



## ***From our intern***

*“Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:27)*

I came to love Philippians in my first years at seminary. This is a letter that Paul wrote to the community at Philippi, a community he loved deeply. Throughout the letter, Paul gives thanks to God for this community. He writes this letter to urge them to continue standing firm in the gospel. He warns them against being led astray by false prophets. It is an important message for any generation to hold fast to.

But Paul’s letter to the Philippians comes to mind for me because of a different reason. The church at Philippi was the first Christian church in Europe, and Paul established it. When Paul thinks of the Philippians his heart overflows with love for them. The Philippians are a point of joy for Paul in a ministry that was often marked by frustrations and challenges.

It is incomprehensible to me that almost a year has gone by and I will soon be saying good-bye to all of you. When Kent and I came here last September, we had no idea what to expect. I hoped that I would enjoy it and I knew I would learn more about myself and about what it means to be in ministry. What I didn’t count on was how quickly you would all work your way into my heart. I have been humbled at the way you let me walk beside you in times of incredible joy and times of inexplicable pain. You have welcomed me into your homes and into your lives. I am amazed at the abundant gift God has given to me, through all of you.

I have indeed learned a lot. You have a remarkable staff. They work well together and they are honest and open with each other. You are truly blessed to have them working with you.

Each of the congregations in this parish has contributed to my growth as a future pastor. I have been given opportunities as an intern I would not have had at other internship sites. Each congregation has been gracious and welcoming as we have worked together in ministry this year.

Our time together has not been all rose petals and fairy dust. This parish has been challenged in the past year by many transitions. But you remain committed to each other and to working together to accomplish God’s mission in the world. I pray that dedication continues and trust that it will.

As Paul was deeply impacted by his first congregation at Philippi, so have I been moved by all of you. Whenever I hear about you or think about you, my heart will overflow with love and gratitude for this parish and its people.

God has truly blessed Kent and me through your ministry to us as an intern and intern’s spouse. Thanks be to God for all the blessings we receive.

In Christ,

Intern Trichelle

## Go the extra mile



The Test Kitchen (TCM's Young Adult Group) will be holding an Extra Mile Challenge. In this challenge, we are encouraging each congregation in the parish to participate in a friendly competition to give more money to mission.

During the weeks from June 27<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, each congregation member will be asked to give above and beyond regular offerings to the challenge. Each congregation will choose which mission to support. We will have weekly updates as to which congregation is ahead (based upon a percentage figured as money given versus number of confirmed members).

At the end of the challenge, the Test Kitchen will host and provide a pie social for the "winning" congregation. God has blessed each of the congregations in order that we might be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:2), and we look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit moves throughout Tri-County parish to provide for mission efforts!

## Wednesday night worship opportunities

Some of our congregations are having Wednesday evening worship services in addition to or in place of Sunday morning services this summer.

### Wednesday, June 30

- ◆ 7:00 at Our Savior's in McHenry
- ◆ 7:00 at the park in Hannaford (polka and gospel music with the Helmers)
- ◆ 7:30 at Trinity in Cooperstown

### Wednesday, July 7

- ◆ 7:00 at Our Savior's in McHenry
- ◆ 7:30 at Lutheran Church of McVile

### Wednesdays, July 14, 21, & 28

- ◆ 7:30 at Lutheran Church of McVile

## Events for our jr/sr high youth this summer

### Canoe and Overnight Camping

Sunday, July 18 — Monday, July 19

Meet at RWBC at 3:00. Canoe on Sheyenne River, camp out at RWBC.

Register by July 12.

### Dash to Duluth

Hiking and Mission work

August 5-8

Hike along Lake Superior and the North Shore area, work in a community garden and homeless shelter in Duluth.

Register by July 30

### Hands and Feet Day at RWBC

Wednesday, August 17

Service projects at Red Willow Bible Camp

Register by August 12



Information on all events is in the hot pink youth newsletter that was mailed out in May,

and also at

[www.tricountyministry.org](http://www.tricountyministry.org).

