



Pastor Kara's message

For I know the plans I have for you... Jeremiah 29:11

Greetings, TCMers!

Over the last couple months, I have spent a lot of time having to adjust my schedule due to events out of my control. It seems as though whenever I set up plans months in advance, I receive a phone call that changes everything, for good or ill.

Time off gets adjusted. Hospital visits are planned. Phone conversations take longer. Bags are packed (or unpacked). Miles are accumulated. Patience is tried. And through it all, all we can do is wait.

We have all experienced variations of this.

There are so many times when we find ourselves hurrying, only to wait. Or waiting, only to hurry.

Time is a fluid concept, where it flies by quickly or drags on slowly.

Over the last month, Pastor Sherri has been leading some Bible studies focusing on spiritual gifts — the talents, gifts, and abilities that are God given. I took the assessment and was reminded that my gift is that of faith. If I had to pick one, I probably would have preferred service or hospitality or anything but what I got. However, I know that faith is accurate.

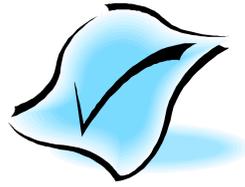
No matter what has happened in my life or the lives of my loved ones, I have never doubted that God exists and has a plan. There were times when I remember thinking, “God you had better have something good planned after this because right now life is far from good.” (I admit that there may have been some harsher terms involved in the original phrasing.) But my faith was rock-solid. I may not have known what to expect, but I knew that God would see me through to the other side. I sat waiting to hear that all is well and that God’s plan would be good. God had a plan, and will always have a plan.

During the month of November, I will be spending hours compiling the verses you submitted as the ones you read while you wait. I’m looking forward to this, knowing that we find meaning in God’s Word in the midst of the waiting. We may make plans, but God’s is greater than any we could possibly plan.

So may God bless you as you wait with either eager anticipation or fearful caution. May you know that God is the one who journeys with us through the dark days and brings us to new life. May you find reassurance in knowing that God has a plan, a plan that is full of hope and not harm.

~ Pastor Kara

Special Congregational Meetings



Sunday, November 2

Following the worship service in each congregation

Purpose: to approve the 2015 assessment for Tri-County Ministry. The Tri-County Ministry is recommending an annual assessment of \$400 per active confirmed member.

What exactly does this mean?

Each congregation makes a monthly payment to Tri-County Ministry based on its membership. An example: if a congregation has 50 active confirmed members, its annual assessment to Tri-County would be \$20,000, or a monthly payment of \$1,666.66. The TCM budget pays for staffing and the operating costs of the parish as a whole. (Each congregation takes care of its own operating costs.)

Your TCM Council representative will have budget information available.



*Our Tri-County
Ministry Advent
devotional booklets
will be available in
each church on
November 30.*

*You may also find the daily devotional
on our website www.tricountyministry.org
on our blog www.tricountyministry.com
and on Facebook.*

Remembering....

All Saints Day? On the first Sunday in November, we celebrate the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. We remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. The congregations of TCM honor those who have died since the last All Saints celebration by lighting candles and reading the names out loud during the worship service.

Although the observances may be slightly different at each location, this is a good reminder that we have many families among us who have lost loved ones in the past few months. We are reminded that God has promised that in the new Jerusalem, God will dwell among us and will wipe away every tear from our eyes. (Revelation 21:1-4)

We list those members who have died since the last All Saints Day:

Nancy Hook
Luella Ellingson
Leif Wall
Mildred Hetland
Beulah Burkland
Marilyn Hazard
Ed Pewe
Evelyn Fliflet
Myrtle Tufte
Adolph Lee
Bill Hazard
Clarence Flohaug
Pearl Grover

Where did our baskets of promise go?

Last spring, our congregations took up the challenge from Lutheran World Relief and collected items for personal health kits. These “baskets of promise” would then be sent somewhere in the world; the Philippines were one possible destination.

Our baskets of promise went another direction, and ended up in **Burkina Faso**, a country in Africa.

A little info about Burkina Faso: it’s about one and half times the size of North Dakota, but has a population of well over 17 million. Burkina Faso is one of the poorest nations in the world, with an average annual per capita income of \$300. About 80% of the population is involved in agriculture, mostly agriculture to provide for their own families. Like many countries in Africa. Burkina Faso has seen its share of political unrest.

Much information about the work of Lutheran World Relief can be found on their website — www.lwr.org.



Spiritual Gifts: *How Shall I Serve?*

If I had only two hours each week to give to my church community, what would I do? I would spend one hour in worship and one hour doing..... (Ok...as your pastor, I have filled in one of the hours and I am biased...) In answering this question, each of us would say something different. Why? Because the Holy Spirit has given each of us a different gift. We are to use our gift to glorify God and to serve others.

We are offering a Spiritual Gifts class at couple of the churches in TCM. Maybe a weekly class doesn’t work for your location. How about a Saturday workshop? Or maybe offer a 3-session format once the snow settles in? Or maybe an informal session over coffee at the local café?

