

A place to
belong and
become
who God is
calling us to be.

OUR MISSION

Connecting
people to
Christ.

OUR PURPOSE

Love Jesus.
Transform
lives.
Serve the
community.

TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our tithes and offerings are
Connecting People to Christ!

GIVING IN APRIL

Offering Entries = 523

of: Donors = 229 | New Donors = 7 | Recurring = 85

Source: Electronic Giving = 309 | Cash & Checks = 214

Total Received = \$89,967.75

General Fund: \$74,168.88

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$13,288.38

All other giving*: \$2,510.49

*includes: Lent, Memorial, Little Miracles, The Raining Season (Africa), IT Fund, Trinity Kids, TK - Mary Kamara (TRS), Shalom Ministries (India), VBS, Stephen Center

MARCH ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ -63,656

Building Fund: \$ -3,736

Endowment Fund: \$ 350,678

Memorial Fund: \$ 75,856

GO Fund May 2021- April 2024

Received as of 05/25/23 - \$808,430.63

67% of our \$1.2 million goal

has come in from 3063 donations

2381 from pledges | 682 from non-pledged

Partner in the good work God is doing through Trinity Church

Give in person or by mail:

Checks payable to Trinity Church at
848 Gold Coast Rd, Papillion NE 68046

Give in worship:

Locate the black offering boxes in the
back of the Chapel and Worship Center.



Give electronically

- Use this [link](#)
- Use the QR Code
- Use the Church Center App
- trinitylife.org/giving