



Tri-County Ministry News

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

From Pastor Sherri

Our Gospel lesson for Lent has been Matthew 25:31-46, where we continue to reflect through the lenses of our wider churches of PCUSA and ELCA. In looking outside of our own congregations and outside Tri-County Ministry, we are reminded that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves and our own communities. In supporting the mission beyond our congregations, we can take ownership in mission work around the world. By doing this, we gain energy for the mission that surrounds us every day in our own neighborhoods. We are reminded that God takes us by the hand and leads us.

Recently, a packet was sent to the Council Presidents in our Lutheran congregations. If you are a council president and did not receive one, we need to update the synod office with your information.

In this packet is a document sharing the priorities and resources of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, in which we are both challenged and accompanied by ministry partners. This allows us to reach out into our own mission fields in the communities in which we live, work, and proclaim the reality of God and the saving work of Jesus Christ. Likewise, we receive ongoing information and resources from the Presbytery office in Grand Forks.

“We are church together” and “We are church for the sake of the world” are two statements that remind us that we are not alone, and also remind us of the reason that we exist. One of the strategies that we use is to increase our ecumenical relationships. We, as an ecumenical parish, already have that in our DNA. However, it reminds me that any training that is put on by our Synod or Presbytery is available across our denominations. Also, that in highlighting these events, we need to be inclusive and not exclusive in our language and invitations.

On Saturday, April 29, an event for lay leaders that will be held in Fargo. It is part of an ongoing series that offers tools and faith formation for people in the pews. I attend only when we have folks signed up for these events as part of my support of lay ministry at Tri-County. These events are not directed towards pastors. I encourage anyone that is interested from our Presbyterian congregation or Lutheran congregations to participate.

(continued at top of next page)

*(From Pastor Sherri
continued from front page)*

The focus of this event is
*"Bereavement: Reaching out with
Care and Healing."* So many times,
community members think that
accompanying neighbors in grief is
up to the pastor. Yes, that is part of
what we do, but we need our lay
folks to also take responsibility in
times of their neighbor's grief.

Blessings on the rest of the Lenten
Season. And take advantage of the
resources that are available that
help us to proclaim our beliefs. Let
us prepare to celebrate the Easter
message that Christ has freed us
from sin, death, and even ourselves
so that we can live as ministers of
reconciliation in loving and generous
service of our neighbors. Let us
share the life-giving message with
the world!

*"For I was hungry and you gave me
food, I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me, I was naked
and you gave me clothing, I was sick
and you took care of me, I was in
prison and you visited me."*

-Matthew 25:35-36



Prairie Rose Conference WELCA Spring Cluster

Saturday, April 1
Grace in Grace City

9:30 Registration
10:00-2:00 Gathering

Speakers:

- ◆ Betty Jo Krenz (helping women fight domestic violence)
- ◆ Laura Kulsrud (her family's journey with PKAN)
- ◆ Jodi Rae Ingstad ("Joyologist")

Noon meal — \$7

In-kind Offering for Sacred Journey Lodge (needs list
is posted in each church)

All are welcome!

Giving Project through Lent

Our churches continue to accept donations for
Churches United for the Homeless in Moorhead.

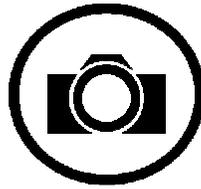
These are the items being collected:

- ◆ laundry detergent
- ◆ shampoo and conditioner
- ◆ coffee
- ◆ peanut butter
- ◆ granola bars
- ◆ syrup
- ◆ bath towel & wash cloth

On Sunday, April 23, **Pastor Sue Koesterman** will
preach in two of our TCM churches. She'll be at First
Presbyterian for the 9:45 service, and then at Faith
for the 11:15 service. Pastor Sue is the Executive
Director of Churches for the Homeless and will
bring the story of Church United to us.

TCM Directory

Our 25th anniversary pictorial directory will be printed this coming summer. Valley Gallery in Valley City will be doing the photography and then publishing the directory.



George and Bonnie Dutton from Valley Gallery will be in the Tri-County Ministry area for three weekends to photograph members and also to be present at worship services.

The schedule (*corrected from last month's newsletter*):

- ◆ **April 30 and May 1 – Faith Lutheran Church in Hannaford**
- ◆ **June 4 & 5 – Lutheran Church of McVile**
- ◆ **June 10 – Trinity in Binford**
- ◆ **June 11 – Grace in Grace City**
- ◆ **June 12 – Our Savior's in McHenry**

The easiest (and preferred) way for you to make your photography appointment is to go to the TCM website. If you are unable to sign up online, please call Theresa at 676.2761 to schedule your portrait session.

www.tricountyministry.org.

An article with the link is on the homepage.

You do not need to photograph in your own church. Choose the date and place that works for you. Photography is at no cost to you, and you are under no obligation to purchase portraits.

All members of our congregations are strongly encouraged to be pictured in the directory. It's great to be able to put a face to a name!

