



## ***From our pastor***

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life..."*

Over the last couple weeks and months, I've been wondering what comes next. We all face such decisions. I have no big, major plans to move or anything on that scale, but I do worry about smaller stuff that pertains to either my role as pastor or my interests: should I take classes to learn more about psychology and counseling? Should I learn how to hand quilt? Should I learn how to fix a fence? Should I enlarge a picture to hang on a wall? (Hint: I think the answer to all these is yes.)

*"Look at the birds of the air..."*

We have a tendency to focus on different aspects of our lives. Some of us dwell in the past, living with the "what ifs" and "remember whens" while others focus on the future with the unknown paths we will take. But we all worry: about being safe and avoiding violence, about having enough food and shelter, about others' judgments, that there is not enough time to accomplish all that we want, or about our loved ones.

*"Consider the lilies of the fields..."*

As children of God, we are all encouraged to turn our worries and burdens over to God. However, I find that far too often, the concerns linger and taint the joy we can find in the reassurance that God gives when Jesus tells us that God will provide for all our needs. I love the passage in Matthew where Jesus tells us to stop worrying. Life is not about food or clothing, it is not about the work that consumes our daily lives, but it is about choosing to live out a life that God desires for each of us. Life is about striving to be part of God's kingdom, to be focused on God and not be consumed by our desires.

*"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own..."*

As we begin the season of Lent, may you take these 40 days to reflect upon how God is active in your own life and how God provides all that you need in abundance. We asked you to contribute your favorite verses and explain their significance. Our devotional this year is to look at how God's words matter to each of us, how the same words can sound different depending our own experience and yet how God's love for us rings out loud and clear no matter the words.

*"Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:25-34*

May you be able to find the balance in your life where you live without being consumed by worry, you feel the Spirit dwelling in you, and you know that God provides for you just as God provides for animals and plants.

Peace,  
Pastor Kara

## Wednesday and Sunday series for our worship this Lent

*Making Change* is our midweek Lenten series for 2014. Change is a constant in our lives. Some changes mark gradual transitions, while others happen in the blink of an eye. We choose some changes, while others are forced upon us.

We'll look at five different changes that we experience: Change of season, change of habit, change of circumstances, change of heart, and change of plans.

*By My Hand for My Sake* will be our theme for the Sunday services all the way through Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Each service will focus on a specific Biblical person: Adam and Eve, Nicodemus, Judas, Barabbas, Pilate, the thief's father, Peter, the centurion, and Mary Madgalene.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Services of Holy Communion will be held in four locations:

- ◆ 5:30 at Trinity in Binford and Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford and Lutheran Church of McVille

Services will be held in three churches for the five Wednesdays beginning March 12:

- ◆ 5:30 at Trinity
- ◆ 7:00 at Faith and McVille

The Holy Week and Easter Sunday schedule will be in the next newsletter.

Our Lenten devotional booklet will be available the first of March. You may read it on the website or on Facebook, or you may pick up a copy in your church. Thank you to all who contributed to the booklet!

## Let's fill some Baskets of Promise

The staff of Tri-County Ministry needs your help! They have decided to participate in Lutheran World Relief's *Basket of Promise* appeal. But they can't do it without you. They are hoping to assemble at least 100 personal care kits after Easter.

LWR is especially reaching out to the families affected by the typhoon in the Philippines. The items in the personal care kit will allow people who have lost their belongings to stay healthy and clean and preserve personal dignity.

Each Sunday, you will have the opportunity to donate the following items:

- ◆ March 9 — bars of soap (4 to 5 oz, any brand, in original wrapping)
- ◆ March 16 — bath towels (light-weight, maximum 52"x27", dark color recommended)
- ◆ March 23 — toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- ◆ March 30 — combs
- ◆ April 6 — nail clippers (metal, attached file optional)
- ◆ April 13 — bars of soap

Look for a collection basket at the back of your church during Lent.

