



Tri-County Ministry News

We exist to serve Christ in harmony with our member churches and communities.

From our pastor

Dear Friends in Christ

It is Tuesday, April 23, and snow is in the forecast for tomorrow. By the time you get this newsletter, spring will have (hopefully) sprung. I am ready for it, so very ready for it. It's late, a month late by my reckoning. There is still a lot of snow to go away. I have not seen a robin. I long to see buds on trees, some green making its way into the drab and colorless winter landscape; even yellow dandelions would be welcome. I have begun to see tulips peeking out of the soil, but that is not enough. I want more.

In other words, waiting for spring has gotten to be a hard thing to do. Patience is running a little thin. Therefore, when I came upon these words from Isaiah today, they caused me to pause. They read, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and mount up with wings like the eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." And then I tagged on the short prayer, "Teach me, Lord, to wait."

Waiting is so hard to do. Patience does not come easily. However, as I have thought about for a while, I have come to realize that to wait, to be patient, is one of the more important lessons we are to learn in life. So much in life requires patience and waiting. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, refers to patience as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that comes to us as we seek faithfully to follow Jesus. It is both learned and a gift. I observe some folk who never seem to learn to wait and be patient. They are difficult to be around. They make us edgy, unsettled; they break up the peace around us.

Others seem to be able to wait, to be patient. Most often I see it in people who have lived a lot of life. I suspect that they have learned it through all of life's experiences. It often means figuring out life's priorities — what really matters. It comes in the midst of all of life's joys and sorrows, life's failures and successes. It also comes to us as we observe the patience of others with us. And when we see the patience of others, it is a special gift. Peace also shows up. Finally, we marvel at the patience of God towards us; God is always waiting for us. I am comforted by knowing that. I am also humbled by such a love shown towards us.

These thoughts have come all because I am waiting for spring to show up. Teach me, Lord, to wait . . .

In Christ's love,

Pastor Joel

TCM Council highlights — April 3

Officers elected for 2013:

President — Bob Delfs
Vice President — Richard Hanson
Secretary — Kathy McCracken
Treasurer — Paulette Gronneberg

Property Committee — Mary Gleason, Norma Trost, Pat Larson, Marvin Goplen, Dennis Jungels

Christian Faith, Life, & Education Committee — Corey Erickson, Janice Munson, Roy Brandt, Vickie Goplen, Warren Ophaug

Finance Committee — Paulette Gronneberg, Kathy McCracken, Dennis Jungels, Richard Hanson

Tentative date for TCM Worship at Red Willow Bible Camp is **August 4**.

Lutheran World Relief Spring Drive



May 13-17

Lutheran Social

Services parking lot in Fargo

Quilts School kits
Health kits Baby Care kits
Sewing kits New bars of soap

For more information go to the synod website and follow the link to the LWR Spring Quilt and Kit Drive.

www.eandsynod.org

(If your church is participating in this, please contact Theresa. Maybe we can combine the trip to Fargo.)

This summer at RWBC

Seekers Day Play (Grades K-3)

May 31 (free)
July 16 & 23

Taste of Camp (Grades 1-3)

June 2-3, July 7-8

Pathfinders (Grades 2-3)

June 2-4, July 7-9

Senior High Amp! Camp (Grades 10-12)

June 9-14

Creation Camp (Grades 4-6)

June 2-7, July 7-12

Discovery Camp Volunteer

June 24-27, June 20-July 3



Holy Hoops

July 14-19 (entering Grades 8-10)
July 21-26 (entering Grades 4-7)

Disciples Camp (Grades 7-9)

July 28-August 2

Wilderness Week (Grades 7-12)

August 4-9

Summer brochures are 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

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

TCM at RWR

Sunday evening, June 1

Meet at the Red Willow restaurant

for supper at 6:00

Roller Skating 7:00-9:00

Come and celebrate the end of school / beginning of summer!

Van trip to Frostfire Summer Theatre

"The Music Man"

Wednesday, July 10 (matinee at 2:00)

Watch for announcements and posters in your church.

Notify Theresa by June 20 to reserve a seat on the van. If the van fills up, we'll try for some carpooling too.