

# SEPTEMBER 2018



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(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cass Lake)

<http://www.trinitylutheranchurchcasslakemn.com>

## Pastor's Reflections

As I write this, it is the middle of Aug and it has been quite the dry month, at least according to my lawn and shriveling tree leaves. Though the danger level has been raised in our area, thankfully we are not fighting fierce fires, and hopefully never will. We are on the outskirts though of the Canadian fires, whose smoke is billowing in our direction, complicating breathing for our friends, neighbors, and maybe even some of you who are reading this who cope with lung issues.

As I was outside today showering my parched plants, I thought about the areas in the landscape of my 37 years that have required extra attention. For instance, when I was yet an infant and 100% dependent on my parents to feed, clothe, and shelter me. When I had my very first break up at the tender age of 13, and needed someone to simply embrace me and all my tears. When I bombed a test in college and had to not only redouble my efforts, but rethink my study strategy by seeking out assistance. Or when I served at Messiah, and, upon finding myself burned out after only just 1 ½ years, in part due to my lack of a healthy social life separate from work, my colleague helped me stay accountable to a deliberately established goal intended to nurture this aspect of my well-being.

During some of these spells, a drop or two of nourishment was sufficient, but during others, it seemed as if the scorched cracks of my soul could drink endlessly.

As I look back on all of those moments, as well as others, I realized that, even though I wasn't necessarily conscious of it at the time, I was also thirsty for the living God. The God who named and claimed me in the flowing streams of baptism.

Most, if not all of us, go through dry periods. Days, and even seasons, when the same systems and patterns just aren't enough to slake our dehydrated faith. During those periods, it's important to take the time for extra tending. So how do we quench it? Perhaps it is better stewarding our calendars so we're not burning the candle at both ends. Perhaps it is reading a book that wouldn't normally pique our interest, or an author whose ideology, theology or overall belief system isn't like ours. Perhaps it's trying a new spiritual practice that we would typically avoid. Or perhaps it's taking a tentative step into a ministry we haven't experienced before.

May the living God who also names and claims you in the redemptive waters of baptism continue to shower you with grace upon grace.

Your fellow minister, Pr Amanda

Pr Amanda gone to Synod Fall Theological Conference Sept 23-25. Pr Bill will be on-call.  
218-333-3958  
*(Pastor will be leaving Sun afternoon)*



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

All are welcome! Please join us for an afternoon of food and fellowship and invite others: Friends, Family, and Neighbors.

Volunteers are specifically needed to help run the games, and more importantly welcome those who are attending who may not be familiar with Trinity Lutheran Church. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex.

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

## Prayer Shawl Classes

If you're interested in learning how to crochet or knit so you can make prayer shawls, please sign up on the table in the narthex. At this time we don't have any other classes arranged with Susan or Marianne, but if there's enough people who missed the other two and would like to learn, they are willing to offer more.

## Upcoming study

For years, the ELCA has encouraged individuals and congregations across the country to prayerfully partner with them as people of faith in developing social statements, or written documents that respond to justice issues. This year we have been invited to study and share our input on the Draft of the Social Statement on Women and Justice. There will be two sessions at **9 am: Sept 13 and 20**. *This is not just for women, but for men too.* Although there is a sign-up so we have an estimate for number of copies needed, feel free to still join us!

# Financials

	Month of July	Year to Date
Giving	\$11,370	\$63,917
Actual Expenses	\$10,394	\$72,963
Budgeted Expenses	\$10,749	\$75,484

## Northeastern Minnesota Synod



**WELCA Meeting:** Monday, Sept 10 at 12 noon  
Trinity Fellowship Hall

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

# Sunday School Starts

Sunday School at Trinity will start September 16 at 9:30-10:15.

## Sunday School Teachers Needed

When asked what is your vision for Trinity, many people have expressed the desire to see more families and younger people as part of the church again. If that is the case, then we certainly need to be prepared to welcome them! So in that spirit, we have begun planning our Sunday School year, but this ministry won't take place without teachers. So please consider serving God and neighbor in this capacity. We already have a couple of subs and possibly a couple of teachers, but if we can get at least four disciples, then you only have to teach about once a month. If interested or if you have any questions please talk to Connie Miller or Pr Amanda.

## Gideon Thank You

"Thank you for your support of the Gideon Ministry. Through your generosity, The Gideons will be able to distribute or place 101 Hotel Bibles or 404 Personal Worker Testaments. The promise of Isaiah 55:11 is fulfilled, for God's Word does not return empty. Blessings abound!"

"Each Hotel Bible costs \$5.00 and each Personal Worker Testament \$1.25. Every penny collected at the door offering through a Gideon speaker goes toward the purchase of scriptures."

"Thank you and God's Blessings to each of you."

.....Wayne Tieman

## Three sides podcast

We are a story people, and the Lord is a God of stories. Recently the ELCA has started a podcast, or a digital audio file made available online for downloading, entitled *Three Sides*. Each month, you can listen as the three hosts share unique stories from diverse voices across the ELCA. The first one looks at three women who are in leadership positions. Just go to: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/podcast/>, scroll down to the list of available podcasts and click on "Listen", or you can download it if you prefer. You can also access the link via our website and FB page. "Typically, it's said there are two sides to every story. But often a middle or third side of the story is revealed, providing another perspective to consider."



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.

