



Tri-County Ministry News

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

From our pastor

“For I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future and a hope.”
~Jeremiah 29:11

For various reasons, this time of year has always been a favorite for me. I have always loved the fresh, crisp air of autumn as the trees are emptied of leaves and decorate the ground with an abundance of color. It is a time of change and refreshment, of knowing that winter is coming yet unable (or perhaps unwilling) to really prepare for the snow, ice, and cold. I love the anticipation and trying to predict what will come our way, even when knowing that as much as I enjoy the days when my nostrils freeze shut, I am more than content to wait.

When it comes to the church calendar, I happen to love Christ the King Sunday, when we celebrate Jesus as his highest and most holy point right before we start the season of Advent. November becomes our New Year’s Eve when we think of the transitions that arrive in the first part of December. We say farewell to one church year and greet the next with anticipation and trepidation.

This year in Tri-County Ministry we find ourselves in a time of transition and change. We say farewell and God speed to Pastor Joel, who has been a breath of fresh air and wisdom these last nine months. And we wait with anticipation for what comes in our future. A few months ago, I wrote the cover letter about feeling as though big change was coming, and it really is looming over us now. We are in the call process and hopeful that God will send the right person to TCM, but until the new pastor arrives, we are living in a season of waiting.

But in the midst of all this anticipation and change and transition, we find words of comfort from the God who journeys with us through life. God has a plan for us, whether we see it or not. And God promises to care for us every single day, more so than he cares for the birds of the air or the flowers in the fields (Matthew 6:25-34). When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we say words that have been spoken by countless generations who went before. Just like our ancestors, we too turn to God for daily bread and for the promise that God’s will (his plan for our future and hope) will be done.

During this time of change, may you find peace in the knowledge and promise that God is watching over us, caring for us, and is preparing our future with hope.

Peace,

Pastor Kara

“O give thanks to the Lord for he is good, and his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 107.1)

I do give thanks for the abiding goodness and love of our Lord. This interim ministry among you has been a wonderful gift to me. I recall having been here for three months. I was sitting in the living room in the Hannaford parsonage and reflecting upon the texts for Sunday. I was overwhelmed by pure joy. It came like a rush upon me that this ministry among you was God’s gift to me. I have had the privilege of working with Pastor Kara, Theresa and all of you in Tri-County Ministry. I am deeply grateful. You have been so affirming of me and I will always remember you with love.

I do not like good byes. There is always a sorrow in leaving that which has been such a blessing. However, you have called a pastor and we put our trust in God who is leading us.

For myself things have been happening very quickly. Just this last Thursday (October 17) I was visiting with the parish council in Big Timber Lutheran Church in Big Timber, Montana. The visit went very well. Two hours following the interview, while I was on the road back to North Dakota, they called me and asked that I would serve as interim pastor beginning November 1. As I had completed my contract here (6 months with an added 3 months) I accepted. Bishop Crist (Montana Synod Bishop) believes that I would be a good match as the called pastor of the “Peaks of Glory Parish” and so granted a “dispensation” so that I might also be in the call process. This is not the normal way of things, as usually the interim contract includes a clause stating that the interim pastor shall not be considered for the call process in that congregation. Therefore I am both interim and in the call process. I will trust in the Lord’s leading in all of this.

Everything is happening so very quickly. Such a quick transition is hard for me and I suspect for many of you. But it is what it will be. So thank you from the bottom of my heart for the privilege of having served as your interim pastor. You have been such a blessing to me. May God bless you in the ventures that are before you.

Pastor Joel

Prayer cards in our churches

Each Sunday, our pastors/worship leaders ask the congregation for names of those in need of prayer. Some Sundays, a lot of names are brought forth — almost too many to remember.

We now have little cards which may be filled out before prayer time each Sunday. Please make use of them. They will greatly help our pastors in making contact with those needing pastoral care.



Come to a bonfire!

Sunday, November 17

4:00

Red Willow Bible Camp

**Sponsored by Tri-County
Ministry**

Bring the whole family!

News since the TCM Council meeting:

All seven TCM congregations held special meetings on October 13 and approved both the 2014 budget assessment and the Letter of Call to Rev. Sherri Frederiksen.

Pastor Joel has accepted a contract to a parish in Montana, and completes his commitment to TCM on October 31.

Worship time alerts

First Presbyterian:

11:15 on November 3, 10, 17

9:45 on November 24

Faith:

9:45 on November 10

11:15 on November 3, 17, 24

Trinity:

9:45 on November 3

11:15 on November 10, 17, 24



The grand total

Our 2013 m & m campaign raised a total of **\$1,630.04**. These funds were designated for the young missionary programs of the ELCA and PC(USA).



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 1

During the regular worship hour in all the TCM congregations.

The next newsletter:

Because of the way our calendar falls, and also because of the state of transition in our parish, the next newsletter will cover only the month of December. Another newsletter will be published at the end of December, covering January or January and February.

TCM Council Highlights —

October 2

2014 TCM Budget: The Finance Committee presented a proposed budget for 2014, with an assessment of \$390 per active confirmed member, no change from 2013. However, with an overall decrease of 16 members, the total contributions by the congregations would decrease by \$6,240.

Under TCM expenses, the auto allowance was decreased by \$1000 and the pulpit supply expense was decreased by \$1200. All other expense items were left the same as the 2013 budget.

Special congregational meetings will be held on October 13 to approve the assessment.

The council approved the enrollment of the staff in the Gold+ level of health insurance for 2014, as recommended by the EaND Synod.

Parsonage Committee: Has been working on repairs and inspections of the three parsonages.

Faith, Life, and Education Committee: The committee brought several ideas to the table – an indoor game night, hayride/sleigh ride and bonfire, sledding, New Rockford theater, winery tour, Christmas caroling, and a tour of the TCM churches.

Letter of Call: Denny Goetz presented the name of Pastor Sherri Frederiksen for call to Tri-County Ministry. Special congregational meetings will be held on Sunday, October 13, to approve the Letter of Call to Pastor Frederiksen. All seven congregations must approve the call.

Pastor Kara: Attended the Fall Leadership Conference at Fair Hills, and the Presbytery meeting in Ellendale. She has been participating in First Call events, and is now in her third and final year of being in that group. She was recently elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Griggs County Ministerial Association.

Pastor Joel: His contract with TCM ends on October 31, and he is looking at interim / call opportunities. He stressed the importance of our ELCA congregations being represented at the Prairie Rose Conference Fall Assembly in New Rockford on October 13.

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

**Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
and
Bake Sale**

Saturday, November 9
11:00 — 1:00
Lutheran Church of McVile

Blaze orange welcome!