

FEBRUARY 2022

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastoral Reflections

Laughter and Tears

Recently, my wife and I were visiting old friends in a community we once called home. As we sat in their cabin, talking and laughing, I tried to articulate how valuable their friendship has been to me. Suddenly, I began to weep. And weep. It took a full minute for me to regain my composure.

What happened? Was this a release of pent-up pandemic frustration? A sign I've grown old? Confirmation of the fact I'm a human being? Perhaps all of the above?

Laughter and tears are outward expressions of the deep emotions stirring inside all of us. Back in the 1990's, the alternative rock band Timbuk 3 released a song with these lyrics:

Two medicines, I need them every day
Two medicines to keep the doctor away
One to drown my sorrows
One to face my fears
Laughter and tears
Laughter and tears.

That's about right, don't you think?

In John's gospel, Jesus visits the grave of his dear friend, Lazarus. In one of the great "signs" of the dawning kingdom of God, Jesus will restore Lazarus to life. But in the moment, when he sees other friends and acquaintances grieving Lazarus' death, "Jesus began to weep." (John 11:35) It is significant, I think, that it was in the presence of others—in community—that Jesus' tears flowed. Immanuel—God with us—weeps as we do.

Meanwhile, in one of the most delightful stories in the Bible, two mysterious strangers declare that

childless and aging Sarah will have a child "in due season." Overhearing this promise, Sarah laughs. Her laughter has a bitter ring to it—it is the cynical expression of one who cannot believe what seems impossible. However, when Sarah brings the promised child into the world, she and Abraham name him Isaac, which means "Laughter." Their laughter now is of a different sort—filled with joy!

Laughter and tears. They are with us from the beginning of life. We know a newborn is well when she begins to wail. Months later, we wait with anticipation until we hear his first giggle.

Laughter and tears. Two of God's greatest gifts. Fundamental expressions of human emotion we cannot live without. Yet sometimes, we try. Growing up, we may be told not to cry: it is a sign of human weakness! In some homes, laughter is rare—or used only to ridicule others.

When was the last time you had a good cry? When the toll of human lives lost to the pandemic or war left you with neither explanation nor strategy, just tears? When your own losses caused you to break down?

When was the last time you watched a silly show on TV and just roared? When you and your friends spent an evening reminiscing and laughing about all the funny things that happen in this world?

When was the last time you laughed until you cried? Or started out crying, only to end up in laughter?

We were created, in God's image, to do these very things.

Pastor Dave Van Kley, (retired, serving in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. This article was originally published in the Mining Journal)

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Connie Miller for serving as our president, to Lon Christianson for serving as chair of Trustees, to Jane Christianson for serving as Treasurer, and to Kathy Baltuff for serving as Secretary for Worship & Education this past daunting year!

Council & Boards for 2022

President – Terry Baltuff
Vice President – Cheryl Kramer
Secretary – Susan Schulz
Treasurer – Connie Miller
Financial Secretary – Patti Horazuk

Board of Worship & Education:

Gene Patten
Orin (OJ) Jensen
Laurie Buehler
Howard Hirdler

Board of Trustees:

Neil Ramsey
Terry Nord
Bill Schulz
Steve Olson



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

WELCA Meeting Monday February 14th at 12 Noon

Trinity Ladies continue to meet
at 9 am on Mondays for Bible
Study.

Trinity crafters meet 10am on
Mondays to work on crafts.

God's joy During worship on Sun

Jan 16, I invited people to share how they have been surprised by or have experienced God's joy. It didn't stop in worship though, the stories flowed even afterwards. So if you have one, but perhaps didn't think of it til later, or you were maybe uncomfortable speaking in front of others, here's another chance. Please send your story, which can include your name or be anonymous, to Joyce at tlclsecretary@gmail.com or by postal mail **no later than Fri Feb 18** so it can be included in the March newsletter.



MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MONTH

The Minnesota Food
Share Campaign is underway!

