



# Tri-County Ministry News

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

## ***Pastor Kara's message***

Disappointment is a reality in our lives. We build up expectations for our own lives and the lives of those around us. We want wealth, fame, family, talent, good careers, solid education, etc. Sometimes we get what we want, but more often than not, we end up with only what we need. Only when our wants are the same as our needs can we go through life without disappointment. Unfortunately, most of us are unable to always keep our minds and desires only on the daily needs we have; instead we set up expectations of grandeur and privilege.

Recently, we left the season of Lent, a time of intense reflection and striving to change habits in our lives for the better. Every year, we have Lent to remind us to turn back to God, to look at what is unhealthy and unhelpful in our lives, and to return to God and God's will for our lives. This encompasses anything from healthy eating to striving to establish spiritual disciplines.

And then we entered Easter, where we once again encounter a risen Savior. I can't help but think of the saying: "Jesus is the reason for the season." Jesus is the reason for Easter. Jesus is the reason we are Christians. Jesus is the reason we have a promise that although our time in this life matters now, God has a home waiting for us even after death.

The people in Jesus' time had expectations of what the Messiah/Christ would do: be a mighty king, great warrior, lead people of Israel to be a powerful nation, bring peace to the world, and so on. They knew what they wanted, but God gave what we all needed. Some were (and still are) disappointed that the world did not change, that there is still fighting and violence, that people still get sick and die. But what God provided then was the Lamb of God who brought good news of forgiveness and a life beyond this life.

No one in the Bible ever promises immortality with a blissful, healthy existence full of all the things we could ever desire. No, the Bible looks realistically at our world and sees the messed-up and the annoying, the hurtful and frustrating, the sick and dying. The Bible tells us that we are blessed to be blessings and called to share so that all have enough. We are commanded to love our God and our neighbors, to visit people in need, and to care for the world and all inhabitants. We look at the world with open eyes and give with open hearts.

We, as Christians, are encouraged to be in the world but not of the world. We live in the here and now, but yet we always look to what will come. We live in this life, but we have a promise of life after. As Christians, we are an Easter people. We live knowing that resurrection was and will be a reality. That is the promise of Easter: we face death boldly with the knowledge that God can triumph over death itself. And when we have such faith, any disappointment with this world is tempered with our trust in God.

Peace,

Pastor Kara

## Plans for our summer worship

During the summer months, our pastors will be introducing texts from the Narrative Lectionary, as well as a sermon series on Spiritual Gifts.

What is the Narrative Lectionary? It is a four-year preaching series that sweeps the whole biblical story from Creation through the early Christian church. However, we will be “trying it on for size” by using it several weeks over the summer. This way we will be able to meditate on texts we normally do not use in regular worship and test out the resources provided for our worship planners in our respective churches. We will be looking for feedback from each location on the worship resources (as well as preaching resources from those preaching on these texts) in order to see if this is something that we can consider for future worship at TCM. We will be returning to the three-year lectionary (our regular resource) in the Fall.

What are Spiritual Gifts? Every one of us has a spiritual gift that was given to us by the Holy Spirit in our Baptism. These gifts have not been gained through education, training or experience, but have been given as gifts from God. Why were we given this gift? We were given gifts to be used to serve and strengthen one another and to glorify God. Each person is enabled to make a difference in the Church and in the universal body of Christ that is made up of all believers. By knowing what gifts are in each congregation, we are better able to discern what God is doing in our midst and are able get on board! By knowing our gifts, we will be better equipped to serve our community and our neighbors.

If you are involved in worship planning in your congregation, please know that you will receive more detailed information on this in May.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact your pastors.

## The baskets are full!



We did it! Our goal of 100 personal care kits has been reached. In fact, the donations were so generous that 153 kits have been assembled.

Those kits will be taken to Fargo in May during the Lutheran World Relief Spring Drive, and will begin their journey to the Philippines or some other part of the world where they are needed.

Thank you to all who participated in our Baskets of Promise campaign during Lent. The items contributed and the monetary donations are going to make a huge impact. (Funds donated were used to purchase items to complete the final kits, and to help cover shipping costs for Lutheran World Relief.)

