



## ***From Pastor Sherri***

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*

~John 3:16, NRSV

How many of you had to memorize John 3:16 for Sunday School or confirmation? I would guess 80-90% of us. How many of us can still recite this verse, including where it comes from? Again, I would guess most of us. If not, could you use your Bible subject guide under “Love” or do a Bible lookup on the computer to find this verse? I am sure we have included almost everyone in our congregations by now.

I need to hear often that God loves me. I need to hear that “we love because God first loved us.” I know that you need to be reminded of this often too, because it shows on your faces during worship or when I share communion with you at your home or the hospital. It is because of the love of God through Christ Jesus that we can love those around us. Remember Jesus’ great commandment in John 13? “...just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

God’s love, as stated in John chapter 3, is not an insurance policy for our life when we leave this earth. Jesus is a proclamation of love for our lives *today*. There are many ways to love and many ways to proclaim our faith, as we all know. Loving others is a way we live out our faith.

I am challenging all of us to proclaim our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a new way. Can you send a card to a friend that you know is hurting and include a Bible verse and sign it by saying, “I am praying for you?” And then, actually pray for them? Are you able to stop by someone’s house with your Bible and read one verse with them or one Psalm and then pray the Lord’s Prayer with them? Maybe you would rather take a worship bulletin with you, sit down for just five minutes to let them know that you missed them in worship, and pray the Lord’s Prayer with them.

But isn’t that the “pastor’s job?” Yes, we are called to visit the sick and shut-ins and to provide Home Communion. And the pastors are called to visit with those who are struggling. And as people of faith, *we are all called* to reach out in love and care for each other.

(continued on page 2)

*(from Pastor Sherri continued)*

I am giggling as I can already hear your protests. “But Pastor, I have never done that before!” “But Pastor, it would not be comfortable for me!” “But Pastor, I don’t want to do that!” “But Pastor, we are Lutheran, or Presbyterian, or Norwegian, or German, or...etc.”

We proclaim our faith in worship with the Apostles’ Creed. The third article says “I believe in the Holy Spirit.” Do we really believe this? Luther’s Small Catechism explains, (what does this mean?) “I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts....” Do we really believe this? The Holy Spirit calls us and gifts us in our Baptism.

Here is my challenge. Try one thing. God may surprise you. Faith always comes after actions. As much as we want it to be the other way around, we will never act on our faith if we keep on waiting. Have a living faith. Is a friend hurting? Bring the word of Jesus Christ to them. *“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”* (Romans 10:17, NRSV) I am praying for the Holy Spirit to blow through Tri-County and to start our hearts on fire!

**October 30 is Reformation Sunday.**

**What to wear to church?**

**Red is the color of the day.**

## **Biblestick outreach has begun**

Our Military Biblestick outreach began on September 11 and donations are already coming in to our churches.

With a \$25 donation, a Biblestick is provided to a military person, and his/her family may also receive a Biblestick if requested. The Biblesticks are distributed by chaplains. Since the program began, over 700,000 Biblesticks have been given out.



Our churches will continue to receive donations through November 13, the Sunday following Veterans Day.

A check **of any size** may be made out to your church and placed in the offering plate or sent to your church office / treasurer. Please designate “Biblestick” on the memo line.

## **More animate FAITH opportunities**

The animate FAITH series will be offered at Faith in Hannaford for seven Sundays beginning in November. For now, please mark November 13 & 27 and December 11 on your calendars. Dates for the remaining sessions will be set after the new year. The sessions are planned for 3:00 Sunday afternoons.

## Gatherings in October

### Fall Presbytery Meeting

Friday-Saturday, October 14-15  
Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John

### Prairie Rose Conference Assembly

Sunday, October 23  
4:00 p.m.

Our Savior's in McHenry

Each congregation should have at least one representative at this annual meeting.

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*Coming next spring!*

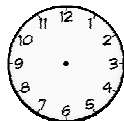
### P.R.A.Y. with Passion

Saturday, April 1  
Trinity in Binford

Using materials by Christian author and teacher Debbie Taylor Williams.

Mark this on your calendar and watch for more info in coming newsletters.

### Worship time alerts



#### First Presbyterian

- ♦ October 9, 16, 23, & 30 — Worship at 9:45 (regular worship time of 11:15 on October 2)

## Keeping in touch . . .

A while back, small prayer cards were placed in our churches, giving worshipers a way of offering prayer requests. The pastors would like to begin using those cards again, so the cards will be restocked at each church. Please make use of them; they will be a big help in keeping prayer lists up-to-date.

Also, if you are unable to attend worship but would like a bulletin, please contact the church office or a pastor and one will be delivered or mailed to you.

If you would like a pastor to visit, please give a call, text, or e-mail. They want to hear from you!

## Stewardship Corner

When we define “stewardship,” we first need to clarify our role in the church. We need to ask ourselves, “Are we asking people to join a club or are we about making disciples of Jesus?” Is there a difference?

The difference is in relationship. Are we helping people have a relationship with Jesus Christ or a relationship with the congregation?

As followers of Jesus, our primary relationship is with Jesus Christ. We live this out through our life in the congregation and the parish of Tri-County Ministry.

*Next time: “Discipleship versus Membership”*

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**August, September, October, and**  
**November.**



**October**  
**is**  
**Pastor**  
**Appreciation**  
**Month**