



From the staff

“And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’” (Mark 16: 2-3)

What faith those women must have had to continue to move forward knowing that there were obstacles in the way; it didn’t deter them from their task. Even as they moved forward they kept asking the question, but they kept moving forward. It was as if they knew that somehow that obstacle of the stone being moved away would be managed. How? Well, they couldn’t say. But would it? Their faith showed that it would.

I find that a very great witness in a time of uncertainty. As we move into the year, Tri-County has some uncertainty as to what our future may look like. But as witnessed by these followers of Christ, we move forward. Asking the questions, and having full faith that they will be answered. Do we know what those answers will be? Not yet.

I wonder for these women what the journey to the tomb meant for them, and what was happening to them as they traveled. The fellowship they kept with one another, sharing in the questions and the quest, moving forward to a common purpose; all the while not knowing what would be greeting them at their destination. But they walked that journey together, growing in fellowship and faith with each step they took.

As we move forward together, it’s not necessarily the final destination that will be the sole factor. It’s the journey that we will walk together as we ask the questions, as we grow along the path as we move forward; that is where growth and faith mature. The anxiety level of the women as they got closer and closer may have escalated as they knew they would soon meet the issue head on. But they kept moving forward, faithful that the answers — the way — would be shown.

“When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.” (Luke 16:4)

God is faithful.

And God had greater plans than those of these women. They were grateful that the tomb was open so that they could anoint Jesus. It wasn’t for anointment that God opened that tomb; it was a witness to the resurrection. It shows that God’s answer to our questions goes far beyond what we could imagine.

Who will roll our stones away? God will. We have many questions we are asking as we move forward; God’s answers for us will be beyond our imagining. As our journey continues forward, we will learn much in the midst of our questions and fellowship; as the women going to the tomb, let us continue forward in faith that God will provide.

And we shall see God’s glory.

Shalom,
Pastor Jessica

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1

“The Sign of Jonah: On the Same Page”

- ◆ 6:00 — Trinity in Binford
- ◆ 6:30 — Trinity in Cooperstown
- ◆ 7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVille
- ◆ 7:00 — Our Savior’s in McHenry

Good Friday, April 2

Good Friday breakfast and service at 7:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian in Cooperstown

“The Sign of Jonah: The Answer!”

- ◆ 6:30 — Trinity in Cooperstown
- ◆ 7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVille
- ◆ 7:00 — Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 7:30 — Mabel in Sutton
- ◆ 8:00 — Faith in Hannaford

Easter Sunday, April 4:

- ◆ 7:00 — Faith in Hannaford
- ◆ 8:15 — Our Savior’s, rural Klotten
- ◆ 8:30 — Mabel in Sutton
- ◆ 8:30 — Trinity in Binford
- ◆ 9:30 — Lutheran Church of McVille
- ◆ 9:45 — Trinity in Cooperstown
- ◆ 9:45 — Our Savior’s in McHenry
- ◆ 10:30 — Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 11:15 — First Presbyterian in Cooperstown



“The Test Kitchen”

The Tri-County Ministry Young Adult Group has a new name. We are calling it the Test Kitchen. We call it this because, like a test kitchen, we are going to try out many different things to see what works.

This is a group that is open to people ages 18-35, regardless of church membership. We meet two times per month, alternating between an activity night and a night for dinner and discussion/Bible Study.

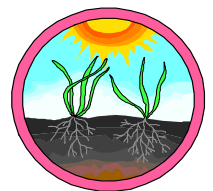
If you would like to be included in e-mail updates, please send an e-mail to Trichelle at kirchenwitz001@luthersem.edu. You can also receive text updates, either send a text message or call Trichelle at 701-799-6607.

Rogation Sunday

April 25

**A service of
praise and celebration,
blessing and prayer.**

**Most of the TCM
congregations will
have a rogation
service as their
Sunday morning
worship.**



**Eastern North Dakota
Synod Assembly
Saturday-Sunday, April 17-18
Jamestown Civic Center**

Plenary Sessions on Saturday and Sunday; mission blitz in Jamestown and surrounding area on Saturday afternoon; Bible study and worship.

Suggested items to bring:

- ◆ Non-perishable food item for food pantry
- ◆ Coffee mug or plastic water bottle
- ◆ Materials to assist with possible service assignments:
crochet hooks/knitting
needles; clean, white
- ◆ Sheets for rolling bandages;
heavy fabric to make tote-
style school bags

(Plan to wear comfortable, casual clothing Saturday. Some projects may include outdoor work, weather permitting.)

The Synod Assembly is open to ALL, not just clergy and delegates. Go to www.eandsynod.org for more information.



**April at Red
Willow Bible
Camp**



Day Play (grades K-3)

Saturday, April 10

9:00-3:00

(Call the camp **now** to register!)

RWBC Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 11

Story telling at 3:00

Meeting at 4:00

Supper at 5:00

Jr. High Retreat (grades 7-9)

April 16-17

“The Lion, the Witch and the
Wardrobe”

(Register by April 2)

For more information,
call the camp or go to their website.

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org

**Women of the ELCA
Carrington Cluster Spring Gathering**

“Today’s Dream: Tomorrow’s Reality Network”

Saturday, April 10 at Red Willow Bible Camp

Registration at 9:30, Program 10:00-3:00

Theme — SOCIAL JUSTICE

Speakers are Darla Thiele of Dacotah O’yate Lutheran Church of Tokio; Jan Bakke of Hospice, speaking on end of life issues; Dennis Aune of LSS Liaison Program; and Becky Goetz of RWBC.

*“Speak out for those who cannot speak for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously, maintain the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9)*

In-kind offerings for RWBC: coffee (regular and decaf), AA batteries, paper products, laundry detergent; brooms and dust pans.

Monetary offering will be distributed: 1/2 to END Synodical Women’s Programs, 1/4 to RWBC, 1/4 to Dacotah O’yate Lutheran Church.

The following letter was sent by the Tri-County Ministry Council to the congregations of Trinity Lutheran in Cooperstown and Mabel Lutheran in Sutton, as those congregations discern their future.

February 3, 2010

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Cooperstown / Mabel Lutheran Church, Sutton,

We write this letter with a sad heart as you are reconsidering the nature of your relationship with the Tri-County Ministry parish [Trinity] / the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America [Mabel]. We want you to know that we have valued the partnership we have shared throughout the years. Your participation in Tri-County Ministry activities and events has been a great example of Christian ministry. The friendships that we have formed have been meaningful to all and will remain strong forever as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We understand that your relationship with Tri-County may or may not change; regardless of your decision, we want you to know that we will continue to pray for you throughout the process and support any decision you make. We want you to go wherever the Spirit leads you. Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

May God bless you in your decision-making process as you determine the best course for your congregation.

In Christ's Love,

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Tri-County Ministry News is published
nine times per year: January, February,
March, April, June, August, September,
October, and November.

Roast Beef Supper
Sunday, April 25
5:00—7:00
Trinity in Binford
Sponsored by Trinity WELCA

Bake Sale & Quilt Sale

Proceeds used for
Bible camp scholarships