Now in its 41st year, this campaign remains the largest grassroots food and fund drive to stock nearly 300 food shelves across Minnesota. This year, the need remains high. Northland families, seniors and other individuals continue to suffer from lost jobs and smaller paychecks because of the economic fallout from COVID-19. You can help feed your northland neighbors by giving. Every dollar you give provides an incredible seven meals through the food bank programs and partners. This year the physical donations that the board of Worship and Education is seeking are personal care items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, hand lotion, diapers, sanitary napkins, etc. These items are always in short supply at both Cass Lake and the Bemidji food shelves. We are keying on these specific items but we will graciously take any non-perishable food products or financial donations to feed those who hunger. We support both the Cass Lake and Bemidji food shelves and will evenly divide all donations, both products and money, between both of them. If you make a financial donation make the check payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church" and in the memo line write "Food Shelf." If you are making a non-perishable or personal care item donation drop them off any Sunday morning or during normal office hours, Mon, Thursday and Friday, 9-12. God bless you and thank you for your support.

We hold in prayer the family and friends of Ruth Myklebust who died the weekend of Jan 23.



Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

The prayerful journey of Lent

This year for the season of Lent we will be making prayer beads and discussing the book *A Bead And A Prayer* by Kristen E. Vincent. You're invited to join us for **Ash Wed worship at 7 pm on Mar 2** and then starting Mar 9 for: **5 pm study, 6 pm soup supper, and 6:30 worship**. If you're willing to host a soup supper please sign up on the table in the narthex. A simple meal of soup and maybe some bread is all that is needed. Invite family, friends and neighbors as we embark on the prayerful journey of Lent!

Financials for Trinity

December	Month	YTD
Giving	\$16,953	\$131,466
Actual Expenses	\$ 8,788	\$ 125,321
Budgeted Expenses	\$10,446	\$132,860

February Service Groups

Date	Reader	Communion	Recorder
2/6	Laurie B	Delores B	Connie M
2/13	Susan S	Lauretta J	Patti H
2/20	Roy B	Marianne K	Orin J
2/27	Jane C	Wes D	Lon C

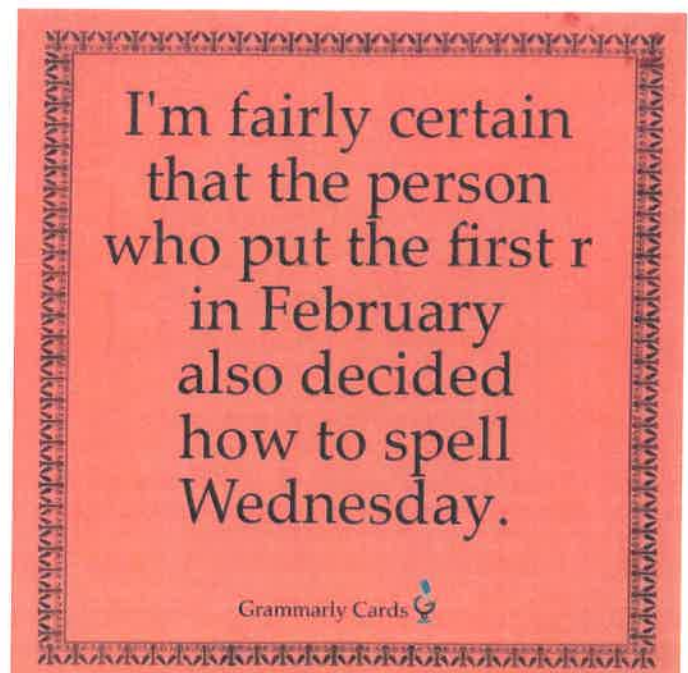
Ushers for February:

Earl Tiggemann & Gene Patten

Procedure for canceling worship

In the event that there is extreme weather that could make it unsafe for people to travel to the church building for worship, the church will follow the steps outlined below.

