

July 25, 2018

Dear Trinity Family:

It is my pleasure to announce that we have hired a new Director of Music for Trinity Church! I hope that you will join me in welcoming Dr. Eric Bigalke.



Eric is a native of Minnesota, growing up in Little Falls, Minnesota, and Hudson, Wisconsin. He also has lived and worked in Vermont, Colorado, and Illinois, and has studied and traveled extensively in India, China, Korea, Japan, and Western Europe. Eric holds bachelor and master's degrees in piano performance, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance and theory from the University of Minnesota. He is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. Eric comes to Trinity from St. John's Episcopal Church in White Bear Lake where he has served as Director of Music for the past five years. Alongside his position at St. John's White Bear Lake, Eric served as Chapel Musician at Breck School, leading music in worship for Breck's PreK-12 community of 1,200 students. Eric will continue his work at Breck School.

We will place hard copies of Eric's resume in the Atrium for Trinitarians who want to know more about Eric's qualifications and experience.

Eric's wife, Dr. Zhiyu Wang (Zhiyu pronounced: Gee-you, and Wang rhymes with "strong"), holds degrees in piano performance from Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and a doctorate in piano performance and piano pedagogy from the University of Minnesota. Eric and Zhiyu live in Southwest Minneapolis, and in their free time they enjoy good food, travel, and the beautiful parks, lakes, and waterways around the Twin Cities.

Here are some important dates:

- Eric's first Sunday at Trinity: Sunday, August 19, 2018
- First day in the office: Tuesday, August 14, 2018
- "Welcome Eric Sunday" (blessing during worship and party afterwards): Sunday, September 9, 2018
- Adult Choir: Weekly Choir Practice begin Wednesday, September 5; and first Sunday singing during worship is Sunday, September 16, 2018 (so Eric can get two practices in before the 16<sup>th</sup>).
- Bell Choir: Weekly practice begins Tuesday, September 11, 2018.
- Eric will be working with Laura Brubaker in scheduling the launch of children's choir in the fall.

Trinity had many qualified candidates for the position, and I was personally very grateful to the members of Trinity's adult and bell choirs, Vestry, and staff who were willing to meet finalists and offer feedback to the Search Team. I'd like to thank the Music Director Search Team who worked very hard

over the past several months: Essie Commers, Tiffany Geodjen, Matthew Humason, Mary Jo Nairn, Steve Roman, and Anne Vogel. This team was diligent, thoughtful, lighthearted, and open to where God might be calling Trinity in its next great chapter of music ministry. The process was a job search, but it was also a discernment, with deep faithfulness to God and love for Trinity woven throughout all of our choices and deliberations.

It is my hope that you will embrace Eric with openness, affirmation, support, and encouragement in his first few months at Trinity.

And, finally, thanks to YOU for trusting me and the Search Team to find the right person for Trinity. We gave the process everything we had, and we are excited about where Eric will take us as a faith community in the coming years.

As we enter the final month of summer, please know that Trinity is in excellent hands with our amazing staff and hardworking Vestry. I will be on vacation for the first three weeks of August, but Anne Miner-Pearson will be in-place and on-deck at Trinity during that time.

I look forward to September when we reunite back at Trinity from our various vacations and travels. Until then, may God's Peace and the still of summer be yours.

Love, Devon