

OCTOBER 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Reflections

(This article was first published Apr 14, 2021 on

[https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/the-church-as-demonstration-](https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/the-church-as-demonstration-plot/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=MzMzNTa3MDQ1MbG0AAA&sseid=MzlyNDIxN7M0NgAA&jobid=bf3485b5-52ab-45f6-8f00-968b0fd15a30)

[plot/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=MzMzNTa3MDQ1MbG0AAA&sseid=MzlyNDIxN7M0NgAA&jobid=bf3485b5-52ab-45f6-8f00-968b0fd15a30](https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/the-church-as-demonstration-plot/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=MzMzNTa3MDQ1MbG0AAA&sseid=MzlyNDIxN7M0NgAA&jobid=bf3485b5-52ab-45f6-8f00-968b0fd15a30)

By Rev. Sarah Robinson

When the pandemic hit the country a year ago, it set me spinning off my axis, just as it did to everyone else. But here in Florida we are in full blown spring and heading quickly into summer. It is a fantastic time to be outside. Regardless of the pandemic, I was already spending a fair bit of time in my garden, which just happens to be my entire front yard.

There is nothing better than getting out there barefoot: pulling up pernicious crabgrass (grass is the #1 weed in my yard), tending to seedlings, delighting in the new flowers blooming and the buzzing and fluttering of bees and butterflies—in abundance due to our many pollinator plants. More than this, spending time in my front yard garden turned out to be some of the best mental health care and community building I could have possibly done this past spring.

You see, I am lucky enough to live in the same neighborhood as our church, Audubon Park Covenant Church. As everything was shutting down, we Floridians were taking to the streets and sidewalks, getting out to bike and walk and run as much as possible. So as I was working in my yard alongside the bees and butterflies (and lizards), practically the entire community came by. From a safe distance, we checked in with each other.

Masked, we talked about how we were doing, what was going on, and the conversation turned to what I

was doing. Would you like to try some of what is growing in the garden? Would you like some seeds? Cuttings? **It was rare for someone to walk away from my garden without something in their hands to plant or eat later.** In other words, these encounters were relationship and health (both personal and community) building 101.

How did I get to this point in my ministry?

I came to serve as pastor of Audubon Park Covenant Church back in 2013 with an idea of how I wanted to approach my ministry. It is what I have dubbed “church as demonstration plot.”

I grew up in Fort Wayne, IN, where in just a few minutes drive from my suburban housing development you could find acres and acres of corn and soybeans. Sometimes along the road I would see signs declaring this field or that a “demonstration plot” defined as “*a field that is used for teaching, sharing ideas and showcasing a proven agricultural practice.*”

I have come to see the church in its local expression as a demonstration plot of the Kingdom of God. If indeed our calling as the church is to live out Kingdom of God values, the church building and grounds, as well as the membership and larger community become space where those values can be lived out. It becomes a place where others can, in the words of Psalm 34:8, “Taste and see that the Lord is good!”

These Kingdom values go far beyond practices of worship and discipleship, beyond Christian formation and Bible Study. To become a demonstration plot means embodying values like: peace, beauty, justice, reconciliation, creativity, integrated health, wholeness, healing, creation care, as well as the fruits of the Spirit.

Now, we find ourselves at a unique point in history, one filled with opportunity if we dare to embrace it. There is no going back to the way things were before March 2020. As we find ourselves moving out of pandemic times and discovering our new normal, I encourage you to be in prayerful reflection about what comes next.

What is the Holy Spirit calling your church to let go of?

What is God calling you to embrace as you live out your calling in the place you are planted?

How To Transform Your Ministry into a Demonstration Plot of the Kingdom of God

1. GET OUT IN THE DIRT

For real. It's healthy for you. Start with a little plot or even a container or two. Get barefoot and reconnect with the very dirt you were created out of. Every once in a while, don't bother with the garden gloves and go straight in for the good stuff! In this time people are getting out in nature and starting gardens at an exponential rate. There is an opportunity here for new and deeper theological and missional conversations and action if we choose to take it.

2. GET EDUCATED

Spend some time studying the biblical and theological reasons that stewardship of the earth, creation care, etc. is an integral part of our life of faith and purpose on the earth.