Finding out our Spiritual Gift tells us how to be **MORE EFFECTIVE** in serving and will make serving **MORE ENJOYABLE**. Do you have a music gift? Maybe you are good at building or fixing? How about the gift of faith...how does that fit into our ministry here?

We have an abundant God who has gifted each of the congregations with you. By finding out our Spiritual Gifts, we can see what God is up to in each of our communities. Won’t you open up the gift that God has given you?

~ Pastor Sherri

Summer mission project

Our little m & m containers were filled with generous donations again this summer. The totals:

- ◆ **Operation Bugle Loder: \$427.41**
- ◆ **Lutheran Social Services: \$716.37**



School of Lay Ministry: *How Shall I Serve?*

Traditionally, the GIFTS program was created to equip lay people to serve as “pulpit supply.” With the changing of the name to *School of Lay Ministry*, the goal has expanded to include more people. Could that be YOU?

If you find yourself saying things like “I don’t like to be up front and leading worship,” please don’t think that that the School of Lay Ministry is not for you. One of the goals is to EMPOWER PEOPLE to SERVE their congregations.... Not everyone is gifted to lead worship. However, you are gifted in other ways. (See article on Spiritual Gifts.)

We in the Eastern North Dakota Synod have partnered

with the Northwest Minnesota Synod in offering classes and workshops to ALL folks.

For example, the first workshop, being held on November 1, is designed to equip people to help their community to respond in a crisis. This could include a natural disaster or any kind of community-wide or congregation crisis. The presenters have experience in Red Cross disaster response in hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and 9/11; working with grief counseling, professional burn-out, crisis & disaster response, traumatic/post-traumatic stress, and healthcare ministry.

What is expected? The primary expectation is that we come together to LEARN and GROW as the people of God and all are welcome—the classes will better equip us to serve in a variety of ways. Come to learn more and grow in your faith. We would love to see you!

Pastor Sherri will be attending the event on November 1, and providing transportation to anyone that would like to carpool to Moorhead. For more information on the School for Lay Ministry, check out the Eastern North Dakota website: eandsynod.org or talk with one of your pastors.

Guest speaker on November 9

Ben Hylden, author of *Finding Faith in the Field*, will be speaking in three of our congregations on Sunday, November 9 during the worship hour. Ben will give his faith story stemming from a car accident where he was critically injured. The times and places:

- ◆ 8:30 at Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 9:45 at Our Savior’s in McHenry
- ◆ 11:15 at Trinity in Binford

Our next newsletter will cover December and January.

Please have all events for the calendar to the TCM parish office by **November 15**, especially the dates for Christmas programs.



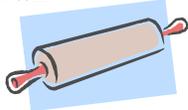
Lefse 101

Saturday, November 15

9:00 a.m.

Trinity in Binford

Is learning to make lefse on your bucket list? Then break out your rolling pin! Some of the local lefse gurus will be on hand to help the novices learn the tricks to turning out a tasty sheet of lefse. In fact, all lefse pros are invited to this little lefse school to offer any and all tips and advice.



No cost; the potatoes and other ingredients will be provided. Bring whatever lefse-making tools you have — rolling pin, turning stick, griddle, rolling mat. If you don't have any of the tools, don't worry. Sharing will definitely go on.

Lefse 101 is open to all. Invite your friends!

Red Willow Bible Camp in November

Barn Quilt Retreat
Saturday, November 8
9:00 — 3:00

Come and learn how to create a barn quilt, and if you want, bring the necessary supplies and start on a project. \$50 fee includes lunch and instruction. Go to www.redwillowministries.com for a complete list on supplies needed. Please call the camp to pre-register.



Tri-County Ministry Council Highlights September 24

Parsonage Policy: Motion carried to eliminate the cap on the Parsonage Fund, and to continue the monthly transfer of \$250 from the General Fund to the Parsonage Fund, even after the Parsonage Fund balance tops \$9,000.

Motion carried stating that if a parsonage is unoccupied by a Tri-County Ministry staff member and is not rented out, TCM will use funds from the Parsonage Fund to pay the monthly utilities on the parsonage.

2015 Budget: TCM Council recommends an assessment of \$400 per active confirmed member per congregation for the year 2015. Special congregational meetings to vote on the assessment will be held November 2 if scheduling permits.

Intern Program: Pastor Sherri was asked to bring information and options to the next meeting of the TCM Council.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 5, 7:00 at Trinity

Items for discussion: TCM Budget, Intern Program

Worship time alerts



Trinity of Binford:

8:30 on November 2

9:45 on November 16 & 23

11:15 on November 9 & 30

First Presbyterian:

9:45 on November 30

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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 and Sandwiches
&
Bake Sale**

Saturday, November 8

11:00 — 1:00

**Lutheran Church
of McVile**

