

Johnson is intern pastor at Trinity Lutheran

Hello, Vermillion! My name is Will Johnson. A few weeks ago I moved from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Vermillion to start as an Intern Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. What have I encountered so far?

People actually say "Hello" and "Good morning" when you are out walking around the neighborhood. Not only that, in the grocery store people say things like "Pardon me", and "Excuse me" when they need to sneak by you. That does not happen very often up in the Twin Cities...but it is something that I appreciate about Vermillion!

The pace of life is slower than in St. Paul. I have noticed this even in crossing the street – pedestrians do not dart across in front of cars, trying to get to their destination exactly on time. Rather, people stop on the corner and wait for the car to go by.

There are A LOT of sororities

and fraternities! I went to a small school without these, so this is a new experience.

It is very, very flat here. I grew up just outside of Seattle, Washington, where there are hills and mountains to spare. Sure, there's Spirit Mound, and the dip down to the river...but overall it is flat. I keep looking toward the horizon expecting to see a mountain.

So far, I love it here! The people are friendly, the walk to work is great, and the weather (so far) has been fantastic. If you want to know what an "Intern Pastor" is, or you have questions about faith and life, or you would love to just chat over a cup of tea, let me know! Stop in at Trinity Lutheran, shoot me an email at pastorwill@trinityvermillion.org, or call at 624-4442. I am looking forward to meeting more people. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so far!

Heartland Humane Society hosts Tails & Trails event in Vermillion

Heartland Humane Society invites the community to celebrate pets with its annual Tails & Trails event Saturday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Cotton Park in Vermillion.

The event will include a Poker Run and Walk around Cotton Park at 10:30 a.m. The walk is free and poker cards will be \$5. The top three winning hands will receive prizes.

Additional activities will include games, pet contests, HHS merchandise booth, micro-chipping for cats or dogs, and a kissing booth sponsored by the University of South Dakota Greek Life. Walkers are encouraged to walk with or without their pet. All animals are welcomed. Heartland Humane Society's adoptable dogs will also be on hand to meet.

Donations to the shelter will be accepted as well, with all proceeds going toward the care of our shelter pets.

"Tails & Trails is a fun event and USD Greek Life has stepped up to make this year's walk bigger and better," said Kerry Schmidt, executive director at Heartland Humane Society. "It's a great way to get some exercise, feel good about yourself and have fun with your pet – or ours!"

A flyer with more information is available online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net or contact Schmidt at 605-664-4244 for complete details.

Heartland Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves Yankton and Clay counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people. Visit Heartland Humane Society online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net.

Gant details options for military, overseas voters

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant wants to remind military and overseas voters that they have options regarding casting a ballot in the Nov. 6 General Election.

"Uniformed servicemen and servicewomen give so much to protect the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States and residents of South Dakota," Gant said. "The least we can do in return is to make it as easy as possible for them to have their voices heard come Election Day."

Gant recommends that military voters visit the Military and Overseas Citizens section of sdsos.gov for specific step-by-step instructions about how to vote absentee. Those with questions about the process may also contact their County Auditors, who serve as local elections officials, or the Secretary of State's office at (605) 773-3537 or sdsos@state.sd.us for additional information.

Absentee voting require submission of an application for an absentee ballot, and the

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 paved the way for applications to be transmitted to military and overseas citizens via fax, e-mail or postal mail. If the application is for a Primary, General or other statewide election, uniformed and overseas voters may request to have their ballots sent to them electronically.

Ballots cannot be marked or returned electronically, but having them sent to military and overseas voters via a secure Internet connection saves considerable time over mail, greatly improving the chances that voted ballots will be returned to County Auditors by Election Day.

Absentee voting begins 46 days prior to an election, so Sept. 21 for the Nov. 6 General Election. In South Dakota, elections officials must receive applications for absentee ballots no later than 3 p.m. on Election Day.

40th annual SD Fiddle Contest and Jamboree begins Sept. 21

The South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers Association is hosting its 40th Annual Open Fiddle Contest and Jamboree September 21, 22, and 23, 2012 at the Yankton County 4-H Grounds (901 Whiting Drive, Yankton). Talented fiddlers and fans from across the North America will gather for a weekend of music and fun.