This is a great primer article: [The Stewardship of Creation: A Theological Reflection](#)

While you are doing that, also connect with an indigenous Christian understanding of creation; it is crucially important. I recommend [Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision](#) by Randy Woodley as an excellent foundational book. Listen to the [EarthKeepers Podcast](#), part of the awesome [Circlewood](#) led by friend and fellow pastor Rev. Dr. James Amadon.

3. BRING THE EARTH INTO CHURCH

Recognize there is an environmental dimension to everything we do, even (and especially) as the church. Consider care for the earth not just a mission arm or ministry of the church but a foundational dimension of everything you do as a church:

- every decision about the building and grounds
- every event that takes place on your property
- every Bible Study and Small group
- every other ministry at your church
- seeking justice for vulnerable communities/people
- how you encourage people to put their faith into action in daily life

4. LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

Take reflective stock of your own life: when and where are there even small changes you can begin to make to live more sustainably, more simply, more in harmony with God's design for creation? My friend Rob Greenfield has a wealth of online resources to inspire and invite change. I encourage

you to start with his YouTube Channel (you might even see my yard and church featured in a few videos!)

Now more than ever it is important to invest in local food and local business. Consider your own and your church's everyday purchases: are you investing in your community and strengthening your local food network with those choices? Author and "farmer theologian" Wendell Berry encourages in his article titled [Conserving Communities](#): "Make sure that money paid into the local economy circulates within the community for as long as possible before it is paid out."

5. DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS.

Consider if there might be space and opportunities to partner with local sustainability and food growing organizations.

Look to see if any churches in your community are part of the [Black Church Food Security Network](#). If not, this is a perfect time to engage with your neighbor churches and become part of the amazing work they are doing to sustainably bring local, nutritious food to historical food deserts and underserved communities.

Our church has some wonderful partnerships that extend the work and our reach as a small local church. Check out the work of our partners [Fleet Farming](#), [IDEAS For Us](#), [Orlando Permaculture](#), [O-Town Compost](#), [Audubon Park Garden District](#) for great ideas on whom you might be able to find to partner with in your own community.

And Remember

We were created by God out of the earth, and were created to be dependent on it for our very sustenance and survival. This is a crucial relationship that we must nurture just as much as our relationship with God and our fellow humanity. For God's glory and neighbor's good.

***About the Author:** Born in Indiana and from a Lutheran background, Rev. Sarah Robinson loves living in the eclectic ecodistrict Audubon Park in urban Orlando, FL, where she bikes all over (with her dog Chica in the front basket) and has an edible and pollinator garden covering her entire front yard. Having served God all over the world, Pastor Sarah loves traveling and is a foodie who finds great joy in connecting with people as well as with their arts and cultures. She is vibrant, energetic, and loves her calling as Pastor of Audubon Park Church and as a community leader. If you would like to connect with Pastor Sarah you can find her on Instagram as [@pastorfarmersarah](#) or by emailing audubonparkcovenantchurch@gmail.com*

Are you interested in online groups? A few examples: a support group (of various sorts), a young family group, a retiree group, a bible study group, etc. If you have ideas, please feel free to share. If you are interested in being part of an online group, please email Pr Amanda.

Church Directory update

Check the Church directory to be sure your current phone, cell number, email and post office address are listed the way you want them to appear in the Church Directory. A copy of that we have as of August, 2021 is on the table in the narthex.

Thriving Beyond Covid

Tired? Wondering what's next? You're not alone. Come join us **Wed Oct 27, Nov 3, 10, & 17 at 2 pm** as we spend time together digging into scripture and exploring how God, our rock and refuge, is leading us to *Thrive Beyond Covid*. We will be using a bible study put together by Pr Jeff Linman.

Thank you to Jane Christianson, Connie Miller and Lori Humphrey for doing all the hard work of planning, organizing and setting up for our 100th celebration!

