



## ***Pastor Sherri's message***

Lent is a time when we remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert tempted by the devil. (We also remember Israel's 40 days of wandering in the desert before they reached the Promised Land.) As followers of Jesus, we let go of the practices and material goods that lead us into temptation and we take up the full armor of God, focusing on scripture, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting during the Lenten season.

This morning as I pull out my Lent Devotional from Tri-County Ministry, I am especially touched by the verse and the comments for today. I also realize and acknowledge that I have done well on some of my Lenten practices and have done not-so-well on other Lenten disciplines. Instead of abandoning my "less-than-effective" disciplines (which would be very easy to do at this point), I recommit to them and pray for God's strength and guidance over the rest of these 40 days of Lent for myself, and I pray for everyone else that is struggling with this also. There are still a few weeks left on our Lenten journey and I feel that God is worthy of my feeble efforts at Lenten disciplines. I also think that my life is enriched by this much-needed connection with the Holy. Will you join me in this recommitment to Lent?

Our Wednesday messages during the Lenten season have brought up the subject of change — something that many of us embrace and many of us resist, depending upon what type of change we are experiencing at the moment.

Is our change a change of season? In that case, there is a predictable rhythm in the cycle of newness, growth, harvesting, and death year after year. This cycle becomes preparation for renewal, growth, harvesting, and death for the next year or even the next season of life. Do we have a desire to hold onto what is past and comfortable? Or are we just filled with a fervor in order to create something new and stimulating?

So much of what Jesus taught used the rhythms of life, experienced by those living in an agricultural society, as the model of growing to spiritual maturity. His metaphors were of sheep and shepherds, seeds and growth, plowing and harvesting, trees and fruit, the passage of the seasons, and knowing what season we are in in our lives. Jesus recognized that there was a wisdom gleaned from the natural world, a wisdom expressed so eloquently by the writer of Ecclesiastes:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;*

*a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

*a time to kill, and a time to heal;*

*a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*a time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together...*

--Ecclesiastes 3:1-5a

## Our Holy Week and Easter schedule

### Maundy Thursday, April 17 Services of Holy Communion

- ◆ 5:30 at Our Savior's in McHenry
- ◆ 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford
- ◆ 7:00 at Lutheran Church of McVile

### Good Friday, April 18

- ◆ 7:00 a.m. Breakfast at First Presbyterian in Cooperstown
- ◆ 5:30 at Trinity in Binford
- ◆ 7:00 at Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 7:00 at Lutheran Church of McVile

### Easter Sunday, April 20

- ◆ 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford
- ◆ 8:15 at Our Savior's of Klotten
- ◆ 8:30 at Trinity in Binford
- ◆ 9:30 at Lutheran Church of McVile
- ◆ 9:45 at Our Savior's in McHenry
- ◆ 11:15 at Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 11:15 at First Presbyterian in Cooperstown

(Our regular Lenten Wednesday schedule continues on April 2 & 9, when we'll hear about Change of Heart and Change of Plans.

5:30 at Trinity in Binford, 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford and Lutheran Church of McVile.)



## Baskets of Promise are filling up



The congregations of TCM have grabbed on to Lutheran World Relief's *Basket of Promise* appeal. We are well on the way to 100 personal care kits.

You still have plenty of time to make donations. A basket is at the back of each of our churches. April 13 is the last day we have listed for donations, but we'll keep it open until Easter Sunday.

Items to be collected in April:

- ◆ April 6 — nail clippers (metal, attached file optional)
- ◆ April 13 — bars of soap

And you may still bring in a new bath towel, toothbrush, and comb. (See complete instructions on our website.)



### Pre-Easter Eggstravaganza

Family Fun Day

Sunday, April 13  
2:00

Faith in Hannaford

Easter egg hunt and  
other fun things to do  
for all ages!



## Worship time alerts

*Faith:*

7:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday

*First Presbyterian:*

9:45 on April 6

*Please watch your weekly bulletin announcements and newspapers in case changes in the scheduling need to be made.*



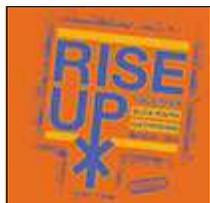
## ***ELCA Youth Gathering “Rise Up”***

***July 15-19, 2015***

***Detroit***

**Who can go?** Students who are currently in grades 7 through 11 (school year 2013-2014)

**Why are we talking about this so early?** Because we need to start fundraising. Each person would probably need to raise between \$1200 and \$1500. And about \$500 would have to be paid up front this fall. (Don't let these amounts scare you. This is very do-able.)



Pastor Sherri will lead the group from Tri-County Ministry. For more information or to get on the list, please contact any

staff member. You can also check the website: [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering)



## WELCA Cluster Meeting

Saturday, April 26

Sheyenne Lutheran Church  
(south of Pekin)

*“Healing the Spiritual Self Through Prayer”*

9:00-10:00 Registration and coffee hour

10:00-3:00 Program

*Featured speaker:* Mary Sass, cancer survivor and World War II refugee

*Noon luncheon:* \$10

*In kind offering for Red Willow Bible Camp:* magic markers, crayons, water color trays, paint brushes, artist brushes, tempera paint in plastic bottles, large bottles of Elmer's white glue, paper towels, napkins, toilet tissue.

## ***Start saving those quarters***

In a couple of months, we're going to bring our little m & m containers out of hibernation and pass them out again in each church. You'll hear much more in our next newsletter, but in the meantime, it's never too early to start hoarding your change.

If you remember, each little container will hold \$14 worth of quarters. But those little tubes also hold cash very nicely.



Your donations will go toward our tradition of doing a summer mission project. Stay tuned.

# Tri-County Ministry Council

## March 3

The 2014 council and committees:

President — Bob Delfs  
Vice-President — Richard Hanson  
Secretary — Marsha Scanson  
Treasurer — Paulette Gronneberg

Property Committee — Marvin Goplen, Pat Larson, Mary Gleason, Rob Loe

Faith, Life, and Education Committee — Vickie Goplen, Janice Munson, Corey Erickson, Roy Brandt, Olen Ophaug

Finance Committee — Dennis Jungels, Richard Hanson, Marsha Scanson, Paulette Gronneberg

### Annual Review of TCM Agreement and By-Laws:

Approved with no changes.

**Congregational Membership:** Active confirmed membership of each congregation –

Faith	79
First Presbyterian	27
Grace	59
Lutheran Church of McVile	107
Our Savior's of Kloten	30
Our Savior's of McHenry	56
Trinity	87
Total	<b>445</b>

(down 7 from 2013)

**Intern Program:** Application has been submitted.

**Parsonage Policy:** Consensus of the council was that the policy should be reviewed and revised. The Property Committee will discuss options and bring them to the April council meeting.

**Staff Report:** Pastor Sherri is working on visitation and would appreciate phone calls about needs and concerns.

**Next meeting:** April 23

## *Presbytery of the Northern Plains Annual Meeting*

**Friday-Saturday, April 4-5**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Bismarck**

Registration opens at 11:00 on Friday the 5th. Gathering opens with worship at 1:00.

## **Rogation / Soil Stewardship Sunday**

*April 27*

Blessing of soil and seeds, water and all natural resources, farmers and ranchers and all who work with God's creation.



Trucks and tractors in the parking lots on Rogation Sunday are welcome!

***Red Willow Bible Camp's summer brochures are available in our churches.***

***Please check with your church council and WELCA for scholarship information.***

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



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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 27***

***5:00 — 7:00***

***Trinity in Binford***

***Served by Trinity WELCA***

***Baked goods and quilts for sale too.***