



# Tri-County Ministry News

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

## ***From Pastor Kara***

Over the last couple weeks, I've been thinking a lot about change and transition, about remembering the past and yet not letting the past prevent movement into the future. It always happens as a school year ends and we start planning for what comes next, when the earth comes back to life in abundance and when we make plans for the warmer weather.

This is a time of year for thinking about change and making plans, but the reality is that we think about transitions every single day of our lives, whether we like it or not.

Recently I watch a TED talk (which are short, informative presentations given by experts) about originality and creativity. I was struck by the presenter pointing out that some of the most creative people are not afraid to fail. They may have a plan but always have several other ideas in case the first fails. And I decided that I like that notion. I like to think that we as the people of God are willing to risk everything for the sake of the gospel, that we are willing to put everything into God's hands, trusting that whatever we try, God will be at work. From past experience, every time I fail miserably, God seems to bring about something far better out of the wreckage.

I've been working on a Bible study of the prophets. Every prophet was by definition someone called to bring a message from God to the people of God. Much of their message was consumed with calling people away from their wayward lives to return to God. But many of them also promised salvation and hope, especially for survivors and remnants who would be part of the new life God brings out of destruction. Change in this case would be painful yet necessary. And it's no different in our own lives.

So I encourage you to embrace change and failure. Make your plans and trust that whatever happens will happen because God has a plan. Even when your plans go awry or flat-out die, watch and see how God breathes new life into what once was dead.

"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?" (Isaiah 43:18, *The Message* by Eugene Peterson)

The God we know and worship is the God of resurrection. Just remember, no resurrection can happen without death. But our God doesn't let human failure or death stop the world from turning or life from being lived.

## Rogation and Blessings Sunday, May 1

Our annual Rogation Service will happen in all our congregations on the first of May. This year, we're adding a time for blessings.



Some congregations will have senior recognition. Our school kits will be blessed. Quilts, Sunday School teachers, councils . . .

Bring your garden seeds, seed grain, tractors, whatever you would like blessed during this special service.

## School kits to be assembled



Our Lenten mission project has ended, and we are now in the process of filling out the kits and preparing them

for shipping. At this point, it looks like we should have about 100 kits. They will be taken to the Lutheran World Relief Spring Drive in May.

Although donations of school supplies are no longer being accepted, cash donations are still welcome. The cash will be used to purchase backpacks and extra supplies needed to fill out the kits. Any extra cash will be donated to Lutheran World Relief to help with shipping costs.

Many thanks to all who participated in this project, and also to those who sewed backpacks.

## Confirmation Service Trip in May

On Saturday, May 7, our eight confirmation students will finish out the school year with a service project at Northlands Rescue Mission in Grand Forks. Anyone wishing to go along on the trip is welcome! (You would need to provide your own transportation.)

The students will also be taking some donations to the mission. The mission has many needs, but you may send along any of the following:

**Boxes of cereal**

**Shampoo**

**Men's body wash**

Our confirmation students will receive more info in the mail. Anyone else who would like to go along is asked to contact a staff member; Northlands needs to know how many to expect. The actual service project at the mission will begin at 10:00 and end at noon.

## Five to be confirmed

Five students are completing their confirmation studies and will affirm their baptism at worship services in their congregations.

**Trinity — May 8**

**Kaylyn Briss and Callie Ronningen**

**Lutheran Church of McVile — May 8**

**Victoria Reiten**

**Grace — June 19**

**Tara Otto and Chase Ellingson**

May God richly bless these confirmands as they continue on their faith journey.



# Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly Events

## *The Assembly*

Saturday-Sunday, June 4-5

Holiday Inn in Fargo

“A Place at the Table”

Delegates need to register as soon as possible.

All information is online. No materials are mailed out.



## *Youth Summit*

10:00 Saturday, June 4 — 1:30 Sunday, June 5

Oak Grove Lutheran School & Holiday Inn

Eastern North Dakota Synod is partnering with Homeless and Hungry to hold the first ever Youth Summit. In addition to the Homeless and Hungry experience (sleeping outside, fasting, worshiping and serving) participants will hear keynote addresses by internationally known hunger and poverty advocate Shane Claiborne and engage in dialogue with the voting members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly to address issues surrounding hunger, poverty and racial injustice in our region and beyond.

To learn more, visit:

<http://fmhomelessandhungry.org/>

Open to all youth grades 7-12. Let's represent Tri-County Ministry! Contact a pastor for information. Adults (college age and up) are needed as chaperones.

Participating youth will fund raise for Homeless and Hungry before attending the Youth Summit.

## *Evening in Africa*

Saturday, June 4

First Lutheran Church in Fargo

6:00 Silent Auction / Social

6:45 Dinner, with live auction during dessert

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through the END Synod website.

This event is **open to the public**, not just Assembly delegates.

All proceeds will assist with ministry in our companion synod, the Central African Republic.

## **Save the dates**

July 17 — Centennial celebration of Lutheran Church of McVille

August 7 — Tri-County Ministry parish worship and picnic lunch at Red Willow Bible Camp

August 18 — Quilters Appreciation Supper at Red Willow Bible Camp

August 27 & 28 — Red Willow Bible Camp's Quilt and Fine Arts Preview and Auction



# Red Willow Bible Camp 90th Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday-Sunday, June 18-19**

## Saturday

- 9:00-Noon Service projects
- 11:00 Hiking, pontoon rides
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:30 Swimming, boating
- 3:00 Boat races
- 4:00 Hiking, pontoon rides
- 5:00 Supper and sharing stories
- 6:30 Mason Jar ceremony
- 7:00 Concert — High Plains Trio and Andrew Dysthe
- 9:00 Campfire

## Sunday

- 10:30 Worship
- 11:30 Lunch

All kinds of other indoor and outdoor activities available, plus lots of visiting with staff and former staff and campers!

Check out the camp's website for more info.

RSVP by June 1 to help the camp staff adequately prepare for meals. You may call the camp at 676.2681 or register through their website.



## There's still time to register for Bible Camp!

*Seekers Day Camp:* June 3, July 19, July 26  
Entering grades K-6

*Taste of Camp:* June 5-7 and July 10-12  
Entering grades K-3, plus a family member

*Pathfinders:* June 5-7 and July 10-12  
Entering grades 2-3

*Creation Camp:* June 5-10 and July 10-15  
Entering grades 4-6

*Disciples Camp:* July 31-August 5  
Entering grades 7-9

*Senior High Amp! Camp:* June 12-17  
Entering grades 10-12

*Advanced Holy Hoops:* July 17-21  
Entering grades 8-12

*Holy Hoops Junior:* July 24-29  
Entering grades 4-7

*Wilderness Week:* August 7-10  
Entering grades 8-12

Brochures are available in your church. New and improved online registration available at [redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://redwillowbiblecamp.org). And don't forget to check with your church/WELCA regarding assistance with the registration fees.

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

## Spring Salad Supper

Wednesday, May 4

6:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of McVile

Guest speaker:

Judy Buchhoz Frueh

(North Dakota Christian author, farm  
wife, teacher, foster/adoptive parent)