

AUGUST 2021



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Pastor's Reflections

By Deacon Colleen Bernu (Director for Evangelical Mission, NEMN Synod, ELCA Synod Minister for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

Living in a bilingual community, it's not uncommon to walk into a conversation spoken in Ojibemowin. If you're only fluent in the English language, you soon develop skills to compensate for your lack of understanding. You listen to intonation and watch body language. You laugh when others laugh, mimic emotional reactions, and nod in agreement...a lot. Eventually, you learn enough of the language to fully participate, but until that day, you live in a space in which speakers talk at you and past you at the same time.

Linguists teach that we hear through the filter of our own dialect - a filter that contributes significantly towards building our personal worldview. They say this filter never truly lifts and that we always see the world to a certain degree through the lens developed by our first language. This means that our family, community, racial and ethnic cultures each influence not only how we communicate and hear communication but also how we perceive and understand each other and the world. I think about this often as we commit to creating space that both invites and embraces diverse voices. How might the way in which we hear things (or read them) influence our ability to be in authentic relationships with each other?

This past week, Bp. Amy and I were invited into conversation about reframing the narrative. This group is a subcommittee of Bp. Eaton's task force charged to lead the ELCA into living into the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery on a national level. As part of our conversation, we read Psalm 44:1-5 and discussed how we heard and felt the text.

Acknowledging that we each are influenced by our cultural filter, we wrestled with where we saw hope in these words. A few days later, Bp. Amy and I did a similar exercise using Deuteronomy 7:1-11. Taking time to be mindful of what we hear, minimizes the risks associated with talking at and past each other. Perhaps this type of reframing the narrative is one facet of what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In our commitment to invite younger and more culturally diverse voices into our faith communities, I wonder how God is challenging us to see and hear things differently. What do you hear and feel as you read Psalm 44:1-5 and Deuteronomy 7:1-11? Where do you see hope? Is it possible that others might hear and feel these texts differently? How might your - cultural filter be influencing your worldview in regards to God's message through these words?

As we live into our commission as disciples to preach the Good News in word and deed to all nations, and as we live out our baptismal promises to strive for justice and peace throughout the world, may we talk to (not at and not passed) each other. May we learn to listen in a way that broadens our understanding of God among us. May it be so - Amen.

NORWAY BEACH WORSHIP SERVICE AUG 1, 2021

We will be having an outdoor worship service in the pavilion at Norway Beach Campgrounds on August 1st at 10:30 AM. It is located off of highway 2 east of Cass Lake approximately 4 miles. This will be another exciting time to worship and potentially build relationships with other community members, campers and visitors as part of our outreach ministry. The scenery is beautiful in this natural setting located right on the southern shore of Cass Lake. Bring your camera if you wish to snap a few breath-taking photos. Once you turn off of highway 2 there will be directional signs to guide you to the parking lot and pavilion. There will be coffee fellowship after the service like usual, so reserve the date and add some more excitement into your life. This service will be taking the place of our regular service at the church building that weekend as well as our annual Star Island service. If the weather is not favorable, then we will worship at our usual location. **Please invite family, friends, next-door neighbors and, if you're feeling courageous, strangers!**



**Pretty Blue
“Trinity”
Shirts for Sale**

We will be selling our pretty blue Trinity shirts though out the month of August, before and after worship. We have both short and long sleeve shirts in a variety of sizes. You can wear them when you work at the food shelf, ushering, reading the lessons, serving communion, working in the kitchen, when you attend any synod sponsored event, or just to church when you have absolutely nothing else to wear. The cost varies somewhat depending on if it’s a long sleeve or short sleeve and of course the size, so we will have a poster showing the cost at our display table. These shirts are sold at our purchase price, no one makes a penny.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

WELCA will meet on **Monday, August 30, 11:00 a.m.** to discuss the craft sale. They will also be discussing the upcoming 100th Anniversary celebration and how we can help. All women are invited to attend the meeting.

**Save the date: Sunday Sept 19
Trinity’s
100th Anniversary Celebration**

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

The women of Trinity are participating in the LWR School Kit program. WELCA will provide the backpacks and we are asking for donations to fill them. These kits contain essential supplies to help children-and in some cases adults-continue to learn.



The items needed per backpack are:

- 1) Four 70-80 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, no loose leaf paper
- 2) One 12 inch ruler with centimeters
- 3) One pencil sharpener
- 4) One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors)
- 5) Five unsharpened #2 pencils
- 6) Five black or blue ink pens (no gel ink)
- 7) One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 8) One 2 ½ inch eraser

Thank you for your contributions!

