



Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY
MINISTRY

April 2019

From Pastor Sherri

What does it mean to hope in God? Does it mean that we ignore the realities and challenges of life? Does hope mean that there is something wrong with us or our faith life if we go through life challenges? No; to hope in God means that we know and speak words of hope and despair at the same time. Jesus did this in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“Jesus said to the disciples, ‘I am deeply grieved...’”* (Matthew 26:38a); and *“Now my soul is troubled.”* (John 12:27).

Jesus, who fully embodied dependence upon God, could not escape the uneasiness or restlessness of his soul. Neither will we. So where is the good news in that? The good news is that neither are we able to escape the steadfast love and faithfulness of God. God desires to lead us back to God’s self. We hope not in ourselves, but we hope in God’s love and faithfulness. The source of our hope and the source of the hope of the world is in God’s love, faithfulness, and desire to be close to us.

One author describes hope as the future tense of faith. It is the creative space and the space where anything is possible. This hope is grounded in the knowledge of the resurrection. Our own knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is based on the trustworthy character of God.

People come to worship on Easter morning aching to hear about and aching to experience the love of God showing up in the midst of the reality of their lives. So, we carry the message of the hope of the resurrection in our songs, banners, liturgy, and even in our very selves on Easter morning. You speak a word of hope just by showing up for worship on a Sunday morning, and especially on Easter morning.

May God bless you in your days of joy and especially in your days when you hang on to the hope that is grounded in God’s love and faithfulness. May we continue through our days of Lent knowing that the joy of the resurrection is just around the corner.

On Easter, God speaks a word of hope into our lives and into the world. That word is Jesus. Someone who is dead is raised to new life. May your new life begin with God’s word of hope. Jesus is risen! He is risen, indeed!

“We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered...”

-Hebrews 6:19-20a

Lent / Holy Week / Easter in TCM

This year's Lenten challenge: Water Is Life



Tri-County Ministry is well on the way to raising \$2500 to purchase a water well in the Central African Republic. Buckets are being passed around in each of our congregations during the offering time Sundays through Easter on April 21.

The generosity so far has been outstanding. So much so that the question "*Can we raise enough to buy a well?*" could become "*How many wells can we buy?*" One thing is for sure: we're gonna need a bigger thermometer!

An eye-opener: How much water do you think you use daily?

United States – 153 gallons per person per day

The United Kingdom – 88 gallons

Asia – 22 gallons

Africa – 12 gallons

Gambia, a country in Africa with one of the lowest average daily uses of water - 1.3 gallons

www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org.

COME AND WORSHIP

Wednesday Lenten Services

April 3 & 10 — 6:00 Holden Evening Prayer, supper following

- ◆ Trinity in Binford
- ◆ First Presbyterian in Cooperstown
- ◆ Lutheran Church of McVile

The Three Days

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

5:30 — Trinity in Binford

7:00 — Faith in Hannaford

7:00 — Lutheran Church of McVile



Good Friday

7:00 — First Presbyterian worship and breakfast

5:30 — Our Savior's in McHenry

7:00 — Grace in Grace City

7:00 — Our Savior's of rural Kloten



Easter Sunday

7:00 — Faith in Hannaford (breakfast following)

8:15 — Our Savior's of rural Kloten

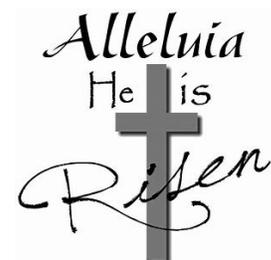
8:30 — Trinity in Binford

9:30 — Lutheran Church of McVile

9:45 — Our Savior's in McHenry

9:45 — First Presbyterian at Assisted Living in Cooperstown

11:15 — Grace in Grace City



Church canceled . . . AGAIN?

What happens on a Sunday when worship services are canceled? Some really good things happen! We get to stay safe and warm, sleep in, maybe watch a lot of TV, spend time with our family, read a book, catch up on house chores, or maybe even sneak out of town and go shopping. These are all good things that happen when worship is canceled.

