

AUGUST 2018



PO Box 788, 6810 Hwy 2 W, Cass Lake, MN 56633

tlclsecretary@gmail.com 218-335-6393

like/follow us on Facebook

(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cass Lake)

<http://www.trinitylutheranchurchcasslakemn.com>

Pastor's Reflections

When I was in seminary a friend and I were talking one afternoon about being asked, "What does evangelical mean in the acronym ELCA? What is the difference between you and those who are called evangelicals?" Admittedly neither of us really had a good answer nor did we understand the difference. I came across a good explanation in an online article from *The Lutheran*, April 2018 edition, and thought it would be worth sharing, because if I had that question, I'm sure many others do as well! So here is a snippet of what Robert C. Blezard wrote:

As a young man, Timothy Wengert learned a personal lesson about the historical connection between our church and the term "evangelical." Traveling in Germany when he was about 20, he asked for directions to the local Lutheran church—only to get a puzzled look. "I was thinking, 'Oh, *Lutheran* is the word that everybody knew,' but it wasn't," Wengert said. "They call Lutheran churches *Evangelische*, or Evangelical." Now professor emeritus of church history at United Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia, Wengert said Evangelical, not Lutheran, was the name for Luther's earliest followers. In fact, the reformer's opponents used "Lutheran" as a slur.

"Luther even said, famously, he didn't want people to call themselves Lutheran, but rather just Christian," Wengert said, but "Christian" was too

generic to distinguish the new movement from other types of Christians. "Evangelical" stuck. And still sticks. "They were called Evangelicals very early on because of their orientation toward the gospel, as opposed to the law," he said.

The term "Evangelical" fits because it speaks to the core of Lutheran identity. "Evangelical" comes from the Greek word *euangelion*, meaning simply "good news" or "gospel." Luther's key insight—that the "good news" of Jesus is that we are loved by God and saved by God's grace through faith, not by the good things we do—challenged centuries of Roman Catholic teaching that people had to earn their salvation by being good enough in God's eyes.

Luther's teachings shifted the paradigm concerning salvation. Instead of constantly worrying whether we are sufficiently righteous to deserve God's love, Christians can live in joy and peace knowing that God loves us despite our sinfulness. Lutherans strive for righteous living and perform good works, but not to earn salvation. Rather, these compose a faithful, thankful response for what God has already done for us. "Evangelical" was the settled name for the Lutheran churches as the movement spread, especially in northern Europe. Keeping to that tradition, German immigrants who founded the first Lutheran body in North America in the 18th century named it the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Subsequent immigrants from Scandinavia also included "evangelical" in the names of the churches they founded in North America. Today "evangelical" still appears in scores of Lutheran church bodies worldwide.

Today though, because that term has become wed to some very negative associations, particularly with what I view as a destructive

theology, many people are trying to distance themselves from it altogether. But that's not the answer. As Bp Eaton notes in the article, we need to not only reclaim the word, but reclaim the evangelical spirit as well.

As Richard Webb, a pastor of Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines, Iowa, and a former member of the ELCA churchwide evangelism team stated, "We may want to figure ways to [recontextualize] the word. We talk about ourselves as 'good news people,' as 'gospel people,' but the best way to reclaim that word is to literally live that way. What kind of news are we to the people around us? Are we bad news? Are we boring news? Or are we startlingly good news?"

Your sister in Christ, Pr Amanda

Star Island Worship

The 15th annual Trinity Star Island service will be on **Sunday, August 5** at 8 AM. Pastor Amanda will celebrate for the first time the casual service on the south shore of Star Island Cass Lake. Boat transportation will be available but you will need to sign up in the narthex so we know how many boats will be needed. Please be at the Sail Star Marina at 7:30 AM for the ride over. All are welcome, refreshments afterwards.

Change of Synod

The congregation council has decided to discontinue exploring the possibility of changing synods at this time.

Prayer Shawl ministry and a crocheting class

Interested in crafting a shawl that will wrap someone in need in prayer? **Susan Schulz will be leading a class on crocheting on Mon Aug 13 at 1:30 pm.**

Congregation Meeting

To Trinity Lutheran Church Members:

A special Congregation Meeting has been called by the Congregation Council for the purpose of voting on amendments to the Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 19**, immediately following the worship service.

At the April 2016 Synod Assembly, amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations were approved. Work has been completed to bring Trinity's Constitution in compliance with the ELCA. The Congregation Council has approved the amendments and our amended Constitution was reviewed and approved by the NEMN Synod. The Constitution now needs congregation approval.

Due to these amendments, some of the verbiage in our bylaws needed to be updated, also.

Copies of the amended Trinity Constitution will be available beginning Sunday, August 5. The document will also be available on our website.

(www.trinitylutheranchurchcasslakemn.com click on "BLOG" then click on "Constitution Change" and click on "view post".)

Financials

	Month of June	Year to Date
<u>Giving</u>	<u>\$8,073</u>	<u>\$52,547</u>
<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>\$8,388</u>	<u>\$62,569</u>
<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	<u>\$9,102</u>	<u>\$64,735</u>

Forum on Church Companion Trips

Pr Mark and Brenda Wagner will be here Tues Aug 7 at 5:30 pm to talk and answer questions about two of the three opportunities (Honduras and India) our synod offers for mission trips. Even if you're not sure if this is something you want to do, it doesn't hurt to attend and see what they have to share! All are welcome.



Sunday-Fun day

Youth and Community Open House
Sunday, September 09, 2018, 12:30 to 2:30,
Trinity Lutheran Church, Cass Lake

Northeastern Minnesota Synod



Salad Luncheon: at Trinity
11am – 1pm
Thursday, August 2

We need salad & bars and also people to help.
Please sign-up in the narthex.

