



## A Word from the Pastor

Dear Fellow Learners in Life and Faith,

A man we know told a story about his son, a golfer, who was preparing for a golf tournament some years back. This particular young man was very competitive about his golfing. He had all the newest and best equipment; he had a good deal of experience; and he was strong and physically fit. But he wanted to be sure he would win the tournament! So, for the first time in his life, he paid \$30 for a half-hour lesson with a golf pro. His father asked him what wonderful new techniques he had learned from the professional; the man replied, “He told me to keep my head down, and keep my eye on the ball.” His father was dumbfounded. “That’s it? You paid \$30 for him to tell you to ‘keep your head down, and keep your eye on the ball?!’” And his son replied, “Yep, that’s it!”

Now, I’m not a golfer, but I understand enough to know that this was pretty basic advice. Nothing new or unusual or unique came from this \$30 session—just some old back-to-basics advice. It’s the kind of advice we need to hear every once in awhile as Christians, too. We can get so very concerned about whether we’re going to have enough money; or about what our future is going to hold; or about what kind of changes may be ahead of us; or about how we’re going to survive. But God is still working with us! And when it comes to our most important work—being a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ—the old basic advice is still the main thing we need to know: “Keep your head down and your eye on God.”

It’s not about “winning” anything, and it’s not about having a future that’s entirely secure. It’s not about trying to keep things the way “they’ve always been,” and it’s not about how *we* think things are going. But it *is* about God. God is the one we need to keep our eyes on, the one we need to focus our hopes on. What we do and think and desire has to be our second, or even our third concern. What comes *first* is God, and what God is doing within us and among us and through us.

St. Paul says something similar in his letter to the Hebrews:

*Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. (Hebrews 12:2)*

God help us never to lose sight of where we are headed, and in whose company we travel.

God’s blessings to you and yours!

*Pastor Cheri Danielson*

## ***The Gospel of Mark***

Mondays: September 15th thru October 13th

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Griggs County Central High School



"The shortest and earliest of the written gospels, Mark's fast-paced story of Jesus begins and ends with surprising

abruptness. Throughout his Gospel, Mark weaves a challenging set of narratives, sayings and parables to bring us into the presence of a Savior both mysterious and determined."

*~Luther Center for Lifelong Learning course description.*

We will be viewing the class via the internet; you do not have to have a computer to participate on Monday evenings. The course is archived weekly; should you not be able to attend Monday evenings you could watch the class via your own computer at some time during the following week (you would need Adobe Acrobat on your computer). Fee for the course is based on number of participants.

Please call Pastor Jessica or Theresa Fiebiger to sign up.

## ***Healing Service***

**Sunday evening**

**September 28**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Trinity in Cooperstown**

***For all the people of our communities***



## ***Confirmation Parents' Night***

***Wednesday, September 3***

***7:00 p.m.***

***Trinity in Cooperstown  
Trinity in Binford  
Lutheran Church of McVile***

***For parents of all 7th, 8th, and 9th  
grade confirmation students***

## ***EaND WELCA Convention***

***Saturday, September 13***

***Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
in Hope***

***WELCA presidents will have details.***

## ***TCM website coming back***

Over the summer, the Evangelism Committee of the Tri-County Ministry Council has begun work on resurrecting the Tri-County Ministry website. Tyler Tuft and Erik Kringlie of Valley City have been hired to re-design the site. Within the next month or two, you should be able to log on to [www.tricountyministry.org](http://www.tricountyministry.org) and see what is happening in our parish.

You may have noticed a different logo on the front page of this newsletter. This dove logo, an alternate logo that has been used by TCM over the years, is now becoming our primary logo. It will eventually be used on all our printed materials as well as on the website.

## ***Spirituality workshop in Moorhead***

The Coaching Team of the Presbytery of Northern Plains is excited to be hosting a FREE workshop on Developing Spiritually Focused Leaders. The workshop will focus on the following topics:

- You can't lead where you're not going
- Becoming the model you were created to be
- Raising up spiritual leaders
- Accountability that changes lives

You'll not only be inspired to be better for the gospel after this workshop, you'll get valuable tips and lessons in practical ways to do this.

Anyone working in the church, in paid and volunteer positions, is welcome – pastors, staff, CE directors, small group leaders, committee chairs, elders, deacons, those who care about church growth, and those who want to be a part of sharing the gospel in cultures we don't always quite understand. The experience of this workshop will be best realized if 2 or more from your church or organization are able to attend together, so gather up your colleagues and friends for a day of motivation and learning!

**When: Wednesday, September 24, 2008**

**Time: 9-4 (lunch provided, free will offering)**

**Where: First Presbyterian Church  
2900 5<sup>th</sup> St. S.  
Moorhead, MN**

Only 200 people can be accommodated, so reserve your spot soon:

Cheryl Biller

701.371.2809

cheryl@plantproinc.com

Our three TCM pastors will be attending this workshop. If you are interested in attending as a TCM group, please contact Theresa Fiebiger; we'll use the TCM van (for a small charge) if enough people are interested.

