



From Pastor Kara

Grace and peace!

It's hard to believe, but November is upon us, which just so happens to be my favorite for a few reasons: two holidays that are all about thanking God and thanking people for the many blessings in our lives (Thanksgiving and Veterans' Day), the season autumn (love the crisp air), and the start of Advent (which means Christmas is just around the corner).

Also hard to believe: I've been around 4 months (now is the time to gasp in shock at how quickly the time is moving). I have been having a great time getting to know you. I may not have all the names down, but I am doing my best. Thank you for your patience and understanding! I have been trying to think of fun ways to get to know each of you better, and I've come up with two main ideas:

You visit me. I love to bake and host. If you want to be entertained for a few hours, I have a collection of movies and games (including Wii and a ping pong table). I have decided that this option is to be known as "P@P" (aka "Party at the Parsonage").

I visit you. I want to see where you live and work, where you spend most of your days. I'm even willing to help out as long as no heavy lifting is involved. I have decided to refer to this as "Tour d'Farm" because I expect to see a lot of farms as I drive around.

I am serious about visiting. If you want to partake in either option, please call/text/email. In case you were wondering, your pastors are not mind readers and always appreciate when you let us know that you want to visit, whether for a serious or a silly reason.

Other important information for the coming weeks:

- ♦ The past few weeks we have focused on stewardship. I hope that you have been both affirmed and challenged in how you think about what it means to be God's steward in today's world. I compiled all your answers ("How do you serve in love?") and put them into a video. Check out TCM's website for the link.
- ♦ TCM has a blog! That's right, we are truly part of the 21st century as we undertake this new way of keeping you updated with stories, reflections, pictures and every other piece of information we (all members of TCM) think to include. If you want to contribute, please let me know. And to get to the blog, just type in **www.tricountyministry.com**
- ♦ M&Ms in the CAR – we will be collecting the containers (hopefully with some money stashed inside) on December 11. If you did not receive your m&m's, please contact me.

I hope that you are excited as I am for all the amazing ministry that is being done throughout TCM! If you ever have an idea for an activity, please share with your pastors. We are well aware that God is working in your lives and hearts, giving you a unique perspective on the needs and desires of the community, and we are always excited to hear from you!

God's Blessings to you!
Pastor Kara

Genesis 12:2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Come along with our confirmation students

Our confirmation class will be taking one day bus trips on Saturdays in November and December, and you are invited to join them.

Saturday, November 19, the class will be visiting the Spirit Lake Nation and Dakotah O'yate in Tokio. Pastor Larry Thiele will lead the discussion of the history of the nation as well as life in the nation and his congregation today. A noon meal will be served.

Our annual service project at Northland Rescue Mission in Grand Forks will happen on Saturday, December 10. The mission staff arranges projects for our group to do while there.

Transportation on both days will be by school bus. We need to know ahead of time how many people will be going along. Please contact Theresa at the TCM office in Binford — by November 14 for the Tokio trip, and by December 1 for the Grand Forks trip.

(On November 14, the bus will leave from Binford at 8:30 and from McVile at 9:00. Carpooling to the bus will be available from the other towns, if needed.)

Next month's newsletter will include a list of things that you can donate to Northland Rescue Mission.

Survey enclosed with this newsletter

For the past several months, your TCM Council representatives have been putting a survey together. The council and pastors will use the information gathered as a tool to help enrich the ministry of our congregations and our parish.

There are a few ways that you can participate in this survey:

- ◆ Fill out the enclosed form and bring it to your church or hand it to a pastor on or before November 13.
- ◆ The survey will be distributed at the November 6 worship services, to be filled out and returned any time between that day and the following Sunday, the 13th.
- ◆ The survey will also be available online and may be accessed through our website, our blog, or Facebook.

The survey is set up for anyone from confirmation class age on up. Each person in your household could fill one out. (So you'll need more forms than just the one in this newsletter!) Or, if you have internet, each person can go online and fill it out.

