



DIY Spirituality

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you... For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures...

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

My brother built a cabin on a lake in the woods of northern Wisconsin. Himself. Well, as much as anyone can say he did something himself. He'd not done construction before. So he needed quite a bit of help seeing step by step what he had gotten himself in to.

He hired someone to dig and lay a foundation. He hired someone to help him put up sheetrock and do the wiring. Throughout the rest of his big "do it yourself" project he made many trips to the local lumberyard or hardware store. Not just for lumber and hardware. For information about what he was doing next.

Even do-it-yourselfers need to rely on others to learn the ropes of what they're doing if they've never done it before. We sometimes forget there was that first time to everything we have ever done. That usually involved somebody else showing us the basics of how to do it. Older generations can act like everything got started with them: "this is how we've always done it." Younger generations can act like they invented change in order to be a do-it-yourselfer.

New technology brings with it new ways to be able to do more things ourselves, like be a source of information, and quickly spread it, be it reliable or not. Old-time religion or new-age spirituality will continue to prove true how "what has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9) Truth will continue to prove itself true. Something we arrive at not all by ourselves, but through authentic relationships with God and others. Misinformation, alternative facts, fake-news will continue to prove itself unreliable whatever new name being false and inauthentic goes by. Arrived at by the self-delusion, I thought of it, it must be so.

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(DIY Spirituality continued)

Being a pastor is similar to being an electrician and watching others do a lot of wiring as do-it-yourself projects mostly by trial and error. Sunday school, Wednesday school, spiritual guidance of a new generation has become more and more a do-it-yourself project and less connected with a worshipping community who challenge one another to connect their faith to everyday struggles to be true and authentic to God and one another.

Doing a haphazard job of electrical wiring has rather immediate consequences. Thinking we can live by our own do-it-yourself spirituality has more long-term consequences, as adults (a majority of Lutherans as I've known them) give each other plenty of space to live our own truth mostly unchallenged by others beyond Sunday School and Confirmation age, with a new generation expected to do much the same.

But there comes a time when discussions about spiritual matters we've not been ready to have come upon us.

Such is our time when many (Lutherans as I know them) are uncertain about whether

social issues of our time are temptations from the evil one, or tests by God...or both...and which is which.

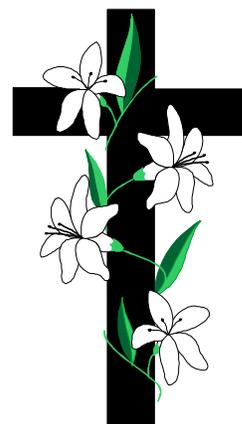
Some things don't need to be reinvented. Just tweaked for new challenges on a new day. Martin Luther changed how spiritual matters were passed along from one generation to another in his time, from spiritual leaders to laity. The greater challenge in our time is the opposite for every institution of society: the problem of thinking you know more than the experts. (see YouTube video with that title) Luther believed faith begins to be lived at home, as parents share scripture, pray together, and discuss how their faith connects with their everyday living, temptations, tests, and all. And families need to connect with a worshipping community where there is a discipline of worship, on-going learning, and on-going challenging one another to be faithful, godly people.

That any of this is carried out in do-it-yourself fashion is an illusion. Like saying my brother built a cabin himself, and he renovated it himself.

~Pastor Tedd Rieke

The Resurrection of Our Lord — Easter Sunday, April 1

- ❖ 7:00 — Faith of Hannaford
- ❖ 8:15 — Our Savior's of rural Kloten
- ❖ 8:30 — Trinity of Binford
- ❖ 9:30 — Lutheran Church of McVile
- ❖ 9:45 — Our Savior's of McHenry
- ❖ 9:45 — First Presbyterian at Assisted Living in Cooperstown
- ❖ 11:15 — Grace of Grace City



Jr. Highers



Impact Retreat

Red Willow Bible Camp

April 13-15

Grades 6-8

Cost— \$110

(check with your church or WELCA if you need financial assistance.)

Confirmation students are especially encouraged to take part in this opportunity!

Go to the camp's website to register. And check with your church for help with the fee.

CONFIRMATION Bridge-Building Event

Red Willow Bible Camp

April 27-28, Friday Potluck Supper through Saturday Supper

Confirmation Students & Parents

Bridge-Building between Dacotah O'Yate & Tri-County Ministry

Confirmation students, please watch your mail for an informational letter.



Sunday and Wednesday Schools



BLAST at Trinity in Binford will run through the last Wednesday in April. A special end-of-year party is being planned.

The students at Grace in Grace City will have their closing program and awards day on Sunday, May 13. Time to be announced.

Students at Trinity, Grace, Faith, and Lutheran Church of McVile processed with palms and provided special music at their worship services on Palm Sunday, March 25. Thank you, students and leaders!



Red Willow Bible Camp 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.

