



## ***From Pastor Jessica***

*Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*

*The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"*

*Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."*

*~ John 4: 10-14*

When I lived in New York the only thing I thought about rain was that it involved me having to remember to bring an umbrella. However, as I sat out on my back stoop on a Friday night listening to the thunder rolling over the prairie, I had a much greater appreciation and understanding of rain. And as I sat in expectation, I couldn't wait for the rain drops to come and force me inside.

When I first arrived here in ND, I had no idea that a small rain shower in the morning could spell trouble because it delayed harvesting that day. And I have come to learn that when the rain does come, sometimes it comes too late and the damage is already done. Or it comes in too great a quantity and keeps fields from being planted, drowns the seed, or delays harvest. Or it can come in forms which tear a field to shreds, leaving the devastated crops a reminder of nature's fury. And, I would guess, it will be a long time before we forget the flooding of '09.

But it brings me to think about the water we receive as a gift that comes in good order, the right amount, the right time, and for what we need; the water of life that Jesus promises us. It is a gift that is given unconditionally, eternally, and saves.

We cannot dictate rain, tell it when to come and in what amounts. It is out of our control. But that is not so with the water that Jesus gives us; for in his love for us he gives us exactly what we need and we need not worry about when or how, or how much. My lawn looks much better after the two days of rain; it's beginning to become green again. Have you ever had a plant that went a couple of days beyond needing to be watered and seen how limp it looked? Pour some H<sub>2</sub>O over it and within minutes you can see it spring back to life. And just as the crops and our gardens, flowers, lawns and trees need the life giving water of rain so too we need this life giving water of Jesus who is the fount and source.

Think of how the water of life nourishes us and sustains us in the midst of all of life's storms and joys. It brings to us the presence of God through the Holy Spirit. It moistens our hard hearts and hydrates our shriveled hopes. We may not be able to control the rain; but, in Jesus Christ we do have water that gives us life. He makes it happen – it doesn't come too late, not enough, too much, too soon, in damaging forms – he, who is the fount and source pours over us, and out of us, the life giving water. He promised; and faith believes that God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, will do what the Triune God has promised to do.

Drink up!

*While Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7: 37-38)*

## ***Internship News***

A big WELCOME to our intern, Trichelle Kirchenwitz, and to her husband Kent, as they begin their time with us September 1. Please take every opportunity to welcome them and get to know them.

Our Intern Committee now has members from all churches. Members of this committee are:

- Denny Thomas (Chair), First Presbyterian
- Gwen Hoverson, Mabel
- Helene Fossum, Trinity Cooperstown
- Dick Hanson, Our Savior's Kloten
- Kayla Kouba, Faith
- Jason Vollmer, Our Savior's McHenry
- Eunice Munson, Grace
- Pam Adrian, Trinity Binford
- Amy Olson, McVillage Lutheran

The committee will be asking congregations to arrange a coffee hour (WITH NAMETAGS!) to welcome Trichelle and Kent, and to give everyone a chance to greet them.

## ***Sunday rotation to continue***

Your pastoral staff has been rotating through the parish more often this summer. As staff, we enjoy this variety and the ability to become more familiar with each one of you. You will see this happening more this fall as Trichelle Kirchenwitz, our new intern, joins us in Tri-County Ministry. Trichelle will rotate throughout the entire parish, first with each pastor and then as she begins to preach in every church.

As your pastors, each one of us will continue to serve the triads as we have in the past, but Trichelle will also preach and serve in all nine churches in TCM. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Trichelle as she rotates throughout the parish.

Pastor Marli

## ***Meet our intern pastor —***

Hello, my name is Trichelle Kirchenwitz, and beginning September 1, 2009, I will be doing my internship at Tri-County Ministry. I wanted to take some time to introduce myself.

I was born and raised on a farm in Medina, ND. I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. I graduated with a major in social work. After I graduated, I worked as a social worker in chemical dependency and mental health for 4 years.

My husband's name is Kent. We have been married for 8 years. He is a service technician for Deaton's Mailing Systems out of Moorhead, MN. He is responsible for maintenance and repair of mailing machines, such as folder/inserters and postage meters. Kent has lived in Fargo during my previous two years of seminary and will continue to live in Fargo during internship this year.