Congregational Special Meetings

Sunday, November 6

A brief congregational meeting will be held following the worship service in each congregation for the purpose of voting on the 2012 per member assessment for Tri-County Ministry.

Thanksgiving Services

Sunday, November 20

**During the regular morning worship hours
(in all congregations except McVile
& Our Savior's/Kloten)**

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23

7:30

New Luther Valley in McVile

(Led by McVile Lutheran and New Luther Valley)

God's Global Barnyard

The six ELCA congregations of TCM have completed their collections for this special project of World Hunger. A total of **\$1,682.20** was received! The money was spent by each congregation as designated:



- ◆ Our Savior's of Klotten — 2 pigs and 7 chicks
- ◆ Lutheran Church of McVile — 2 pigs, 2 goats, 30 chicks
- ◆ Trinity of Binford — 1 farm, 1 duck, 1 sheep, 2 mosquito nets
- ◆ Faith of Hannaford — 10 chicks, 1 pig, 1 alpaca, 1 sheep, 1 goat (will be adding more)
- ◆ Our Savior's of McHenry — 30 chicks, malaria medicine to treat 25 people, 3 mosquito nets
- ◆ Grace of Grace City — 2 goats, 20 chicks

Youth — note this deadline!

ELCA Youth Gathering – deadline for youth (8th-12th grade) sign up is November 6. Get your registration turned in if you want to join in the amazing experience that is the national gathering!

For more information, check with the TCM office or Pastor Kara.

Looking ahead to December:

Hanging of the Greens on December 4 in most of our churches

Christmas cantata in McVile on December 11 (Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, in case you're thinking of joining the choir.)

Christmas programs (if your program date hasn't been given to the TCM office yet, please do so by November 15)

How you can get and share information for our congregations and our parish

Besides our newsletter and our Sunday bulletin announcements, there are getting to be a lot of ways for you to share and find out what's going on in our churches.



Our website:

www.tricountyministry.org

Our brand new blog:

www.tricountyministry.com

And, finally, you can like us on Facebook.

We are in the process of establishing links between these three sources of information. So in the near future, you will be able to connect to each site from any of the other ones.

Coping with the Holidays

Monday, November 7

7:00 p.m.

New Luther Valley Church in McVile

A time designed to address grief issues due to a loss by death of someone special in your life. It will provide helpful ideas and suggestions in preparing for the holidays without your loved one. All losses by death, from miscarriage on, will be discussed.

This presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. No cost to the participant.

Sponsored by Altru Hospice and Pastoral Services

This survey may be completed and brought to your church or given to a pastor any time between now and November 13. More copies of the survey will be available in the churches on November 6. Please do not sign your name to the survey.

My Congregation –

- Faith of Hannaford
- First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
- Grace of Grace City
- Lutheran Church of McVillie
- Our Savior's of Klotten
- Our Savior's of McHenry
- Trinity of Binford

Gender

- Male
- Female

Age group

- 12-18
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

What excites you most about church?

- Children's messages
- Fellowship/coffee hour
- Worship style
- Makes a difference in my week and my life
- Other _____

What are your reasons for not attending? (check all that apply)

- Work on Sunday or weekends
- Sporting events / hunting
- Worship time
- Health issues
- Worship is optional
- Other _____

What do you need from church? (check all that apply)

- Community
- Healing
- Bible-based sermons
- Safe place to express myself
- Peace of mind
- Other _____

For your age group, what activities would you like to see happen?

- Bible studies
- Wii, ping pong, other games and activities
- Shared meals
- Service projects
- Other _____

What are your skills or gifts that you would like to share with church? (check all that apply)

- Cooking
- Sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting
- Lawn care/snow removal
- Painting
- Helping with worship
- Preparing to mail newsletters
- Teaching
- Artwork
- Music (sing, play instruments)
- Visiting
- Other _____

How could the church be more present in your community?

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**Soup and Sandwiches
&
Bake Sale**

Saturday, November 19
11:00 — 1:00
Lutheran Church of McVile

Serving a variety of soups,
sandwiches, and an ice cream
sundae bar.