

MARCH 2022

Trinity Lutheran Church

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like/follow us on Facebook
(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cass Lake)
WEB site: tlccasslake.com

Pastoral Reflections

Surprised by God's Joy

We are Larry and Tammy Trunek. Our son John, passed away unexpectedly from natural causes, on Dec. 11, 2021. We started the 8 hour drive to our daughters home which was close to where he lived. While driving, I was praying and talking with God and John continuously. Why, what happened, Why? John being a 40 year old man, I wasn't certain of his relationship with the Lord. Which was such a concern and worry. He passed alone, a couple of days before he was found, which was crushing. As we were getting closer, darkness was closing in as we were driving through a small area with many street lights. Again I was asking God, " please Lord show us a sign that John is with you, if we know he is, getting through this will be easier knowing he is safe with you". Larry was on a phone call and just as I opened my eyes again from my praying, there ahead of us appeared a single star, no other stars were out. Wasn't high in the sky. Suddenly it fell straight down, in front of us. No arch as a normal falling star would do. I started to wave my arms and pointing to the star as it was shooting down. Gratefully Larry seen the star. I began praising God, thanking him for the sign!! **John is with God!! John is with God!!** Tears of joy overcame for a moment the many hours of tears of sadness and shock. God had heard the prayers. Such a comfort and blessing to know God does hear us, he knows our hearts, our pain. He is our strength. We have been able to climb each mountain and face each hurt knowing our John is safe in our Lords

arms. Knowing we will see him again one day.

Easter Fellowship

Join us for a continental breakfast on Sun Apr 17 from 9:30-10:15 am.

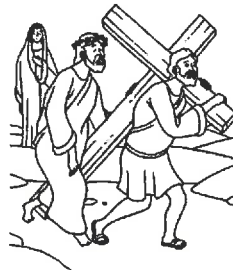


Trinity Ladies meet at 9 am on Mondays for Bible Study.

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

WELCA 2022 Executive Board

- President Betty Wright
Vice-President Delores Broekemeier
Secretary Marianne Kamrud
Treasurer Bev Larson
Lay Members Jane Christianson, Carol Glidden



SAVE THE DATE APRIL 9, 2022

Walking with Christ to the Cross

WHAT: Living Waters Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering

WHEN: Saturday, April 9, 2022

WHERE: Camp Hiawatha, 36944 Camp Hiawatha Rd., Deer River, MN 56636

TIME: 9:00-1:00

BRING YOUR OWN BAG LUNCH. DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

COME AND ENJOY A TIME OF FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW AFTER THE BOARD MEETS ON MARCH 7



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.

Financials for Trinity

2022	January
Giving	\$10,188.57
Actual expenses	\$15,639.73
Budget Expense	\$15,790.84



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!

2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Theme: Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God

Dates: Fri Apr 29 – Sun May 1

Trinity is looking for 1 voting member to volunteer to attend by Zoom.

Please contact Pr Amanda if you are willing to represent Trinity LC.



**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

Update on Community Gathering

In addition to five TLC members and co-presenter Iris Sherer, these folks joined the conversation: Zach Tabatt from *Initiative Foundation*, Allan Olson who writes/edits the *Cass Lake Times*, and Simon Whitehead who is a Health & Nutrition SHIP Educator from U of MN For Cass County Health, Human and Veteran Services.

This was the second meeting of TLC with community members to try and determine how we can collaborate on a community project as an investment in the community of Cass Lake. We recognize that different people and groups bring different gifts, concerns, and questions to the table. The group discussed investing in the community with the possibilities of opening: a thrift store, a community garden, a coffee shop, a playground, or clothing store. All considerations on the table were determined to be kept local, as a benefit to the town of Cass Lake! The major emphasis as stated again is to invest in our community of Cass Lake. Options of grants, non-profits, or partnering with an existing business was briefly mentioned and will need to be considered at some future date. The next future group meeting date needs yet to be determined.

Sincerely, Terry Baltuff

From: Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji

Trinity Lutheran Community,
Thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous gift in support of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji.

We are so grateful to be in partnership in ministry with you!
Pr. Swilley

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went,
and then it dawned on me.

When chemists die, they barium.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get
repossessed.



