

OCTOBER 2018

28.01.2018



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

tlcclsecretary@gmail.com 218-335-6393

like/follow us on Facebook

(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cass Lake)

<http://www.trinitylutheranchurchcasslakemn.com>

Pr Amanda is on vacation Oct 2-7. Pr Bill will be on-call Mon Oct 1-Mon Oct 8 so please call him (218)333-3958 if there is an emergency.

Pastor's Reflections

When I was in high school, I took part in a pen pal program. The day I received my match, I ripped open the envelope and found that I would be communicating with a young girl about my age who lived in Ireland. Fascinated with the land and people, especially as it is where some of my ancestors hail from, not to mention the fine Irish brogue, I couldn't believe my luck. For at least a year, we wrote back and forth, telling each other about our families, our interests and hobbies, exchanging pictures so we had a face to conjure up while putting pen to paper. As I look back at that experience, it was oddly remarkable how across an extensive span of land and massive ocean, the Spirit connected two strangers. Strangers who as it happens, never met in person. Strangers who today don't know how the other is faring or even where she is. Strangers whose lives though were still forever blessed by the relationship.

Back in September Dwight Overbeek shared with us letters he received from strangers in another land. These are people we have not met, and possibly may never have the opportunity to do so. Yet, the one and same Spirit, who transcends human time and space, has sown in the fabric of faith the beautifully diverse colors of one another, forever intertwining our lives. And so as you read these letters in this and the upcoming newsletters, may your life, if even for a fleeting moment, be blessed by a stranger.

Dear Mr. and Ms. Thomas,
Hope you are well!
As you know my name is Diana. Now I'm 15 years old, but soon I will be 16 years old. I am in the 10th class. I live in the Yashozirya village, I think Dwight and others have told about it. I have a small family, namely, mother, grandma, me and my pets.
I like music and now I am learning to play the piano myself. Our church helps me with it - I can play the piano every day at church, because I don't have it at home. I also like to sing, but it is not very good yet. I learn English and want to be a translator. This summer I will have water baptism.
Thanks for your presents! They are amazing!
I will put here my address and if you want you can write to me. I will be happy to keep in touch with you. Do you have Facebook account?
In Christ love,
Diana

Annual Bazaar: Saturday, Oct 6
Trinity Narthex & Hall 10am - 1pm

*Crafts, decorations, bake sale!
Vintage Items! Games for Kids!*

Lunch menu of turkey ala king, biscuits, cranberry apple salad, dessert, coffee & lemonade. All for \$7.00

Kids meal of hot dogs, chips and drink for \$2.00

If you are making an item for the craft sale or baked goods, please have them at the church on Friday morning so we can get them priced.

Called to witness to Christ in and outside of the church building, council, as you know, developed a goal to increase Trinity's presence within the wider community. **A great opportunity to enact it has come up in the form of running the food booth at the football games.** Sign-ups are in the narthex. May our faith not be dead, but lived out as we connect with and serve others.

30 YEARS

Mark your calendar

Please join us in honoring & celebrating Wayne Hoff, our organist & pianist for 30 years of music ministry here at Trinity!

October 1988 Wayne came to play.....hear the story as Nancy Ramsey tells it.

Sunday, October 14th immediately following service there will be a short musical celebration & a special coffee hour with sandwiches & cake.

A card will be passed around the congregation the preceding Sundays for you to show your appreciation.

It's Time to Make Lefse

We are going to make lefse at the church on Thursday the 15th of November starting at 1 PM. If you have never made lefse and are interested in learning, or if you are an old hand at it, come on the 15th and give us a hand. Each person who helps out will get a nice package of lefse to take home with them. The lefse will be sold at the church on Sunday, November 18th and the proceeds will be used as a fund raiser for the Sunday School program. Connie Miller and OJ are the project coordinators so if you plan on attending, please let them know.

Crocheting class

Susan Schulz will be offering another class on crocheting **Mon Oct 8 at 1 pm**. Bring your own yarn and needles. All are welcome to come!

A study on the psalms

For three weeks, **Wed Oct 10, 17, and 24, at 3 pm** we will explore the psalms: their background, the different types, etc. You are invited to peruse them ahead of time and select one or two that you find meaningful for a project.

Prayer Shawls

We're looking to build a supply of prayer shawls, so if anyone has some made or is willing to knit or crochet a couple, please drop them off in the designated container in the narthex.

Thank you

Wow! What an amazing afternoon of food, fun and fellowship with community members!! Thank you so very much to all who pitched in and helped make it so fantastic! We had five families that attended our Sun Funday event. Praise be to God!!!!!!

