



## ***From Pastor Thea***

Dear Friends of God in Christ,

In one of our Sunday Lenten readings we are reminded of Abraham's call from God to start a new adventure. God came to Abram (Abram's name later changes to Abraham) and said to him, "I want you to pull up stakes and head out into open country. Don't worry about your destination. I will fill you in on the details as you go along." Abram would have had every reason to say, "Wait a minute, Lord. You do not know what you are asking. I have a good life here in Haran. I am respected in my community, have a good income, many fine friends. My wife is happy here. My father is buried here. And on top of that, I am 75 years old."

**Life is an adventure.** It starts from the very moment of birth as an infant enters a new and unfamiliar universe. The adventure continues as friends are made, schools are selected, careers are begun and mates are chosen. Life is an adventure because there is always the element of the unknown in anything new that is begun. We begin new things on FAITH...faith that whatever the journey happens to be, somehow it will turn out all right. For people of faith there is a certain comfort in taking adventurous steps because we believe we do not take those steps alone. As the Psalmist has said, "My times are in Your hands."

Abram believed that. We can believe that also.

This month the adventure continues. For me personally, I have been called into the adventure of interim ministry - a ministry that has called me into relationship with you. In one sense I have come home. I grew up in Fargo. I am enjoying being back in big sky territory and the beautiful plains and farm country of my earlier years. My home is in the lakes area of the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota. I have often heard the people of that area say that they live in "God's country." The magnificent plains are God's country too.

You also are called by the Spirit of God into an adventure. You are called into relationship with the Triune God, with one another, with this amazing coming together of seven churches known as Tri-County, and with this creation that God has placed into our hands to care for. As we continue this journey and this adventure unfolds, we may hear ourselves say, "Wait a minute, Lord. You do not know what you are asking." At those moments let us remember and have faith in the words, "My times are in Your hands...Don't worry...I will fill you in on the details as you go along."

I want to close by thanking ALL of you for the warm hospitality you have given to this stranger. I look forward to meeting more of you and to our ministry together.

God's peace,  
Pastor Thea Monson

# ***Lent / Holy Week***

## **Lenten Services**

### **Wednesdays, April 6 and 13:**

5:30 Trinity Lutheran of Binford  
7:00 Lutheran Church of McVile  
7:00 Faith Lutheran of Hannaford

## **Holy Week**

### **Maundy Thursday, April 21**

5:30 — Trinity of Binford  
7:00 — Faith of Hannaford  
7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVile

### **Good Friday, April 22**

7:00 a.m. — Presbyterian Breakfast  
5:30 — Our Savior's in McHenry  
7:00 — Grace in Grace City  
7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVile

### **Easter Sunday, April 24**

7:00 a.m. — Faith in Hannaford  
8:15 — Our Savior's of Kloten  
8:30 — Trinity of Binford  
9:30 — Lutheran Church of McVile  
9:45 — Our Savior's of McHenry  
11:15 — First Presbyterian of Cooperstown  
11:15 — Grace of Grace City

### ***To give to Disaster Response for Japan:***

ELCA Disaster Response  
39330 Treasury Center  
Chicago, IL 60694-9300  
(write "Pactific Earthquake & Tsunami" on the check's memo line.)

Presbyterian Church (USA)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700  
(write "Japan Earthquake & Tsunami" on the memo line)

Your donation may also be given online, or brought or sent to the TCM office in Binford, where it will be forwarded to Disaster Response.

## **Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly**

**Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15  
Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo**

*"God's Work. Our Hands:  
Meeting the Needs of a Hungry World"*

- Voting member registration deadline is **April 22**.
- Register online or download the registration form and submit by mail.  
[www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org)
- Visitor registration is also available through the website; that registration deadline is April 29.

### **Carrington Conference WELCA Cluster Meeting Saturday, April 9 First Lutheran Church in New Rockford**

Theme: "Choices"

Keynote Speaker is Cindy Yale. She'll speak on the choices that had to be made following the train derailment near Burlington ND several years ago. Cindy's son, Chad, was severely burned in that derailment.

Presentations by Lutheran Social Services and the Synod office.

