



From Pastor Jessica

Waiting. Tri-County Ministry is waiting once again.

Let me tell you an experience about waiting. Tuesday the 11th I waited in the Greensboro, NC airport for four hours for my flight to leave for Chicago. It wasn't the winter storm in Greensboro causing the problem; it was the snow falling in Chicago, something hundreds of miles away, totally out of my control. Eventually the flight took off and within two hours I found myself at the mid-point of my destination. It took time, but I was getting where I needed to go.

Chicago was a different story, thanks to snow. My flight that was to leave at 4:54 was now going to leave at 5:49; okay, only four hours till lift off. My next trip to the departure board showed me that now my flight was going to leave at 6:15; back to waiting. Another trip showed me the flight was delayed to 7:20. Now I was beginning to wonder if it was going to be cancelled and by 5:30 that afternoon I had my answer. The flight was cancelled. When was I going to get home?

So, I got in the customer service line and an hour later was standing before one of the attendants. He booked me on the 8:00 flight for the next morning; but he also put me on standby for the 8:05 flight that very night. Now, not only did I have to wait to see if I'd be put on that flight, but I also had to wait to see if I was going to be spending the night in the airport. Once again, along with many, I was waiting. (Folks, waiting is exhausting!)

Around 7:00 I learned that the 8:05 was delayed to 9:35. The progression of delays ensued: 10:15, 10:45, 11:28, 11:55, 12:15. Around 10:30 I learned I was cleared for this flight. Since my arrival early afternoon, I had known there would be an end to this saga. Although I didn't know when, I knew I was going to get to Fargo.

Around 12:30 our plane finally lifted off for Fargo (I'd been at the airport for almost 12 hours). Once we landed in Fargo I learned my luggage didn't land with me; the airline would take care of that. 2:30 am found me digging my car out from under four inches of snow and by 2:45 I was homeward bound. Well not quite; icy roads caused me to stay the rest of the night in Fargo. Finally Wednesday morning I pulled into my garage — home. Best birthday present ever!

Why do I tell you all of this? You might be saying, "TMI (too much information) pastor." There really is a point to all of this. We're waiting again. But waiting means that there's something coming. I knew that with all that waiting eventually I was going to get home; I wasn't sure when but I did know I would. I didn't want to wait, but there you had it — I didn't have a choice. And it wasn't an easy wait — anxiety, anticipation, boredom, delayed luggage, digging my car out — but eventually I got home. The waiting paid off.

We thought our waiting was over; we had called someone, but like that cancelled plane, it didn't work out. Like the flight the next morning, there is an end to this waiting; we're going to call someone to TCM, it's going to happen. Our waiting is not in vain. While we wait we continue in our ministry being God's children doing God's work. Through the gifts of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness, and self-control) we wait with one another as the Body of Christ and God's promises to abide and provide will be answered.

"Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" Psalm 27:14

Worship notes

McVille Lutheran has volunteered to do Wednesday evening worship services through the month of February. As the schedule stands right now, all remaining worship services for the parish will be held on Sunday mornings.

Midweek (Wednesday or Saturday) worship services will again be on the docket for March. If your church has not yet informed Pastor Jessica or Theresa of your preference for Wednesday/Saturday or no midweek service, please contact them as soon as you can.



Postponed —

The Town Hall that was scheduled to be held in Binford on January 30 has been postponed, due to scheduling conflicts at the synod office.

This discussion, which will center on the ELCA's proposed statement on genetics, will be rescheduled. A date has not yet been chosen.

Please keep an eye on your bulletin announcements or on the TCM website for more information.

Tri-County Ministry Council update

The first meeting of the TCM Council for 2011 will be held February 2 in Binford. Rev. Terry Brandt, Assistant with the Bishop of the EaND Synod, will be present to discuss the call process with the council.

A special thank you goes out to our members who have completed their terms on the TCM Council: John Leininger from Trinity in Binford, Jim Monsebroten from Lutheran Church of McVille, and Connie Eslinger from Faith in Hannaford.

You can make February 6 a Super Souper Bowl Sunday!

More than 20 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world — as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Our churches of TCM are challenged to be a part of this annual event. It can be done through your youth or as a congregational activity, and does not necessarily need to happen on February 6. Collect loose change or items for the food pantry or whatever else comes to the imagination. Choose your Souper Bowl of Caring recipient (such as a local food pantry or the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo) and become a part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. (Resources for this event are available at www.tacklehunger.org)



Last summer, Intern Trichelle set up a Facebook page for Tri-County Ministry. This page could be a valuable source of up-to-the-minute information, such as church cancellations. However, we need more people to “like” the page.

Please look for your parish's page on Facebook, (just do a search for Tri-County Ministry) and click “like” so that you may stay current on what's happening in our churches and in our parish.

February at Red Willow Bible Camp

Building Men and Men's Ministry for Christ (see accompanying article)
February 4-6

Family Fun Day and Feast
Saturday, February 19
2:00 — 8:00

Indoor and outdoor activities all afternoon.

Silent auction and bake sale

Dinner at 5:00
Music at 6:00—The Occasional Gospel Quartet

Freewill donations for camp scholarships.

Paw'tastic Sledding Day
Saturday, February 5

Please go to the camp website www.redwillowbiblecamp.org for more information, or call the camp at 676-2681.

Building Men and Men's Ministry for Christ

Red Willow Bible Camp
February 4-6, 2011

The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is for every man to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective ministry with men in every congregation. Therefore, the Lutheran Men in Mission Team of the Eastern ND and Northwestern MN Synods is sponsoring a retreat at our local camp the first weekend in February.

The registration fee of \$150 per man will cover two nights' lodging, six meals and take home resources. The retreat will be led by our synod Lutheran Men in Mission Team: Bishop Bill Rindy and the ELCA's Lutheran Men in Mission Executive Director, Doug Haugen.

Men will learn what is happening with men and their relationship with the church and how to build the congregation's ministry with men around discipleship. Those attending will go home with a concrete plan to be more effective in ministry with men in their congregation and community.

For more registration information, contact Denny Goetz at RWBC. Registrations are being accepted up to the first day of the retreat.

676-2681 or dgoetz@mlgc.com

Upcoming Youth Events

Jr/Sr High Ski Trip
February 5, Frostfire Mountain near Walhalla

Elementary Ski Trip
March 12, Fort Ransom

Rock & Worship Road Show
February 17, Grand Forks

First Communion Classes
March 5 in Binford & March 26 in Hannaford

We are ready to start organizing our group for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Fund raising will begin within the next few months.

Youth newsletters have been mailed to all our TCM students. If you did not receive one, please check out our website. All information and the registration form are available there.

TCM STAFF

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

TCM Parish Administrator

Theresa Fiebiger676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Youth Leader

Darla Fliflet.....797-2149
flifletfive@invisimax.com

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown

797-3112
bthomas@invisimax.com

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

McVille Lutheran Church.....322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

Our Savior's, Klotten.....322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

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

Trinity of Binford676-2761
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.