WELCA Meeting: Monday, Sept 10 at 12 noon



Christmas in July (and August)

Many of you are familiar with our summer "Noisy Offerings". We "ring" the containers with change and dedicate the offerings to a special cause. The Worship committee would like to dedicate this summer's offerings to our Christmas Jar. The Jar becomes an anonymous gift during the Christmas season. Last year we worried that we wouldn't know who to give the Jar to but the opportunity arose to bless a family in the community. The Spirit was at work! We trust that a similar opportunity will direct our giving this year. So ring in the season early by tossing your change (or bills) into the Christmas Jar in the entry area.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the youth and community open house on Sunday, September 09, 2018 from 12:30 to 2:30.

Volunteers are specifically needed to help serve the picnic lunch, run the games, and just welcome those who are attending who may not be familiar with Trinity Lutheran Church. Volunteer signup sheets are on the table in the narthex.

Volunteers are also needed to bake cupcakes for the Cake Walk that will be part of the youth and community open house. We are looking for six dozen cupcakes. Signup sheets are on the table in the narthex.

Activities planned for the Sunday-Fun day are fishing for prizes, PLINKO, ring toss, duck pond, face painting, and a cake walk.

Growing with God

Part of our call as disciples is to grow with God. Recently we were presented with a unique spiritual practice, called the Matthew 25 Challenge. Put together by WorldVision, it is a week-long challenge that will help us as individuals and as families step out of our comfort zones and engage in God's love for "the least of these brothers and sisters" who Jesus calls us to care. Based on Jesus' words from Matthew 25:35-40, we'll have a chance to participate in daily challenges, hear impactful stories, and have ways to pray and talk about this scripture with our family and friends from Aug 19-26. More information to come.

**Registration is now OPEN for
2018-2019 School of Lay Ministry
Elective Series**

Spiritual Journey...

- *What is it? Am I on one? What does it mean?*
- *How can I know the way to follow? What are "spiritual exercises" and what is this thing called "spiritual direction?"*
- *How can I go deeper in my walk with God?*

If these questions are on your mind, the upcoming NE Minnesota Synod ELCA – School of Lay Ministry Elective Series is for YOU!

Join with other lay persons (you do NOT have to be a student or graduate of the School of Lay ministry) as we explore the concept of Spiritual Journeying through a series of four unique educational and experiential events held in various locations on Sept. 22, Nov. 10, Feb. 9 and May 18 of the upcoming 2018/19 school year. Presenters include the Rev. Dr. Dave Mesner (Duluth), Pastor Fred Hanson (Pine City) and Spiritual Director Kari Olson (Ely).

Registration is open NOW! Registration closes August 23, 2018.

<http://www.nemnsynod.org/school-of-lay-ministry.html>

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact School of Lay Ministry Coordinator Sue Lyback at 320-333-1894 (please leave a voicemail or send a text) or via email to susilyback@gmail.com.

Bemidji Timber Bay House needs some TLC and we need the help of THE CHURCH to assist with these projects as soon as possible:

- Deck work: paint/stain, lattice replacement.
- Front door: trim work inside and out, paint.
- Skirt of house redone/replace.
- Paver stone patio in front of garage for outdoor grilling, etc.
- Screens repaired.
- Some sheetrock finishing and painting.
- Etc.

Please contact me to let me know when a crew can come to help and which project(s) you are taking on. ALSO, we would be blessed if the cost of these repairs/projects was furnished by each group/church

Steve Hanson
Bemidji Timber Bay Area Director
Phone: 218-766-9997
Email: hanson@timberbay.org

Choice Dollars and Action Grants

Calling all Thrivent members! If you utilize this financial planning group you have a couple of neat chances to further serve your neighbors. One is by selecting to have your Choice Dollars directed to any non-profit you desire. A second way is by applying for Action Grants. These \$250 cards can be used towards supplies for educational, fundraising and/or service projects. Each person is allowed two of those per year. It is in fact part of how we support the Annual Bazaar and now the Family Sunday Funday event as well!

August Service Groups

Date	Readers	Communion Assistants
8/5	Joanne Withers	Joanne Withers & Lori Humphrey
8/12	Chuck Thomas	Chuck & Cindy Thomas
8/19	Joanna Aamodt	John & Joanna Aamodt
8/26	Marianne Kamrud	Marianne Kamrud & Delores Broekemeier

August Ushers: Leonard Tompkins
Ed Olson

August Altar Duty and Fellowship:

Connie Miller & Lori Humphrey

Bemidji Area Church Musicians

The 2018 Summer Recital Series is set for each Wednesday, continuing through August 29. Each recital is scheduled from 12:00 noon to 12:30 pm. A free will offering will be received. A luncheon will be served following the concert and there will be a charge for the luncheon. Please check Trinity's bulletin board for the poster of scheduled performers and church locations. Copies are available in the narthex to take home with you.

Trinity Facebook page

We are expanding our social media visibility, thanks to Priscilla Smith! So, if you're on FB, please like and/or follow us. It's an easy way to let others know about Trinity. Printed sermons are available our page.

Printed sermons are also available on our web site under the BLOG.

Pr. Bill & Almina Beyer are covering for Pr. Amanda while she is on vacation. Call them at 218-333-3958 for pastoral care until Aug 2.

To help honor the important need for Sabbath rest, Pr. Pete Warren from Aardahl LC and Pr. Amanda have arranged to cover emergencies for the other on their respective day off. So Pr Amanda will be responding to calls from Aardahl on Fridays and Pr Pete will be on-call on Mondays. So if you are in urgent need of pastoral care on Mondays, please contact Pr. Pete at (218) 888-4465.