To start the weekend, a 40th Celebration on Friday evening will showcase the history of old time fiddling in our region, with performances by family members of past legends. "This program promises to be our most memorable presentation in years, reminding our early fans of our rich history, and exposing new friends to our beginnings," says Daun Gregg Regehr, SDOTF program coordinator.

The two-part invitational fiddle competition starts Saturday evening and continues again Sunday afternoon. Talented fiddle champions from across the United States compete for the South Dakota Contest title. Each year,

different artists are invited, many having professional careers in country music or bluegrass bands.

Additional contests include the South Dakota fiddle competition in five age divisions, out-of-state fiddler competitions (5 age divisions), harmonica, and button and keyboard accordion competitions.

From experienced fiddle players to those who don't really know the difference between a fiddle and violin, everyone is invited! Fans of country music, traditional music, or bluegrass will have a marvelous time! Join us for a weekend of unbelievable music, meet great people, jam with talented artists, and develop skills!

Additional Details:

Public event; all ages welcome.

Admission: \$5/session or \$15/weekend pass
Free Camping!

Schedule of Events:

Friday, starting at 7 p.m.:
- Performance: Celebrating

40 Years – a Family Tradition

- Music Jamming in multiple locations

Saturday, starting at 9 a.m.:

- Fiddle Contests (multiple age divisions)

- Harmonica Contests

- Accordion Contests – button and keyboard

Saturday Evening:

- South Dakota Open Fiddle Contest

- South Dakota Open Fiddle Championship

- Invitational Fiddle

Competition – Part 1

- Music Jamming in multiple locations

Sunday, starting at 9 a.m.:

- Gospel Sing

Sunday afternoon:

- Invitational Fiddle Contest – part 2

- Twin Fiddling competition

Those members of the public interested in learning more are encouraged to visit our website:

www.sdoldtimefiddlers.com, email us at sdoldtimefiddlers@gmail.com, or contact George Mallory at 605-357-9357.

Health Department offers recommendations for preventing Hantavirus

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakotans should be aware of the risk of Hantavirus as temperatures cool off and rodents move indoors, says a state health official.

Hantavirus is caused by a virus carried by rodents. It can result in Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, which fills the lungs with fluid and can lead to respiratory failure. Deer mice are the primary carriers of the virus that causes the disease.

"Routine rodent control measures are particularly important this time of year as rodents look to move inside," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, State Epidemiologist for the Department of Health. "The risk for Hantavirus is statewide and year round. It can happen

wherever there are rodent-infested buildings."

People get infected when they breathe in aerosolized virus from the droppings, urine or saliva of mice. Symptoms usually appear within two to four weeks of exposure and include fatigue, a fever of 101-104°, muscle aches, cough, vomiting and diarrhea. Seek medical care immediately if you have fever, deep muscle aches, and severe shortness of breath after exposure to mice.

South Dakota has reported 15 cases of Hantavirus and five deaths since 1993 when the disease was first detected, including one death earlier this year. More than 570 cases have been reported in the U.S. since 1993, including a cluster of nine

cases this summer at Yosemite National Park in California that has resulted in three deaths.

To control mice and prevent Hantavirus infection:

Seal gaps around roofs, attics, basements, windows, doors, foundations, vents, air conditioners, under sinks and other pipes.

Set traps where you find mice, nesting materials, urine or droppings.

Wear rubber or plastic gloves to clean up dead mice or their droppings.

Spray dead mice, urine or droppings with a disinfectant or a mixture of 1½ cups household bleach and 1 gallon of water. Soak for 5 minutes, wipe up with a paper towel and put everything in a plastic bag and

seal. Put in a second bag and seal that as well.

Clean the area with a disinfectant or bleach solution. Don't use vacuum cleaners or brooms, since they can create aerosols. Wash gloved hands with soap and water and wash again after taking off gloves.

Keep your house and yard free of junk and rubbish to limit food sources and nesting sites for mice. Use thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids for garbage and for storing pet food.

Learn more about Hantavirus

and its prevention at

<http://doh.sd.gov/hantavirus> or <http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/index.html>.

www.plaintalk.net

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