



From the Pastor

“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters...Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near...” ~Isaiah 55: 1a, 6

The other day I was sitting out in the back yard working on my upcoming sermon. My meditation was disrupted by twittering and much noise coming from under one of the pine trees. I looked up to find a fledgling harassing his/her parent for food. You’ve seen them this time of year, haven’t you? Little fledglings harassing the parent, skipping around after them on the ground, beating their wings, and making enough racket to bring down the house. They are determined little birds and don’t give up – the parent would hop away, and “junior” hopped right after not letting up on vocalizing the need to be fed. The parent was constantly followed, either on the ground or into the trees. All the while “junior” kept seeking to be fed. It made me wonder – what are those things in our lives that we go after with such fervor as that little fledgling? Is there anything that we pursue as relentlessly? What do we scramble after; what is so important to us that we’ll pursue it with stubborn persistence?

I’ve seen people sacrifice family so that they can earn enough money to take care of said family. I’ve seen people go after prestige and power with an ambition that would make any Wall Street banker proud. What is it that we pursue in our lives?

Well, there I was reading Scripture and thinking about God, faith, how the living word of God speaks to me now and it hit me...do we (do I) pursue God with the same fervor as that little fledgling pursues his/her parent? Do I seek God just as enthusiastically? Do I yearn to be fed like my life depended on it?

That’s the truth of the matter – if that fledgling doesn’t go after the parent to be fed he/she will die. All that we pursue here is a temporary and perishable; do we pursue that which is eternal and imperishable - *“For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* Romans 14: 17

When we look at what takes up our time, our energy, our focus, there are some questions we could ask ourselves: Are we seeking God’s Kingdom first, or our own? How am I being fed; for now or for all eternity? Who, or what, am I relying on to feed me? Am I pursuing God as hard and fast as I pursue my own wants?

I’m not saying it’s wrong to want things or to go after them. What I am asking us to do is see if we put as much energy into pursuing God as we do those other things we go after.

What I realized sitting there that evening was that my pursuit of God, my yearning for God, to be fed by God, should be just like that little’s fledglings pursuit of the parent - my life depends on it.

“But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, ‘Great is the LORD!’ As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.” ~Psalm 40: 16-17

Shalom,

Pastor Jessica

Internship News

An Intern Committee has now been established, with representatives from most of the congregations in the parish. Members of this committee are:

Gwen Hoverson, Mabel	Helene Fossum, Trinity Cooperstown
Dick Hanson, Our Savior's Kloten	Denny Thomas, First Presbyterian
Jason Vollmer, Our Saviors McHenry	Eunice Munson, Grace
Pam Adrian, Trinity Binford	Amy Olson, McVile Lutheran

The committee will be working this summer to be sure the Cooperstown parsonage is fully furnished before our intern (Trichelle Kirchenwitz) arrives to begin work on September 1. The committee will also be arranging for Sunday coffee hours at each congregation to welcome Trichelle and to give an opportunity for her to greet the people of the parish. They will also give the people of the parish an opportunity to greet her.

As we prepare for Trichelle's arrival, it's a good time to remind ourselves that she will NOT be another staff person: she is a STUDENT here, working to learn something of what it means to be a pastor. This means that in bringing an intern into our midst, all of us here are answering a call from God to be teachers. Each one of us has something to offer her in her education.

This is also a good time for all of us to remember that this parish is large and complex. There will be many new faces and names to become familiar with; there will be nine sets of councils or sessions, committees, goals, budgets, worship styles—plus the Tri-County council and its committees and budget and meeting style. Let's all go out of our way to help her get oriented and feel at home! Let's all be sure to introduce ourselves by name each time we meet her in church, in the grocery store, in a meeting, etc., while she works to learn our names.

Wednesday Evening Worship Services

A couple of our churches are having Wednesday worship services this summer to replace Sunday morning services. If Sunday mornings don't always work for you, feel free to join these congregations on a Wednesday.