August Service Groups

Date	Reader	Communion Asst.
8/1	Lori Humphrey	Lori Humphrey & Gene Patten
8/8	Ardean Brasgalla	Ardean & Judy Brasgalla
8/15	Marianne Kamrud	Marianne Kamrud & Laretta Jacobson
8/22	Joanne Withers	Joanne Withers & Susan Schulz
8/29	Terry Nord	Terry & Mary Nord

Ushers for August: Leonard Thompkins & Ed Olson

Sunday Funday needs you!

We are once again hosting our annual Sunday Funday this year Sun Aug 29. A great way to build relationships with people in our community. It can't happen though without you! So please consider helping supervise one of the games. See the signup sheet on the table in the narthex. Thank you!



Sunday School

Baptismal Promises and Sunday School Ministry

"People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for them in their new life in Christ?" **"We do."** In every baptism, we make a pledge to the baptized and their family. Part of the way we support them is by offering an educational component in our mission and life together. We may not have a ton of children who will be attending, but we still made promises to those who are. It's important we keep those promises. So we are asking for people to step forward to be Sunday School teachers. If we don't have any or enough, we won't be able to meet this need of the families who are part of our community. Please prayerfully consider taking part in this vital ministry. If interested, talk to OJ, Kathy Baltuff, Gene Patten, Laurie Buehler, or Pr Amanda.

Sunday Fun Day

August 29, 2021 12:30-2:30

Luncheon Honoring Leech Lake Law Enforcement Officers and their families

Activities include:

cake walk snow cones
ring toss yard jenga
face painting plinko

Location

Trinity Lutheran Church
Cass Lake, MN

Financials for Trinity

June Financials	Month	YTD
Giving	\$ 9,214	\$ 61,647
Actual Expenses	\$ 9,195	\$ 61,250
Budgeted Expenses	\$10,146	\$ 68,270

Tip



Recycling, Part II: Americans continue to throw millions of tons of perfectly good recyclables in the trash, including \$1 billion

worth of aluminum cans every year - enough to build 36,500 Boeing 747 jumbo jets. While plastic produce and grocery bags (#2 and #4) can be reused and then discarded, they are a big problem because they clog recycling equipment. They can be recycled separately, but only in the bins provided by many retail food stores. Except for beverage bottles and food jars, most kinds of broken or used glass should simply be thrown away. Computer monitors can go to electronic recyclers, while fluorescent and compact fluorescent lightbulbs need to go to a specialty recycler or hazardous-waste facility (many hardware stores will accept them as well). Check with earth911.com or DePaul University's Beyond the Bin Guide, bit.ly/depaulguide if in doubt, or check with your local recycler.



Mental Health Corner

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2 NRSV).

Since the global pandemic was declared in March 2020, many of us have endured extended emotional and psychological anguish. That experience may be dramatically worsened by the ugly realities of [hate speech and behavior] or poverty. Our anguish has taken the form of sadness in isolation, anxiety in uncertainty, grief over loss, stress over economic challenges and worry over events beyond our control — including the tremendous impact of the crisis on our children. This pandemic threatens our mental health just as much as our physical health. For millions of us adults living in the United States, receiving the vaccine and the hope it brings has alleviated our unease, sorrow and grief.

This past year has provided some of us with a deeper understanding of and empathy for the ongoing mental health challenges endured by our neighbors, friends and family. During Mental Health Awareness Month (*back in May*), especially, our church intentionally recognizes the anguish our siblings in Christ experience daily — pandemic or no — and the fear many of them feel about sharing their stories.

As a church we also acknowledge the true depths of these invisible illnesses. Our children, neighbors and friends grappling with mental health issues need to know that God does not love them any less. They need to hear that they, too, are embraced by God's unfathomable love.

Our church cautions against judgmental words and actions that might suggest to someone that their faith is not strong enough or that their outlook on life would improve if they would change certain

behaviors. Praying, socializing and exercising are great activities that can help someone get out of a slump or move past a painful episode. But this is not always the solution for moderate or severe depression, bipolar depression, anxiety or even grief. Telling someone they aren't doing enough to be happy creates a sense of stigma that they are not living "correctly." We need to listen so that our words of care and compassion guide others to the help they need. We need to support people in their struggles, walking side by side in partnership with them through the good days and the bad.

Dear church, God loves us all. No matter how we are grappling, we are not alone; God is with us. Throughout May and beyond, we must seek ways to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness and continually love everyone compassionately as a child of God. We must embrace the benefits of therapy and encourage the use of medication when necessary in supporting and sustaining mental health and wellness. We must also work to ensure access to affordable mental health care for all people, especially those living in poverty or in historically marginalized communities.