1. The pastor and council president will consult with each other via phone Sun morning to determine if there is a need to cancel. If the council president is unavailable, then it will follow as such: vice president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary.
2. If it is deemed necessary, then the following will occur:
 - a. The pastor will change the outgoing message on the answering machine no later than 2 1/2 hours before worship to inform those who call the office, post it on the church's Facebook page and website, and call KB101 FM (218-444-1011) to request that a weather-related notification be announced on their stations.
 - b. People are asked to check one of those four locations beforehand and pass the word along however they see fit.
3. If worship is canceled, then all other ministry activities that day will also be canceled.



Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, MN

Creating an intimate relationship with the land on which they worship

*written by Vern Rice member of St. Paul Area Synod
Care of Creation Working Group*



After last month's article about our interesting visit to Walker Farms, Princeton, MN, to learn about Regenerative Farming, I was reminded of a visit to Church of all Nations in Columbia Heights, a first ring suburb of Minneapolis led by founding pastor, Rev. Jin S. Kim. Our Care for Creation Team at Christ the King Lutheran, New Brighton, MN was invited to visit, to experience a kind of "regenerative farm" within the city.

Church of all Nations is a multicultural faith community of 150 members. Their congregation was founded by immigrants from Asia and Africa where interconnectedness is assumed. The values that flow from this are relationships, reciprocity, balance, fruitfulness, and diversity. When there is an openness for life energy to flow, communities become syntropic, generating an increasingly spontaneous and complex network of interconnectedness. Life begets life.

Church of all Nations, located in the Rice Creek Watershed District, overlooks Silver Lake, a 72-acre lake that is listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for impaired waters due to excess nutrients. Three years ago, Church of all Nations began the implementation of a permaculture design, in consultation with Ecological Design, to heal the water that flows through their property by restoring soil and water systems. Permaculture has learned from traditional and indigenous knowledge, and so emphasizes "care for people," "care for the earth," and "fair share." Through this work

Church of all Nations is also working to translate their community's non-Western immigrant ethos to the land, which they trust will have a healing effect on both the land and on their community.

In permaculture language, one of the core operating principles of their community is symbiosis. They believe that interdependent relationships between individuals of different cultural backgrounds living in close physical proximity lead to increasing growth for all. And further, they recognize that these benefits increase exponentially when individuals choose to put down roots. Committed long-term relationships create the conditions for communal—and thereby personal—maturation and flourishing. Because of this, they have eight intentional community houses near the church where many of their members live together.

As they continue their permaculture work, they weave this ethos deeper into their relationship with the land. Their goals are to develop community through the creation of a neighborhood-wide, integrated perennial food production system. The installation of a food forest and other perennial poly-cultures at the church will create more symbiotic and deeper-rooted relationships on the land. This will both revitalize the local ecosystem and generate increasing yields of food, fiber, and medicine for the community. The church increasingly serves as a production center and training and education site for their members, as interested church members participate in growing food at their homes.

Over time, they plan to implement a community-wide crop rotation tying all the gardens together. As harvests occur, they will gather at the church for communal processing of the crops through drying, canning, pickling, and freezing. The fruit of this labor will be redistributed to the community houses and the broader church community. The result will be a tightly woven network of mutual aid rooted in the local ecosystem that matures and strengthens their multicultural village. The land will heal as their people heal through an ever more complex, interconnected, resilient, and generative ecological-communal structure.

Our Christ the King Lutheran Church Care for Creation Team visited them on a beautiful summer Sunday afternoon. After an introduction to the community's origin, membership and

values, John Nelson and Laura Newly of the pastoral staff walked us through the church grounds. They have transformed the typical suburban manicured lawns into gardens of grasses, flowers, trees and a home for ground and airborne habitat of all kinds. They have built a good-looking gazebo, neat fences and pleasant paths to give the area an interesting look for suburban neighbors.

Church of all Nations welcomes inquiries for possible visits and seminars which can give any community a vision of possibilities for the environment we all steward. To learn more about their offerings visit

www.undergroundsem.org/rooting-our-faith or email laura@undergrounsem.org.



