



# Tri-County Ministry News

*We exist to serve Christ in harmony with our member churches and communities.*

## ***Pastor Sherri's message***

***O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.***  
– Jeremiah 20:7

When I moved from North Carolina to Minneapolis a few years ago, I was sorting through some of my belongings. I asked myself the following questions: “How do I want to shape my New Life? What can I leave behind and what should I pack and take with me?” So I left my downhill skis. (which, by the way, had been sitting in the garage collecting dust since I moved them from Seattle to North Carolina!) I also left behind my golf clubs and packed my hiking boots and my rain gear to take with me.

Just like moving from one part of the country to another, our New Life in Christ requires us to leave some things behind in order to make room for other things in our lives. The things we leave behind are not necessarily bad or bad for us — as some of my ministry colleagues find great relaxation and renewal out on the golf course. But they just don't fit into how we want to shape this New Life. For example, I would rather spend time outside walking my dog, Cocoa, than leaving her at home while I walk on a golf course. Both are outdoor activities. Both are moderate exercise. Both are done in the company of others. This leaving behind and shedding process continues throughout our lives.

A few days ago, I gave away some outdoor clothing from one of my many former activities. The person who received it smiled as she bounced to her car with the item in her hand. I turned to the person next to me and explained that I had a knot in my stomach. The sick feeling in my stomach was not because I was so attached to the item, but was because it represented something from my past which I had to leave behind. The person next to me instantly broke out in song and waved her arms in the air while she sang the words, “Let it go... Let it go...” The song and dance was from a movie that she had recently seen. I waved good-bye and went into the house to retrieve some items out of my clothes dryer. I pulled out my freshly-laundered worship alb and hung it on a hanger. As I arranged the alb on the hanger, it was as if God reminded me (at that moment!) why I had shed some of the parts and activities of my old life so that God could make room for my New Life in Christ.

What do you gladly leave behind and to what do you grasp tightly? What activities do we have to let go as our bodies go through the natural process of aging? What do we need to make room for in this New Life in Christ? To what do we need to cling?

*Good and gracious God, I pray for each and every one of us as we continue to die to the old things in order to make room for this New Life that you offer to us through Christ Jesus. Amen.*

# Dig into the Bible!



Summer 2014 has a slight twist to our summer worship: Summer Sermon Series!

June (and early July) was all about digging into the story of Ruth.

On July 13th, we will start looking at the Wisdom literature in the Bible. We will be reading and reflecting upon different parts of the Wisdom books (specifically four selections from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes). Wisdom literature is full of wisdom (shocking, right?) and we will be learning a bit more about how important Wisdom is to our lives as faithful people of God.

Then on August 10th, when we gather as a parish at Red Willow Bible Camp, we will focus on Spiritual Gifts. In the New Testament (primarily in Paul's letters), we hear how we are encouraged to embrace the unique gifts we each possess that are essential for the whole community of God's people. As people of faith, we all have been equipped with gifts or talents by the Spirit, so we will take time to reflect upon the gifts that we have been given and called to use for the glory of God and the betterment of the world.

Come join us this summer as we dig into the Bible through our Sermon Series!

And finally, give the pastors your feedback. Should we dig into the Bible again next summer?

## Tuesday Morning Text Study

9:00

### Trinity in Binford

Discussion of the text for the coming Sunday. Goes along with our "Dig into the Bible" summer series.

The text studies continue through July. Then there will be discussion on continuing the weekly study.

**All are welcome.** Come when you can.

### ***Our summer mission project***

Our Sunday bulletins this summer are including a little information about Lutheran Social Services. These blurbs help us remember our special fund raiser for the summer to benefit LSS.

We ran out of the m&m containers for your quarters,



but you can still bring your loose change or cash to the church, or you may just give a check to your church for LSS. The fund raiser continues until September.

**Tri-County Ministry's  
Family Roller Skating  
Evening**

**Saturday, July 12**

**7:00**

**Red Willow Resort**

Come on out and  
spend the evening in  
the pavilion.

(No rollerblades,  
please.)

Skates to rent, or bring your own.

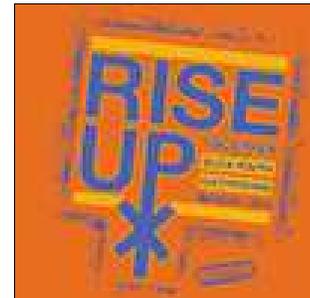


## **ELCA Youth Gathering**

**July 15-19, 2015**

It's time to start signing up with our TCM group! All students going into grades 8-12 are eligible to attend this Gathering in Detroit next summer.

Please contact a staff member to either sign up for the event or to get more information. [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering)



## **“God’s work. Our hands.”**

**Sunday, September 7**

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On Sunday, September 7, the nearly 10,000 congregations of this church gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people.