Our faith teaches that caring for health is a shared endeavor. Being the body of Christ means carrying one another's burdens; it also means placing our burdens in God's hands and admitting to a caring person close to us that we need help. This is true no matter how great or small our anguish may be.

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Supporting people: ways to show compassion

- I'm not going anywhere, I'm here for you
- I'll do my best to understand
- Give yourself some credit for all you've accomplished
- You won't chase me away
- I care about you
- Whenever you need/want to say, I'm here to listen
- I love you
- We'll get through this together
- There is hope
- You are not alone in this

Credit: Image by Remi Waile on Unsplash

Stewardship article:

The Continuing Challenges of Jubilee
Creation in the Bible Reflection #5

By Dr. Diane Jacobson, Professor Emerita, Luther Seminary Retired Director of the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative; Member, Leadership Team of the EcoFaith Network NE MN Synod and the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group; Mother of Zipporah, the singing dog

Friends, we have come to the final days of the Jubilee year of Earth Day. But we continue to need the insights of Jubilee to stir us forward in our work. So this is a good time to review once more what Jubilee teaches us about care of creation and particularly the intersection of this with our commitment to justice and equality.

Jubilee, as first described in Leviticus 25, is this remarkable notion that every 50 years, there is a radical upheaval of things as usual. It is rooted in several important ideas, and of course, I will list 7 of them!

First, Jubilee as described in Leviticus is the year of return, of liberty. Which is to say, everyone is freed to return to their original land and their family of origin. No one is to be held in permanent bondage. At the heart of Jubilee is thus an enormous critique of any economic system that allows a rich class to live permanently off the labor of a poor, indentured class.

Two, know that no one, in fact, owns the land. It is God's and we are all alien residents, mere tenants.

I love the fact that these are two seemingly contradictory thoughts. Everyone returns to the land that is theirs, but it is not actually theirs. Seeming contradiction is how truth so often works in Scripture.

Three, Jubilee is rooted in the idea of resting, which actually means not working. This is Sabbath on steroids. Indeed, as on the Sabbath, it is not just humans who need to stop, to take a break. So does the earth and all her creatures.

The earth also returns to its natural state; it too is no longer indentured. We find in the call to Jubilee these twin radical notions that we are both totally responsible for God's creation and that the world does not need us to work all the time. Again, two seemingly contradictory ideas.

Four, the land and all her creatures need to rest, but we will not starve because of this. We and all creatures will live off the unworked land. Jubilee insists that we trust in the promise that God will provide.

Five, though the year of Jubilee is rooted in the Levitical law, it takes a biblical journey, which goes next to Isaiah 61. Jubilee becomes promise in a whole new way, in the midst of the despair and hopelessness of exile. The word is now given, not so much to the indentured servant as to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, to the captives, and those who mourn.

And six, Jubilee is further expanded in the fourth chapter of Luke when Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 in his hometown synagogue. He ends by telling his friends and family: Listen up! This promise of rest and freedom is not, dear ones, primarily for you. It is primarily for the alien, the other, the one who stands outside your gates, on the other side of the wall, if you will. And for saying this, Jesus got into a heap of trouble.

And finally, seven, we find that the idea of Jubilee is rooted even in the Lord's prayer in which we pray:

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

As children of the Jubilee promise, we hear in the Lord's prayer that the divine gift of daily bread is linked to the forgiveness of debts, to our releasing others from their debts. Right there, in the Lord's prayer, is the notion of sufficiency of what the earth provides us if we forego greed and possessiveness. That's it – gift and calling. A stunningly simple and radical notion to carry with us into the future.

**THE BEMIDJI AREA CHURCH MUSICIANS
PRESENTS
THE 2021 SUMMER RECITAL SERIES
Our 34th season
WEDNESDAYS, NOON TO 12:30 PM**

in-person concerts with lunch following.

July 28	Glenn Seibel, euphonium Wayne Hoff, piano	United Methodist Church 9 th and Beltrami Avenue
August 4	Annalise Aakhus, mezzo soprano, Cheryl Durant, piano, Traci Djonne Schanke, soprano	New Salem Lutheran Church 7491 Island View Dr. NW (Hwy 71 N at Turtle River)
August 11	Vocallists: Christian Breczynski and Tamara Moore, Nate Mathews, piano, Gwen Youso, piano and flute	St. Phillip's Church 702 Beltrami Avenue
August 18	Jennifer (Paquette) Ellis, piano, folk harp	Calvary Lutheran Church 2508 Washington Avenue SE
August 25	Sarah Carlson, organ Bob Madeson, euphonium	First Lutheran Church 900 Bemidji Avenue

**FREE WILL OFFERING Supports our Music Scholarships
Lunch price to be announced**

**I changed my iPod's name to Titanic.
It's syncing now.**

**England has no kidney bank, but it
does have a Liverpool.**

**With her marriage, she got a new
name and a dress.**



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. You can also download the newly updated app for your IOS and Android devices. Go to Womnoftherelca.org to sign up to receive Daily Grace on your home computer, tablet or phone.