## ***Synod Endowment emphasis in September***

Sunday, September 28, is the annual Synod Endowment Sunday.

The Eastern North Dakota Synod Endowment is a special fund that is used to help pastors with seminary tuition fees and student loan repayment. This fund also assists congregations with their intern programs. We in TCM have benefited from this endowment fund.

Donation envelopes, as well as more information, will be available in your church. You may also check out the synod website:

[www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org)

### ***Our Savior's WELCA Fall Supper***

***Saturday, September 27  
Our Savior's in McHenry  
5:00—7:00***

***Beef and pork supper with  
all the trimmings***

***Bake sale***



## “Kick-Off to Fall” Dinner

**McVille Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, September 14**  
**11:00 - 1:00**

**Menu: Baked potato, meat loaf,  
coleslaw, dinner rolls, bars**

**Adults: \$7.00**  
**Ages 6-12: \$4.00**  
**5 and under: free**

Served by stewardship groups of McVille Lutheran

### ***Save these dates:***

**Sunday, November 30** — Supper and dinner theater at Trinity in Cooperstown. Skits/plays are invited from each of the TCM triads.

**December 6** — Family mission trip to the Northland Rescue Center in Grand Forks

### ***Military Address***

**SGT Cody J Johnson**  
**191 MP Co / 95th MP BTL**  
**FOB Rustamiyah**  
**APO AE 09390-2402**



If you have an address and/or e-mail that could be listed in the newsletter, please call or e-mail Theresa with it.

## **September at Red Willow Bible Camp**

### *21st Annual Quilt Auction*

*Saturday, September 6*

- 9:15 Prayer Breakfast  
Quilt Viewing (all morning)  
Silent Auction begins  
Antique Tractor Display on the Game Field
- 10:15 Antique Quilt Bed Turning in the Chapel
- 11:15 Buffet lunch in the Retreat Center
- 12:30 Auction begins, Silent Auction continues
- 3:00 Quilt raffle drawing (Tickets are available from your WELCA president or at the camp)

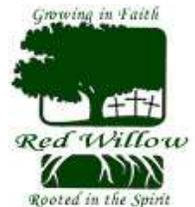
### *Scrapbooking*

*September 19-21*

6:00 Friday—3:00 Sunday

Led by Truley Trautman

Check out the website for info and price breakdown.



### ***CHRISTIAN S-AGING***

***"Finishing Strong & Dying Well"***

***Friday, Sept. 26, 10:00 am to 2:35 pm***

Four-one hour segments and lunch at the Ofstedal Retreat Center at Red Willow Bible Camp.

Open to adults over 50 years old who would like to set or readjust their journey and Plan for Life 2.

The cost per couple is \$25 (includes meal) or \$15 for a single.

Contact the RWBC office to register or for more information. (Much more info is available on the website!)

[www.redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://www.redwillowbiblecamp.org)

# ***Dash to Duluth***

***submitted by Pastor Marli Danielson***

On Saturday, August 2, Steven Eberhardt, Dillon Fliflet, Jesse Halvorson, Alecksy Iverson, Lance Johnson, Ethan Nolan, Parker Paintner, Kris Wathne, Darla Fliflet (Tri-County Youth Worker) and Pastor Marli Danielson left Cooperstown for the Twin Ports of Duluth, MN and Superior, WI for a week a ministry and fun.

On Sunday we worshiped at Glen Avon Presbyterian (our residence during the trip) before beginning our ministry at the Seafarers Center in Duluth. The Seafarers Center is a ministry to sailors of foreign flagged ships that sail into the Twin Ports. When we arrived at the center, the director of Seafarers ministry, Pastor Tom Anderson, gave us a tour and listed our projects for the week. A transitional housing project had just moved out of the center and our group was asked to help clean and prepare the center for serving sailors and volunteers to sailors. Our tasks where to clean and scrub a kitchen and a rest room, remove a dining room carpet, carpet pad and tack strips, move furniture, paint a storage room floor, dismantle and move two large storage units, clean the garage, remove an old dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer, mow and trim the lawn, polish wooden paneling, and replace about 60 light bulbs. Our crew was not overwhelmed by this list, but was excited about the opportunity.

That evening, we helped Anderson host 15 sailors from two different ships in port. We transported the sailors, we visited (in English), we played pool and ping-pong with the sailors, Lance told stories that helped the crew laugh, we baked a 16 inch chocolate chip cookie and made sure every sailor had a piece of the cookie before us, we shared North Dakota maps with those that wanted them, we gave a pound of wild rice to each cook from each ship, we learned about the Philippines, Holland, heard one of the captains was from the Ukraine, and we heard how many foreign sailors leave their homes for up to one year to work on their ship. The sailors were from two ships docked to unload oil refinery equipment bound for Alberta Canada and wind powered generation equipment for Iowa and Minnesota. One young sailor, Andy, from the Philippines, told us his wife is expecting a baby in six months and that he will not be

home at his child's birth. We prayed for Andy and his family each day.