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org

UPPER ROOM DRAMAS

Many thanks to all those who participated in our Lenten Drama series, “The Upper Room” during February and March. Beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and the following five Wednesdays we explored the themes of Discipleship as a Life of **Spiritual Maturity**, Life of **Love**, Life of **Discernment**, Life of **Humility**, **Abiding in Christ** and Living in **Truth**.

Many actors and musicians traveled from one congregation to another throughout the series. Participants came from McHenry, Kloten, McVile, Binford, Hannaford, and First Presbyterian of Cooperstown. Many others were drafted on the spot to fill in when openings arose. Readers, Pianist, Guitars, flute and oboe players joined actors, drivers, and costumers to bring the stories of Holy Week to life. Many played several roles as well.

If you see any of these stars, thank them in person for responding to the call and using their gifts and talents for the good if us all!

Verna Lindvall	James Vollmer	Eli Larson	Olen Ophaug
Linda Loe	Rick Frederick	Gabby Larson	Dale Nelson
Theresa Fiebiger	Bob Campbell	Marge Moya	Corrina Olson
Lu Haugen	Bob Brown	Connie Eslinger	Norris Olson
Paul Odden	Marvin Goplen	Evan Farnsworth	Joan Nelson
Savannah Huso	Donna Evers	Jason Grover	Jason Beglau
Amy Olson	Trae Kaelberer	Kamden Klefstad	Gary Delfs
Cheryl Rickford	Lydia Stein	Denny Goetz	Duane Feiring
Jenna Larson	Kelland Klefstad	Becky Goetz	Dan Rorvig
Maddie Feiring	Seth Monsebroten	Vickie Goplen	Rob Loe
Dan Larson	Jessie Monsebroten	Orville Ramsey	Russ Pollock
Pat Larson	Krista Lippert	Jill Larson	Robert Lindvall
Dick Hanson	Andie Anderson	Marla Larson	Betty Stabenow
	Lauryn Halvorson	Paulette Gronneberg	Gunner Ziotkowski

Special thanks Verna Lindvall who helped select the drama and coordinate the costumes, actors and musicians.

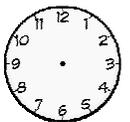
The next newsletter will cover the months of May and June.

Anyone having dates for those two months is asked to get them to the TCM office by May 14.

Worship time alerts

First Presbyterian

- ◆ 9:45 — Every Sunday in April



INTERN CORNER

Many of you have asked about the process of Internship and where I am in the process. Traditionally, student pastors study for two years or more on campus, then spend one year in a supervised internship and return for one more year of study before being ordained. Many of the older students who have families or have had other careers first choose to do and “Culminating Internship” at the end of their study instead. This is the route that I am taking.

In February, I had an interview with the Faculty Representatives from Luther Seminary. After reading my essays, reviewing my coursework and interviewing me at length, they stated they were “very pleased” to bring my name forward to the whole faculty in April! This is necessary so that I can graduate from Luther Seminary on May 20!

You may think I am gone a lot this month of April – and you will be right! In addition to the Faculty Approval process and vote in April, I also will be traveling to Great Falls, Montana to meet with my Candidacy Committee in the Montana Synod. This team of Pastors, seminary professors, lay leaders and the Bishop will also interview and review my work. They have been praying for you and me during our time together in ministry and will be eager to hear what we have done.

In the middle of April, Pastor Sherri and I will be traveling to Joy Ranch in South Dakota for the Internship Cluster Retreat and Workshop. This is another require piece of training and networking with other interns in the ND-SD-MN area. The beginning of the month, however, I will also be gone for the funeral of my only aunt. Again, this is a trip to the far side of Montana. Please keep our family in your prayers as we travel and celebrate the life of Aunt Marge.

Peace and Easter Joy to you all!

Pastor Stephanie

Presbyterian Gatherings in April

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Friday, April 13

Westminster Presbyterian
Church, Casselton

Registration at 9:00; meeting
opens at 10:00.



Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 28

Gilby Presbyterian Church in
Gilby

Tri-County Council

Wednesday, April 25

7:00 p.m.

Trinity in Binford

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Sherri Frederikson

(cell) 336-688-2879
PastorSherri@yahoo.com
Box 226, Binford ND 58416

Rev. Tedd Rieke

(cell) 320-368-3419
thrieke@yahoo.com
Box 306, McVile ND 58254

Intern Pastor Stephanie White

(cell) 406-253-6456
swhite002@luthersem.edu
351 Bridge Ave.
Hannaford, ND 58448

TCM Parish Administrator

Theresa Fiebiger676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
797-3112
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

Grace of Grace City.....674-3112
kmac@daktel.com

**Our Savior's of Klotten &
McVile Lutheran Church**322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

Our Savior's of McHenry.....785-2117
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Trinity of Binford.....676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Tri-County Ministry
Box 226

Binford, ND 58416
Phone 676-2761

email: *trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

website: *www.tricountyministry.org*

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Roast Beef Dinner

Sunday, April 29

11:00 – 1:00

Trinity in Binford

Sponsored by Trinity WELCA