



From Pastor Marli

“How you doing?” This is simple conversation starter that most of us use everyday of our lives when we interact with others. However, most of us do not expect a complete rundown of the other person's problem or concern when we ask such a light hearted question. Most of expect an answer of "OK."

Since the vote of the church-wide assembly of the Evangelical Church of America in Minneapolis last month, I sense that some of the members and leaders of Tri-County Ministry are not OK. Some folks have started conversations with others and with staff. Not many of those conversations have started with small talk, but have immediately shown passion on the position of the member. This is not unusual in a gathering of believers. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 about the various parts of the body of believers and how we are all part of the body of Christ. Even so, how do we learn to respond to the passion of difficult situations calmly and courageously?

Dr. Peter Steinke, a respected congregational systems consultant who has also served as a parish pastor, educator and therapist, will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 523 4th Ave. SE. in Jamestown on October 2 & 3. He will speak about being calm and courageous, no matter what topic or discussion is brought to the conversation. This seminar was canceled last spring due to flooding, and looks like it is being held at just the right time.

Rev. Rick Foss, former Bishop of the EaND Synod, wrote this in the forward of Peter Steinke's book *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times*:

"...there have been times when I have not been as calm and courageous as I might have been, and it would have been easy for Steinke to write about calm and courageous leadership in such a way that I might feel judged or scolded. Fortunately, however, the practical wisdom in this book is also gracious, ... and I find insightful counsel on how to navigate similar situations better in the future."

This seminar, “Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times,” is convenient to attend: Friday evening, October 2nd, from 7 to 9 PM, and Saturday, October 3rd, from 9 AM to 3 PM. It is endorsed by a leader that we know: former EaND Synod Bishop Rick Foss. And it is affordable: \$20 for each attendee, which includes lunch on Saturday.

If you are interested in attending, contact Trinity Lutheran Church in Jamestown at 701-252-2841.

I have attended Peter Steinke seminars in the past and I highly recommend this gathering to each of you.

~ Pastor Marli

Two Global Mission Events in October

Monday, October 5

6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian in Cooperstown

Chenoa Stock, a missionary with the Presbyterian Church USA, will share about her work in Sri Lanka. The gathering will begin with a potluck meal, followed by Chenoa's sharing about her missionary life and work.

She will also present her work at the Presbytery of Northern Plains meeting in Bismarck October 2-3, and will then travel the presbytery until October 9th when she travels to Iowa and Montana.

For more information, please contact Pastor Marli Danielson at 676-2762.

Saturday, October 17

2:00—4:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church in Hannaford

Dr. James Buhr from Valley City will speak on the Central African Republic.

Mary Ann Sheets-Hanson, also from Valley City, will bring items from the Asante Network for purchase. The Asante Network is a non-profit organization and part of the Fair Trade Federation, whose goal is to help the women of Uganda and Tanzania develop their arts into viable home-based businesses.

Special meetings in October

Special congregational meetings will be held in each of our churches in October. The purpose of the meeting will be for our members to vote on the Tri-County Ministry proposed budget and congregational assessment for 2010. The proposed budget has a base payment of \$100 per Sunday worship service plus \$210 per active confirmed member. The major change in the 2010 budget is in staffing. The proposed budget allows for 2.5 pastors and an intern pastor. (Minutes of the September TCM meeting, as well as the proposed budget, are elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The special meetings will be held following the worship services on the following Sundays:

October 11:

Our Savior's of McHenry

Grace

Our Savior's of Klotten

Trinity of Cooperstown

Faith

First Presbyterian

McVile

October 18:

Mabel

Trinity of Binford

If you have questions, please contact your congregation's representatives to the TCM Council.

Carrington

Conference

Assembly

Sunday, October 11

2:00 p.m.

**Hosted by Lutheran
Church of McVile**

Our Lutheran congregations should all be represented by delegates to this meeting. The meeting is open to everyone.

Bishop Rindy or another synod representative will be present.

Tri-County Ministry Council Highlights — September 23, 2009

- Parish Nurse program will not be pursued for 2010.
- TCM Confirmation program will begin in October. Classes will rotate between the churches having students in the program. Trinity of Cooperstown is offering an alternate confirmation program for their students, under the leadership of Truley Trautman.
- Trinity of Cooperstown is in discussion regarding their future with Tri-County Ministry.
- The Mabel congregation is also in discussions, regarding their future as a congregation.
- The Executive Committee recommended the 2010 TCM budget that had been drawn up by the Finance Committee. Staffing would include 2.5 pastors and an intern pastor. Pastor Jessica Merchant would remain at full time; Pastors Marli and Cheri Danielson would each be at 3/4 time. Recommended assessment is \$100 per Sunday worship service, plus \$210 per active confirmed member. Special congregational meetings will be held in October for the purpose of voting on the budget and assessment.
- TCM Council will meet October 28. Representatives from the EaND Synod and Presbytery of the Northern Plains will be present.