Financials for Trinity

August Financials	Month	YTD
Giving	\$ 9,303	\$ 80,950
Actual Expenses	\$14,631	\$ 87,002
Budgeted Expenses	\$12,995	\$ 92,026

October Service Groups

Date	Reader	Communion	Recorder
10/3	Marianne K	Marianne & Carol G	Lon
10/10	Almina B	Almina & Kathy B	OJ
10/17	John A	John & Wes D	Terry B
10/24	Ardean B	Ardean & Judy B	Connie M
10/31	Patti H	Patti & Cheryl K	Patti H

Ushers for October: Mary & Terry Nord

Pastor Amanda,

I want to convey to you and the congregation how much I have enjoyed hearing my Lord's words through your sermons and the warmth of Trinity Lutheran Church. I will continue to pray for the church and all its members. Hope to attend here next summer.

Sincerely,

Sue Polonus
Mt. Home, Ar.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Pastor Amanda & Members

Remembering you,
and wishing you
God's blessings always.

I miss Sunday Services
The Bible Study Ladies
Pot Luck & events.
All good things are
coming to an end.
Thanks for Cards and
phone calls which
I so appreciated.
Pastor Amanda our
conversations, your
encouragement.
Darlene Storey

Anniversary Reminiscence

Our 100th Anniversary at Trinity on Sept. 21, 2021, made me think and recall a lot of memories. I wanted to mention a little bit about my life at Trinity Lutheran Church of Cass Lake. I have been a member of Trinity since my birth at Cass Lake Hospital on August 25, 1942. That was sealed when I was baptized soon after.

I've had many great experiences at Trinity. It has been mostly quite enjoyable for my 79 years. Of course we all know that everything is not perfect all the time, but with thoughtful prayer and forgiveness, life goes on. And thankfully, we all get along. I have enjoyed baptisms, Sunday School and Christmas programs, Luther League, Confirmation, graduation. I remember these times well. I only lived 2 blocks from the church so there was no reason for me to not attend all these functions at the time. They were fun and full of learning and fellowship with friends.

After being married and having my own children, things didn't really change much. My children had all the same church activities. I don't think Luther

League was an active program any more. Our family has enjoyed all aspects of Trinity. We have had weddings, anniversaries and funerals. Our whole family of my six brothers and me, were all baptized at Trinity. And all attended all the programs that Trinity had to offer. My father was a strict Norwegian and wouldn't let us miss out on anything at the church. I know that he was on the Board of Trustees. That I can remember. My brothers had to cut the grass at the church and shovel the steps and sidewalks when it snowed.

I have seen a lot of pastoral changes. They were always times of learning and moving on.

Trinity is definitely my church home for the next 100 years. God bless Trinity and all the wonderful people here.

Karen J Frazer

MONITARY GIFT

Happy Anniversary!!
Sorry to miss the
celebration on the 19th.
we will be thinking
of you from Kansas City.
Looking forward to being with
you all next summer. your
church is a blessing in
our summer lives.
Love,
Jennifer and
Tom Coen

MONITARY GIFT FROM DRLENE STOREY

To be a part of a
Necessary Church
Project has filled
my heart with joy!
The Highway 2
Trinity Church sign.

MONITARY GIFT

Thank you for all you
do in the Community.
Given in memory of
Caroline & Hank Hansen
Shirley & Doug Hansen
Adeline Hansen Wolfe & Donald Wolfe
Thanks -
Cathy A. Wolfe

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tried.
Police were summoned to a day care center where a
three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Mental Health Corner

From the ELCA Social Message on Suicide
Prevention, Adopted by the Church Council on
November 14, 1999

“The Church,” Martin Luther once wrote, “is the inn and the infirmary for those who are sick and in need of being made well.” Luther’s image of the Church as a hospital reminds us who we are – a community of vulnerable people in need of help; living by the hope of the Gospel, we also are a community of healing. At the same time vulnerable and healed, we are freed for a life of receiving and giving help. In the mutual bearing of burdens, we learn to be persons who are willing to ask for healing and to provide it.

Suicide testifies to life’s tragic brokenness. We believe that life is God’s good and precious gift to us, and yet life for us – ourselves and others – sometimes appears to be hell, a torment without hope. When we would prefer to ignore, reject or shy away from those who despair of life, we need to recall what we have heard: God’s boundless love in Jesus Christ will leave

no one alone and abandoned... Our efforts to prevent suicide grow out of our obligation to protect and promote life, our hope in God amid suffering and adversity, and our love for our troubled neighbor.