July 1 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford
(no service at Faith on Sunday, July 5)

July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 7:30 at McVile
(no services at McVile Lutheran on July 5, 12, and 26).
Community Worship in the McVile Park on Sunday, July
19 at 10:00.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE available

Tri-County Ministry has the Lutheran Study Bible available for purchase. Cost is \$23 (for the paperback version). Please contact Theresa at the Binford office.



If you would prefer the hardcover version, also please contact Theresa. Cost would be just under \$30 if we receive at least 10 orders.

“Who are you helping?”

In my message for Mother's Day this year, I talked about Dr. Rollie Martinson, Dean of Luther Seminary. Martinson, who earlier at Luther taught youth ministry, wanted to know what would keep young people involved in church. In his research, Martinson says that usually five or more people are involved in the life of an active young person in church. During the sermon time, I asked folks if they would share some of the people that influenced them to be active in church.

Yes, on Mother's Day, many mentioned their mother had been influential in the faith life. Folks also mentioned their fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, spouses, Sunday school teachers, school teachers and certain neighbors as influences in their faith lives. All of these folks that had helped them in their faith journey were remembered in fondness.

I quickly turned this joyful time into a time of silence when I asked, "Who are you helping in their faith journey?" The writer of the gospel of Luke tells us that if we receive, we are responsible to also give:

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. ~Luke 12:48b(NIV)

May we seek out God's still small voice and hear God's leading!

~Pastor Marli Danielson

Healing Services

**Sunday evenings, July 26 &
August 23**

8:00 p.m.

Trinity in Cooperstown

***For all the people of our
communities***



***Watch for bulletin
announcements and
posters in your church
regarding a TCM outing
to a summer play!***

Picnic in the Park

Sunday, July 19

McVille Park

11:00—1:00

(following the 10:00 Community Worship)

Served by Our Savior's of rural Kloten

Everyone Welcome!

SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

20 Mile Bicycle Trip

Tuesdays: July 21st, July 28th

Bike from home of Darla Fliflet to Hannaford, swim at creek, lunch at creek (food provided)



Hike The Hills and Overnight Campout Event

Sunday, July 19th

Hike and explore the Sheyenne river hills, camp out in tents



“Mission in Minneapolis” Youth Service Trip

August 2-5 (Sunday-Wednesday)

Serve meals at the “Marie Sandvik Center” homeless shelter, accompany less fortunate children on a field trip to the zoo, a local water park, and plan bible school for them.

Free time includes a day at Valley Fair.

Registration deadline for this trip is Wednesday, July 15.



If you need a youth newsletter / registration form, please contact Theresa Fiebiger or Darla Fliflet.

The rest of the summer at Red Willow Bible Camp

Seekers — Grades K-3

July 15

Holy Hoops

July 19-23 (grades 4-6)

July 26-31 (grades 7-9)

Pathfinders Camp — Grades 2-3

July 20-22

Swimming Lessons

Pre-K — Grade 3

August 10-14

Creation Camp — Grades 4-6

July 12-17

Friends of RW Supper

Thursday, July 23

6:30 p.m.

Disciples Camp — Grades 7-9

July 5-10

August 2-7

Quilters Appreciation Supper

Tuesday, August 25

6:00 p.m.

Hands & Feet — Grades 7-12

July 12-17

July 19-23

Quilt and Fine Arts Auction

Saturday, September 12



For more information on all camps, check out the summer brochure or go to the camp's website. And remember that our churches offer financial assistance to help all our young members experience Red Willow Bible Camp!

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org

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nine times per year: January, February,
March, April, June, August, September,
October, and November.

Tri-County Ministry Parish Worship

***Sunday Evening, August 9
7:00 p.m.***

Red Willow Bible Camp Chapel

An informal service of praise and worship

***Come an hour or two early and enjoy these
opportunities:***

***Walk to the Cross
Faith Walk (nature trail)
Observation tower
Hiking trails
Relaxing on the deck
Pontoon rides***