But, what doesn't happen when worship is canceled? A decrease in the expenses of the church and parish. There's not a lower insurance premium, a decrease in the electrical billing, a smaller phone bill, or a decrease in salary for staff. But there is one thing that is guaranteed to happen when worship is canceled, and it's not such a good thing – offering income goes down significantly. So, while expenses remain the same, income decreases.

As you well know, weekly offering income is necessary for every church to remain financially healthy and to be able to meet its budget and commitments. The remedy, of course, is for us to give a regular weekly offering, whether there has been worship or not, or whether we attend or not. But let's be honest. Sometimes it's hard to remember, and after a few weeks of missing church, it can be really hard to catch up on our giving.

Well here is some great news!

We have a simple and easy solution to this problem – electronic giving! We simply go to our bank and authorize an automatic transfer from our account to the church's checking account.

The payment can be weekly, monthly, quarterly, or whatever works best for you. How much? Any amount. And the best part of all is that there is no fee for these transactions! And since your offering will show on the church's bank statement, your church will have a record of your giving.

Canceling worship because of weather is the right thing to do, but every time it happens, we must also be aware of the cost. Will you consider using the 21st century technology of electronic giving to move your congregation and our parish toward financial health?

**Tri-County Ministry
Council Retreat**

Rescheduled

Saturday, April 13

9:00—3:00

**Trinity in
Cooperstown**

Save the date

Marriage Matters

Overnight retreat

November 1 –2

Red Willow Bible Camp

Led by “On Bended
Knee”, Pam Hulstrand

Registration form is
available from Theresa
at the TCM office.

**Red Willow Ministries
Annual Meeting**

Sunday, April 7

4:00

Red Willow Bible Camp

**Supper will be served
following the meeting.**

(RSVP by March 31

676-2681)

Congregational Events

Presbytery of the Northern Plains Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 6

First Presbyterian in Moorhead

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 27

Colgate Presbyterian Church,

Registration: 9:30

Fee: \$15

Guest speakers: Sue Ingels of Fayette, Iowa will share her experience in Indonesia with the Global Exchange Program ; Training by Elizabeth Swee in disaster preparedness

Mission Project: Wings on Eagles Ministry for children on the Pine Ridge Reservation. We will collect Christmas gift bags, Christmas wrapping paper, scotch tape, and tissue paper for this Colgate PW ministry.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE

- **Garage Sale!** Saturday, June 1 at the church. All proceeds will benefit the Caring Closet. Donations for the garage sale may be brought to the church any time.
- Souper Bowl offering of \$84.08 was designated for the food pantry in Michigan.

TRINITY

- Trinity WELCA meets on Tuesday, April 2 at 2:30. Cheryl will lead devotions and Theresa will serve lunch. Mission Emphasis is Northlands Rescue Mission (freewill offering).
- Quilters will meet on Mondays through April, and then will break until fall. However, there will still be much cutting and sewing that could be done before next fall. Many thanks to LuAnn Heinz for sewing quilt tops!
- WELCA members recently led bingo at the nursing home in Cooperstown, and brought several new quilts for the residents.
- WELCA members will be notified about working for the roast beef dinner; all members are asked to contribute to the bake sale.
- Souper Bowl offering of \$175.09 was designed for Griggs County's Bread of Life Food Pantry.
- Thanks, Ron, for another winter of snow removal!

WORSHIP TIME ALERTS

First Presbyterian

9:45 every Sunday in April, but April 7 service will be **at the church**

Our Savior's of Klotten

Welcome back to worship! Services resume on April 7.