Whoever among us experiences suicidal thoughts should know that the rest of us expect, pray, and plead for them to reach out for help. “Talk to someone. Don’t bear your hidden pain by yourself.” The notion is all-too common that one should “go it alone”: Persons are not supposed to be vulnerable, and when they are, they should conceal it and handle things on their own. In the Church, however, we admit that we share the “need of being made well.” There is not shame in having suicidal thoughts or asking for help. Indeed, when life’s difficulties and disappointments threaten to overwhelm our desire to live, we are urged and invited to talk with trusted others and draw upon their strength.

When, on the other hand, a loved one talks to us of suicide or we sense that something is seriously amiss, we are called to be our brother’s or sister’s keeper. The experience may be frightening, and we may want to deny or minimize suicidal communication. We may want to shy away because we feel unprepared to help someone with suicidal thoughts or think that we may make matters worse. Yet our responsibility is to listen, to encourage the person to talk, and to get him or her appropriate help.

With this message, the Church Council encourages members, congregations, and affiliated institutions to learn more about suicide and its prevention in their communities, to ask what they can do, and to work with others to prevent suicide... The Church Council urges synods to support [them] in their efforts. It directs the governing bodies of churchwide unites to evaluate their programs in light of this message, calling upon the church’s educational and advocacy programs to make suicide prevention an important concern in their ministries.

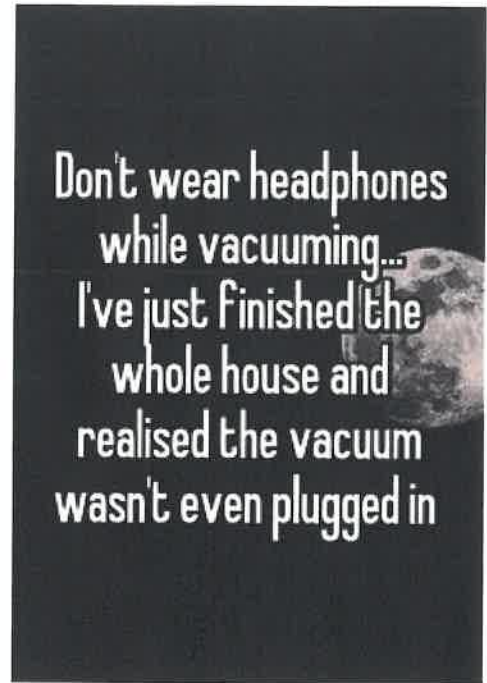
**“I just cleared out some space in my freezer”
sounds so much more productive than “I just
ate an entire quart of ice cream.”**



Tip

While it has been estimated that around 100 million metric tons of plastic waste have already leaked into oceans, that amount is increasing annually by 5

million to 15 million tons, according to research by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Less than 20 percent of plastic waste is now collected for recycling, while global plastics production has increased more than 10-fold since 1970. The IEA projects that the total amount of oceanic plastic waste is likely to more than double by 2030, especially as developing nations increase their share of global consumption as a result of growing populations and more wealth. Still, the U.S., Europe, and other developed economies now use as much as 20 times more plastic per capita than emerging economies. WHAT IS NEEDED is a transformation in waste management practices across the globe, a rapid increase in recycling, and a commitment to far less use of plastic by people everywhere.



Acupuncture is a job well done. That's the point of it.