# July & August at Red Willow Bible Camp

## Seekers

July 16  
Entering grades K-3

## Pathfinders

July 28-30  
Entering grades 2-4

## Creation Camp

July 11-16  
Entering grades 4-6

## Holy Hoops

July 18-23  
Entering grades 4-7  
July 25-30  
Entering grades 8-11

## Outback Challenge

July 11-15  
Entering grades 7-9

## Disciples Camp

August 1-6  
Entering grades 7-9

## Hands and Feet

Schedule with the camp  
Entering grades 7-12

## Discovery Camp Volunteer

July 6-9  
Entering grade 10—Adult

## Friends of Red Willow Banquet

August 12

## Quilters Appreciation Supper

August 25

Mark  
September 11  
on your calendar  
for the annual  
Quilt Auction!



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)

## Jump Starts & Tune Ups

### Best Practices for Conducting Fall Stewardship

August 14, 2010 10:30—3:00  
Climax Lutheran in Climax, MN

- ♦ For congregations needing a jump start in planning their fall stewardship
- ♦ For congregations in the planning process but needing a tune up before fall

Minimum of three people from a congregation must attend. \$30 per congregation. Register with synod office by August 6.

(Registration form available at TCM office in Binford.)

Sponsored by END and NW MN Synods.

## Task Force update

The TCM Task Force has been meeting to brainstorm about future options for Tri-County Ministry. They are looking at different possibilities for staffing, scheduling, and budgeting.

If you have any ideas that you would like to share with this task force, feel free to contact any one of them. They will be meeting next on July 6.

The members of our task force are:

Connie Eslinger  
Rita Jungels  
Rob Loe  
Bob Delfs  
Gilbert Black

The task force would greatly appreciate hearing from you!

## Do you have something for our website?

Anyone having calendar dates, news, or pictures that could be posted on the Tri-County Ministry website is asked to e-mail them to the parish office in Binford. From there, Theresa will either post them on the site or forward them to the webmaster to be posted.

# TCM Council Highlights — June 3 Meeting

## STAFF REPORTS:

- **Pastor Jessica** will be on vacation June 21-July 5.
  - **Intern Trichelle** will be on vacation June 11-18.
- The Test Kitchen (young adult group) is organizing the Extra Mile Challenge in the TCM congregations; the challenge will begin June 27.
- **Pastor Marli** lifted up Borghild Haven and Helen Rickford; both women, in their late 90s, have passed away in the last couple of months. Confirmation at Trinity in Binford will be held on June 20. Marli also showed the council the Faith Chests which are given to children baptized at Trinity in Binford.

## CONGREGATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Lutheran Church of McVile:** They are now using the ELW hymnal. WELCA hosted their annual Salad Supper in May.
- **Trinity of Binford:** Hosted the Memorial Day program in Binford.
- **First Presbyterian:** Had one high school graduate this year.
- **Mabel:** Is sponsoring a benefit for Beth Stokka on June 13.
- **Trinity of Cooperstown:** WELCA held their annual Dessert Social in May; service of confirmation on May 9; will have Vacation Bible School June 9-11.
- **Faith:** Held a bake sale and luncheon in conjunction with Hannaford's tractor pull; had confirmation in May; will hold some Wednesday night worship services this summer.
- **Our Savior's of McHenry:** Held a celebration of life for John Aarestad; is planning two Wednesday night worship services this summer.

## BUSINESS:

**Hannaford Parsonage:** Property Committee will meet to discuss the repairs to the roof and doors for the Hannaford parsonage.

**2010 Budget:** The Executive Committee recommended that the Intern Program line item in the TCM 2010 budget be decreased by \$15,000. This decrease is made possible because TCM will not have an intern for the 2010-2011 school year, and also because the program is running under budget.

Decrease would go into effect July 1, 2010. Per member assessment would be decreased to \$175 per member, with the base rate of \$100 per Sunday remaining the same.