Various Bibles available

Tri-County Ministry has a few copies remaining of the Lutheran Study Bible. Cost is \$23 (for the paperback version).



Also, over the years as different versions of the Bibles have been used in our confirmation classes, we've ended up with a few copies of each on hand. We have copies of the Youth Bible (New Century Version) for \$17 each, and copies of the Student Bible (New Revised Standard Version) for \$20 each.

Please contact Theresa at the Binford office if interested.

A snapshot of the proposed 2010 Tri-County Ministry budget

Income

TCM Foundation	8,400
RWBC (contracted services)	<u>6,000</u>
	14,400
TCM Churches	<u>232,720</u>
Total Income	247,120

Expense

Automobile Expense	24,000
Conventions/Retreats	1,500
Intern Program	30,000
Youth Ministry	1,800
Miscellaneous	4,000
Office Equipment	1,000
Office Expense	4,000
Parsonage Fund	3,000
Pulpit Supply	4,400
Salary Expense	182,120
Telephone Expense	4,500
Website	<u>600</u>
Total Expense	260,920

Net Income / Loss -13,800

Net Loss will be covered by current cash surplus.

Tri-County Ministry Confirmation Program 2009-2010

In an attempt to address the needs of confirmation students and staff, and also the realities of being a parish in which youth from a number of churches are involved in confirmation classes, our confirmation program this year will take on a new look. Here are some of the changes:

- **Who:** Students from all participating congregations will be meeting together as one class, and will be taught by the pastoral staff and the intern.
- **When:** Classes will meet once a month, beginning in October, on the second Saturday from 9:00 to noon.
- **Where:** Classes will rotate between churches having young people in confirmation. The October class will be at Trinity, Binford; a full schedule of classes and places will be given to students at that time.
- **What:** Six of the eight class sessions (running October through May) will include worship and prayer; community-building exercises and games; a presentation on worship, Bible or catechism by one of the staff; small group discussion with adult “Faith Guides,” and, of course, a snack. Two of the class sessions during the year will be devoted to service projects—one at Northlands Rescue Mission in Grand Forks and one that will be carried out locally.

We will also continue to encourage and train students to be involved in worship as readers, worship leaders, ushers, etc.

Please take time to pray for our confirmation students—and also for their parents, who are always their first teachers.

October at Red Willow Bible Camp

Saddle Up for Jesus

Women’s Trail Ride
Saturday, October 3
\$30

More info on the camp’s website.

God’s Guide to the Galaxy!

Friday-Saturday, October 9-10
Grades 3-6
5:00 Friday — Noon Saturday

Bring your Bible, invite a friend, and get ready for 19 hours of fun, music, games, learning and prayer.

You will find the answer to the big question: Can reading my Bible really be fun? Allison will show you how.

Cost is \$45 and \$40 for additional members of the same family.

Confirmation Retreat

Friday-Saturday, October 16-17
Grades 7—9
5:00 Friday — Noon Saturday

Choose between “Five Things Every Lutheran Needs to Know” or “Parables.”

Cost is \$45 and \$40 for additional members of the same family.

Wild West Rodeo Play Day

Friday, October 23, 9:00-3:00 (note date change)
Kindergarten — 3rd grade

Nikki and Alan Boote and family will again share the thrills and spills of rodeo life, and have a bunch of fun games to play.

Cost is \$20 and \$15 for additional members of the same family.



For more information on all retreats, check out the brochures,
call the camp or go to their website.

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org

Tri-County Ministry
Box 226
Binford, ND 58416
Phone 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Box 665
Cooperstown, ND 58425
Phone 797-3611, fax 797-3610

www.tricountyministry.org

Pastor Jessica Merchant..... 769-2231
(cell) 218-230-4479
uncas16@hotmail.com

Pastor Cheri Danielson 676-2762
(cell) 789-8016
cheridanielson@dflytech.com

Pastor Marli Danielson 676-2762
(cell) 789-8006
marli_danielson@dflytech.com

Intern Trichelle Kirchenwitz 797-3463
(cell) 701-799-6607
tkirchenwitz001@luthersem.edu

TCM Parish Administrator
Theresa Fiebiger 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Faith of Hannaford 769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
797-3112
bthomas@invisimax.com

Grace of Grace City 674-3112
kmac@daktel.com

Mabel of Sutton..... 769-2396
gstokka_00@yahoo.com

McVilLe Lutheran Church..... 322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

Our Savior's, Kloten 322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

Our Savior's of McHenry 785-2117
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Trinity of Binford..... 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Trinity of Cooperstown 797-3611
trinityofcooperstown@mlgc.com

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nine times per year: January, February,
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October, and November.

Let's Eat Out!

Soup, Sandwiches, and Pie

Sunday, October 11

11:00 — 1:00

Sutton Sr. Center

Sponsored by Mabel WELCA

Turkey and all the Trimmings

Sunday, October 18

5:00 — 7:00

Grace Lutheran Church in Grace City

Bake sales at both events!