

One in a Vermillion

Meet Jason Clifton

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

Despite growing up surrounded by herds of cattle and working on dairy farms as a teenager, Jason Clifton always knew he eventually would like to serve people in the ministry someday.

Today, he's on the way to fulfilling that goal by working as intern pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion.

Jason began his internship last fall, and will complete his duties at the church in August 2014.

His hometown is Ellsworth, WI, in the heart of dairy country.

"My parents both worked for 3M, so, we didn't farm, but it was all around us. I worked on a dairy farm for 11 years, and it was fun," he said.

Jason says he's always had an interest in the church.

"I remember having my first conversation about seminary when I was a junior in high school with one of the area pastors," he said. "My home church didn't have youth group when I was in high school, so I did youth group with some other churches."

About the time he graduated from high school, he initially thought of following his grandfather's footsteps by becoming a dairy farmer. He decided, at his parents' urging however, to continue his education.

"I did a 10-month program in travel and hospitality, and I worked for five years, and the whole time I was doing volunteer stuff for the church - volunteer youth director, volunteer Sunday School teacher - that kind

of stuff," Jason said. "My pastor kept saying, 'Have you thought about doing youth ministry as a full-time job?' And I'd say, 'You're crazy.' And she's like, 'There's a really good school in Seattle,' and I replied, 'You're nuts. I'm not going to move 1,500 miles away.'"

After about five years of that conversation, he said, with a laugh, "I moved to Seattle and went to Trinity Lutheran College and studied children, youth, and families studies, and music and worship, with the intent of going to seminary."

After completing his studies at Trinity, Jason took a year off and volunteered for Heifer International, at an educational farm at Rutledge, MA.

He began his studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, in the fall of 2011.

After he completes his internship at Trinity Lutheran, he'll return to the seminary to complete the last four credits of his education, and will graduate in the spring of 2015.

His long-term goal, he said involves putting his education and work background to use by returning to Wisconsin, to where four generations of his family have farmed and milked cows near St. Croix.

"I would like to serve as a part-time parish minister. A lot of smaller, rural congregations can't afford a full-time pastor, so I'd like to do that part-time and start up a working farm, bed & breakfast retreat center," Jason said. "I'd like to center it around sustainable agriculture, and I haven't quite figured out



how it will tie in yet, but I'd like to create something with a farming basis and mentors that can help people in need.

"You have people who have a loved-one who dies, and are still vital and young and are trying to figure out what their role or their purpose is in life, and you have middle and high schoolers who are trying to figure out what their role and purpose in life is," he said. "I'm thinking of how to create something with a farming basis and have mentors who are those adults who after retirement or experiencing a life-changing event are

searching for their role in life. I'd like to connect them with youth for a week or a few days of programming. I'd just like to try to connect different generations with one another."

In the meantime, Jason is relishing his role at Trinity Lutheran's intern pastor.

"Building relationships to me is number one ... whether it's visiting people in their homes, or visiting people at the care center or the hospital, but it's also the men's breakfasts every Wednesday morning, and hanging out with the quilters every other week," he said. "Building

relationships is exciting, and also hearing people's stories - how they've come to be in this town, this church, and what their faith journeys have been like."

He also enjoys working with Confirmation students, and the high school students of Trinity Lutheran.

"I have a blast working with them," Jason said. "It's a lot of fun. And of course worship service every Sunday is fun - seeing those people on Sundays who you've built a relationship with outside of that hour's time, and then chatting with them before and after service."

1000 Auctions - Public Sales

MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT SALE: MON., JAN. 20, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. Consign early by Jan. 6, 2014 for complete advertising. No Small Items, Tires or Pallet Items Accepted After Friday, Jan. 10. Gilbert's Sale Yard, LLC, 641-398-2218. 2 Mi. N. of Floyd, IA On Hwy. 218. Tractor House Internet Bidding Available. www.gilbert-saleyard.com (MCN)

1101 Announcements - Events

BERGEN LUTHERAN Church: "The little white church on Timber Road." Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 995 N. Sioux Point Road, Dakota Dunes, SD. Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

BRULE Creek Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am to 10:45am.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Worship Sunday 6:00 p.m., Bible Study Tuesday, 9:00 p.m., Neuharth Center, 624-5398 or 1-800-998-1234

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 102 Prosp: Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study 12:00 noon; Wednesday Night Classes, 7:00 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church (LC-MS) 7 South University Street, Vermillion. Divine Service - Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School - Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Samuel Needham. Contact us at (605) 624-3459 or at lcmsvermillion.org

CORNERSTONE CHURCH:

A Place To Grow: Located at the corner of Crawford & Cherry St. Celebration Service: Sunday during the School year 9:00am and 10:30am (subject to change during holidays) in the summer Sunday 10 AM. Check us out at cornerstonesd.org or call (624-8809) for further information.

DALESBURG BAPTIST Church 30503 466th Ave., Beresford, Pastor Darren Regehr. 9:45am, Sunday School; 11:00am, Morning Worship; Mid-week Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm. (605)253-2622.

Dalesburg Lutheran Church: 12 miles North of Vermillion on University Road. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Website: www.dalesburglutheran.org

Elk Point Baptist Church. Sunday worship at 11:00am, Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00pm. 101 North Green St., Elk Point, SD 57069. (605)222-1981

FAITH FELLOWSHIP of the Open Bible on Bypass 50 and Highway 19: Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. Pastor Tony Armbrust, 624-2921.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH: 401 Main Street, Makell, NE. Sunday School 9am. Worship: 10am. Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays. (605)658-0240 (home) (402)-692-3323 (church).

Faith United Lutheran Church, ELCA, 44874 303rd St/Po Box 168, Volin, SD 57072, (605)267-2277. Sunday Worship: 9:30am with Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sundays. WOW Wednesday program beginning at 6:30pm for all children 3 yrs old - 7th grade, and confirmation classes for those in grades 8th & 9th.

FIRST BAPTIST Church Elmer "Sandy" Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m.

GAYVILLE LUTHERAN Church: Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert.

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