

SEPTEMBER 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Reflections

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

I [had] been invited to lead the opening conversation at an international event [in June]. The focus [was] Pentecost - Seeing the Spirit as the Great Disruptor.

The online dictionary states that a disruptor is a person or thing that interrupts an event, activity, or process by causing a disturbance or problem. It's no wonder that we tend to view disruption as an unwelcome thing in U.S. societies. Disturbances knock us off path, and problems are things to be solved not invited. Yet, in the church we pray, implore even...Come, Holy Spirit, Come. That sounds fine and good when we substitute the words we are familiar with into this invitation...Come, Helper, Come... Come, Advocate, Come...Come, Intercessor, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Come, but Come, Great Disruptor, Come or Come, Problem Maker, Come, doesn't ring in quite the same way. But, maybe it should.

Thomas Merton said,
"Do not depend on the hope of result. When you are doing...apostolic work, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite what you expect (*perhaps like disruption and problems*). As you get used to the idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself...gradually you struggle less for an idea and more and more for specific people. The range tends to narrow down, but it

gets much more real. In the end, it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything."

The reality of personal relationships is key to our work as disciples of Christ. We know that relationships can be messy, and we acknowledge that they can be disruptive, but they are worth it. Relationships push us to grow as individuals and reveal truths about ourselves. They are disturbances that open us up to ourselves and our neighbors and God present in the world around us. It is only in the work of Christ through the Great Disruptor (the Holy Spirit) that the true reality of relationships can be revealed.

²Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³And tongues like fire spreading out appeared to them and settled on each one of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Ruach ha-Kodesh and began to speak in other tongues as the Ruach enabled them to speak out.

⁵Now Jewish people were staying in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And when this sound came, the crowd gathered. They were bewildered, because each was hearing them speaking in their own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "All these who are speaking—aren't they Galileans? ⁸How is it that we each hear our own birth language? ^{9b}—we hear them declaring in our own tongues the mighty deeds of God!" ^{14a}But Peter, standing with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed them. ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the emissaries, "Fellow brethren, what shall we do?" ⁴¹So those who received his message were immersed, and that day about three thousand souls were added. (excerpt from Acts 2, The Tree of Life Translation)

From acquaintance (men) to intimacy (brethren)...relationships acknowledged through a disruption that opened space for God's Word, the Good News, to be heard.

On May 26, we entered into the longest season of our church - the season after Pentecost. This is a green season. A season for renewal and growth so

that we may hone our discipleship skills, grow in our understanding of our baptismal promises, and develop strategies of action to help us live well as Christ's disciples in every aspect of our lives. This season comes to us immediately after we bear witness to God's ushering in of the Holy Spirit through an act of great disruption for those who were merely engaging in their daily activities. Our lives have similarly been filled with great disruptions this past year. But now, we are being sent out into this new season as people recommitted to personal relationships. Be assured as you go out that the Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of people so that they are ready to hear God's Good News, but it is your voice that God will use to tell the story.

How might God be disrupting your journey in order to open space for you to hear what God has to say? How might God be inviting you to move from acquaintance to relationship with your neighborhood and members of your community? What new things is God igniting in your congregation and ministries that you are being invited to tell all who can hear about?

Throughout this season, I invite you to pray:
God, bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that we will live deep in our hearts and not our minds. Bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people and the earth so that we will work for justice, equity, and peace. Bless us with tears to be shed for those who suffer so that when we reach out our hands to comfort them, their pain may be changed to joy. And, God, bless us with the foolishness to think that we can make a difference in this world so that we will confidently do the things which others say cannot be done. Amen (adaptation of a Franciscan blessing)

Blessings to you in this season of growth. I am excited to hear and see what God has planned for you.

You get an A+



Thanks to your generosity we filled 27 backpacks with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief! These gifts will be received with joy and gratitude.



ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY Cleanup Day.

If you are willing to help pick up litter along a designated two mile stretch of road ditches on Cass County Road 146, mark **Sept 25** on your calendar. The plan is to have everyone meet at our church building at **9 AM** that day to receive additional instructions regarding the clean-up. You will be given garbage bags, a reflective safety vest and there will be a short safety meeting. We will have two vehicles to transport you out to the clean-up site, and to bring you back to the church building where we will have a **simple lunch**. If you are willing to participate, please **contact Gene Patten or OJ prior to September 20th**. Remember, this project helps our environment, keeps our community clean, and shows we have a vested interest in our area, we need your support. In addition this is also the project your board has selected as our "Gods Work, Our Hands" project.

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.

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



Pretty Blue "Trinity" Shirts for Sale Extension

We will be selling our pretty blue Trinity shirts though out **September**,

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.

