



From Pastor Jessica

Happy 20th Birthday, Tri-County Ministry!

It was 20 years ago that TCM was birthed. The miracle that we are is from the Spirit working in and through a diverse group of people who walk the journey of faith and service. The people who stepped out on that journey 20 years ago did so in faith; and now, 20 years later, out of our teens, we do the same. I think of our journey when I read this passage from Ecclesiastes 11: 5-6:

“Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother’s womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”

None of us can know how and where God is going to be working in us in the coming years; we can look back and see what God has done and it gives us hope and confidence in the future.

But, the future is in God’s hands. As we see from this passage, our hands cannot be idle, for we are God’s hands and feet in this world. So, we go about doing the ministry and mission of the church, trusting in the Spirit’s guidance.

People remember the wind blowing through the opening service celebrating TCM’s birth; a sign of the Spirit, many said. That same Spirit continues to move through us; but, we’re 20 years old and just like the life of a youth, that marks times of change. The Spirit remains the same; however, we do not. We are not able to remain idle and continue life as it was; things change, we change. To remain the same is to die a slow death.

As the Spirit leads us in our discernment, we will try different ways of being church, doing ministry. We trust in God who makes all things possible; moving forward, growing and maturing in faith.

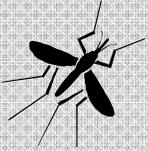
God will work in ways we are not even aware of; just as the breath comes to the bones in the mother’s womb, God breathes life into Tri-County. With this being true, we share in ministry in new ways. God will work within and through our decisions. We don’t know which will prosper, this or that, but with God, all will be good.

“O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

Mosquito Awareness

In case you didn't notice on TCM's last newsletter, there were a lot of mosquitos decorating the pages. That was intentional because we are starting a campaign to talk about malaria.

Malaria is an infectious disease transported by mosquitos in parts of the world where about half of the human population lives. It is the second-leading cause of death from infectious disease in Africa (right behind HIV/AIDS) and the fifth-leading cause of death from infectious disease across the world. Malaria kills a child every 45 seconds, even though this disease can be prevented and treated.



We are coming to your local congregation to talk about the pesky little buggers. From now until September, TCM is working to raise money to help buy nets and medicine to help prevent and treat malaria. Each net costs \$10 and one medicinal treatment costs about \$2. That's not a lot of money in the long run for us, but life-changing for those whose lives are controlled by mosquitos.

Let's raise awareness and money to help deal with this preventable disease!

WE NEED YOU!

Are you interested in providing opportunities to grow in faith and mission? Tri-County Ministry has a committee to work with the faith, education and spiritual lives of our members from the youngest to the eldest. We are looking for people interested in coordinating various faith-based activities.

This committee will be a resource and support for anyone who teaches or wants to learn more about God, the Bible and living a Christian lifestyle. Also, this committee is responsible for planning activities for our youth and adults, which could be anything from going on a mission trip to organizing projects like this summer's Mosquito Awareness project or last year's God's Global Barnyard fundraisers.

If you are interested in helping the faith and life in mission of TCM members and friends, please contact Pastor Jessica, Pastor Kara, Theresa or your TCM council member.



**Indoor Picnic Supper
Our Savior's in McHenry
July 29, 5:00—7:00**

**Fund raiser for the Our Savior's roof project
All are welcome!**

Parents of 2012-2013 confirmation students:

Please watch your mail for a postcard announcing the parent meeting. This will be the time that the schedule for the year will be gone over, as well as an opportunity for discussion and questions.

A decorative border consisting of a series of small, stylized sun icons with rays, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

**Summer Wednesday
worship**

July 11:
7:00 at Trinity in Binford
7:00 at McVile Lutheran

July 18:
7:00 at Trinity

July 25:
7:00 at Trinity
7:00 at McVile

August 1, 15, 22, & 29:
7:00 at McVile

A little more photo info:

Our photography for the TCM directory is almost complete. If you were unable to be photographed, you may call Dutton's in Valley City to set up an appointment. If you wish to submit a photo, please contact Theresa for more information.

The Duttons will be present at our parish worship on August 5 to take a final set of candid shots. If you have any photos to submit for the activity pages, please contact Theresa by July 10.

Thank you, thank you to the coordinators from each congregation who helped get everything organized for photography: Kathy McCracken, Missy Erickson, Cheryl Rickford, Betty Stabenow, Paulette Gronneberg, Jan Johnson, Mary Lou Krogh, Gayle Anderson, and Marian Hendrickson. And another set of thanks to those who assisted the coordinators on the days of photography. We couldn't be doing this whole project without you.

Update on Worship Scheduling

The Tri-County Ministry Council met on June 26. Part of the discussion related to worship scheduling for the upcoming year. Because we were not assigned an intern pastor for the coming year, and because Pastor Russ has decided to really retire, the council has been working to make seven weekly worship services possible with our two pastors on staff.

The Council adopted a six week rotation plan, where once every six weeks, a congregation will be responsible for its own service. That service may be lay led, led by a Lay Disciples, or not held on Sunday morning.

Further details will be included in the September newsletter. For now, the council wants you to be aware that change is coming. It won't be that complicated, but it will be important for you to pay attention to the monthly calendars, our website, the Sunday bulletins, Facebook, newspapers, and our blog. In other words, be alert!

Your council members continue to work to find the best ways of doing ministry within our parish. If you have ideas or comments, please speak to one of your congregation's council members, or to your TCM Council representatives. Those reps are:

- ◇ Kathy McCracken and Jo Black
- ◇ Corey Erickson and Iris Brandt
- ◇ Janell Feiring and Marvin Goplen
- ◇ Dennis Jungels and Vickie Goplen
- ◇ Paulette Gronneberg and Pat Larson
- ◇ Harlan Sigdahl and Warren Ophaug
- ◇ Amy Olson and Darrell Moon

It's not too late for camp at RWBC

Seekers

Grades K-3
July 11 & 26

Pathfinders

Grades 2-3
July 8-10

Holy Hoops Juniors

Entering grades 4-7
July 22-27

Disciples Camp

Grades 7-9
July 29-August 3

Taste of Camp

Grades 1-3 & an adult
July 8-9

Creation Camp

Grades 4-6
July 8-13

Advanced Holy Hoops

Entering grades 8-10
July 15-20

Wilderness Week

Grades 7-10
August 5-11

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

Quilt Auction — August 26 at 1:00



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

Tri-County Ministry
20th Anniversary
Parish Worship Service

Sunday, August 5
10:30 a.m.

Memorial Chapel at Red Willow Bible Camp

Pot luck dinner in the retreat center
following the service.