



## ***From Pastor Sherri***

*“Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.” —Psalm 141:2*

During this Lent season, we again sang our prayers to God during our Lenten Worship Services. As you already know, prayer comes in many forms and styles. As people differ from each other in personalities and preferences so are there as many ways to pray. However, what if we got intentional in our prayers and in our lives as Disciples of Christ? We already do that in some ways. For example, prayer is a part of our worship service and all the congregations in Tri-County Ministry pray for people in our worship communities, for the wider communities in which we serve, as well as for each other as part of the parish.

During the Lenten season, it has been so easy for me to shorten my daily prayer time as the demands of the day and ministry vie for my attention. I continually remind myself that it was during such times as these that Martin Luther increased his prayer and time in the word. So prayer can be an antidote to “busy-ness” by preparing and focusing our lives. In addition to prayer giving perspective and priority to our days, prayer can also be a tool for effective ministry.

In the Gospel of Mark, we are told that Jesus took time out to pray. *“In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.”* (Mark 1:35) But before Jesus goes on a preaching tour through Galilee, he spends much time in prayer. Is this a reminder for all of us gathered disciples to spend time in prayer before we embark on our ministry activities? Or could this be more than just a reminder? Could this be an actual call to prayer?

I recently read a book on building vitality in rural congregations where actual congregations were studied. (Vitality means “the capacity for survival or for the continuation of a meaningful or purposeful existence.” It also means “the power to live or grow.”) In every instance — including congregations in rural North Dakota — congregations were regular and intentional about their prayer life. So what would it look like for the congregations of Tri-County Ministry to be regular and intentional about prayer?

*(from Pastor Sherri continued on page 2)*

## Holy Week and Easter

*Maundy Thursday, April 2*

**Services of Holy Communion**

**“The Parable of the Great Banquet”**

5:30 — Trinity Lutheran in Binford

7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVile

7:00 — Faith Lutheran in Hannaford



*Good Friday, April 3*

7:00 a.m. — Worship and breakfast at First Presbyterian in Cooperstown

**“The Parable of the Landowner and the Tenants”**

5:30 — Our Savior’s Lutheran in McHenry

7:00 — Grace Lutheran in Grace City

7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVile

*Easter Sunday, April 5*

7:00 — Faith in Hannaford

8:15 — Our Savior’s, Kloten

8:30 — Trinity in Binford

9:30 — Lutheran Church of McVile

9:45 — Our Savior’s in McHenry

11:15 — Grace in Grace City

11:15 — First Presbyterian in Cooperstown



**Donations for Northlands Rescue Mission may be dropped off at the churches through Easter Sunday.**

*(from Pastor Sherri continued)*

Your pastors understand that prayer is a key part of our call and job description. How can we continue to encourage and equip you to pray? Can we encourage and set the expectation for our congregation leaders to pray? Do we offer seminars and opportunities to grow in our prayer life? Would a retreat on prayer give us the opportunity to try new and unfamiliar prayers in a safe setting? Do we model and teach prayer to our young people knowing that all of us are still growing in this area? Can we form prayer teams, prayer partners, or prayer chains? How can we listen to God through prayer? Can prayer be more than a list of requests? Do we have a desire to be more intimate with God? What is God calling each of our congregations to be? What suggestions do you have? How can we be better equipped to serve our neighbor through prayer? Lord Jesus teach us to pray!

*“I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you.” —Psalm 141:1*



**April 26 is Rogation / Soil Stewardship Sunday in Tri-County Ministry.**

## **WELCA Prairie Rose Cluster Gathering**

Lutheran Church of McVille

Saturday, April 25

9:30 — Registration and coffee

### **“Gifts for You: Opening Your Spiritual Gifts”**

Pastor Kara will be the spiritual leader for the day and will lead the Bible study. The featured speaker for the afternoon will be Desiree Bouvette from Devils Lake. She recently returned from a mission trip to Venezuela, where she was one of the mission workers held by the government for several days.

In-kind offerings will be accepted for Red Willow Bible Camp: any size batteries, paper products, coffee, copier paper, markers and glue sticks.

Pre-registration is requested so that the McVille women can adequately prepare for the noon meal. Please let your WELCA chairperson know if you'll be attending. (Cost of noon luncheon is \$8.)



*The next newsletter will cover the months of May and June. If you have any dates or information that needs to be included, please get it to Theresa at the TCM office by April 15.*

## **Conferences in April**

*Presbytery of the Northern Plains*

**Spring meeting**

**April 17-18 in Grand Forks**

*Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly*

**April 18-19 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo**

**Filled by fire \* Gifted to grow \* Sent by the Spirit**

Registration closes April 2, so please go online if not done so already. The Assembly is open to everybody!

Our pastors will be attending the Presbytery meetings and then the Synod Assembly.

Worship services throughout TCM will be lay-led on April 19.

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## **Tri-County Ministry Women's Retreat**

We have changed the date for the Women's Retreat that is to be held at Red Willow Bible Camp.

Originally, we reserved the first Saturday in May.

However, we have moved the event to a Fall Retreat due to other women's events around that time.

Look for more details on the Fall Women's Retreat over the late summer months!

### **Worship time alerts**

#### *Faith*

- ◆ April 5 at 7:00 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ No service on Sunday the 19th

#### *First Presbyterian*

- ◆ April 12 & 19 at 9:45

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

**Rev. Sherri Frederikson** ..... 676-2762  
(cell) 336-688-2879  
PastorSherri@yahoo.com  
Box 226, Binford ND 58416

**Rev. Kara Wiechmann** ..... 322-4926  
(cell) 605-770-4005  
pastorkaraw@gmail.com  
Box 115, McVile ND 58254

**TCM Parish Administrator**  
**Theresa Fiebiger** ..... 676-2761  
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

**Faith of Hannaford** ..... 769-2387  
faithl@ictc.com

**First Presbyterian of Cooperstown**  
797-3112  
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

**Grace of Grace City** ..... 674-3112  
kmac@daktel.com

**McVile Lutheran Church** .... 322-4952  
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

**Our Savior's, Kloten** ..... 322-4952  
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

**Our Savior's of McHenry** .... 785-2117  
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

**Trinity of Binford** ..... 676-2761  
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

**Tri-County Ministry**  
Box 226  
Binford, ND 58416  
Phone 676-2761  
email: trinitybinford@mlgc.com

website: [www.tricountyministry.org](http://www.tricountyministry.org)  
blog: [www.tricountyministry.com](http://www.tricountyministry.com)  
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**Tri-County Ministry News** is  
published nine times per year:  
January, February, March, April, June,  
August, September, October, and  
November.

**Roast Beef Supper**

**Trinity in Binford**

**Sunday, April 26**

**5:00—7:00**

**Roast beef and all the trimmings**

**Baked goods and quilts for sale**

**Sponsored by the Trinity WELCA**