Thank you

Thank you, my sisters and brothers, for the very thoughtful cake and kind words celebrating my one year anniversary with you! It touched my heart. I give thanks to God for you! Pr Amanda

Financials for Trinity

	Month of August	Year to Date
Giving	\$ 7,902	\$71,820
Actual Expenses	\$10,080	\$83,043
Budgeted Expenses	\$14,102	\$89,586

Thank you

A sincere thank you to our church family for your prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. A special thank you to those who attended Steve's graveside service, and for the lovely reception at the church. It is truly a blessing to have your continued support.
Gwen, Lauretta, Carmen and Cassie

Building Faithful Margin as Stewards of our Personal Finances *(First printed June 5, 2018 at www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/)*

By Jerry O'Neal who serves as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Muncie, IN and stewardship director for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA.

In a recent children's sermon based on 1 John chapter 3, I asked the kids in my congregation: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" They gave various responses (police officer, teacher), then one energetic boy looked at me with a straight face and said, "A hamster." Needless to say, I was taken aback by his comment. In my stuttering response, I said, "Well, many of us adults may feel like we're living our lives on a hamster wheel..."

Do you feel like you're living your financial life on a hamster wheel -- running endlessly, never getting anywhere, never able to get off? The way to slow down the wheel is to build margin in our lives. We sometimes hear about building margin into our calendars, creating Sabbath rest in our [schedules](#).¹ **How might we build margin into our financial lives?** Here are a few strategies:

Keep a budget: To create margin in our finances, we need to first know what kind of margin we have. This means having a realistic view of our income and expenses on a regular basis. A budget is simply a plan for our finances: as John Maxwell has famously said, budgeting is "telling your money where to go, rather than wondering where it went." Interestingly, when people begin using a budget, they often seem to "get a raise," because they become more intentional with their financial decisions. Lots of good budgeting apps and spreadsheets are available online, so I won't recommend one here, but the budgeting process itself is important: it helps us be trustworthy managers of the financial resources God has entrusted to us (cf. 1 Cor. 4:2).

Spend simply and frugally: While we may have some control over our income, most of us have more control over our expenses. Do we purchase

the expensive coffee at the coffee shop, or do we brew our own at home? Do we purchase a new or used car? Spending simply and frugally can help us create financial margin. A couple of thoughts here: first, *frugal* does not necessarily mean *cheap*. We may want to purchase a slightly more expensive item that will last longer or that lines up with our values (e.g. fair trade, sustainably sourced). Also, the largest purchases we make (homes, cars) give us the biggest opportunities to build margin (or reduce it).

Build emergency savings: Our lives are full of uncertainties: we do not know when a car will break down, an unexpected medical need will arise, etc. Thus, we need some basic level of savings to provide margin against these emergencies. Most financial experts recommend saving enough to cover 3-6 months of expenses, but any amount saved will help. Grace Duddy Pomeroy has an excellent video [here](#) that talks about how to build emergency savings.

Get out of debt: Our American culture is the most debt-ridden culture in the history of humankind. While we certainly want to pay our debts responsibly, one of the best ways to create long-term financial margin is to get out of debt and stay out of it. This includes all kinds of debt: mortgages, car payments, student loans, etc., for as Paul says, we should "owe no one anything, except to love one another" (Romans 13:8). Also, if we have the capability to forgive others' debts (e.g. family members who owe us money), we should do so in fulfillment of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

Pray: This last suggestion may not seem like it relates to finances, but in fact it does as Martin Luther reminds us in his *Small Catechism*. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to "give us this day our daily bread," acknowledging that God is the provider of all good gifts, including our finances. Likewise, when I pray through my financial decisions, I find myself remembering that the money isn't really mine at all -- it belongs to God (Psalm 24:1), and I am simply managing it for God's purposes.

Many of us feel like we're on a hamster wheel in our financial lives. By faithfully creating some margin in our finances, we can slow down that wheel and experience some of the Sabbath rest that God desires for us all.

^[1] David Loleng, "[Generous Space](#)," in *Stewardship 101: An Invitation to Financial Stewardship*, Center for Stewardship Leaders, 2017, pp. 12-13.

EcoFaith: Green Tips

"The Eco Faith Network is a growing network of ELCA Lutheran congregations and their members in northeastern Minnesota with a mission to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation. The Network's goal is to be catalyst for encouraging creation care awareness and actions throughout the Synod's 133 congregations...As emphasized in the ELCA social statement *Caring for Creation*...creation care is central to living out our Christian mandate for Earth stewardship. The Eco Faith Network of the NEMN Synod (formerly the Creation Care Team) was established by action of the Synod Assembly in 2008 recognizing 'creation care is integral to the marks of discipleship, lived out in the faith practices of worship, service, study and witness as a vital component of the church's identity and vocation today.'" As Martin Luther once said, "God's entire divine nature is wholly and entirely in all creatures, more deeply, more inwardly, more present than the creature is to itself." So in an effort to put our faith into action as stewards, each month we'll highlight both in the newsletter and on our FB page "Green Tips" offered by our brothers and sisters in the EcoFaith Network. So here's one to get us started: "According to the National Wildlife Federation, what may be the deadliest threat to wildlife today is a generation of children growing up apathetic about the natural world that surrounds them. Research shows that kids are spending more time indoors, connected to various electronic devices for more than seven hours daily, while on spending a few minutes in unstructured play. While kids do engage in organized sports, there isn't time spent outside connecting with the natural world. This "nature deficit" is being addressed by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) right here in Minnesota with the establishment of 233 NWF Schoolyard Habitats and 24 NWF Eco-Schools. WHAT CAN YOU DO? Share the the natural world

with the children in your life, and support the variety of programs above."