Youth E-Chat Article

Dear Friends,

I have a group of wise women that I meet with regularly. We met as colleagues doing synod youth ministry across the ELCA, and have traveled through each other's ministries and lives for over two decades. If you think I do anything that is helpful in our synod, say a

prayer of gratitude for these women. They help me think bigger and deeper about ministry and life. I hope and pray you have a similar group to grow with.

Yesterday when we met, one of these wise women shared a question I've been chewing on since our conversation: *"What is the next most loving thing you can do?"*

I share it with you as we enter a new year, and invite you to wonder with me on how this question might shape our decisions, plans, and relationships? What is the next most loving thing you can do...*for you? For others? For your congregation? For the youth and families that are entrusted to you? For your ministry? For your community?*

Together in Christ,
Catherine Anderson
Synod Minister for Discipleship and Christian Community

Now is the time to invite young adults to work at camp this summer! Young adults are already thinking about summer jobs, and camps are already hiring! Invite the young adults in your community to consider using their gifts at camp while they grow in leadership and develop life skills. They can work in our own backyard at [Camp Onomia](#), [Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry](#), [Luther Crest Bible Camp](#), or [Camp Amnicon](#). Or if they want to explore other parts of the country and new adventures, share the [Camp Matchup App](#) with young adults in your community to help them find the right camp and position they are looking for!



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your 10/29/2021 donation to Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$100.00 for a Cass Lake area build. Your recent gift helps provide families in need with simple, decent homes throughout the Lakes Area.

Mental Health Corner

When someone is going through a rough time ...just sit with them. No preaching, no advice. Just be there



(First posted Dec 28, 2021

on <https://www.facebook.com/elcaspn.org/posts/3158950241050319>)

Green Tip

A German study shows that in the past 30 years the percentage of flying insects has decreased by 75 percent. While similar studies have not been done elsewhere, scientists

around the world find that across the globe there are fewer insects that are crucial to as much as 80 percent of what we eat. These more beneficial insects (native bees, moths, butterflies, ladybugs, lovebugs, mayflies and fireflies) appear to be less abundant, while mosquitoes, disease-carrying ticks, crop-munching aphids and cockroaches seem to maintain their numbers. Most scientists point to a variety of causes for the apparent decline, including habitat loss, insecticide use, the killing of native weeds, single-crop agriculture, invasive species, light pollution, highway traffic and climate change.



Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity for your \$100.00 donation of 10/29/21...what a wonderful way to celebrate your 100th anniversary!

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we do virtually everything. This past year-and-a-half has taught us a lot of lessons about safety, flexibility, and adaptability. We ask our volunteers to be vaccinated and masked, we pay even greater attention to hygiene and sanitation, and our services are delivered curbside and with limited access to our building. And of course we remain diligent and ready to adjust as needed if pandemic conditions change.

Our new mobile spay/neuter unit is being put through its paces. We completed over 300 surgeries in it this year. The waiting list for surgery remains very long, but having the flexibility to schedule surgery days when time and opportunity permits really demonstrates the value of this investment.



EcoFaith Summit 2022 Save the Date
Holy Ground, Holy Table: Regenerative Agriculture

for the Wholeness of Creation

Saturday, March 26, 2022

9:00a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Via Zoom with watch party options

Presented by the EcoFaith Network NE MN Synod
and the St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation
Work Group



The online presence has enabled this church on the edge of town to reach an audience that extends from Phoenix to the Philippines.



“New Ways to Be Faithful”

When a congregation’s location can best be described as “on the road out of town, near the mall,” that might be a reason people aren’t filling the pews. In fact, in early 2020, Living Christ Lutheran Church, Flagstaff, Ariz., was facing a 65% decline in membership since 2013. *Grants from the Grand Canyon Synod, funded by Mission Support, helped sustain Living Christ’s ministry.*

So when the pandemic struck, the congregation faced an uncertain future.

