



TRINITY  
CHURCH

October

Printed September 22, 2022

## Note from Pastor Erik, Lead Pastor

I witnessed a beautiful moment this morning. Driving to the church, two girls who appeared to be sisters were about to cross an intersection. The older sister reached out and took her sister's hand. The little sister had adoration in her eyes. The older sister obviously loved and cared for her. It was a sweet, beautiful, and joyful moment for me to witness.

I wonder how often we see chaos far more complex than at an intersection. Chaos is invasive politically, socially, economically, and relationally. It strikes each of us differently and no one is unscathed. I have had my share of chaos lately, learning (relearning) something critical. The Apostle Paul wrote it this way to the Thessalonians: "...in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (NASB)

I have to admit there are moments where I have not felt very thankful. It has been hard to see good in some circumstances. What I have learned is that when I do give thanks to God in EVERY circumstance, my eyes are opened to His presence. Recognizing that He is there helps me see a future filled with hope, possibilities, renewal, refreshment, new life, and strength. Then I am naturally drawn into a more intimate relationship with Jesus and my faith grows to withstand the depths of chaos. Here I begin to understand what the disciples felt when they were with Jesus on the sea of Galilee. Petrified because of a storm, with one word, Jesus brought order out of chaos. He calmed the storm. He can do that for us. He is worthy of our thanks, praise, and gratitude. When praises rise, blessings come down. This process becomes an exciting cycle in life that lifts us up.

This month our new message series, Journey to LIFE, will explore how we can experience a richer, fuller, and more joyful life through thanks, gratitude, and responding to God. Typically, in October, the congregation is asked to make a financial commitment to the mission of Trinity Church allowing us to create a spending plan for the next year. This year, instead, I invite you to pray about these two questions. First, do you plan to give the same, more, or less in 2023 compared to 2022? Second, what percentage of your income are you giving to Trinity? The staff and Council will be asked to respond first. These results will be shared with the congregation. Later in the month, without sharing your name, you will have an opportunity to respond, too. This information will assist in developing an effective budget to connect people to Christ in 2023.

God has a plan for you. He wants to draw you into a closer relationship with Him and invites you to engage with Him fully to experience the richest life possible. He wants to walk with you into a Journey to LIFE. I look forward to walking the journey with you.

Your Pastor and Friend

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Erik".

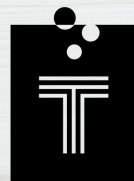
October Message Series

# JOURNEY TO LIFE

In this series we explore an interesting quality about growing faith. While our response to God is the result of faith, it is when we give of ourselves, our resources, our time, our worship, our prayers...anything in response to Him...that our faith grows.

## CAFE AND PLAY

Tuesdays from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. the Trinity Café will be equipped with a designated infant space, toys for kids, and open gym to provide parents opportunity to connect and enjoy our safe space for your kids to play. 15% off all Café products plus a FREE mini frothed milk drink for your little one (aka Baby Chino). Questions? Reach out to Amanda or Mindy at [cafe@trinitylife.org](mailto:cafe@trinitylife.org).



TRINITY  
CAFE

Mon-Thur 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Sundays 8:00-noon



# A Note from Matt Pearson, Pastor in Training

## SEMINARY UPDATE

Thank you for the many kind words and support you have shown me throughout my seminary process and in particular though Internship.

Thank you for the Internship celebration last month and a huge thank you to the Internship Committee for their work with me over the last year: Jay Cruse, Mindy Grass, Rick Olstad, Nick Staab, Connie Scherzberg, and Christine Myslinski. My family and I truly appreciate the consistent support of Trinity throughout this experience and are grateful for the partnership in ministry we have to proclaim Christ here in Papillion.

Although finished with internship, my seminary studies continue. My current semester I am taking two classes through Luther Seminary. In Ethics of Jesus I look forward to reading German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer as well as Martin Luther King, Jr., and in my Law and Narrative's class I look forward to diving into the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the bible) which contains so much of the foundation for the Christian faith.

## MISSIONS AT TRINITY

Trinity Leadership is constantly looking at how to enhance, strengthen, and focus our Mission and how that is lived out through experiences both locally and internationally.