## Thank you from Star Island!

We had about 60 people attend. Beautiful morning and service. Pastor Amanda did a wonderful job and people really liked her.

## Healing Service

September 30 is the fifth Sunday of the month. We will have a healing service during the worship service.

## Congregation Meeting

The Special Congregation Meeting called to vote on the amended Constitution for Trinity was held on August 19, 2018. The vote unanimously passed. If you did not pick up a hard copy, you can access a copy of the Constitution on our Web site under BLOG and Constitution Change.

*The family of  
Johanna Hübendeger  
acknowledges with grateful  
appreciation your kind expression  
of sympathy*

*Thank you to Trinity Lutheran  
Congregation for your kind  
words and prayers for  
Johanna, our mother. Your  
thoughts brought peace &  
comfort. God Bless  
Dresser's Bill Schubert  
& family  
David Hübendeger  
& family*

## Christmas in July (and August)

The Christmas jar is on its way to being a blessing again this year. Thank you to everyone that has "rung the jar" this summer. We hope all will continue to empty change or bills into the jar until we are called to bless a family at Christmas time.

## Stewardship of Community

(The article in quotations was first printed Jan 16, 2018 at [www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/](http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/))

This past April, with the mission mindset of making Christ known, our council leaders and fellow disciples developed the goal of increasing Trinity's presence, visibility and recognition within the community. As I read this online article, I found it quite fitting in regards to our goal.

*By Ryan Dockery is the Pastoral Intern at Messiah Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington and is in candidacy through the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.*

"During my entire process preparing for ordained ministry in the ELCA, I've been surrounded by the notion of the dying church. Churches are getting smaller and smaller. The motto "if you build it, they will come" is no longer a reality. The theory that adults will return to church when they begin having a family is simply no longer valid. Together, we find ourselves asking, "What are we going to do?" "How will the church respond to this societal change in which people no longer find religion to be a necessity for their faith?"

I think we are past the time of the church simply being a place to gather. No longer can we judge the "success" of a congregation by how many butts are in the pews and how much money is in the offering plate each week. Being a good steward of our communities means recognizing that the people who do gather inside the walls of a church do not make up the whole community. There is a group of people missing. Therefore, I think we are in a crucial time of inviting and equipping those who do *gather* to then *scatter*. **It is time we take seriously the charge we cry out at the end of worship: Go in peace and share the good news!**

Part of this call to being good stewards in our communities is a call to take the good news of Jesus Christ into the very places we dwell -- the places we work, shop, hike, drink our coffee, and anywhere else outside the walls of the church. No longer can the Christian community be a once a week gathering. It must become a part of our daily lives. After all, we are called to *go!*

**We are called to go into the community to be witnesses.** The trick, though, is not to go as though we are bringing God to a place of need. The truth is, God is already present there and our role is simply to be present and aware of what God is up to. So, part of our call to stewardship involves going into our communities to *listen* intentionally to those who aren't in the pews.

When we go, we are not trying to convert people; we are simply trying to live with and among them. We are there to open our ears and hear what the community has to say. We go with no agenda. We do not treat the community like an object, rather a subject. We are called to see communities as God's beloved children.

In [Starting Missional Churches](#), Mark Branson writes, "If we are to know God's love of the world, we need to be carried by that love, and that means we will be changed by those who are different." Being good stewards in our communities means encountering those who look, think, and act differently than us. It is not only about what we can bring to the community, but what the community can bring to us. And, in the process, we too can be transformed as we encounter God in and among the communities we serve -- perhaps especially in the places we least expect."

## 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](http://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

## September Service Groups

Date	Readers	Communion Assistants
9/2	Roy Blackwood	Roy Blackwood & Laurie Buehler
9/9	Bev Larson	Gary & Bev Larson
9/16	Jane Christianson	Connie Miller & Danny Struecker
9/23	Jan Olson	Terry & Mary Nord
9/30	Tom Shephard	Lori Humphrey & Tom Shephard

**September Ushers:** John Aamodt  
Orin (OJ) Jenkins

**September Altar Duty and Fellowship:**

Joanna Aamodt & Janelda Olson

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.

### **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. Sermons are available on our page and **are also available on our web site under the BLOG.**

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](http://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.

## **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!**



### We walk for the steps they will never take

Join Sanford Bemidji Medical Center as we remember all babies lost in early pregnancy, stillbirth, newborn death and SIDS. All proceeds from the walk will benefit the PETAL (Parents Embracing Time After Loss) program, which provides mementos and support information to every parent who experiences a loss.

To register, pick up a registration envelope at the hospital's third floor reception desk. **Please register by Sept. 15 to have your baby's name included in the memorial booklet or to order a T-shirt.** If you are unable to make it to the walk, you are invited to make a donation.

### Free Event

Sanford Bemidji Medical Center • Saturday, Oct. 6

Day-of Registration: 9-10 a.m.

Walk starts: 10 a.m.

Memorial service: following the walk

Silent auction: October 3-6, bidding closes following the walk at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact a PETAL team member at (218) 333-5755.

# 30 YEARS.

## Mark your calendar

Trinity had been blessed to have Wayne as part of our music ministry team for 30 years in October. Mark your calendar, October 14 during worship we will celebrate and honor Wayne Hoff, our organist. There will be a special fellowship following worship. Stay tuned for further details.

For all Women

Living Waters Conference

Saturday, October 6

St. Andrew's – Grand Rapids