



Tri-County Ministry News

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

From Pastor Kara

Grace and peace!

I hope that everyone enjoyed our summer worship series! I've had fun focusing on different parts of scripture that I don't usually preach about during worship. As the preacher, it has been an adventure going outside of my own comfort zone to encounter passages that are not as familiar to me as the four gospels.

I've been thinking a lot about the ability to adapt and grow in our faith. As Christians, we are called to always deepen and enrich our faith. As we learn, we often encounter ideas that we may not like. I've learned to pay attention to passages or ideas that make me think unpleasant thoughts. You know what I mean. Those times when you think to yourself "Grrr." Or perhaps you think "That's interesting (and not in a good way)." Or my personal favorite: "Hahaha. No. Just no." When I think such thoughts, I always find myself encountering the unwelcome idea again. And again. And again. Until finally I say, "Fine, God. I'm paying attention."

I've recently started trying to improve my health. I asked my sister to do a 30-day challenge with me. And about halfway through that challenge, a friend asked if I would be interested in starting to run. I will admit that I tend to avoid anything that will make me sweat or make my muscles hurt the next day. But any athlete will tell you that the pain is a sign of your strength growing. And so I suffer through sit-ups, crunches, squats, pushups and jogging. And I do all this knowing that the pain will be worth the strength I gain. But I will admit that I do better when I have others encouraging me and reminding me that the end goal is worth the struggle.

So it is with our own faith, and sadly most of us have stopped going the extra mile to strengthen our relationship with God. We have become a culture that surrounds athletic events far more than religious activities. We have become consumed with the entertainment value of everything and can find ourselves slipping in our spiritual training. And when we focus only the fun to be had in the world, we forget the foundation that shapes who we are as people of God.

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God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 13



Ephesians 2:8-10 says,
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

We are created for good works... God's work Our hands is where thousands of Lutheran congregations participate in a dedicated day of service to the communities in which we live and serve. The goal is to make the world a better place by working together. It is a time **to roll up our sleeves and put our faith into action** by sharing the love of God with all people.

Each congregation decides what makes sense for their community and the people who will be serving that day. Some examples of things that other congregations have done from around the country are: package meals; exterior painting; pick weeds; clean up trash in the park; give blood; and write thank-you notes. Within TCM, we have cleaned up yards and painted handicapped curbs in town. It is also ok to partner up with another organization in town, such as the fire department or nursing home. It is fun to hear your ideas as we figure out what will help our local communities! This is a time for fun while we work together. There is no shortage of needs in every community, so be creative and make this a time of fellowship and fun!

“from Pastor Kara” continued

I will admit that I am not always the best. I get distracted by TV shows (any one else have a sudden desire to buy a tiny home?) or lose track of time reading novels that only entertain and don't educate. I can be lazy and let my good habits falter. And to get back in shape requires a lot more work than if you never stopped. When I stop taking time to pray, read scripture or to simply sit in awe of God's creation, I find that I struggle to get back in the habit. There is a reason God often sends messengers to remind the people to turn back to God. It is far too easy for us to slack off.

This is the time of year when we prepare to get back into the routine of confirmation, Sunday School, after school programs, bible studies and whatever else we think of as a way to grow our faith. May God be with us, guiding our way as we seek to strengthen our faith and relationship with God. Amen.

“I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24.7:

Peace,
Pastor Kara

TCM's summer mission project

Earlier this summer, many of you took home our good old m & m candy tubes. You've been putting your extra quarters in those little containers ever since, right?



Our mission project this summer has been WATER. As stated on the Living Water World Missions website, "Clean water is medicine for life."

Our goal is to provide funds to help people in Asia and Africa with water projects. Both the ELCA and the Presbyterian Church USA have specific giving programs for water projects. Donations are used in many ways: water jugs, water purification tablets, Irrigation canals, and wells.

September 13 is the day you may bring your donations to church. And if you haven't been saving your quarters, those tubes hold cash and checks too.

Worship time alerts

First Presbyterian

- ◆ 9:45 September 6, 13, 20
- ◆ 11:15 September 27



Our Savior's of Klotten & Lutheran Church of McVille

- ◆ No service Sunday, September 6. Worship at Stump Lake.

Lutheran Church of McVille

- ◆ 7:00 Wednesday evening, September 2

Annual Convention of the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization

Saturday, September 26
First Lutheran Church
New Rockford

"To Give You a Future with Hope"

Theme verse: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me if you seek me with all your heart."

~Jeremiah 29:11 - 13

Registration and Coffee 8:45 - 9:15 a.m.
Opening Worship 9:30 a.m.



Speakers:

- ◆ Kevin Wallevand, WDAY-TV Reporter - Human Trafficking in ND
- ◆ Faye Miller, Salvation Army - Stewardship; Thrivent Action Program

Pre-registration is requested. Please contact your WELCA chairman.

Confirmation Mission Day

- Saturday, September 12, will be the official start of TCM Confirmation. In addition to our Spring Mission trip to Grand Forks or Fargo, we are adding a Fall Local Mission Day. We will load up the van and leave Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford at 9:00 and travel the short distance to Red Willow Bible Camp for a day of service. We will return to Binford by 2:30. This will fulfill your class time for the month of September.

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November.*

Where are they now?

Ever wonder where all our intern pastors ended up? After some research on the internet, here is a partial list of what we know:

The majority of our interns are serving at ELCA congregations around the country.

- ◆ Sheri Lodel (mid 1990s) in Nebraska
- ◆ Liz Pfeifle (late 1990s) in Iowa
- ◆ Derek Boggs (2000-2001) in North Carolina
- ◆ Jerry Rosin (2002-2006 as intern and pastor) in Hannaford
- ◆ Jule Ballinger (2002-2003) in Wahpeton, ND
- ◆ Trichelle Kirchenwitz (2009-2010) in Forman, ND
- ◆ Wayne Gallipo (2006-2007) in Tea, SD
- ◆ Bonnie Weaver (2005-2006) in Cando/Bisbee, ND

More coming in a future newsletter.