



Tri-County Ministry News

We exist to serve Christ in harmony with our member churches and communities.

From our pastor

Grace and Peace!

Lately I've been thinking about the word "home." Such a simple and yet profound word that brings up various images (good and bad) for each one of us. We have the saying "home is where your heart is," which could be interpreted that home is anywhere you gather with your loved ones, but more often than not, home is a building or a piece of land.

I once had a conversation where we were talking about how much I travel. I am one person who gets an "itch" to make a big trip every couple of years. This started back when I was a foreign exchange student in Germany and lived abroad for 11 months. I gained a new home, a new family, and a new group of friends that I can only afford to visit in person every few years.

Leaving home at age 17 was what helped me to appreciate the home where I grew up. I had to leave home to value what I had taken for granted. And I would not have been able to leave without knowing that home, that familiar house and land, would still be there. Yes, my heart is with my family and friends wherever they (and I) live, but I have to admit that I am also connected to that part of South Dakota. I go "home" after leaving 11 years ago and feel as though nothing has changed, but everything has changed.

I encounter similar feelings from people who leave their small towns or farms and head out for school, work or family reasons but still consider the hometown as their "real" home even when they haven't lived there for decades. They "come home" to where they no longer live (and some have never lived) in order to get married, baptize children, and bury their dead. This home is where an ancestor chose to put down roots that remain sturdy years later, even as the generations have branched out and placed roots elsewhere. It is in our nature to build roots so that we do not topple over, and sometimes those roots are found in communities where we do not reside. When I think of missionaries who have been called by God to places across the world, I think of how we can have more than one home. Home is more than a physical place to lay your head but is a place to build relationship, a place to belong.

I have found the church (by this I mean the people, not just the building) to be a home. I can gather for worship anywhere and feel at home singing and praying whether with familiars or strangers. I can walk into church buildings anywhere in the world and feel connected, as though I belong to a large family that doesn't care about the miles or language barriers that separate us because the love of God joins us. I can imagine the roots, from those who built the building to all who gather to worship. And I feel at home. I feel that calm and peace that comes when you know that you are where you belong, that I am where God has called me to be.

I pray that you find your home wherever God brings you.

Peace, Pastor Kara

Your m & m's all gone?

This summer in TCM, many of us have been busy hoarding quarters and placing them in m & m containers as a fundraiser to help support mission work across the world. We have chosen to focus on supporting young adults who give up a year during or after college to follow God's call. We will be donating to Young Adult Volunteers (YAV - PCUSA) and Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM - ELCA).

One interesting fact is that TCM has a direct connection with young adults serving global missions. Tessa Moon Leiseth grew up in McVile and is serving with her family as missionaries of the ELCA. Tessa, her husband Jon, and children Isaac and Sophia live in South Africa, where

Tessa coordinates the Young Adults in Global Mission program where young adults in their 20s live and serve for a year. Part of her calling is also to work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), especially in relationship to hosting the young adults in various communities. Jon assists the YAGM program and teaches English at the Lutheran Theological Institute in their (new) hometown of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Tessa has been kept really busy recently preparing for the newest batch of young adults who arrived in late August.

Mission work is truly for all ages, as God calls young and old to follow wherever the

call sends us. May God bless all the work being done near and far.

Collection dates for the candy tubes:

- ◇ **September 8 at McVile, Our Savior's of Klotten, Our Savior's of McHenry, & Grace**
- ◇ **September 15 at Trinity**
- ◇ **September 29 at 1st Presbyterian and Faith**

If you didn't receive a little container of m & m's, but would like to make a donation toward our young missionary programs, you may give a check to Tri-County Ministry. Write "summer mission project" on the memo line, please.

Worship time alerts

Trinity:

11:15 on September 1, 8, & 15

9:45 on September 22 & 29

Lutheran Church of McVile & Our Savior's of Klotten:

No services on September 1. Congregations are invited to worship at Stump Lake.

Regular Sunday worship times resume on September 8.

First Presbyterian:

9:45 on September 1 & 15

11:15 on September 8, 22, & 29



TCM Council Highlights July 30

Call Committee: Denny Goetz gave an update, stating that several inquiries have been received from Presbyterian pastors, but that the committee has received no names from the END Synod office. Consensus of the Council was that the Call Committee should proceed with the names received so far.

Interim Pastor Contract: Pastor Joel's six-month contract as interim pastor of TCM ends on July 31, 2013. Motion carried, stating that a three month contract extension be offered to Pastor Joel, with the stipulation that he may be available for interview and may accept a call in another parish during that period.

ELCA 25th Anniversary: The ELCA has designated September 8 as "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday in observance of the 25th anniversary of the ELCA. Each ELCA congregation of TCM will discuss possible service projects for that day.

Pulpit Supply: Consensus of the council was that pulpit supply continue to be used as it has for the past year, with each church being on their own every six weeks or so.

Parsonage Availability: Denny Goetz inquired about the availability of the Binford or Hannaford parsonage for the new director of Red Willow Bible Camp. At this time, neither house will be available for rent.

Next meeting: September 25. Agenda will include parsonage needs and the 2014 TCM budget.

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

Jehovah's Witnesses are a group of Christians often misunderstood and feared by us in the mainline denominations. But they are our neighbors, so here are a few facts that might help us to get along better as we seek to understand:

- * Jehovah's Witnesses are Christian but not Trinitarian. They believe in God and Jesus, but Jesus is not the same as God. God (Jehovah) is who created the world. Jesus Christ is the Son who came to save the world.
- * The halls are where people gather to learn and grow. They gather to be educated and to hear the scriptures explained to them. Bible study is extremely important, with a focus on correctly interpreting scripture. The numbers in each hall are kept small (around 100), and when enough join, a new hall is built using their own labor.
- * Part of the expectation of being a Witness is that they witness. So they travel in pairs to share their faith. One goal is to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to read the Bible and learn about Jehovah.

If you want to read some of the publications, the official website is jw.org.

This fall at RWBC

Family Trail Ride, Cowboy Supper & Campfire
Saturday, September 28

Scrapbook Retreat
October 17-20 (Contact Truley Trautman)

Country Jamboree (Grades K-6)
Friday, October 18

Impact Retreat (Grades 7-9)
"Elevate"
Friday/Saturday, October 11-12

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 & Pork Supper**

**Saturday, September 28
5:00 — 7:00**

Our Savior's in McHenry

**Don't miss this!
Beef and pork with all the
trimmings, plus lefse and yummy
desserts!**