All Saints Sun

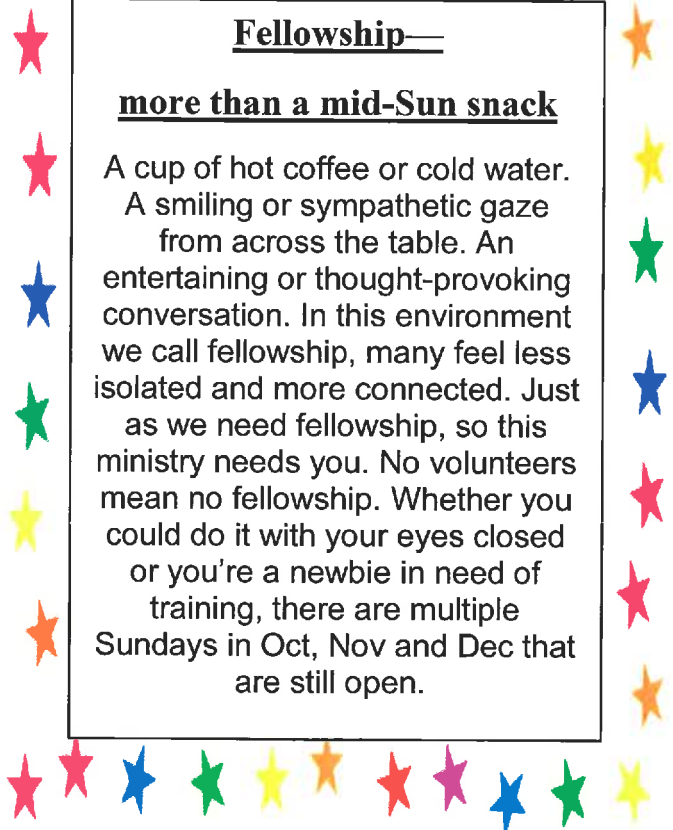
If there is someone you would like to include in the list of those we remember during worship on All Saints Sun this year, please give their name to Joyce by no later than **Thur Nov 4.**



Fellowship—

more than a mid-Sun snack

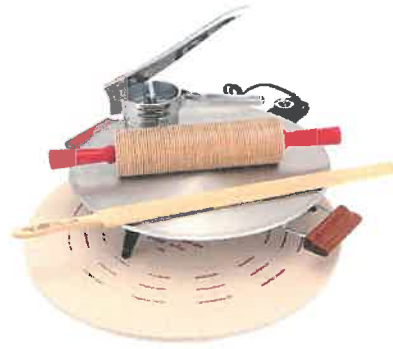
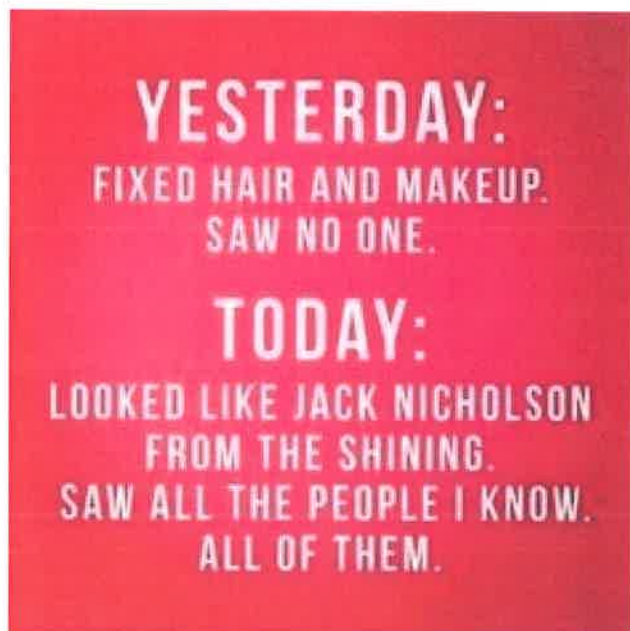
A cup of hot coffee or cold water. A smiling or sympathetic gaze from across the table. An entertaining or thought-provoking conversation. In this environment we call fellowship, many feel less isolated and more connected. Just as we need fellowship, so this ministry needs you. No volunteers mean no fellowship. Whether you could do it with your eyes closed or you're a newbie in need of training, there are multiple Sundays in Oct, Nov and Dec that are still open.





ADOPT – A - HIGHWAY

Thank you to all the people who helped clean up our 2 mile stretch of Cass County Road 146. We had a wonderful time helping to keep our environment clean, shared stories, and made new memories. The board of Worship and Service says "THANK YOU".



