



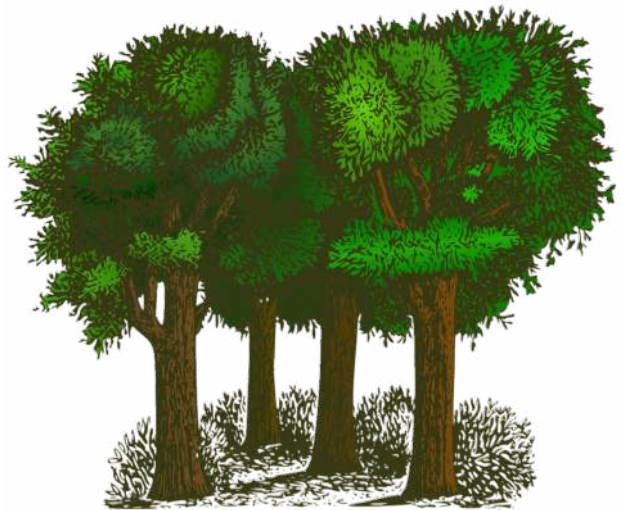
A Lenten Devotion

(By Rev. Tim Ehrhardt, faithward.com)

Psalm 1

*Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.*

*They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.*



Near my home is a small grove of oak trees. Every chance I get, I stroll through the little forest of majestic trees with their strong trunks, thick bark, and gnarled branches. I must confess that there are four particular trees that I talk to on a regular basis. I call them “Mama Oak,” “Papa Oak,” “Grandfather Oak,” and “Elmer” (“Young Oak”) because they stand together looking like a family. I speak to them for the primary reason that they are good listeners. I also speak to them because, as God’s creation, I have this intuition that they can actually hear me.

In his book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, veteran forester Peter Wohlleben has written a winsome and fascinating account of what he has learned about trees. His primary thesis is that trees are social—they communicate with and care for each other. Trees planted by streams of water are not a group of individual trees. Rather, through their extensive root system in the ground, they share vital nutrients with each other when one of them is sick; send something akin to electrical impulses with one another to warn of danger; and take ownership of helping the entire forest grow together in health and strength. And they are not in a hurry. Their slow growth is deliberate and careful, a testament to their resilience and longevity. Wohlleben describes this intricate care and communication system as “the wood-wide web.”

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Parish News

*(Lenten devotional
continued)*

As we move through the season of Lent, we are not alone. We do not attempt to shed the old sinful nature by ourselves through sheer willpower. We assist one another. We depend upon the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. We embrace the slow, patient, and deliberate work of soul-craft as we anticipate meeting Jesus.

Prayer:

God Almighty, your strength and wisdom are seen in all of creation.

May you enable me, together with all your people, to embrace the path of patient righteousness and forsake the way of hurried wickedness.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of your Holy Spirit, amen.

Midweek Lent Services

Trinity in Binford: one midweek Lenten service at 6:30 on March 6. (Sign-up sheet in the narthex to serve supper)

Lutheran Church of McVile: Wednesday services each week of Lent (March 7— March 21) with supper at 6:00 and worship at 7:00. (sign-up sheet in the narthex for the suppers)

Holy Week

Palm Sunday (March 24)

Regular Sunday worship times

Maundy Thursday (March 28)

6:30 at Trinity in Binford

7:00 at Faith in Hannaford

Good Friday (March 29)

7:00 at Lutheran Church of McVile

7:00 at Grace in Grace City

Easter Sunday (March 31)

8:30 at Faith in Hannaford

8:30 at Our Savior's of rural McVile

8:30 at Grace in Grace City

10:30 at Lutheran Church of McVile

10:30 at Trinity of Binford

No worship at Assisted Living in Cooperstown

Congregational News

Faith of Hannaford

A kumla meal is being planned for April 6. More info to come in the next newsletter.

Trinity of Binford

In their annual Souper Bowl on February 11, the worshippers at Trinity called it! The Chiefs won with a score of \$108.46, defeating the 49ers, whose score was \$82.46. The donations were given to the Griggs County Bread of Life Food Pantry.

A group of our students led the worship service on February 11. Many many thanks to Bella, Leah, Kelby, Colton, Beau, Witten, Heath, Tripp, Morgan, and Emily!

Lutheran Church of McVile

Ovy Harris Chapell was received into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on February 25. Ove is the son of Ryan and Aliah Chappell. He was born September 15, 2023 in Grand Forks. Baptismal sponsors were Travis and Ashley Vinje; Pastor Russ Pollock presided. We welcome Ovy to our fellowship.

Our quilters could use cotton fabric and flat sheets. Donations may be left at the church any time.

*Daylight Savings Time
Coming Soon to a Sunday Morning!
Spring ahead on March 10.*

WELCA News

No cluster gatherings are being held in 2024. Rather, a “Roundup” is being held.

Mark this down:

Saturday, April 20

**Sheyenne Riverbend
Resort south of Valley City**

No cost whatsoever!

More info (maybe) in next month’s newsletter. In the meantime, think about attending this event which is being called a “day of relaxation and learning.”

Bible Campers: contact your WELCA for financial assistance with attending Red Willow Bible Camp this summer. (The summer schedule is on the camp’s website:

redwillowministries.com

Attention quilters and quilting groups:

This year’s Quilt Auction at Red Willow Bible Camp will be held Saturday, August 24. It’s not too early to start thinking about your donation!

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with our member churches and
communities.***