*“When one congregation or a group of congregations gather for service in their local communities, they are the church in that place, taking care of that part of God’s vineyard. But this is all work that we do together. When one congregation works to feed people who are hungry, that is also the entire church coming together,”* says ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

How will our ELCA congregations be participating?

## **Worship time alerts**



**Faith:**

**10:30 Community Worship  
Service at Faith on July 6**

**First Presbyterian:**

**9:45 all Sundays in August**

**Trinity:**

**7:00 Wednesdays July 9, 16, 23,  
30 (no Sunday services in July)  
Community worship service on  
August 3. Worship at RWBC on  
August 24.**

**Lutheran Church of McVile:**

**7:00 Wednesday evenings in July  
& August  
9:30 Worship in the Park July 20**

**Grace:**

**8:30 on August 3**

***Have you signed up for camp yet?***

**Here's what's happening the rest of the summer at Red Willow Bible Camp.**

**Taste of Camp**

Grades 1-3  
July 6-7

**Seekers**

Grades K-3  
July 15 & 22

**Pathfinders**

Entering grades 2-3  
July 6-8

**Disciples Camp**

Entering Grades 7-9  
July 27-August 1

**Creation Camp**

Entering grades 4-6  
July 6-11

**Wilderness Week**

Entering grades 8-12  
August 3-8

**Quilters' Appreciation Supper**

Thursday, August 14  
6:00 at the camp  
Speaker — Shelly Zimprich

**Quilt Auction**

Sunday, August 24  
10:00 Worship in the chapel  
11:00-12:30 Buffet lunch  
1:00 Auction in the chapel

***Red Willow Bible Camp's 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](http://www.redwillowbiblecamp.org)***



**Time away, yet close to home . . .**

In June, I spent a week at Red Willow Bible Camp as the Pastor of the Week along with 10 high school campers. This was the first time I spent time during summer at RWBC and I loved it! I had a great time kayaking, hiking, talking, napping, eating, playing and worshipping.

One of the biggest blessings about camp is the chance to get away. To get away from the typical schedules full of meetings or long trips in the car. To get away from the familiar dwelling place and reliance upon technology. To simply get away and take a break while surrounded by God's beautiful creation. To get away, meet new friends and have meaningful conversations with wonderful people who keep themselves wide open for God to speak and be heard.

And yet I was close to home. McVille and RWBC are not even 20 miles apart, yet can seem hours apart. I was close enough to get back if needed and yet I was able to experience different parts of the camp, Red Willow Lake, and the Sheyenne River.

If you have never been to a Bible camp, please think about it. I know that RWBC is geared for kids, but many camps have places for adults and families to enjoy God's creation with time set apart for worship and Bible study.

Pastor Kara



# ***TCM Council highlights — June 16***

## **Fund Raisers in the parish**

**Faith Lutheran Church** during Hannaford Days:

**Silent Auction** starting at 11 am Friday, July 4th and ending at 1:30 pm on Saturday, July 5th. Some of the items: quilts, memorabilia, stained glass, homemade wine, gift baskets, and doll clothes.

### **Daily Lunches:**

- ◆ Friday, July 4: Hamburgers and Hot dogs, chips, baked beans, fresh fruit and brownie sundaes
- ◆ Saturday, July 5: Ham, Turkey and Egg Salad Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, chips, fresh fruit and angel food cake with rhubarb or strawberries
- ◆ Sunday, July 4: 10:30 All Faith Service at Faith with a lunch following from 12 noon until 1:30 pm. BBQs, fruit, pasta and potato salads and cookies. Sunday's lunch is a free will offering.

## **Our Savior's in McHenry**

### **Sunday, August 3**

Worship at 5:00

Social at 6:00

Indoor Picnic at 6:30 — hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, ice cream

Silent Pie Auction 6:00-6:45



**Parish Worship:** Annual TCM worship service will be held August 10 at Red Willow Bible Camp. Coffee hour at 9:45; worship at 10:30.

Each church will provide one dozen baked goods for coffee hour; will also have one person from each church participating in the worship.

Service will include recognition of new members of the congregations of the parish. McVille praise band will be asked to provide the music.

Offering will go back to individual congregations.

**Parsonage Policy:** Discussion of payouts from Parsonage Fund, or paying a rental fee on each parsonage. Other multi-point parishes will be contacted to see how they pay parsonage expenses.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** Monday, August 11, 8:00 a.m. at Trinity

**Items for discussion:** Parsonage policy , budgeting process

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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  
PARISH WORSHIP**

**Sunday, August 10**

**Coffee hour at 9:45**  
**Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

**Memorial Chapel at Red Willow Bible Camp**

Service will include New Member Recognition and the dedication of quilts and other items being donated by our churches and members for the RWBC quilt auction.