In my spare time, I like to read, knit/crochet, play piano, bake and I also love to spend time with my family and friends.

I look forward to spending this year living and working among all of you!

## ***Webcast from Luther Seminary***

### **The Gospel of Luke**

Monday evenings, September 14 - October 12  
7:00 - 9:00

Griggs County Central High School

Luke's Gospel tells the story of Jesus from conception to ascension. So many of Luke's memorable parables and stories come from this Gospel alone: the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, the steward of unrighteousness. In this class we will follow Jesus' story as carefully as Luke wrote it. We will seek greater understanding of how the parables and narrative highlight the great themes of salvation and service that permeate this Gospel.

You do not need a computer to attend this class. If you have a computer you can watch the webcast from your house; Adobe software required. Please contact Pastor Jessica if you have any questions.

### **Eastern North Dakota Synod WELCA Convention**

**Friday-Saturday, September 18-19  
United Lutheran Church in Langdon**

**"Act Boldly: Building CommUNITY"**

**Friday: Music by "Border Harmony"  
7:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday: Registration 8-9:00 a.m.  
Speakers, Bible study, workshops, displays,  
Holy Communion, luncheon  
In-kind offerings of food items for Langdon  
food pantry and paper products for Park River  
Bible Camp**

**Please contact your local WELCA president by  
September 8 to pre-register.**

## ***Healing Service***

Sunday evening, September 27  
7:00 p.m.  
Trinity in Cooperstown



*For all the people of our  
communities*

### **LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE available**

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



### ***Wednesday Evening Worship Services***

Two Wednesday evening services will be held in September.

September 2  
7:30 p.m.  
Lutheran Church of McVille

September 9  
7:00 p.m.  
Faith in Hannaford

No worship services at either McVille, Our Savior's of Kloten, or Hannaford on Sunday, September 6.

## Changes possible in your parish newsletter

Your parish newsletter, "Tri-County Ministry News," may need to be changed in the next month or so in order to meet mailing regulations of the US Post Office.

The Parish Administrator is in the process of having TCM formally declared a non-profit organization. Yes, just because our nine churches are non-profit, TCM is not automatically non-profit.

If the non-profit status has not been approved by the end of September, you might receive a newsletter that does not have the words "Tri-County Ministry" appearing anywhere. (This especially relates to Trinity of Cooperstown, Binford/McHenry, and McVile/Kloten. If you pick up your newsletter at the church, or if you receive your newsletter through first class mail, then we can still talk about Tri-County Ministry in the newsletter.)

The hope is that all the legalities can be settled to our satisfaction, but in the meantime, be aware of some changes which may be confusing.

And remember that each TCM newsletter may be viewed on our website: [www.tricountyministry.org](http://www.tricountyministry.org)

## Coming up at Red Willow Bible Camp

**Quilt and Fine Arts Auction**  
Saturday, September 12

**Scrapbooking Retreat**  
Friday-Sunday, September 18-20

**Wild West Rodeo Play Day**  
Saturday, October 3, 9:00-3:00  
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.

**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

Dig deeper into the Lord's Prayer or some of the Parables. Cost is \$45 and \$40 for additional members of the same family.

**Grades 9-12**  
November 20-21  
(More info next month)  
Cost: \$50 and \$45 for additional members of the same family.

For more information on all retreats, call the camp or go to their website.  
[www.redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://www.redwillowbiblecamp.org)



### Dinner Theatre

Sunday, September 27

Faith Lutheran in Hannaford

Dinner at 6:00

50's theme theatre  
presented by the  
Faith Sunday School

Advance tickets are needed.

Phone 769-2149

### Global Mission Event

Coming a Saturday in October

9:30 — Noon

Faith Lutheran Church in Hannaford

Dr. James Buhr will speak on the  
Central African Republic.

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

## ***Fall Supper***

**Saturday, September 26**

**5:00 — 7:00**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church in McHenry**

**Beef and Pork and all the trimmings!**

**Bake sale too.**

**Sponsored by Our Savior's WELCA**