Dear Trinity LC,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$40.00 to ministries of the ELCA through Good Gifts:

Chicks \$10.00

Honey bees \$20.00

School supplies for a child \$10.00

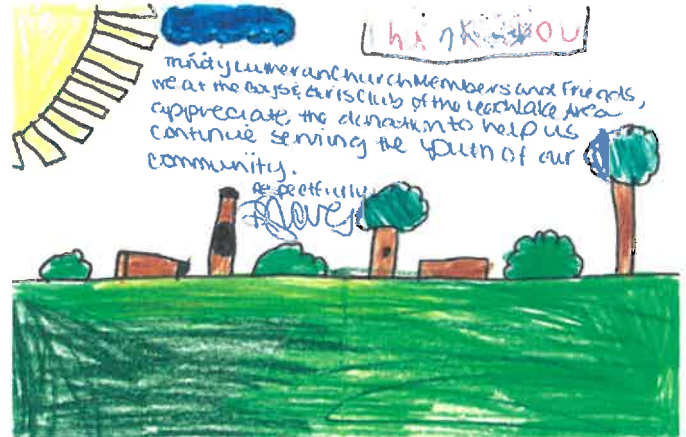
Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

From: Boys & Girls Club of Leach Lake Area



I told my wife how thankful I was to have someone I enjoyed being quarantined with.

She said "must be nice."

Stewardship 2030: Expansive Stewardship-

God's Enduring Future By Jon Anderson

(This article was first published on Jan 31, 2022

on https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship-2030-expansive-stewardship/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=MzMzNTA3MDQ1MbGOAAA&sseid=MzK2tDA3NTA3MglA&jobid=680fb020-119e-4adf-93ab-3b26328dba81)

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received...so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.”*¹ Peter 4:10-11 – New Revised Standard Version

A friend of mine, Bob Seitz, challenged me one day after a meeting when I had talked a lot about discipleship. Bob wondered if a better category to frame my ministry and my sense of following Jesus was *stewardship*—a deep, wide, and enduring understanding of our response to God’s grace as we live our lives as a hymn of praise. Generous disciples of Jesus lead expansive lives as stewards of everything and every relationship God gives us. As I look toward what stewardship might look like in 2030, I see the church engaging in expansive, enduring work that will benefit our communities for years to come.

Expansive stewardship recognizes that stewardship happens in all kinds of ways and on all sorts of timelines. Some gifts are given for use now, and other gifts are designed for use later. Both types of gifts require thoughtful imagination. Through Christ Jesus, we learn that God’s grace relentlessly seeks to make our broken lives and communities whole. God’s Holy Spirit breathes faith and new life into us. When we understand what God has and continues to do for us, what will we do in response? Stewardship is not something we have to do to be saved; it is something we get to do in response to God’s wildly abundant love.

Asset Mapping

Expansive stewardship does not come from a scarcity mindset. It is not focused on what we don’t have or how little we have. Expansive stewardship starts by assuming an abundance of gifts, and invites us to explore all of them as assets. Asset Mapping helps us name the resources, people, property, and gifts and talents we have in our communities, congregations, circles of friends, and families. Identifying assets allows us to think expansively and imaginatively about what we have right in front of us to solve problems, identify opportunities, and celebrate all that we are for the

sake of God’s kingdom. When we look for assets, we notice that “by God’s grace, together, we have everything that we need.”

God created and continues to create through us and with us, and we are called to expansive stewardship by nurturing our relationships and communities. That happens in all kinds of ways as we love the places and people where God plants us, naming gifts and offering encouragement every step of the way.

Vernon and Ardys were people whose imagination led to financial gifts for seminary students. “We don’t want our gifts to go into an endowment. We would like to have you use these gifts now to help the students and protect them from debt.” They believed God would take care of the church in the future, so they gave their gifts to make a difference now. They touched and transformed so many pastors through their persistent gifts to grow leaders with less educational debt so they might better serve Christ and Christ’s Church. While these gifts had a direct impact on the students while they were in seminary, these gifts will be bearing fruit in the ministries of these leaders for years to come.

Stewardship of the Land

Being a steward of the Land is an enduring call. I remember the day as a teenager when I came home grumping after plowing the contour fields that gently circled the hill on our farm land. Plowing contour strips around the sandy loam soil of the hill took lots of extra time and kept me from doing more of what my teenage self wanted to do. Contour strips also serve a critical function in farming. They prevent heavy rainfall from creating deep gullies in the fields.

In response to my grumping, Dad said with patience and strength, “Our goal is to take good care of the land and pass it on to other generations in better shape than we have received it.” Caring for what God has given us is part of how we respond to the gift of creation. Expansive stewardship sees our relationship with the land as part of our stewardship.

When it comes to stewarding the land, I also think of my brother-in-law, who planted walnut trees on farmland, and has tended them for many decades. His imagination included dreams of providing walnut and pine wood for building, so he devised a plan to make it happen. My brother-in-law’s stewardship of the farmland and the stream that flowed through it allowed a walnut and pine

forest to flourish. In a symbiotic dance, the pines push the walnuts to grow straight and tall. Ultimately, the trees will bear fruit in the lives of his great-grandchildren. This kind of stewardship is enduring and makes me wonder about God's creative imagination and investment in me, you, and so many other creatures.

