



## ***From Pastor Sherri***

*“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God...” -1 Peter 3:18a*

In watching the events in the news of this week unfold, I want to block it out. I want to turn off the TV and computer and focus on something else. I want to focus on anything besides more shootings of innocent victims sitting in a church studying God’s Word together. People of faith... Nine African Americans... Brothers and sisters in Christ. But I cannot ignore what has happened. I cannot pretend that the incident has nothing to do with the congregations in which I serve here in rural North Dakota.

Presiding ELCA Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, brings it home for me and puts it in front of my face with some comments over email. “Mother Emmanuel AME’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emmanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.”

Bishop Eaton goes on to say, “The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow—the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME Church—and he was wounded for our transgressions—the deadly sin of racism.” (Rev. Eaton Letter, June 18, 2015)

The only words and ideas to which I can cling are in the theology of the cross. The idea to which we cling is that God meets us in this cross. Here God makes God-self present in weakness, vulnerability, suffering, in the forsaken and in the dying. In the midst of despair and deepest darkness, God comes. In our loneliness and brokenness, God encounters us. God’s Holy Spirit is our Comforter and our Counselor. We lay our pain and sorrow at the foot of the cross. We lay our questions out before God in a Psalm of lament. This time, it is a lament of a community and a country of believers saying, “Why, God...why?”

(“From Pastor Sherri” continued on page 2)

## TCM's summer mission project beginning

One of the most important things we need in order to live is water. Unfortunately, many people across the world don't have access to clean water. They don't have clean water for drinking, washing dishes, cooking, laundry, bathing, and all the other activities we take for granted as vital parts of being healthy. Some must travel miles from their homes to get to the nearest water source, and that is not guaranteed to be free of disease and parasites.



This summer, we are asking you to help sponsor clean water. Any money collected will go towards mission projects like digging wells, providing water jugs, establishing ways to purify water, or building systems to get water to homes.

For more information, check out these websites:  
<https://community.elca.org/GoodGifts-Water>  
<https://presbyteriangifts.org/gifts/?category=water>

From the first of July through September 13, our members and friends will have the opportunity to give. Some kind of a bank (or maybe the old m & m containers) will be distributed for your donations.

Please consider donating to a worthy cause. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could raise enough to help hundreds of people gain access to clean water?

### **Summer sermon series**

July 12—August 2: The Creeds

August 9-30: The book of Hebrews

*From Pastor Sherri continued*

We get honest before God and lay our questions at that same foot of the cross. We lay our own sins at the foot of the cross. Only then, can we be in a position of healing. Only then, can we admit our own guilt in this national sin of racism. Only then, is there hope for us.

Bishop Eaton calls us to a day of repentance and mourning. "And we have work to do. We need to talk and we need to listen. But we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray—for insight, for forgiveness, and for courage." (Eaton, Letter dated June 18, 2015)

It is time for us to speak out and for us to act. As followers of Jesus, we follow him to the cross. We carry with us the hope that through Jesus Christ, we have been gifted with the Holy Spirit to change the world around us. But, we start with our own selves. Good and gracious God make us doers of the Word and not hearers only. Amen.

## RWBC Quilt Auction on August 23

- 9:00 Retreat Center opens for quilt viewing; silent auction begins
- 10:00 Worship with the MOOS Band
- 11:00 Buffet lunch
- 12:30 Silent Auction at retreat center closes
- 1:00 Live auction begins
- 2:30 Silent Auction in the chapel closes
- 3:00 Drawing for raffle quilts

Don't forget the quilters' appreciation banquet on Thursday, August 13. 6:00 meal, followed by trunk show by Faye's Henhouse quilt shop from Mayville.



## Dakota Sun Gardens Tour Tuesday, July 14

Dakota Sun Gardens is located between Carrington and Grace City, at the home of Bruce and Merleen Gussiaas (955 73rd Ave. NE, Carrington)

Meet at the gardens at 4:30 for a tour of the beautiful gardens along with a sampling of the wines produced from fruit grown on the property.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served. A fee will be charged at the gardens for the tour. (\$10 and possibly a little extra for the hor d'oeuvres))

Rides are available but you must call or e-mail the TCM office by Friday, July 10. (676-2761 or trinitybinford@mlgc.com. Please leave a message on answering machine if phoning.)

This is going to be a fun outing! If you haven't visited Dakota Sun Gardens yet, you are in for a treat.

### Worship time alerts (July)

#### *First Presbyterian*

- ♦ 9:45 July 5, 12, 19

#### *Our Savior's of Kloten, Grace, and Faith*

- ♦ No service on July 5

#### *Trinity*

- ♦ 7:00 Wednesday evenings in July, no Sundays

#### *Lutheran Church of McVillie*

- ♦ 7:00 Wednesday evenings in July and August



### *Some odds and ends*

June 19 was the 4th anniversary of Pastor Kara's ordination.

September 13 is God's Work Our Hands Sunday. It's not too early to start making plans.



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

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## Tri-County Ministry Worship

Sunday, August 2

Red Willow Bible Camp Chapel

9:45am Fellowship

10:30am Worship

Potluck picnic to follow at the home of Marvin and Vickie Goplen (cabin next to the Red Willow Resort Cafe) Burgers and Hot Dogs provided by Goplens; bring a dish to share.

Pontoon rides will be available following lunch.

Dessert and Coffee will be served at the home of Becky and Denny Goetz (log house next to the Bible Camp).