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! **If you are a Thrivent member and are willing to help with different Trinity activities by applying for these grants, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Even if you don't know how, someone from Trinity or the local Thrivent rep will help you navigate the application process. We have no way of knowing who has Thrivent, so having a list of people would assist in figuring out who we can ask!**

Cleaning your bookshelves...

If you have extra bibles and aren't sure what to do with them, here is a possibility. A group called Bible Senders (biblesenders.org) will receive donations of gently used bibles and distribute them to various ministries. They ask that any donated bible be in good enough shape that you would offer as a gift to your pastor. In other words, they can't use bibles that are torn, held together by rubber-bands, duck-taped, missing pages or paper clipped. But if you have one or more that they could use, here's what you do: 1) Simply pack them in a sturdy and well taped box; 2) Keep them under 40 lbs; 3) Mail them via the U.S. Post office as "Media Mail" to Bible Senders, P.O. Box 90, Palm Harbor, FL 34682.

Another group that accepts books, other than bibles and hymnals, that you can check out is the Theological Book Network (theologicalbooknetwork.org). They will take books

in these categories: Encyclopedias of Theology, Religion, and Bible, except the Interpreter's Bible Dictionary, old edition; Theology: historical and modern; Theology and Biblical Studies in French and Spanish; Church History/Historical Theology; Ethics; Philosophy; and Missiology/Cross-Cultural Studies. Their website will give you more details. Your donations are tax-deductible and these folks will promptly send receipts and information after your donation

Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION

FROM: February 01, 2018 THROUGH: July 31, 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 788
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Cong ID: 11463

Your 2018 Intent for Synod/ELCA Mission Support: 6,116
(This amount does NOT include Designated Gifts and Offerings, such as World Hunger, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.)

Gift Type	Date	Amount
00 Synod/ELCA Mission Support	2/1/2018	1,259.00
00 Synod/ELCA Mission Support	4/30/2018	1,259.00
00 Synod/ELCA Mission Support	7/16/2018	1,259.00
00 Synod/ELCA Mission Support Total		3,777.00
18 18/Seminary Scholarships	5/4/2018	10.00
18 18/Seminary Scholarships Total		10.00
9R 9R/SA Offering: WH Quarters	5/7/2018	2,003.44
9R 9R/SA Offering: WH Quarters Total		2,003.44
Grand Total		5,790.44

October Service Groups

Date	Readers	Communion Assistants
10/7	Marilyn Graham	Ila Senn John Aamodt & Connie Miller
10/14	Ila Senn	Connie Miller & Danny Struecker
10/21	Ardean Brasgalla	Ila Senn & Lori Humphrey
10/28	John Aamodt	Earl & Verlyn Tiggemann

October Ushers: Roy Blackwood
Terry Nord

October Altar Duty and Fellowship:

Laurie Buehler & Lauretta Jacobson

Energy Assistance

Do you need help with your fuel bills and electric bills? Bi-CAP has energy assistance available for income eligible households. Call 1-800-332-7161 or visit www.bicap.org. Poster on the office door with income guidelines and services available.

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.

Your kindness and concern
have meant so very much
and will always
be remembered

*Family of
Don Andersen*

*My mom & dad have very
fond memories of you and the
build at you church.*

*My mom made scrapbooks
on most mission builds &
we hope to mail them back to
the churches.*

*Thank you for your gift
and your friendship.*

*Maisha Larson
(Clarice's daughter)*



Three-session Bible study on repentance

Repentance is one of the most powerful acts of a person or a church, making possible not only forgiveness but also reconciliation. This three-part Bible study by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni explores how we as Lutheran Christians understand the role of

repentance in our faith, especially as we understand God's grace to be unearned and freely given. [Learn more. https://www.gathermagazine.org/fall-2018-repentance/](https://www.gathermagazine.org/fall-2018-repentance/)

Youth Bowling and Pizza

All kids, their families and friends are most welcome to join us for pizza and bowling on Sun Oct 28 at about 12:15 pm at the Bemidji Bowl. Even if you don't have young people living in your house, please invite those you know!



We are updating the Military Bulletin Board in the hall of the Church. If you have relatives in the service please send a picture and their name with current address to the church. Email or snail mail or put in the office any names you have. We can enlarge pictures as needed.