Please contact your WELCA president for registration information.

### **Red Willow Ministries Annual Meeting**

Sunday, April 3  
Red Willow Bible Camp

- ◆ Story telling at 3:00
- ◆ Meeting at 4:00
- ◆ Supper at 5:00

The camp's annual meeting is open to all!

[www.redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://www.redwillowbiblecamp.org)

# ***Tri-County Ministry Council update — March 10 meeting***

**Call Committee:** Representatives and alternates to the Call Committee are in place:

	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Faith	Marla Larson	Dan Larson
First Presbyterian	Denny Thomas	Jan Johnson
Grace	Laura Kulrud	Jay Kulrud
McVille	Corrina Olson	Amy Olson
Our Savior's Kloten	Warren Ophaug	JoAnne Brennan
Our Savior's McHenry	Susie Brandt	Corey Erickson
Trinity	Linda Leininger	Betty Stabenow

All congregational profiles will be completed and given to the Call Committee for compilation.

**Congregational Membership Numbers:** Active confirmed membership numbers as of January 1, 2011, are as follows:

Faith of Hannaford	102	First Presbyterian of Cooperstown	35
Grace of Grace City	62	Lutheran Church of McVille	98
Our Savior's of Kloten	30	Our Savior's of McHenry	62
Trinity of Binford	93		

**Parsonage Policy:** The Council will continue to research policies from other parishes. Individual congregational councils/session are also asked to discuss ideas for the TCM parsonage policy.

**Ratification of Interim Pastor Contract:** Pastor Thea Monson has accepted the contract from Tri-County Ministry to serve as interim pastor. Contract was based on END Synod guidelines. Motion made, seconded, and carried to ratify the contract.

**Van Policy:** A policy for use of the TCM van will be put in place, including guidelines for drivers, maximum/minimum number of passengers, and weather conditions.

**Hannaford Parsonage:** The parsonage in Hannaford is in need of roof insulation. Kathy McCracken will check with Community Action to see if there is a possibility of financial assistance. The estimate for the insulation will be given to the TCM Parsonage Committee.

## **Committees for 2011:**

Finance Committee – Paulette Gronneberg, Brian Dinger, Dale Nelson

Education, Youth and Family Committee – Cheryl Rickford, Vickie Goplen, Darla Fliflet, Missy Erickson, Iris Brandt, Amy Olson, Jo Black

Evangelism Committee – Laverne Larson, Janell Feiring

Property Committee – Harlan Sigdahl, along with a member from each church which owns a parsonage

**Staff Reports:** Pastor Jessica reported that the confirmation class year has been going very well. The class will be doing a service project at the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo on May 7. She thanked the council for their support, prayers, and leadership during this time of transition.

Pastor Thea thanked all for the welcome and for the preparation of the parsonage in McVille.

**Next meeting:** April 27

**TCM STAFF**

**Rev. Jessica Merchant.....769-2231**  
*(cell) 218-230-4479*  
*uncas16@hotmail.com*

**Rev. Thea Monson .....322-4952**  
*(cell) 218-820-7006*  
*pastorthea@yahoo.com*

**TCM Parish Administrator**

**Theresa Fiebiger .....676-2761**  
*trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

**Youth Leader**

**Darla Fliflet.....789-1613**  
*flifletfive@invisimax.com*

**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

**Faith of Hannaford .....769-2387**  
*faithl@ictc.com*

**First Presbyterian of Cooperstown**

**797-3112**  
*bthomas@invisimax.com*

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

**McVile Lutheran Church.....322-4952**  
*mcvilleparish@gondtc.com*

**Our Savior's, Kloten.....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**  
*trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

*www.tricountyministry.org*

*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 10 at Trinity in Binford**  
**5:00—7:00**

***Sponsored by Trinity WELCA***

**Bake Sale**

**Quilt sale (full size quilts down to baby quilts)**

***Faith Sunday School Dinner Theater***  
***"The Old Chisholm Trail"***

**Sunday, April 10 at Faith in Hannaford**  
**Meal & Performances at noon & 6:00**

**Directed by Darla Fliflet**

**Advance tickets only. Call Darla at 789-1613.**