Gracious God, pull and push us into your enduring, expansive, and promised future. Amen

Pastor Jon Anderson serves as Director of Rural Ministry at Luther Seminary. He recently completed eighteen years of service as bishop in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.

Mental Health Corner

Equipping Faith Communities Suicide Prevention Training

(from <https://suicidepreventionministry.org/breaking-the-silence-program/part-2-learn/>)

"We often struggle to talk openly about mental health. Consequently, most people know very little about suicide, and even fewer of us know what to do when someone we care about begins to contemplate suicide. To save lives, we must bring this subject out of the shadows and learn to talk comfortably about suicide. Suicide is preventable, but only if those who consider suicide are lucky enough to bump into someone who has had the education and training to assist them. We must know how to recognize and respond to someone who is at risk.

Several evidence-based training programs are available to faith communities to equip them to help. Most of them are brief enough (1-2 hours) that they can be implemented as a learning opportunity in your congregation. These trainings provide individuals and groups with the following:

- *Basic information about suicide*
- *Myths and facts about suicide*
- *Warning signs of suicide*
- *Examples of how people communicate their desire for suicide*
- *How to ask someone if they are considering suicide*
- *How to be present and accompany someone who is at risk*
- *How to encourage a suicidal person to seek help*
- *How to offer hope and support*
- *How to get a suicidal person to someone who can help"*

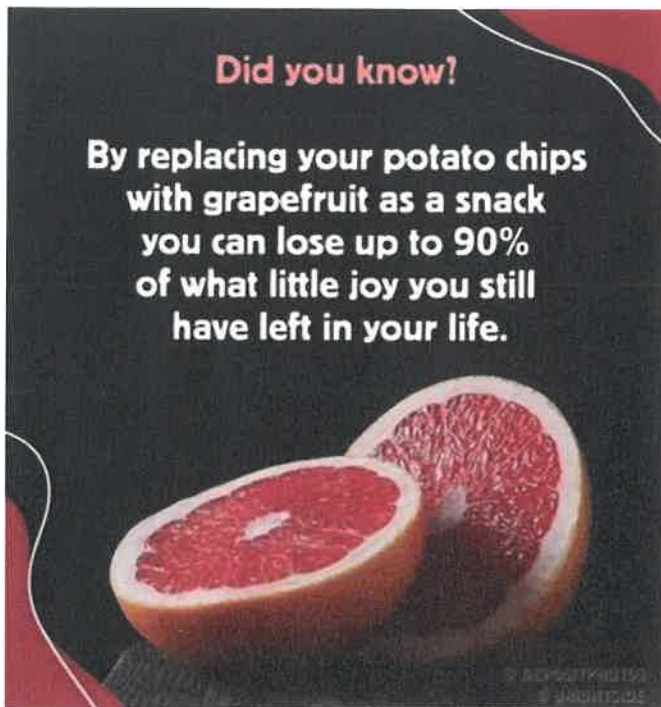
Many of us may think that suicide and suicidal ideation is an issue that affects others, not you or anyone you know. But in reality, your next door neighbor, a person sitting next to you in the pew, a friend, or a loved one could be struggling. Ask yourself, "do I know the warning signs?" And if you do, do you know how to care for that person? Jesus reached out to people living with mental illness who were often shoved to the margins. How are we reaching out as his disciples?

Green Tip



Global sea levels have already risen 7 to 8 inches since 1900 as a result of warming oceans melting the world's large ice sheets, with the

Antarctic losing 40 billion tons of melting ice to the ocean each year from 1979 to 1989. A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences finds that this figure has increased sixfold since then, with a loss of 252 billion tons lost per year beginning in 2009. If climate change continues on its present course, sea level rise could go far beyond the nearly 3 feet rise globally by 2100 predicted by scientists. In addition to more frequent droughts, heat waves, severe storms and other extreme weather that comes with a continually warming earth, sea level rise would result in the inundation of island communities around the globe, devastating wildlife habitats and threatening drinking water supplies. CONTINUE TO EDUCATE our local, state and federal leaders on the necessity of sharply decreasing our carbon output.



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.



Over 15 years, Jesús Escamilla has seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

Bolstered by Relationships

Jesús Escamilla knows the power of relationships. Over 15 years, he's seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

"What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done," said the pastor of San Gabriel Lutheran Church in Alvarado, Texas.