Of course, we didn't end up with exactly 153 of each item, so the extra items are going to be taken to Churches United for the Homeless in Fargo/Moorhead when our confirmation students do their service project in May.

A Lenten tradition in Tri-County has begun! Watch next February for news on our Lent 2015 project.

## Our high school graduates

Congratulations and God's blessings on our ten graduating seniors!

Faith in Hannaford:

Andrew Haugen  
Mara Heinze  
Brandon Hook



Trinity in Binford:

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

## Worship time alerts

*First*

*Presbyterian:*

9:45 May 4



*Trinity:*

8:30 on May 25

*Faith:*

7:00 Wednesday evenings in  
June (no Sunday services)

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

## Our summer mission project

*“Guided by God's love and grace, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota brings healing, help and hope.”*

That is the mission statement that describes what LSS strives to do in lives all across ND. LSS is an organization started in 1919 that is active in many different parts of life: children and elderly, individuals and communities, rich and poor, abused and neglected. The 17 programs supported by LSS include adoption, counseling, disaster response, affordable housing, refugee resettlement, and feeding the hungry.

Recently, LSS started the **Abound in Hope** campaign to raise funds to help support the renovation of Luther Hall as well as build and equip the new Center for Healing, Help and Hope. We will hear more about the LSS work and special projects at our worship services on May 4 and May 18.

Our summer mission project will be to distribute the m&m containers again and collect money to help support Lutheran Social Services of ND. Look for the colorful containers at the end of May/early June.



Thank you!

■ *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.*

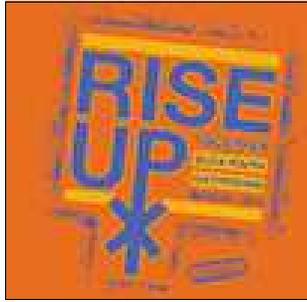
■ *[www.redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://www.redwillowbiblecamp.org)*



# ***ELCA Youth Gathering***

***July 15-19, 2015***

“RISE-UP Together” is the theme for the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan. And that is what happens when 30,000 teenagers gather to worship God and serve our neighbor. What a witness this will be for our youth from Tri-County Ministry!



At the baptismal font, we promised to raise young people who:

- ♦ Live among God’s faithful people,
- ♦ Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
- ♦ Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through their words and actions,
- ♦ Serve and love our neighbors, following the example of Jesus, and
- ♦ Pursue justice and peace in the world.

In Detroit, we will gather for five days of faith formation, worship, fellowship, study, service and play. This is an opportunity our young people will have to encounter Jesus that may energize their faith and help them discover their call to live and serve in the world.

July 2015, is just a little over a year away and we will need to make financial commitments in Fall, 2014, so please check out the “ELCA Youth Gathering” on [elca.org](http://elca.org) and on facebook. Please contact a staff member to either sign up for the event or to get more information.

## ***Lutheran World Relief Spring Drive***

May 12-16  
Lutheran Social Services in Fargo

May 15-16  
Midwest Motor Express  
in Grand Forks

Quilts, school kits, sewing kits, personal health kits, baby care kits. LWR no longer collects clothing. For more information, go to [www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org)

## **How about an evening out on June 13?**

The theatre in New Rockford has a couple of summer plays in the works, and “*Life Could Be a Dream*” will be playing on Friday the 13th.

If you’re wanting to see the play, how about if we see it as a group?

To simplify things, you are on your own to purchase your ticket for the play. You may go to the website — [www.dprca.com](http://www.dprca.com) — or call the box office at 947-2174. Plan to carpool, and if enough people need a ride, we’ll take the TCM van. **Reserve your tickets as soon as possible, as they sell out quickly.**

And to sign up for a ride on the van, please call or e-mail Theresa at the TCM office (contact info on back page of newsletter).

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

***END Synod Assembly***

**May 10-11**  
**Alerus in Grand Forks**

Worship services, stories  
from the mission field,  
election of a new bishop of  
the EaND Synod

The Assembly is open to all.  
More information may be  
found on the synod website:  
[www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org)