Currently we are wrestling through missions with the phrase "Trinity Loves Families" and how that gets expressed through our congregation. You'll begin to see this phrase take shape and roll out into our mission strategy in the near future.

We continue to support The Raining Season (TRS) Orphanage in Sierra Leone West Africa as one of our primary global mission supports, recently giving benevolence funds to support the funding of their orphan home rental. TRS was able to raise all the funds needed to continue to provide care for orphans.

If you are looking for ways to serve or connect to Trinity related missions reach out to me at [mpearson@trinitylife.org](mailto:mpearson@trinitylife.org) to find out ways to serve locally through Stephen Center, Heartland Hope, Little Miracles, or Empty Tomb.

# Connection Groups

## WHY THEY MATTER

### **Seven reasons why Connection Groups matter from Marilyn's group**

1. Good opportunity to meet people when you are new to the Church.
2. A way for long-time members to meet people who don't go to the same service.
3. Fellowship with other Christians.
4. Knowledge and wisdom from those who answer questions from the lessons.
5. Non-threatening environment.
6. Can trust fellow Bible Study members to adhere to confidentiality policy.
7. The fun and laughs.

**Find your Group or Course**  
**[WWW.NEXTSTEPS.GUIDE](http://WWW.NEXTSTEPS.GUIDE)**

Should you have question or want to learn more, please reach out to Pastor Dave, Associate Pastor at [prdave@trinitylife.org](mailto:prdave@trinitylife.org). He will be glad to assist you.

# TRINITY CONNECTION COURSES

Do you want to explore your next step at Trinity Church and the important role that you will play in God's work here? Trinity Connection Courses help paint a clear picture of what it looks like to Connect to Christ in our body of Jesus followers. These four brief, yet meaningful, gatherings are for those new to Trinity and those who have been part of God's church for years. (See topic list below)

**Sundays from 10:05 - 10:28  
In the Chapel**

**Courses run every month; attend when you are able.  
Children are welcome.**

## 1ST SUNDAY

**101**

### **WELCOME**

We're so glad  
you're here!

Pastoral welcome

Overview

Stories of our God  
at work through  
the mission He has  
given Trinity  
Church

How do we  
respond?

## 2ND SUNDAY

**201**

### **GROWTH**

Get on the  
path

What does a  
mature follower of  
Jesus look like?

What was Jesus'  
method for  
growth?

How can my family  
and I grow at  
Trinity Church?

## 3RD SUNDAY

**301**

### **SERVING**

Because people  
matters

Why did Jesus  
serve?

Who did Jesus  
serve?

What does His  
example have to  
do with you?

How can my family  
and I serve inside &  
outside the  
church?

## 4TH SUNDAY

**401**

### **COMMITMENT**

Join the  
mission

Why commit to  
God's mission?

What does it mean  
to commit to Jesus  
through Trinity  
Church?

What are the  
expectations of a  
Trinity Church  
member?

# SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 29

This year we will be hosting a legendary event! Inspired by "Dude Perfect," kids and adults alike will have a blast competing in epic challenges while scoring massive amounts of candy. This event has a carnival vibe with multiple game stations where kids use tickets to play. There are three categories of games: solo play, battles, and record breakers.

That's where you come in. In the past, we have called this event "Trunk or Treat" and people have decorated their trunks. This year, we are asking that individuals, couples or groups of people host one of our activities for the evening. Sign up for an activity already provided or express your creativity and come up with your own! Our hope is that we can help kids and their families have a blast completing challenges and getting lots of candy in a safe and fun environment!

Are you excited to help?

Use the QR Code to preview activities:



Use the QR Code to sign up for one of the provided activities or to create your own:



We are asking that sign up happens in groups for activities to decorate, create, and manage the activity for the duration of the event and to donate candy so that there is more than enough for everyone!



**Kayla Florom**

Children's and Family Minister  
kflorom@trinitylife.org

P.S. I know this is a Saturday which means one thing... FOOTBALL. We will be showing whatever games are on that evening on the many large televisions that we have! We are also reaching out to food trucks! Let's make this event an awesome tail gate!