Escamilla came to San Gabriel in 2006, when future congregants were holding Bible studies weekly in worshippers' homes. To worship, they drove more than 30 miles north to San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He joined the Bible studies, then became the faith community's official worship leader a year later, ministering in homes for both Bible study and worship. In time, the growing faith community needed a building in Alvarado.

"What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done."

A deal with a local supporter allowed the congregation to begin renting a plot of land, where it worshiped outdoors and eventually built makeshift indoor worship space. "Everyone was dusty, but they didn't care because they had a place to worship — their own place," Escamilla said.

Over time, partnerships with local congregations allowed San Gabriel to build a permanent church. Gifts from Calvary Lutheran

Church in Richland Hills allowed San Gabriel to put in flooring, and pews were donated by St. John Lutheran Church, a closing congregation in nearby Grand Prairie. Later, St. John's council gifted funds that helped San Gabriel take ownership of its land.

Since then, the church has grown, adding a fellowship hall that serves as a community hub for the area's largely Mexican immigrant population. But like so many congregations, San Gabriel struggled to maintain a sense of community during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

The church closed and pivoted to virtual worship on Zoom and Facebook, with Escamilla, lay leaders and a small contingent of choir members recording services in person at the church.

But with virtual worship, collecting offerings became a challenge. Some congregants sent money through the digital-payment network Zelle or even left their offerings in the church mailbox, but many couldn't contribute monetarily. So the church began hosting weekly food sales to raise needed funds and provide members with a way to give back.

Escamilla believes that San Gabriel has been built up by the generosity of others — church members, nearby ELCA congregations and, through Mission Support funds, the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

"It's been a conjunction of [congregations] working together to help a community that was struggling," he said. "We have this wonderful community that is working together to work with what the Lord wants us to do."



Camp Hiawatha • Camp Vermilion

1105 E. Superior St. Lower Suite, Duluth, MN 55802 800-331-5148 vlm@VLMcamps.org www.VLMcamps.org



Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry provides opportunities for Christ-centered spiritual growth, leadership development, and outreach in God's great northwoods!

Dear NEMN Synod Conference Leadership,

Two years ago, before anyone knew what COVID-19 was or how it would change everything, VLM set in motion plans to be intentional regarding our call to be a year-round ministry in God's great northwoods. On April 1st, 2020 we entered conservancy to protect the campers, staff, and the sites and to remain financially stable. Canceling camp that summer and reopening in 2021 at half capacity was part of our plan to come out of conservancy and return to being strategic with our planning. As always, our ultimate goal is to welcome campers into a fun, safe, and Christ-centered experience at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion.

Looking back through the lens of the last two years, VLM has a new perspective on what we can offer our churches, camper families, and the world around us. As we enter 2022, VLM will be providing year-round leadership to our programs and at our camps with new staff and in new ways.

This last two years have been hard for VLM as they have been hard for many of your ministries. I deeply thank Gretchen, Brett, Richie, Rachel, Kyle, Peg, and Steve and their families. They have given their time and love to God's mission here. The departure of so many staff over the last year poses challenges for VLM, for sure. We will miss these valued team members. However, as we move through this transition of leadership and through the changes revealed during the pandemic, I know that God is up to something.

This next year, our staff and board that will lead us into this next phase of ministry are talented and excited about what is next. You, our member congregations, have shown your love and support for new ways of doing program. And we all know that now, more than ever, kids need opportunities to explore faith, develop friendships, and get out into God's great northwoods! VLM is poised to do great things in 2022!

I thank you for being part of this mission!


Joel Abenth
Executive Director

Now Hiring:

Program Director and Camp Vermilion Director
Summer Staff Team

www.vlmcamps.org/year-round-positions
www.vlmcamps.org/summer-positions

Contact us with questions!

Joel@VLMcamps.org

VLM in 2021

561
Summer Campers
Half Capacity

20 Trips/148 People
Canoe Campers

3587
Retreaters

\$569,931
Annual Fund
Our biggest ever! Thank You!

\$77,740
Congregational PCMs

\$26,808
Congregational Special Offerings and
Grants

Registrar@VLMcamps.org
Callie Biel
Summer Camp Registrations

Canoe@VLMcamps.org
Voyageurs Canoe Country

Katie@VLMcamps.org
Katie Anderson
Young Adult Outdoor Ministry

Retreats@VLMcamps.org
Jamie Szamatula
Retreats and Rentals

Hiawatha@VLMcamps.org
Trisha Peterson
Camp Hiawatha Director

Vermilion@VLMcamps.org
Camp Vermilion

Admin@VLMcamps.org
Katie Keller
Duluth Main Office

February 15th and April 1st Early Bird
Discounts Available!