## Worship time alerts

*Our Savior's of Kloten:*  
No services until April



*Trinity:*

9:45 on March 9  
8:30 on March 30

*Please watch your weekly bulletin announcements and newspapers in case changes in the scheduling need to be made.*



**Confirmation Retreat**

**March 7-8**

**Red Willow Bible Camp**

The confirmation students in Tri-County Ministry will be attending, along with Pastors Sherri and Kara.

## First Communion class offered

**Saturday, March 29**, is the date that has been set aside for our First Communion class. The class will be scheduled for the morning.

This class is open to all children who wish to participate in communion. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the class along with the children.



There is no age limit for this class; however, parents of children younger than third grade are asked to speak to a pastor ahead of time.

In order to set the location for the class, pre-registration is requested. The site or sites will depend on the location of the families wanting to participate.

Please call or e-mail Theresa at the TCM office to sign up. 676.2761 or trinitybinford@mlgc.com.

Please contact her by Wednesday, March 12. If you have any questions, please speak to either of our pastors.

## Special notice for church council members:

A special meeting of the Prairie Rose (Carrington) Conference will be held in the town of Sheyenne at 4:00 on Sunday, March 2. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on names submitted for election of Bishop of the EaND Synod. All church council members are eligible to attend and to vote.

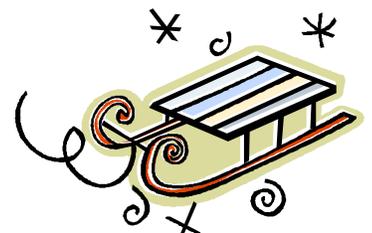
**Gideon Sunday**  
**March 30**

*A representative of Gideons International will give a short presentation in each of our churches. You will have the chance to make a donation at the end of the worship service.*

## Sledding Party

**Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 at the Rob Loe farm, south of McVile**

**For all ages. Come, join the fun!**



*“All things are lawful but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.”*

-1 Corinthians 10:23-24

A woman was laid off from her job at a hospital a few months ago in a money-saving reorganization for the company. She diligently searched for another job while collecting unemployment for three months and eventually replaced her work with two part-time jobs.

After proving herself at one of the new jobs, she was offered a full-time position. At the same time, her old supervisor came calling, wanting to hire her back at her old full-time position. Her new full-time position paid considerably less than her old hospital position.

During the months of the woman’s unemployment and underemployment, she and her husband learned to live on less income.

They also found that in her husband’s half-time retirement, they were able to spend more time with their six grandchildren and also travel to their summer lake cabin on weekends.

How does she decide which job to take? Whose needs come first? What criteria should she and her husband use in this decision?

Our texts for the Epiphany Season — the season of light — have dealt with a lot of God’s commandments and Jesus’ teachings. It seems like we are hearing a lot of “Law” in these texts.

I know that some people even hear or read this passage from 1 Corinthians and think that we are to put others first — no matter what — and that our feelings and even our own needs should come after everyone else’s. If we operate in this unthinking manner, our own needs and even our own self may get lost in this process of self-sacrifice. How are we to understand Paul’s writings and still lead healthy and balanced lives while remaining faithful to our biblical teachings?

We need to hear the Gospel message again and again: we do not earn the love of God — God just loves us. All our striving toward that goal will never achieve it and we will always live in fear and doubt. There is a freedom that comes with being children of God and we know that with this freedom comes responsibility.

How can we exercise this Christian freedom without trampling on others? Be mindful of our own actions without going out of our way to impose our own freedom on others. Our freedom can also be used as an excuse or a weapon against others, if we act without thinking. In order to live in community and be faithful followers of Christ, we are aware of how our actions affect others while at the same time maintaining healthy lives and healthy choices for ourselves. This is called loving God and loving your neighbor.

~Pastor Sherri

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)

## **Souper Bowl of Caring tally**

First Presbyterian — \$57

Lutheran Church of McVile — \$31 and a shopping cart full of food

Trinity — \$228.78

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

***Service of Installation***  
***for***  
***Rev. Sherri Frederikson***

**Rescheduled to**  
***Sunday, March 2***  
***10:30 a.m.***

***Trinity in Binford***  
***(Tri-County Ministry Parish Worship)***

***Dinner will be served***  
***by the Trinity WELCA.***