IT'S THAT
WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE
YEAR AGAIN
"NO", IT'S NOT
CHRISTMAS

"IT'S TIME TO MAKE LEFSE"

We are making lefse on November 1st starting at 9 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church. This invitation goes out to everyone, those that "don't" know how, and those that "do" know how to make lefse. If you are inexperienced at making lefse, we have teachers that will show you the art of making award winning lefse. This is always a fun event, spending time with each other, sharing stories and memories. We have formed a new partnership with the Bemidji Sunrise Rotary club. They will sell our lefse at various establishments throughout the Bemidji area. 100% of the proceeds goes towards scholarships and youth organization in the greater Bemidji area. Everyone who participates in making lefse will get to take one package home with them. If you plan on attending this event please contact one of the two points of contacts to ensure we have enough lefse stations ready.

Connie Miller: cmmiller@paulbunyan.net
218-987-2711 or

OJ: mjensen@arvig.net 218-547-4823



“GOD HAS ENLIGHTENED US”

On Aug. 5, 2019, as the ELCA Churchwide Assembly met to elect leaders and make decisions regarding the future, Salvadoran Lutherans gathered for a similar reason. For them, the day was historic: the Salvadoran Lutheran Church (SLC) ordained 14 pastors, increasing its roster from 35 to 49.

“Never in our [47-year] history has there been such a large group of ordinations,” said Medardo Gómez Soto, SLC bishop. **Bolstered in part by Mission Support funds, the SLC provided training and support for these new leaders as they pursued a path to ordination.**

One of those leaders is Margarita Moreno. Her service in the SLC began in the middle of the Salvadoran Civil War (1980-1992). During that time, Lutheran church workers, including the bishop, were persecuted for ministering to war victims.

“I started as a Sunday school teacher, then worked as a trained health promoter,” she said. “After the war ended, the [church] began offering continuing education and training for its catechists and evangelists. I signed up.”

SLC leaders noticed Moreno’s gifts for ministry and installed her as a deacon pastor of the Espiritu de Paz (Spirit of Peace) congregation in Tepeagua, where she’s served for over a decade. Last August, after completing an alternative, experience-based path to ordination called Presbiterio por Madurez (Presbytery for Maturity), she is now the pastor there.

Moreno, in turn, has gone on to mentor more lay leaders. “I’ve already prepared three youth to serve as Sunday school teachers,” she said. “Now I’m motivating other church members to prepare themselves as catechists and evangelists.”

Gómez Soto believes the SLC is seeing a boost in leaders and members due to its long-standing commitment to social justice and public witness. “God has enlightened us

“NEVER IN OUR [47-YEAR] HISTORY HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A LARGE GROUP OF ORDINATIONS,” SAID MEDARDO GÓMEZ SOTO, SLC BISHOP.

as a church to respond to key moments in Salvadoran history, to be part of our country’s history,” he said. “That is how we’ve grown. Guided by that same vision, these new pastors will keep our church growing.”

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.

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesd	Wednes	Thurs	Friday	Saturda
					1	2

Sept 27-Oct 13: Pr Amanda is on vacation. Please contact Pr Bill Beyer at 218-368-5014 for any pastoral emergencies.

<p>3 In-person Worship 10:30am 9am Sunday School online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 12:30pm Board of Worship & Education</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6 CLFS 9-3 8:30-12:30 Bemidji Food Shelf</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>
<p>10 In-person Worship 10:30am 9:30am Sun School online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11 Indigenous People's Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13 CLFS 9-3 12:45pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>
<p>17 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20 CLFS 9-3 3:30pm Council Mtg & Retreat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>
<p>24 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27 CLFS 9-3 2pm Thriving Beyond Covid Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29 Noon Staff Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30 Pastor's Study Day</p>
<p>31 In-person Worship 10:30am 9:30am Sun School online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook Healing Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nov 1 9am Lefsa Making</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nov 2 12:30pm W & E Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nov 3 2pm Thriving Beyond Covid Study</p>			

Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 788
Cass Lake, MN 56633

If you want a large print copy of hymns or the celebrate let the office know so we can have it available for ushers to handout on Sundays.

It was an honor and privilege to be with all of you at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cass Lake for your 100th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you too, for the lovely gift of the rainbow colored prayer shawl. It is beautiful!

God's blessings to you all -
Deacon Brenda Tibbetts
Synod Minister for Leadership Support
Northeastern Minnesota Synod