



## ***From Pastor Kara***

Grace and peace to you all!

I am simply amazed that the summer has flown by and the school year has begun. Time just keeps slipping past, but fortunately there are always a few activities that stick out as significant. This summer one of the biggest was being fortunate enough to travel in July to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans with two of Tri-County's youth. That was an experience to remember and to cherish. We started and ended each day with worship, scripture and lots of peppy music. Our days were filled with time in prayer, listening to speakers, talking about faith and life, singing and dancing and praising God. God was there in the midst of more than 33,000 teens plus thousands of adult leaders who came to serve others, to worship, and to learn and grow.

Over the past months, I have been spending a lot of time thinking about the small things in life: the many blessings that we far too often overlook or take for granted. Lately, my mind has been trying to understand the profoundness of the words *Ruach* and *Pneuma*, which are the Hebrew and Greek words for wind/breath/Spirit. The ancients understood somehow that the movement of air was essential to life. Something as simple as air was a sign of God's gift of life.

But then again, God often uses the simple and mundane and common in order to perform miracles.

Each day, we encounter simple miracles. Simple things that brighten our days and lift our spirits: smiles, babies (humans and animals), colors of the world around us (from the sunrise/sunset to the abundance of colorful plants), generosity and love. Just to name a few.

We are truly blessed with an abundance of miracles, and we are able to see these when we open our eyes and our hearts to the small things in life. When we let ourselves pay attention, we can be overwhelmed by ordinary parts of life such as walking in the rain or sunshine, watching God's firework shows (aka lightning), looking at flowers, laughing with loved ones, and knowing that we are not alone because the fact is that God is with us in every breath that we take.

I encourage you to seek out and pay attention to the small miracles in life. Because God has truly blessed us in abundance. We just often take the small miracles for granted and overlook them because they are so common.

Thanks be to the God whose breath is our life. Amen.

Pastor Kara

# Mosquito Awareness

For the past couple of months, we've been seeing mosquitoes around our churches to remind us of our campaign against malaria. A jar was placed in each church for donations to this fund raiser.



The campaign within our parish has about a month to go. Toward the end of September, each congregation or Sunday School will tally up the donations. If they wish, they will designate the funds to such things as mosquito nets or medication for malaria. Or the funds may be sent in to be used as needed.

Some more facts about this preventable disease:

- ◆ 800,000 people die from malaria each year.
- ◆ Nine out of ten victims live in Africa.
- ◆ An African child averages almost six malaria episodes per year.



The funds donated to the malaria campaign will provide mosquito nets, medication to treat and prevent malaria, training for medical personnel, and education for people to learn how to recognize and prevent malaria.

If you have a piggy bank that has gotten way to heavy, or too much change laying on top of your clothes dryer, or too much cash taking up space in your wallet, there is a jar in your church to lighten the load. These donations will go an amazingly long way!

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## ***Pastors attending annual conference***

Pastors Jessica and Kara will be attending the Fall Professional Leadership Conference at Fair Hills September 9-11. Therefore, they will be out of the area from that Sunday afternoon until that Tuesday afternoon. In case of emergency, please call Theresa and she will contact them.

## ***Confirmation classes beginning***

- ◆ Confirmation classes begin in September.
- ◆ If you have a student wanting to begin confirmation studies, but have not received any information, please contact one of our pastors.

*Fall is almost here, school has started, and this is the time of year that your staff begins planning for the next nine months or so.*

*If you have dates that need to go on the church calendar, please contact Theresa as soon as you can. Church suppers, Christmas programs, and all other special events are included.*



**25th  
Eastern North Dakota  
Synodical Women's  
Organization  
Convention**

**Saturday, September 15  
Red Willow Bible Camp**

**“Reflect on the Past—Embrace  
the Future”**

**Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.  
Worship at 9:00 led by Bishop  
Bill Rindy**

**Guest speaker is Valora Starr,  
Churchwide Director for  
Discipleship**

**In kind offering for RWBC:  
paper products, laundry supplies,  
cleaning supplies, coffee, pot  
holders, craft supplies**

**Lunch cost is \$10. Please pre-  
register with Linda Leininger at  
676-2721.**

## **Update on Worship Scheduling**

In our last newsletter, it was reported that scheduling changes were coming. The changes make it possible to continue having weekly worship in each congregation now that Pastor Russ has officially retired from full time pulpit supply. The new way of scheduling will begin in September.

Once every six weeks, a congregation is responsible for planning and possibly leading its own worship service. This isn't as complicated as it sounds. Each church council/session has received the dates of responsibility, and has discussed how to cover those services.

For the most part, congregations will continue to worship at their regular times. The biggest change comes for Faith in Hannaford, who basically moves back to their old worship time of 11:15 beginning September 9. Some congregations will notice that their worship times will occasionally move to an alternate time for one week. For this reason, you need to keep your calendar handy so you can check it regularly.

This rotation is in place for now through November. Because of Advent and Christmas events in December, the rotation will not be necessary for that month. When we move into the new year, a rotation schedule will go back into place.

*Again, please please pay close attention to your church calendar!*

## ***This fall at RWBC***

**Saddle Up for Jesus**  
September 29  
Women's Retreat

**Family Trail Ride**  
September 29

**Fall Impact Retreat**  
October 12-13  
Grades 7-9

**Country Jamboree**  
October 19  
Grades K-6



Please check with your church council and WELCA for scholarship information.  
For more information, call the camp or go to their website.

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

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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  
Beef and Pork Supper*

*Saturday, September 29*

*5:00 – 7:00*

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
in McHenry*

*Served by Our Savior's WELCA*