**Cooperstown Trinity Proposal:** Representatives of Trinity Cooperstown requested that the TCM Council make adjustments to the TCM 2010 budget for their interim period. Specific requests were not made. Executive Committees of Cooper Trinity and Tri-County Ministry met with Bishop Rindy on June 1. Bishop Rindy outlined three possible steps to be included in the transition period: Bishop would meet with the TCM pastors, Bishop would meet with Cooperstown Trinity's interim pastor and the TCM pastors, and the Bishop would meet with Cooperstown Trinity's interim pastor and the TCM pastors again at the end of 2010.

Motion carried stating that Cooperstown Trinity not pay the base rate of \$100 per Sunday from September 1 through December 31 of 2010.

**TCM Task Force:** Connie reported that the task force will meet on June 9. They plan to have three proposals in place by September 1. These proposals would cover staffing, budgeting, scheduling, and any other items necessary.

## Assignments to TCM Council Standing Committees:

*Finance Committee* – Iris Johnson, Jo Black, Dale Nelson, Connie Eslinger, Jim Dramstad, Paul Motter

*Property Committee* – John Leininger, Jim Monsebroten, Brian Haugen (non-council member)

*Education, Youth, and Family* – Darla Fliflet, Cheryl Rickford, Sherri Johnson, Kathy McCracken, Missy Erickson

*Evangelism* – Laverne Larson, Les Winning, Phyllis Ratcliffe, Brian Dinger, Harlan Sigdahl

## SUMMER MEETING DATES:

Wednesday, June 23

Thursday, July 22

Wednesday, August 25

# Lutheran / Presbyterian Q & A

A wonderful part of Tri-County Ministry is that we are an ecumenical parish. Our fellowship of Presbyterians and Lutherans is a witness that the Body of Christ is greater than our individual denominations. In the effort for us to know who we are better and to get to know each other better, there will be a series of questions and answers regarding our two denominations. These questions and answers come from Martin Marty's *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith* and Donald McKim's *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*. The answers given are a distillation of the full answers found in the books.

*What do we mean by "Reformed" church or "Reformed Theology"?*

"Reformed" is a term that emerged during the Protestant Reformation in the 1500's; this was a movement that came out of the questioning of certain practices within the Catholic church. Two of the reformers were Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin; their movement became known as the Reformed tradition. "The term came from a comment by Queen Elizabeth I...that the followers of Zwingli and Calvin in England were more 'reformed' than the Lutherans in that they wanted a more thoroughgoing reform of worship practices based on their understanding of the Bible." (McKim, 4)

The theological beliefs of these early Reformed theologians are called "Reformed theology". This theology is "marked by a recognition that Christian faith needs constantly to be articulated and confessed." (McKim, 4) Theological statements are, at best 'approximations'; Reformed theology "seeks to do careful theology so that Reformed churches will have ways of understanding and proclaiming the Christian faith that can speak meaningfully and compellingly to contemporary people in various cultures." (McKim, 4)

*What do we mean by a "Lutheran" Church or "Lutheran" Theology?*

The Lutheran church call itself evangelical because it preaches the gospel (evangel); it professes creeds that identify them with the "one holy, catholic, and apostolic" church.

The churches' Confessions were written between 1530 - 1580. These Confessions "are designed less to say, 'This you must believe!' and more to indicate, 'This is what we believe, this is who we are, this is your key to understanding us.'" (Marty, 15) There are certain lenses by which Lutherans interpret scripture and stress special aspects of faith; the main accents are Scripture alone, grace alone, and faith alone. Everything else flows from these themes; interpretation of reality is always done in light of these commitments.

*Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* is published by Geneva Press ([www.genevapress.com](http://www.genevapress.com)).  
*Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers* is published by Augsburg Books ([www.augsburgbooks.com](http://www.augsburgbooks.com))

(Compiled by Pastor Jessica)

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March, April, June, August, September,  
October, and November.

**Tri-County Ministry  
Parish Worship**

**Sunday morning, August 22  
10:30 a.m.**

**Memorial Chapel  
Red Willow Bible Camp**

**Worship will be followed by a meal  
and a farewell for Intern Trichelle.**