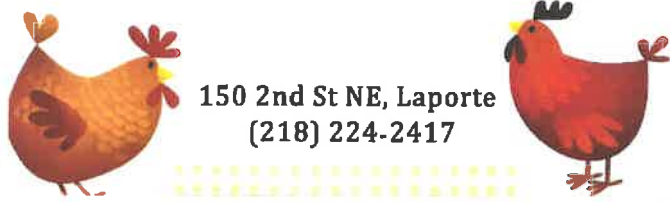


**Trinity Lutheran
Church
CHICKEN
DINNER**

**Wednesday, August 4th
5pm to 7pm**

Free Will Offering
Proceeds go to local and worldwide organizations

Yummy Home Cooking!



150 2nd St NE, Laporte
(218) 224-2417

**ALL MY
PASSWORDS ARE
PROTECTED BY
AMNESIA**

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-21



ADORE LA is a digital faith community that is driven and led by people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community, led by pastor-developer Joseph Castañeda-Carrera (left).



“COURAGE TO BE WHO WE ARE”

Ed Ramirez's journey to find a church was a long one, filled with disappointments. Ramirez, who uses the pronouns they/them, wanted a place where they could feel at ease and fully accepted, but nothing they'd encountered in the Los Angeles area fit.

Ramirez's search led them to Hollywood Lutheran Church, where Joseph Castañeda-Carrera served as pastor. "I was the member that zipped in and out of service," Ramirez said. "I didn't want to engage with the community out of fear of being rejected like in other 'affirming' congregations. Joseph was quick enough to catch me one day and ask what I was looking for, and I answered honestly: 'A place where I can be all of me.'"

The pastor told Ramirez about ADORE LA, a digital faith community that Castañeda-Carrera served as mission developer.

Supported in part by grants from the churchwide organization and the ELCA Southwest California Synod, which are funded by Mission Support, ADORE LA is driven and led by people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community.

"So often in our church, we don't have very many queer people of color," Castañeda-Carrera said. "Community can't build around them because we're all spread out all over the place. ... People from all over have joined ADORE LA because it's creating a community that doesn't exist in their own neighborhoods." As church buildings were shuttered and some congregations struggled to stream worship

online during the COVID-19 pandemic, ADORE LA didn't skip a beat. It was already using digital channels and messaging apps such as GroupMe to engage members. The faith community used the time to innovate and enhance its ministry, Castañeda-Carrera said.

“PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER HAVE JOINED ADORE LA BECAUSE IT'S CREATING A COMMUNITY THAT DOESN'T EXIST IN THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS.”

Ramirez is grateful for their faith home at ADORE LA. "Faith is something that has been taken from a lot of us," they said. "So ADORE LA focuses on community that then lets us reclaim faith and grow into it together. It also helps to sow our roots like a beautiful LA palm tree because being fully yourself in this world and church aren't always the easiest things to navigate. The faith we gain as a community provides that: the courage to be who we are, fully created in [God's] image."

Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the churchwide organization. To learn more, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways...

Psalm 23: 2-3



Sunday - August 1

10:30 AM

Outdoor Worship

Celebrate the blessings of rest and nature. Worship led by Trinity Lutheran Church, Cass Lake, Rev. Amanda Kossow, Pastor. Come as you are. You are welcome wherever you are in your faith journey. Coffee fellowship to follow.

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesd	Wednes	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Worship at NORWAY BEACH online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	2 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	3 12:30pm Board of Worship & Education	4 CLFS 9-3 8:30-12:30 Bemidji Food Shelf	5	6	7
8 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	9 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	10	11 CLFS 9-3 12:45pm Board of Trustees	12	13	14
15 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	16 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	17	18 CLFS 9-3 3:30pm Council	19	20	21 Pastor's Study Day
22 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	23 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	24	25 CLFS 9-3	26	27	28
29 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook Healing Service Sunday Fun Day	30 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters 11am WELCA MTG Pastor's Day Off 12-3pm Bemidji Food Shelf	31 2pm Living Waters Conference minister gathering				