Holy Week 2017

Maundy Thursday

- 5:30 Trinity in Binford
- 7:00 Faith in Hannaford
- 7:00 Lutheran Church of McVile



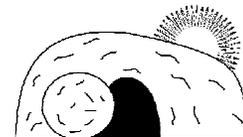
Good Friday

- 7:00 First Presbyterian with breakfast
- 5:30 Our Savior's of McHenry
- 7:00 Grace of Grace City
- 7:00 Lutheran Church of McVile

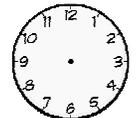


Easter Sunday

- 7:00 Faith of Hannaford
- 8:15 Our Savior's of Klotten
- 8:30 Trinity of Binford
- 9:30 Lutheran Church of McVile
- 9:45 Our Savior's of McHenry
- 9:45 First Presbyterian at Assisted Living
- 11:15 Grace of Grace City



Worship time alerts



First Presbyterian

- ◆ **9:45 April 2, 16, 23, & 30**
- ◆ **11:15 April 9**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Learn to be content

It has been and continues to be such a pleasure to talk about Stewardship in a different light than just an annual fundraising campaign. Stewardship is acknowledging that everything we have has been given to us by God. Once we have that mastered, we are better equipped to ask God, "What would you have us do with which you have blessed us?" Instead of being fearful that we do not have enough, we are able to direct our resources in ways that truly bring about the Kingdom of God among us.

For 2017, we are focusing on how to re-frame our giving into a spiritual practice that is faithful to God. This helps us in times of abundance as well as those lean times that we also experience.

The first spiritual practice is to COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. The second is to COUNT YOUR CASH. This month the theme is LEARN TO BE CONTENT. Followers of Paul were teachers in their own communities and were to beware of leading people astray. Teaching that contentment is equal to godliness will help us put our trust in the one true God and not in riches.

What does contentment look like? In 1 Timothy 6:7-10 it says, "For we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have

wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains." Again, money in itself is not evil. However, when we love money above people or other priorities, we fall prey to the tempters power. Do you have enough to eat and clothes to wear? Then, we have what we need.

Learning contentment is one of the most important disciplines that we can achieve. In chasing unrealistic dreams, it is easy to amass large amounts of debt only to find that the latest purchase provides fleeting fulfillment. Contentment reduces our desire to spend, creating a cushion between our spending and our income. Why would we want this? It is in our fulfillment that we are able to save, to give away, or to buy something special.

Debt can be difficult to manage for all kinds of reasons. It may even have resulted in an unforeseen medical emergency which was not within our control. You may be surprised that by taking the first difficult step in tackling that debt, you will be on a road that leads to contentment. Review your debt and savings. Seek help if you do not know the directions in reducing debt.

Pause and ask yourself, "In which areas of your life do you find it easiest to be content? Where are the temptations?"

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught about building treasure in heaven rather than on earth; teach us to be content when our needs are satisfied rather than our wants, and grant us wisdom to be faithful stewards. Amen.

~Pastor Sherri

Red Willow Bible Camp Summer Schedule

Senior High Amp! Camp (entering grades 10-12)

June 4-9

Seekers Day Camp (entering grades K-6)

June 2, July 19, July 26

Taste of Camp (entering grades K-3)

June 25-27, July 9-11, July 12-14

Pathfinders (entering grades 2-3)

June 25-27, July 9-11, July 12-14

Creation Camp (entering grades 4-6)

June 25-30, July 9-14

Advanced Holy Hoops (entering grades 8-12)

July 16-21

Holy Hoops Junior (entering grades 4-7)

July 23-28

Disciples Camp (entering grades 7-9)

July 30-August 4

Wilderness Week (entering grades 8-12)

August 6-11

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org



25 years ago . . .

Here we go with a blast with the past:

Kevin Black, Roger Miller, Bruce Kjelgaard, John Hov, Ron Halvorson, Jarl Iverson, Janice Johnson, Laverne Larson, Dave Sola, Ruth Evans, June Johnson, Russ Christiansen, Dan Larson, Roland Johnson, Jim Dramstad, David Stokka.

How many of those names did you recognize? They were members of the very first Council of TCM.

Minutes of the April 1992 meeting show that the parish was still unnamed, but two of the names being tossed around were "Prairie Cooperative Ministry" and "Bald Hill Cooperative Ministry."

So many things are not recorded in the minutes, but a parish agreement had been drafted, a budget was in the works, and an interview for the Lead Pastor was planned. Carell Foss had agreed to meet with the Call Committee.

One interesting note that comes from reading the minutes: the cooperative ministry was still not a done deal. One more vote to ratify was needed.

More on that next month.

Sunday, August 6, is the day we'll be celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Mark your calendar.

Some extra April dates

April 4: International potluck supper at Olivet Lutheran in Fargo, 5:00-8:30. Register at eandsynod.org

April 29: Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian in Moorhead. Begins at 9:30 a.m. \$15. RWVP 701.238.4538 or lanajOcaselton.net

April 29: "Bereavement: Reaching Out with Care and Healing" 10:00-3:00 at Synod office. \$50. Continuing education funding will be provided for lay preachers.

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Sherri Frederikson676-2762
(cell) 336-688-2879
PastorSherri@yahoo.com
Box 226, Binford ND 58416

Rev. Kara Wiechmann322-4926
(cell) 605-770-4005
pastorkaraw@gmail.com
Box 115, McVile ND 58254

TCM Parish Administrator
Theresa Fiebiger676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

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

Grace of Grace City674-3112
kmac@daktel.com

McVile Lutheran Church322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

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

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

Trinity of Binford676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

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

website: www.tricountyministry.org
blog: www.tricountyministry.com
Like us on Facebook!

Tri-County Ministry News is
published nine times per year:
January, February, March, April, June,
August, September, October, and
November.

Eating out in April

Ham and Turkey Supper

Sunday, April 9

5:00 – 7:00

Grace Lutheran Church in Grace City

Roast Beef Dinner

Sunday, April 30

11:00 – 2:00

Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford