



From the staff

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This joyful litany is repeated over and over again on Easter morning. We remove the black coverings of bare altars. In their place, we lay new paraments, shining white. Easter lilies adorn churches. The hymns we sing transform from mournful laments to jubilant refrains of victory.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We were once doomed to nothing but slavery to sin and eternal death. But Christ conquered death and we are freed from the chains that bound us. Through baptism, we are promised eternal life. We were lost, but now we are found.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This joyous event is one that is meant to transform our everyday lives. Easter is the realization that what once seemed hopeless is now overflowing with possibilities. Days that seemed dark and endless are now bright with the light of Christ, who loves us and freed us. We are able to look beyond our own lives to a wider creation. At first glance, this creation looks dark and hopelessly mired in sin and evil. But when we look through the lens of Easter, we see a creation that God dearly loves; a creation that is constantly being transformed. What was once hopeless is now brimming with possibilities for new life.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter people know that the end is never the end. Easter people know that just when all hope seems lost and their worst fears seem to be realized, there is still more to come. Easter people trust that the Holy Spirit moves in ways none of us could have imagined. Easter people know that hope is never lost.

Christ rose from a situation that seemed to be completely hopeless. Death was supposed to have the last word. Sin and evil and brokenness seemed to have triumphed once again. But Christ rose again. And in the midst of what seems totally broken and utterly hopeless, new life can spring up. Easter happened. Easter continues to happen—surprising us in ways we would never have dreamed.

May we live as Easter people, full of the hopeful expectation of those who know that new life is always just around the corner.

Intern Trichelle

Graduates in TCM

This spring, we have seniors graduating from the high schools of New Rockford, Carrington, Dakota Prairie, Midkota, and Griggs County Central. We thank God for these young people and ask his blessings on them and their families.

Binford Trinity:

Lacey Harding
Paula Iverson
Carly Ronningen

Faith of Hannaford:

Samantha Everson
Kali Hook
Cassie Hook
Beth Jochim

Our Savior's of Kloten:

Jon Sigdahl

Grace of Grace City:

Kelsey Gisi
Megan Messmer

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown:

John Motter

Lutheran Church of McVile:

Casey Dinger
Brittany Grover
Amy Rorvig

Our Savior's of McHenry

Kayla Johnson

Cooperstown Trinity:

Graham Anderson
David Broschat
Aubrey Ellefson
Megan Halvorson
Kayla Heinz
Tessa Klubben
Cole Koppang
Jesse Ott

Confirmation Services in May and June

In the next couple of months, we will welcome youth into the fellowship of our confirmed memberships as they affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation.

Trinity of Cooperstown — May 2

Taylor Ellefson
Hunter Olson
Nick Reiten
Devon Urness

Faith of Hannaford — May 9

Brandon Hook
Andy Haugen

Trinity of Binford — June 20

Joshua Briss
Callie Harding
Saddie Harding
Christian Leininger
Shaye Ronningen
Oxanna Skaufel
Bryce Trostad

Steven Eberhardt has also completed his confirmation studies, and will be confirmed at Ottawa Lutheran Church.

Revelation study beginning in May

McVile Lutheran Church will be hosting a Bible study focusing on the book of Revelation. This study will meet Thursdays mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. It will begin on May 13th and will end on June 11th.

Intern Trichelle will be leading this Bible study, which will work through Revelation chapter by chapter.

The Bible study is open to anyone in the TCM parish who is interested in attending.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Intern Trichelle at (701)-797-3463 or by e-mail at tkirchenwitz001@luthersem.edu.



Special worship services planned for May 2

Because of the changes coming in Tri-County Ministry, our staff and council feel that it is important to keep our members as informed as we can. Therefore, in an effort to reach as many people as possible, the worship services on May 2 (with the exception of Cooper Trinity) will include reflection, information and discussion of our parish.

Some changes have been made in the worship schedule for that weekend:

- ◆ Our Savior's of McHenry will worship on Saturday evening, May 1. Worship at 5:00, followed by a potluck supper.
- ◆ Mabel of Sutton will worship at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 2.
- ◆ Our Savior's of Klotten and Lutheran Church of McVille will worship together at 9:00 Sunday morning, May 2. The service will be held at McVille

All services will include Holy Communion.

Test Kitchen is open

The Test Kitchen (TCM's young adult group) continues to meet twice weekly. We have met for a wide range of activities including bowling, Nintendo Wii night, board games, and pickle ball. We also meet to share a meal and have Bible study and discussion. We are always open to new members. We will continue to meet through May, and are planning at least one event this summer.

If you would like to be included in updates, that can be done one of two ways. You can be notified by e-mail by sending an e-mail to Intern Trichelle at tkirchenwitz001@luthersem.edu. You can also receive notifications by text message. To do that, please either call or send a text message with your request to Intern Trichelle at 701-799-6607.