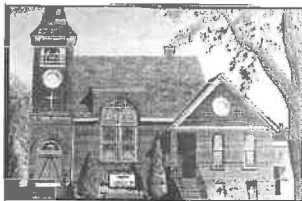
Six Little Stories with Lots of Meaning

- 1) Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith
- 2) When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- 3) Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to wake up. That is hope.
- 4) We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That is love.
- 5) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- 6) On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old: I am sweet 16 with 64 years experience." That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember – Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

from: Northeastern Lights, Aug 2021

First Home of Trinity Lutheran Church



2nd Home of Trinity Lutheran



Current Home of Trinity Lutheran Church

September Service Groups

Date	Reader	Communion	Recorder
9/5	Joanne Withers	Joanne Withers & OJ	OJ
9/12	Connie Miller	Connie Miller & Danny Struecker	Connie Miller
9/19	Bev Larson	Bev & Gary Larson	OJ
9/26	Lori Humphrey	Jane & Lan Christianson	OJ

Ushers for September: Joanna & John Aamodt

**You are invited to Trinity's
100th Anniversary
celebration
Worship Service.
Sunday, September 19, 2021
at 10:30 a.m.
A light lunch and time for
fellowship will follow.**



Sunday School

Sunday School Ministry

"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." (Deut 11:18-19) **Sun Sept 12** we start another year of teaching and learning faith together with the younger generations. This year, after talking with a couple of families, it was decided to hold classes **every other Sun**. Sunday school is one way we are fulfilling our promises to those who are baptized. We are in need of teachers, though; this ministry cannot happen without you! Please talk with Carolyn Ross, the Superintendent. An additional way you can support this vital ministry if we're able to still have it: keep the students, their families, and the teachers in your prayers. Thank you!

Financials for Trinity

July Financials	Month	YTD
Giving	\$ 9,472	\$ 71,647
Actual Expenses	\$11,121	\$ 72,371
Budgeted Expenses	\$10,761	\$ 79,031

Stewardship Corner Pat Town

What a journey this has been for the past few years with the long illness and loss of Bill, G.B.S., eye surgery, eye accident (hit in eye with can crusher and popped iris) and more surgery, heart pacer put in, more surgery, when Dr. goofed, bottom lead dropped, then stung several times by hornets. I am hoping of all hopes – enough now, maybe! Have spent so much time laying and sitting. (A lot of spreading has begun.)

I have always been very active with working all my life from the age of 13 baby sitting till I got sick 2 years ago. I have always been working with people. Serving dinners for German Club, Aux Benefits, Lions dinners & dances through the many years. Worked with Bill at the Alignment Shop when he needed me. Worked 30 years as a hair dresser and several years in home care. Raised 4 wonderful sons that I love so much, who did well for themselves with very little help from us. Although they knew we were always here if they needed us. We always instilled in them that you'll always be more proud of what you have if you earn and work for what you earned yourself. You don't have to have it handed to you on a silver platter and you don't have to beg, steal or borrow to make it work. Blood, sweat and a few tears don't hurt anyone, but pride will. I've always taught the boys honesty, caring, giving, and appreciation, and faith will get you so much further. Doing for others is so good for the soul.

Since being shut in I've been spending a lot of time adult coloring. (Books and colors my sons got me to keep busy.) I have been spending a lot of time on them and using the pictures to send as get well and thinking of you cards, hoping to bring a smile to their faces.

I miss having our coffee, snack and conversation Friday hair cutting days with everyone but thank God I have a large front window to look out, smile, wave and talk to people out the front door. My sunroom is always welcome with space for a sit-down chat. A lot of times I decorate the front window just to bring on a smile and its my therapy. The hearts in the window are for you the people

that have lost a loved one or suffering from Covid, or any other illnesses. My heart goes out to you.

Sounds like I am getting carried away. But they say getting things down on paper is good therapy. Now to get out and move the rest of my body. I got my cart with a basket, a couple plastic bags and my gloves, grabbers, and started picking up garbage. Done about 7 ½ blocks and it makes me feel good. Maybe it may give a few others an idea when they see an old lady doing a job that people who don't give a darn and spread garbage should be doing to begin with.

Another quote I drilled into my kids:

1. If you drop it pick it up.
2. If you use it put it back – same place.
3. If you break it replace it.
4. If you borrow it, return right away not a year later.
5. Don't forget the words, please and thank you.

