



Tri-County Ministry News

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

From our pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that I am beginning my ninth month with you. Your call committee is hard at work and will shortly bring a call forward. So my interim ministry with you will soon be over. I have found great joy in serving you. Thank you. Until then we go on with the challenges that lie before us.

Fall is here.. I love the fall, but lives get so busy that we easily miss out on all that it holds for us.

The evenings and mornings are brisk with a crisp chill in the air. The afternoons warm with the sunshine. The weather is perfect in my way of thinking. And, it is as if God gets out his paint brush and throws in more colors with trees turning and the landscape taking on a new hue. The wondrous creation with its four seasons reminds us of the cycle of life: Spring -- birth, Summer -- life, Fall -- maturity, Winter -- death (but for Christians who live with an empty tomb there is always the promise of new life).

In the fall our lives wind up and are filled with all kinds of activity. There are still the corn and beans to harvest, fall field work, schools come off the summer hiatus and get into full swing with sports and all kinds of activities to be about (homework, too), the church winds up resuming and initiating all kinds of ministry opportunities, and communities resume all that the summer has put on hold. In other words, our lives get really busy.

However, the fall in all its glory causes us to pause now and then to behold the wonder of the Creator and all that he holds for us. Don't let these 'pauses' slip by or slip away from you. For as we take the time we cannot help but recall, "For God so loved the world. . . ." The beauty of fall whispers, prods and even shouts out the meaning of these words for us. In the fall we see, smell, feel, and take in the meaning of it. And, we cannot help but go on and hear in our minds the rest of the promise, "that he gave his only son to die for us that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). And for good measure we add verse 17: "For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world but that through him the world might be saved." All that God would hold out for us is proclaimed to us in these verses. Some have said, here we have the entire gospel in a nutshell.

Winter and its death cannot hold us in its grip. The tomb is empty. We have the promise of new and everlasting life. Therefore, do not be anxious about fall thinking winter is coming. Rather, embrace it in all of its beauty and glory. Winter -- death, has lost its sting and power over us. We always live in the hope of new life. For after winter always comes the spring.

Enjoy the fall and all of its beauty.

Pastor Joel

Special Congregational Meetings

Sunday, October 13

Immediately following the worship service
in each TCM congregation

Two votes:

Approval of the 2014 TCM per member
assessment

Approval of Letter of Call, as recommended by
the TCM Council

(The special meetings will be rescheduled to
October 20 or 27 if need be.)

Prairie Rose Conference

(formerly known as
Carrington Conference)

Fall Assembly

Sunday, October 13

3:00-4:30

First Lutheran Church
New Rockford

Each of our ELCA congregations
should have one or two delegates in
attendance. Our pastoral staff will
also be represented.

Pumpkin Fun Day!

Sunday, October 27

2:00

Grace in Grace City



Pumpkin carving
(bring your own tools)

Pumpkin painting
(paint and brushes provided,
or you may bring your own)

For kids of all ages (adults too).
Bring the whole family!

Snacks will be served.

Oktoberfest

Friday, October 25

4:00-9:00

At the home of Frau Wiechmann
(McVille Parsonage)

Come on over to our celebration of the
Reformation and enjoy some German goodies
and beverages!

October 27 is Reformation Sunday.

A special service is being planned by our pastors
which will be used in all the congregations of the
parish.

Come and worship!

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

Baptist Church

(as outlined in *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*)

The history of the Baptist movement includes the Anabaptist movement in the 16th century, known as Ana[re-]baptists because all those who had been baptized as infants chose to be baptized again at a later age as believers. Mennonites are a branch of the Anabaptist traditions, but are not part of the Baptist Church as we know it today.

Baptists are known for their distinctive approach to baptism (which is where they get their name). One of the main doctrines is that they believe only in "believer's baptism" where the individuals must choose for themselves to be baptized. This is different from Presbyterians and Lutherans who accept all baptisms, regardless of age or personal decision of the one being baptized.

Four main principles have remained for all Baptists: believer's baptism, restitution/restoration of New Testament church, congregational structure with emphasis on equal votes of members and independence from other churches, and commitment to defend religious freedom (strong emphasis upon separation of church and state). Other principles include emphasis on priesthood of all believers (all Christians have direct access to God) and that Scripture is to be interpreted literally and as the ultimate authority.

One noticeable difference from many other Christian traditions is that they do not use ancient creeds (including the Apostles') as part of worship. They have their own statements of belief, which may or may not be officially affirmed as part of the denominational belief system.

Worship time alerts



First Presbyterian:

9:45 on October 7 & 27,

11:15 on October 13 & 20

Do you still have your m & m donation container? The tubes of



quarters / cash /checks may be turned in to a pastor or to the Binford office through October.

So far, the donations are over \$1100!

October at RWBC



Scrapbook Retreat

October 17-20

(Contact Truley Trautman)

Impact Retreat (Grades 7-9)

"Elevate"

Friday/Saturday, October 11-12

Country Jamboree (Grades K-6)

Friday, October 18

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org

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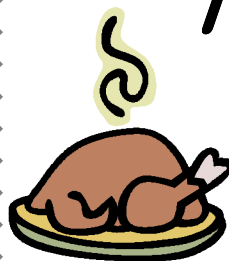
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Tri-County Ministry News is
published nine times per year:
January, February, March, April, June,
August, September, October, and
November.



**Annual
Turkey Supper
&
Bake Sale**

**Sunday, October 20
5:00 — 7:00**

**Grace Lutheran
Grace City**