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.

Sermon Feedback Forms

This is a friendly reminder. Last fall, several sermon feedback forms and manila envelopes were placed in each church to allow each of you to give feedback on my sermons and/or worship leadership. Please continue to use them! They can be turned in anonymously. You can even take them home and bring them back at a later date. If you don't want to fill out a whole form, you can just drop a note in the envelope as well. Your feedback is vital to my continued learning and growth while I am with you.

If you need more forms at your church, please let me know and I can get more copies to you.

Intern Trichelle

Lutheran World Relief Drive

May 17-21

Lutheran Social Services in Fargo

Quilts and blankets, layettes, sewing kits, health kits, school kits, and new bars of soap

LWR no longer collects clothing.

Please contact your WELCA chair for more info if your church participates in this drive.

Coming Soon:

Summer Youth Newsletter

- ♦ Hiking, biking, camping and canoeing
- ♦ Bible study
- ♦ Mission trip / hiking to Duluth and North Shore area in August

Watch your mailbox for this newsletter.

All events will also be posted on the TCM website.

Our youth leader is Darla Fliflet.

A couple of Wednesday night worship opportunities:

May 26 & June 30 — 7:00 at Faith in Hannaford

(No Sunday services at Faith on May 30 or July 4.)



Summer at Red Willow Bible Camp

Seekers

June 2 & July 16
Grades K-3

Taste of Camp

June 20-21
Grades 1-3

Pathfinders

June 21-23 & July 28-30
Grades 2-4

Creation Camp

June 13-18 & July 11-16
Grades 4-6

Holy Hoops

July 18-23
Youth entering grades 4-7
July 25-30

Youth entering grades 8-11

Outback Challenge

July 11-15
Grades 7-9

Disciples Camp

June 27-July 2 & August 1-6
Grades 7-9

Hands and Feet

Schedule with the camp
Grades 7-12

Counselor in Training

June 6-11
Grades 10-12

Senior High Adventure

June 27-July 2
Grades 10-12

Discovery Camp Volunteer

July 6-9
Grade 10—Adult

Adventure Canoe Trip

Call Denny at the camp to
schedule (best in May or June)

Check with your church council and WELCA for scholarship information.
For more information, call the camp or go to their website.



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.

Where do Presbyterian churches come from?

The "family tree" of Presbyterians extends back to Europe in the 16th century. Their theological ancestry comes out of the Swiss Reformation. When the Protestant Reformation moved into Switzerland, a number of leaders were known as "Reformed." These leaders included Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, and Heinrich Bullinger.

"The beliefs of these theologians spread, and along with the theology a form of governing churches based on the centrality of 'presbyteries' emerged. Thus the name Presbyterian became descriptive." (McKim, 1)

Where do Lutheran churches come from?

The movement from which Lutheran churches come from began almost 500 years ago. Martin Luther "in conscience opposed many of the dominant Roman Catholic teachings and practices." (Marty, 12) Along with Luther, his university colleagues lead a movement within the Catholic church; however after "a decade or two of protest they found themselves moving out and being moved out of their Roman connection and founding churches on their own." (Marty, 12)

Although Luther was not in favor of this new church being called "Lutheran," it was a name used and which stuck.

What are the origins of Presbyterian churches in the United States?

Most of the churches can trace their ancestry to European immigrants, most notably from Great Britain and the European continent, in the 17th century. Although there are a number of different Presbyterian denominations, they hold a commitment to the "Presbyterian" form of church government. The PC(USA) has the *Book of Confessions* which is composed of eleven statements of Christian belief from the early church to the end of the 20th century.

What are the origins of Lutheran churches in the United States?

As early as 1564 in Florida, there is a record of the name "Lutheran". The church was first brought to the United States when European immigrants began to arrive, mainly in the mid-Atlantic states. Larger numbers of Lutherans arrived in the 18th century.

There are numerous Lutheran denominations and church governance varies. "Lutherans seldom have defined precisely or prescribed exactly what polity, what arrangement" (Marty, 14) of church governance should prevail. The confessions of the ELCA date back to the origins of the church five centuries ago and are contained within *The Book of Concord*.

Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers is published by Geneva Press (www.genevapress.com).

Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers is published by Augsburg Books (www.augsburgbooks.com)

Next newsletter Questions & Answers:

Presbyterian: What do we mean by a "Reformed" church or "Reformed theology"?

Lutheran: What do we mean by a "Lutheran" church or "Lutheran" theology?

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

Vacation Bible School

June 9-11

***Two locations –
Red Willow Bible Camp and
Trinity Lutheran Church in Cooperstown
(Both led by the RWBC staff)***

***9:00-3:00 on Wednesday and Thursday,
9:00-Noon on Friday***

Theme: "Life!"

***Register for the Cooperstown VBS by calling 797-3611.
Register for the RWBC VBS by calling 676-2761.***