



## ***From Pastor Sherri***

### **MANAGERS or LEADERS?**

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.”*

-Jeremiah 29:11-13

In 1976, I had the dream of moving to Seattle. In 1980, I had the dream of working in the Legal Profession. In 1991, I moved from Grand Forks to a suburb of Seattle in order to take a job in the Legal Department of a large software company. In order to make these dreams happen, a lot of planning, schooling, and living and dying needed to take place.

When I had achieved all my dreams — and they were not everything that I had imagined them to be — God gave me a new dream. However, instead of telling God my dreams, I had to pray for God’s dream for me. I remember the day well. Sitting on the living room floor of my apartment with my spirit and heart broken. I could not even imagine a new future for myself. I was now in the position to open my ears to what God had imagined for me.

It was never in my plans to move back to North Dakota and yet, here I am. It was never in my plans to be a pastor and yet, God has called me to minister among you, to you, and beside you. Since my one-year anniversary at Tri-County Ministry on December 2, I have both looked back on the last year and made ministry goals and plans for 2015.

Ministry Goals for 2014:

How does Tri-County operate as a Parish? (Where do I need to be and when?)

Get to know each community and ministry in that community.

How do I minister in this context long-term? (Without burning out in 2-3 years.)

Attend existing groups and meetings.

The benefit to my approach in the first year of ministry was that it utilized my learning style of getting to know the overall picture and then filling in the details afterward. I can now ask detailed questions of how we do things, why we do them that way, and who decides?

There have been some huge drawbacks to my approach, however. Without a focus on pastoral care, ongoing visitation has not been as regular as it needs to be.

*(continued on next page)*

*(MANAGERS or LEADERS continued)*

The “details” of ministry are people, relationships, and God’s life-giving word in the everyday-ness of our lives. Surely, God’s plans for us and for ministry among us include these vital ministry opportunities. “Yes, God, I am listening to you and your people to whom I have been called to serve.” And I pray for forgiveness in my shortcomings and failures over the last year.

Having said that, I read this morning that “a MANAGER is a person that is about following the rules, taking care of the status quo and keeping the existing processes going. A LEADER, on the other hand, is a person that has a vision for a reality that is different than the here and now. A leader works with others to inspire them to see other possibilities. A leader changes things and makes a difference in the world. Whether we lead in our families, neighborhoods, jobs or congregation, isn't that what God is calling us to be about for the sake of the gospel?” (ELCA Stewardship Newsletter, Jan 20, 2015)

So part of my calling is to Lead. And part of my

calling is to inspire the leadership in the congregations and ministry of Tri-County. And we will do this together by praying for God’s vision for this ministry. Council officers and council members, have you set a vision for 2015...and beyond? Do you have ministry goals and plans?

A COUNCIL TRAINING event is being held at Red Willow Bible Camp on March 14. If you have been called to council leadership in your respective congregation, please put this on your calendar and plan to be there! The event is being led and run by our Synod.

The Eastern North Dakota Synod also offers CONGREGATION MINISTRY REVIEW, where they send a team into our congregation in order to help us see where God is leading us. Are we focused on survival, or is God calling us to serve? How is God calling us? God, show us your vision for each of our ministries! We are searching for your will in our lives and seek to serve you! We pray that we will hear your voice, God, and make you known in our neighborhoods. And we do this in the name of the one who leads us to you, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Women’s Retreat coming in May

Saturday, May 2

Red Willow Bible Camp



Set aside time to be with God and a group of women in order to GROW IN OUR FAITH. Day care arrangements will be provided on the day of the retreat.

Are you interested in being on the planning team? Please let us know by **February 15**, by contacting Pastor Sherri. (contact info is on back page)

## First Communion Class

Saturday, March 28

Sites to be **determined, depending on interest.**



Open to children wanting to participate in the Lord’s Supper.

Please contact a pastor or the TCM office as soon as possible if interested, so that the locations and times can be set up.

## Lent begins February 18

During the season of Lent, we will be following sermon series both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

Starting Ash Wednesday and going through Holy Week and Easter, we will look at the parables of Jesus. Each Sunday morning's message will focus on a different theme from the stories Jesus told as ways to educate his followers. Parables have deep and profound lessons for us to learn.

- ◆ The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)
- ◆ The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- ◆ The Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23)
- ◆ The Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl (Matthew 13:44-46)
- ◆ The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- ◆ The Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- ◆ The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7)
- ◆ The Great Banquet (Luke 14:7-24)
- ◆ The Landowner and the Tenants (Matthew 21:33-45)
- ◆ The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27)

For the five Wednesday evening Lenten services at Faith, McVille and Trinity, our focus will be on Luther's Small Catechism. We will be looking at different parts of our faith tradition in connection with Luther's interpretation. We can find meaning and instruction for living daily lives.

- ◆ Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Apostles' Creed
- ◆ Ten Commandments
- ◆ Sacrament of Baptism
- ◆ Sacrament of Altar (Holy Communion)

### Ash Wednesday, February 18:

- ◆ 5:30 at Grace in Grace City and at Trinity in Binford
- ◆ 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford and at Lutheran Church of McVille

(Trinity, Faith, and McVille will have Wednesday Lenten services at those times February 25—March 25.)

Please come and join us as we deepen our faith together through reflection!



## Our Lenten Mission Project

Last year, we collected items for Baskets of Promise for Lutheran World Relief, and had an awesome response. This year, our project will be a lot closer to home, as we collect items needed by **Northlands Rescue Mission** in Grand Forks. From February 25 until Easter, you may bring an item each week to your church. In April, we'll pack everything up and take your donations to the mission. Take your pick from the items listed for each week.

### Week 1 (February 22-28) KITCHEN

- Box of macaroni or bag of rice
- Reusable salt & pepper shakers
- Metal or plastic spoons

### Week 2 (March 1-7) HYGIENE

- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Box of tissues
- Deodorant

### Week 3 (March 8-14) LINENS

- Twin size sheets
- Pillowcases
- Regular size pillow
- Bath or hand towel
- Washcloth

### Week 4 (March 15-21) CLOTHING

(new or very gently used)

- Men's white socks
- Flip flops
- Men's jeans
- Men's white or black tee shirt

### Week 5 (March 22-28) MISC.

- Laundry soap (liquid or powder)
- Word search / puzzle books
- Ziploc bags (any size)
- Duffel bag / backpack

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

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

**Elected to the Church Council?**

*"I Have Been Elected to the Church Council, Now  
What?"*

Saturday, March 14,  
10:00

**Red Willow Bible Camp**

What a great tool for LEADERS! We will not only learn what we need to be doing and how to do it, but will also take time to gather as individual councils in order to implement what we are learning. In other words, this is a WORKSHOP and not just information.

Council presidents, sign up your group today! You can do this by contacting Theresa. (676.2761 or trinitybinford@mlgc.com)

Registration deadline is **March 9.**