The rewards will come back to you with the helping hand of God, family and lots of friends. Believe me, I know. I've been blessed many times over. Stay busy, productive and healthy. God Bless, Pat Town





Tip

Recycling, Part III: when in doubt about what is recyclable or not, what should go in the garbage, what might be donated to a creative reuse center, and what needs to be handled by a specialty recycler

or hazardous-waste facility, go to earth911.com or Depaul University's Beyond the Bin Guide, bit.ly/depaulguide to learn more about it. Pizza boxes should not be recycled unless you excise and throw away all the greasy parts, or if available such as in Bemidji, you can compost them in the Waste Management Compost Program. Only the paper sleeve and plastic lid on takeout coffee cups can be recycled, although some compost facilities will accept the cups. People toss out about 60 million paper cups a year, so it would be better to carry a reusable cup or a thermos (according to Starbucks, only one out of 20 customers brings a reusable cup, so there is plenty of room for improvement). Plastic containers, including plastic takeout containers, are generally acceptable if they have a recycling symbol on the bottom, but all food scraps should be rinsed or scraped out. Biodegradable plastic (usually made from corn or potatoes) should not go in the regular recycling, but can be buried or thrown out in the regular garbage, or it can go to a municipal compost facility like in Bemidji.

Mental Health Corner

Suicide is among the most common causes of death in the United States, especially among young people who are 15 to 24. More people die by suicide than by homicide every year and millions have suicidal thoughts. Behind such troubling statistics are people: real individuals whose stories and relationships are unique and who live in our families, congregations, neighborhoods and work places.

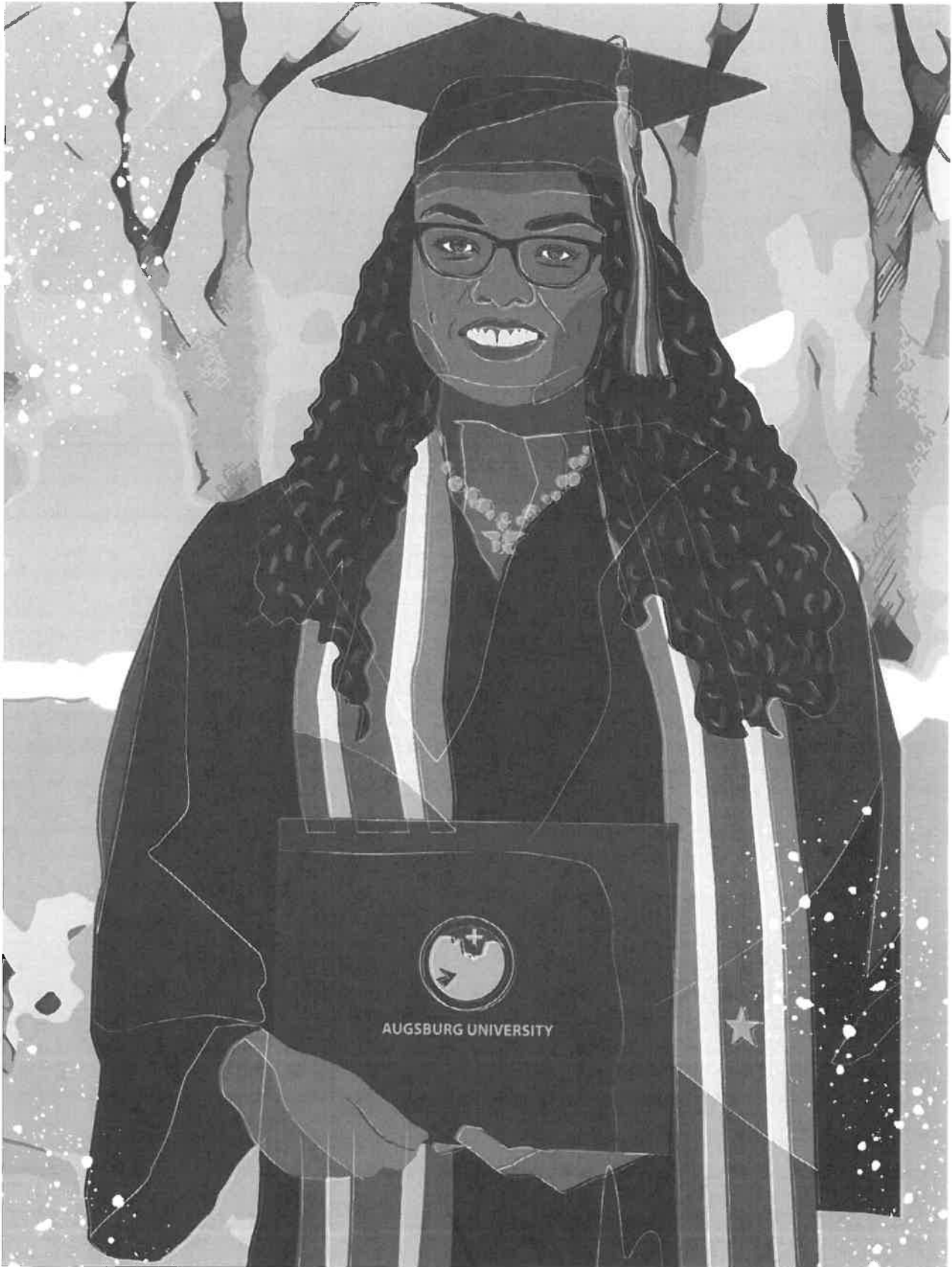
Mindful of both the size of the problem and the lives affected, the ELCA Church Council adopted "Suicide Prevention" in 1999 as a call to members, congregations and affiliated institutions to learn more about suicide and its prevention in their communities, to ask what they can do and to work with others to prevent suicide.

