



From Pastor Jessica

“For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” ~Revelation 7:15-17

To All You Saints,

This summer has seen a lack of rain like none I’ve experienced since I moved here. But even native North Dakotans are saying they haven’t seen a summer like this in a long time. We’re lucky that the crops haven’t suffered drastically and we’ve have had to deal with only a few wild fires. But all around us we can see the effects of the ground water being depleted as it continues to nourish the plant and animal life. It is said that if we don’t get moisture this winter and spring, we’ll be in for some tough times next year.

As I go on my walk and pass the sloughs, I see the impact on the marsh grass and water fowl. I spend a lot of time with the Spirit when I go on my walks, and this got me to thinking about the living water of our faith and what can happen when that begins to dry up.

Our ground water isn’t going to replenish itself; for that we need the rains and snows of nature. It’s like that for the well spring of our faith as well. Just as plants and animals need the water for survival, we too need the constant nourishment of the living water. And that water is not something we give to ourselves or can replenish within ourselves. It comes from another source.

When we stay away from that source for too long we begin to lose the nourishment and dry up. Our faith suffers when we become dry. Ours is a life that needs that living water for growth, maturity, and health — the living water that comes from God alone.

The Spirit replenishes us through our Baptism, when we pray, read Scripture, partake in the Lord’s Supper, are in the midst of the fellowship of the Body of Christ. Through the Spirit, the church is a rich conduit for the water of life to come into us to nourish and sustain us.

We might think we can do it all on our own, alone. In a culture that emphasizes independence and not dependence, the idea of having to rely on someone, or something else, is not in our nature. And yet, to be independent of the Means of Grace (how God comes to us in our lives) is to threaten drought.

The church is a vessel by which God works through to bring us the water of life; to combat against the drought; to nourish and sustain us.

She’s here for you.

Will you come and receive?

Coming up for youth & families

Sr. High Sundays

All senior high youth are invited to Sunday afternoon discussion and supper on the first Sunday of each month. The first event will be on October 7; all 9th through 12th graders are invited to come to Trinity in Binford at 4:00. Supper will be “build your own pizza.”



Acres of Terror



We don't have a date for this yet, but it will probably be over teachers' convention weekend (the third weekend of October). This trip to the corn maze near Leonard is open to all youth grades 7-12. More info will be made available as plans are finalized.

Family Fun Day

Get ready for Halloween at our pumpkin carving and cookie decorating party! *Everyone* is invited to Grace in Grace City on Sunday afternoon, October 28. Come any time between 3:00 and 5:00. Pumpkins will be available, or bring your own. Please bring your own carving tools. And if you have any cookie decorations or tools to share, please bring them too.



Congregational Special Meetings

A special congregational meeting will be held in each of the seven TCM churches on Sunday, October 28.

The purpose of the meeting: approval of the per member assessment for the 2013 budget of Tri-County Ministry.

If you have budget questions, please talk to your TCM council representatives.

OCTOBER
IS
CLERGY
APPRECIATION
MONTH

Mosquito Awareness



Our “mosquito awareness” has ended in most congregations. So far, well over \$1000 has been given to help eradicate malaria.

If you didn't have a chance to make a donation, you may still do so. Just give a check to your church treasurer, but please make it out to *Tri-County Ministry*, as most treasurers have already sent the donations in.

A final report will be in next month's newsletter.

Worship time alerts

We are now fully into our new scheduling system, and some churches have already experienced a one-week change in their worship time.

In October, these are the changes to watch for:

Trinity 9:45 on October 14

Our Savior's McHenry 8:30 on October 14

**First Presbyterian 9:45 on October 7
9:45 on October 28**

Otherwise, all worship services will be at the usual times.

Think about electronic giving

Are you someone who is writing fewer and fewer checks? Do you pay your bills with the click of a mouse? Do you have automatic payments set up for your monthly bills? Are you all about “going green?” Yes? Then you are someone who may want to consider electronic giving to your congregation.

Electronic fund transfer is a way for you to support your congregation even on the weeks that you are not able to attend a worship service.

You may elect to give to your congregation as often as you wish—weekly, semi-weekly, monthly . . . Just tell your bank how much and when you’d like them to transfer your offering from your account to your congregation’s account. Most, if not all, banks will do the fund transfers free of charge.

If this is something that you’d like to try, please talk your bank and to your church treasurer.

TCM Council Highlights — August 30, 2012

Updating of TCM By-laws was completed.

The TCM Foundation Board will set a meeting. Board will include vice-president and treasurer of TCM Council (per TCM By-law revision) and TCM Council president (per TCM Foundation By-laws). The foundation board will also find two at-large members.

Front steps of Hannaford parsonage need to be replaced. Estimate was \$290 for treated wood. Discussion of using composite materials rather than wood. Council designated \$600 from the Parsonage Fund toward replacement of the front steps, with the understanding that no new funding for front steps be requested for the next eight years; the Faith Council may come back to the TCM Council if more than \$600 is needed.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Jessica: Jessica is serving on the Pastor to Pastor Advisory Board for the NW MN and EaND Synods, and is also on the Synod Stewardship Board. She’ll be leading a Bible study in McVille during September and October.

Pastor Kara: The 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering will be in Detroit. She’ll be setting up her Mutual Ministry team. She informed the council of the Pass It On Bible program through Luther Seminary.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 2 MEETING:

- ◆ Reading of updated TCM Agreement and By-Laws
- ◆ Update on Hannaford parsonage
- ◆ TCM budget for 2013

October at RWBC

Fall Impact Retreat

October 12-13
Grades 7-9

Country Jamboree

October 19
Grades K-6



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

There are whisperings of an area-wide Easter cantata in 2013. We have no details whatsoever yet, but if any definite plans are made, you’ll see it in the newsletter. In the meantime, if you think you might like to participate, talk to any staff member.

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**ANNUAL
TURKEY SUPPER
& BAKE SALE**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

5:00 — 7:00

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN GRACE CITY**