# TRICK SHOTS

*and Treats*

# Grades 6-12



# TRINITY STUDENTS

**Wednesdays\* 6:45-8:15 pm**

**Enter through the NE door**

Open gym, video & board games, Trinity Store, and food starts at 6 pm

*\*When Papillion LaVista school district is not in session, Trinity Students does not meet.*

We have a super exciting month planned for Trinity Students!!  
Here's what's in the works for October.

**All registrations and event details found at [www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide)**

- 10/14-10/16 Elevate Fall Retreat. Hosted at Camp Rivercrest, this is a great time for students to build relationships with each other, grow closer to Jesus, and have fun! We are partnering with Thanksgiving Church as well, so students may get to see other Christ followers from their schools! [Click here](#) to sign up. Per usual, students are encouraged to invite their friends.
- 10/26 Halloween Party - Come in costume and be ready for fun on our scavenger hunt! This is a great opportunity to bring a friend.
- 10/29 Blood Drive - Our goal is 40 donors but we have 57 slots to fill. Students who want to serve should reach out to Lily Erb. Adults who wish to be blood donors may select a time through [nextsteps.guide](http://nextsteps.guide) upcoming events or by [clicking here](#).
- 10/30 Parent/leader Breakfast - For those who are engaged in Trinity Students and those who want to learn more about it, this is an opportunity for parents to meet our youth leaders and connect over a common interest: the wellbeing of students! This event is free to you. Come enjoy a delicious homemade breakfast and great conversation. [Click here](#) to RSVP.



Chase Florum  
Student and Family Minister  
[cflorum@trinitylife.org](mailto:cflorum@trinitylife.org)





## **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

### **Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years**

- 10/03 - Marlene Syas
- 10/03 - Lorraine Stanfield
- 10/05 - Dale Horton
- 10/07 - Janis Dagerman
- 10/07 - Lila Christensen
- 10/09 - Ray Bottrell
- 10/16 - Marcella Koca
- 10/16 - Roger McCauley
- 10/19 - Rudy Krueger
- 10/26 - Marlene Carr
- 10/28 - Charlotte Dietze

### **50+ Anniversaries**

- 10/29/71 - Gary & Gerry Cordes

### **Newly Married**

- 09/03 - Adam and Jessica (Graham) Shull

### **Sympathies to**

- 09/09 - Mary Jane Nelson and family on the loss of her husband, Calmer
- 09/19 - Kent Klassen and family on the loss of his wife, Lorene

**OUR VISION: A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be.**

**OUR MISSION: Connecting People to Christ**

**OUR STRATEGY: Love God | Grow Community | Serve Others**

## **Greetings Trinity Church Family**

Your Church Council is excited to announce that we have received an offer on our land for sale on the corner of 90th and Highway 370. As your Church Leadership, we believe this is a great opportunity. Please attend the special congregational meeting on October 9 at 11:30 a.m. We will be sharing details, opening the floor to questions, and then voting\* about whether or not to accept the offer. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,  
Shavon Erb, Council President

\*To be eligible to vote, one must be a confirmed, contributing, member of Trinity Church.

# TRINITY CHURCH IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings  
Connect People to Christ!

## GIVING IN AUGUST

Offering Entries = 461

# of: Donors = 210 | New Donors = 4 | Recurring = 87

Source: Electronic Giving = 254 | Cash & Checks = 207

Total Gifts Received = \$73,586

General Fund: \$59,830

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$12,467

All other giving\*: \$1,289

\*includes Papio Creek, Trinity Kids, TK Mary Kamara,  
Little Miracles, Stephen Center, Food Pantry

## AUGUST ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ -13,199

Building Fund: \$ 92,408

Endowment: \$ 340,697

### GO Fund May 2021- April 2024

Received as of 09/22- \$619,062

52% of our \$1.2 million goal

from 2199 donations

1694 from pledges | 505 from non-pledged

### General Fund 2022

Received as of 09/22 - \$607,251

69% of our \$878,584 goal

from 3432 donations

1376 from pledges / 2056 from non-pledged

We have good work  
to do as we follow  
God's lead in 2022.



**SCAN ME**  
to pledge to the  
General Fund in 2022

God is doing great things.  
Join Him in His work for us through Trinity Church  
[www.nextsteps.guide](http://www.nextsteps.guide) and click **GIVE**