After in-person worship was halted, Living Christ reignited its ministry by expanding its online footprint to include digital worship, with new sermon videos posted weekly and associated worship materials provided via PDF.

“We were initially just getting anywhere from 30 to 40 viewings for the sermons,” said Dean Garner, council member and IT/website manager for Living Christ. “When I put a little more work towards it when the pandemic started, we got up to 70 to 100. Then we put just a few dollars into it [on Facebook], and now we’re averaging 500 for the viewing of the sermons.”

The online presence has enabled this church on the edge of town to reach an audience that extends from Phoenix to the Philippines.

“The internet has basically been as much of a change for the church as, say, Gutenberg and the printing press was for Luther,” said Living Christ’s pastor, Kurt Fangmeier. “We’re always trying to find new ways to be faithful, both to the calling in our baptism but also in the midst of the world as it is.”

Though Living Christ may be new to internet outreach, the congregation has long been known for involvement in its community, particularly Flagstaff’s LGBTQIA+ population. In 2011, the congregation began sponsoring Pride in the Pines, an annual celebration in Flagstaff that is hosted by the Northern Arizona Pride Association (NAPA) and typically draws over 4,000 attendees.

“The internet has basically been as much of a change for the church as, say, Gutenberg and the printing press was for Luther.”

“There are not too many churches ... that walk the walk and talk the talk,” said Debra Taylor, president of NAPA, of the congregation’s LGBTQIA+ outreach. “Living Christ does.”

Now, in year two of the pandemic, Living Christ has transitioned to a hybrid in-person/online model and plans to relocate to downtown Flagstaff, which offers ample outreach opportunities.

“The building has served us well for over 35 years and will serve us well again by providing us the means to take our mission elsewhere in our community,” Garner said. “Jesus did not share the good news from one place, nor shall we. ... We are excited about this new journey.”

 *To learn more about Living Christ’s ministry, view the video at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).*

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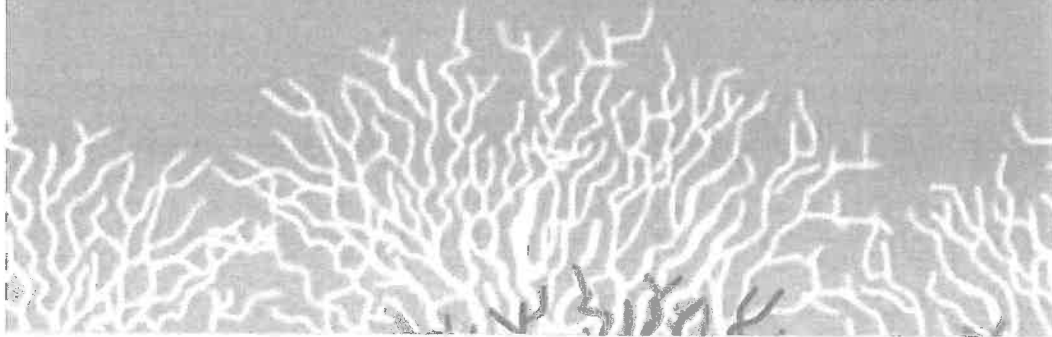
Worship Services on-line at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 10:30 am In-person Worship	31 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	1 12:30pm Board of Worship & Education	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 am In-person Worship 9:30am Sunday School	7 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	8	9 12:45pm Board of Trustees	10	11	12
13 10:30 am In-person Worship 1:00 pm Living Waters Conference Annual Meeting	14 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters 12 Noon WELCA Pastor's Day Off	15	16 3:30pm Council	17	18	19
20 10:30 am In-person Worship 9:30am Sunday School	21 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	22	23	24	25	26 Pastor's Study Day
27 10:30 am In-person Worship	28 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	1 12:30pm Board of Worship & Education	2 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	3	4	5

Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power,
the glory, the victory, and the majesty;

for all that is in the heavens and on the earth
is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and
you are exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11



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