On Monday we started to perform our tasks at the Seafarers Center. That evening we ate with staff at Union Gospel Mission in Duluth, and then assisted them with serving the evening meal. We visited with folks as they ate (for many their only meal of the day) and cleaned up the kitchen and dining room. We then attended the Duluth Huskies baseball game; the Huskies lost :(

On Tuesday we finished all the projects we had started at the Seafarers Center. Before we left, director Anderson told us how impressed he was with our (North Dakota) work ethic and how we had helped foreign sailors by making the center a better place to serve them. He told us we would be welcome to come to the Seafarers Center anytime. Anderson told us the sailors felt they had been with family :) as our group interacted with them. That evening we were treated to a picnic supper with Brad Haugen, a former Hannaford resident, and his wife in Superior. We later swam and visited a an Ojibwa cemetery.

We relaxed on Wednesday at Gooseberry State Park, Palisade Head, and Edgewater Resort & Water Park. That evening we were invited to an ice cream social and outdoor movie at Glen Avon Presbyterian Church. The last night in our group discussion, we talked about "To God be the Glory!" Thursday, we motored back to Cooperstown. Our group worked hard and played hard; we started and ended each day with Bible study, prayer, and sharing. I wonder if anyone would go back next year?

We have many pictures and memories of our trip to the Twin Ports of Duluth and Superior. We are looking for a date to share these memories with the parish. Lastly, thank you Tri-County Ministry for the opportunity to serve on this mission trip, our Dash to Duluth!

Steven Eberhardt, Dillon Fliflet,  
Jesse Halvorson, Alecksy Iverson,  
Lance Johnson, Ethan Nolan,  
Parker Paintner, Kris Wathne,  
Darla Fliflet (Tri-County Youth Worker),  
Pastor Marli Danielson

# ***TCM Council Highlights — July 30***

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Work has begun on the 2009 budget.

**Education, Youth and Family:** Discussed December 6-7 for a mission project at the Northland Rescue Center in Grand Forks.

Dinner theatre is being planned for the November 30 at Trinity in Cooperstown; each triad is asked to designate someone to be in charge of that triad's skit. Potluck supper will be served. Freewill offering could be given to the Northland Rescue Center in Grand Forks.

A Bible study will be planned for each triad on Sunday afternoons at 3:00, January 4 – February 22, to be completed before Lent. The study would rotate among the churches in each triad.

Committee discussed possibilities of outreach to displaced or refugee families.

**Evangelism and Mission:** Website design has begun.

**Property:** Committee plans to meet with Cooperstown Trinity trustees to discuss repairs in the Cooperstown parsonage.

**Worship:** Adopted a mission statement: *"The mission of the Tri-County Worship Committee is to gather God's people for devotion, praise, and thanksgiving."*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**TCM Website:** Tyler Tuft/Eric Kringlie have been hired to re-design the TCM website, at an approximate cost of \$1500. Funding would come from the General Fund and would be reimbursed by bequest funds which are currently in savings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Intern Program Handbook:** Pastor Jessica has put a handbook together, which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. Changes will be made, and the

handbook will be presented to the full council at the August meeting for their approval. This handbook will then be sent to synods, presbyteries, and seminaries; it will also be available in our churches.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approved and filed

- General Fund 6/30/08: \$45,542.08
- Parsonage Fund 6/30/08: \$2,074.11 (\$725 earmarked for Cooperstown parsonage)
- Special Funds 6/30/08: \$5,267.77

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Pastor Cheri Danielson:** She and Pastor Marli recently attended a continuing education event at Luther Seminary, focusing on the Book of Faith initiative of the ELCA.

Staff members have divided some of their responsibilities. Pastor Cheri will serve as the intern supervisor; Pastor Marli will oversee Seminary on the Prairie; Pastor Jessica will work with the Lay Disciples. Pastor Cheri has begun studying the intern application.

**Pastor Marli Danielson:** is working on Seminary on the Prairie. He hopes that the "Dash to Duluth" youth can give presentations in our churches this fall about the trip. He will represent TCM on the Red Willow Bible Camp board as a non-voting member, per the agreement between TCM and RWBC.

**Pastor Jessica Merchant:** Meets monthly with the Lay Disciples. They are currently discussing who the lay disciples are and what their roles are in TCM. She is working with Pastors Marli and Cheri on the TCM confirmation program.

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## Rally Sundays

Sunday School is beginning again in our churches. These are the dates that we have so far for the first day of Sunday School:

Lutheran Church of McVile.....	September 14
Trinity of Cooperstown.....	September 14
Our Savior's of McHenry.....	September 21
Trinity of Binford.....	September 21
Faith of Hannaford.....	September 21