The message affirms that life is God's good and precious gift, but explains that suicide testifies to the tragic brokenness of living that some experience as a torment without hope. The message beckons God's people to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) when it is easier to ignore, reject or shy away from those who despair of life. It proclaims that God's boundless love in Jesus Christ will leave *no one* alone and abandoned. It offers suggestions for pastoral care when suicide does occur while emphasizing means for prevention through becoming aware and challenging false attitudes about suicide. The message has a practical bent in offering specific information about receiving and giving care, even providing lists of resources and organizations dedicated to providing support. While some of the information is now dated, the message remains completely relevant in providing a comprehensive message about suicide and a clear call for concerted and collaborative efforts from all sectors of society and the church to prevent suicide.

You can read the ELCA's social message here: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Suicide-Prevention>

**DO YOU EVER GO OUT, AND
WHILE YOU'RE OUT, YOU
THINK, "THIS IS EXACTLY
WHY I DON'T GO OUT"?**

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-21



Sarah Abendanon, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, earned her degree at Augsburg University, Minneapolis, with a scholarship from the International Women Leaders program.



EMPOWERED TO EMPOWER OTHERS

Leaving her home in Suriname for Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Sarah Abendanon felt frightened and excited.

"Before my departure for the U.S., I was a very insecure girl," she recalled.

Abendanon's home church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, had endorsed her to pursue her bachelor's degree in the United States through the ELCA's International Women Leaders (IWL) program.

Since graduating in May 2018, Abendanon has found work as a publications officer, started her own small business and volunteered her marketing skills to her church. She credits her Augsburg education as invaluable. "I came back much more confident," she said.

Abendanon is one of 39 young women who have received IWL scholarships, awarded through partnerships with 11 ELCA colleges and universities. The scholarships continue for the duration of their bachelor's degree programs.

Thanks to the generosity of ELCA members during and after *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, all the women's expenses are covered, "a type of scholarship that's extremely rare these days," said Kaleb Sutherland, director, International Leaders program for scholarship administration and student engagement. "The idea is to remove any barriers for students to access this opportunity."

Mission Support dollars fund IWL program administration and help to support ELCA companion churches, some of which encourage young women to apply for IWL.

Yuen Ching Lee graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, in 2019 with the help of an IWL scholarship. She was endorsed by her home church, the Lutheran Church in Malaysia.

Originally from Selangor, Malaysia, Lee said studying in the United States "broadened my mind and mindset to what things and society could be like, especially when it comes to women empowerment and going against patriarchy."

Today, Lee is a teacher for a Malaysian nonprofit, Dignity for Children Foundation, that educates underprivileged youth to pursue careers that could lift them out of poverty.

Sutherland noted that the ELCA designed IWL to accompany young women from ELCA companion churches in the hope that they would return to their communities and churches to pursue their vocations with confidence. Recent graduates such as Abendanon and Lee are thriving.

"I continue to do the work of the [church] and the IWL program [by using] my gifts and talents," Abendanon said. "And I pass it on by helping [my] neighbors wherever I can. No matter where we are and where we are from. We are one."

To watch a video about this ministry, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).

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).

September 2021

TLC Office hours M, Th, F: 9-Noon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesd	Wednes	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
Aug 29 Sunday Fun Day 12:30-2:30pm	Aug 30 9am Women's Bible Study, 10am Crafters 11am WELCA Meeting	Aug 31 Living Waters Conference minister gathering	1 CLFS 9-3 8:30-12:30 Bemidji Food Shelf	2	3	4
5 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	6 TLC Office Closed Labor Day	7 12:30pm Board of Worship & Education	8 CLFS 9-3 12:45pm Board of Trustees	9	10	11
12 In-person Worship 10:30am 9:30am Sunday School online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	13 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	14	15 CLFS 9-3 3:30pm Council	16	17	18 Pastor's Study Day
19 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook 100th Anniversary Celebration	20 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Pastor's Day Off	21	22 CLFS 9-3	23	24	25 9am-Noon County Road Cleanup / Adopt-A-Highway
26 In-person Worship 10:30am online at TLCcasslake.com & Facebook	27 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters 12-3pm Bemidji Food Shelf	28	29 CLFS 9-3	30		
Sept 27-Oct 13: Pr Amanda is on vacation. Please contact Pr Bill Beyer at 218-368-5014 for any pastoral emergencies.						

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