April Service Listings

GRACE

- April 7 Larry & Marsha Scanson
April 14 John & Janine Gisi
April 21 Loren & Katie Larson Family
April 28 Gilbert & Jo Black
April cleaner Leona Kulsrud

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE

April church cleaners

- March 25-April 7 Randy & Debbie Trostad,
Curt & LeeAnn Loe
April 8-21 Kurt & Cheryl Quanbeck
April 22-May 5 Jason & Sheila Beglau

Coffee hour hosts

- April 7 Glenn & Candice Phillips
April 14 Dan & Kelli Schmitt
April 21 HAPPY EASTER!
April 28 Norris & Corrina Olson

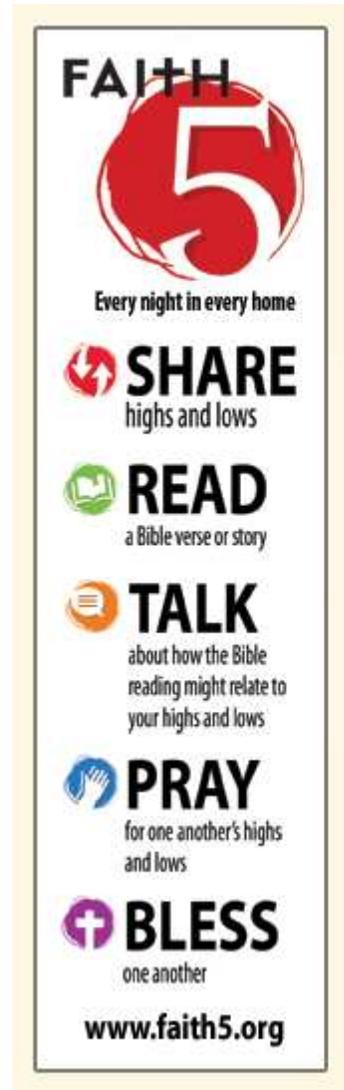
OUR SAVIOR'S of RURAL KLOTEN

Janitors and Ushers

- April Dale & Joan Nelson

April 7 Potluck Coffee
April 14 Potluck Coffee
April 21 No coffee – Happy Easter!
April 28 Potluck Coffee

**Take the
Faith5
challenge for
Lent!**



The next edition of the Tri-County Ministry Newsletter will cover the months of May and June. Please have all information to Theresa by April 16.

All churches are encouraged to submit news for our event pages.

Over 50 households are now receiving the TCM newsletter via e-mail rather than snail mail. If you'd like to be put on the e-newsletter list, please notify Theresa. (phone and e-mail on back page)

Youth Events



Families are reminded that our congregations and/or WELCA provide funding for Bible camp.

Now is the time to sign up, if you haven't already!

BLAST — Wednesdays at Trinity in Binford. Final BLAST for this spring is April 24. Note that school is being dismissed at 1:00 on April 10 and 24; therefore, BLAST will start right after school those days and go until 3:30. Any changes will be posted on the BLAST Facebook page.

CLUB 3:16 — 3:30 Wednesday, April 3 at Lutheran Church of McVille. This will be the last one until fall.

GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 Sunday mornings in April (no Sunday School on Easter Sunday)

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:00 Sunday mornings (no Sunday School on Easter Sunday)



Sessions resume after Easter. Several students are preparing to affirm their faith. Confirmation services will be held May 12 in Binford and May 19 in Grace City.



Each Friday, students in grades 7-12 gather during their lunch break at Griggs County Central for what is called "Pizza & Discussion". Area pastors from varying denominations, including Pastor Sherri and Intern Amy, take turns each week leading the kids in a short Bible devotion and discussion. This is an immense gift for the students who attend and we are happy to say that it is a growing ministry. The costs associated with Pizza & Discussion are

covered by area churches and ministries, along with generous individual donors. Might you consider becoming one of those generous donors, and supporting this rare opportunity for youth to practice their faith at their school? Weekly cost is \$170 and of course any size donation will make a difference. Check should be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church with "Pizza & Discussion" in the memo line. Mail to:

Pizza & Discussion
c/o Trinity Lutheran Church
1104 Roberts Ave. NE
Cooperstown, ND 58425

Intern Amy's Corner —

A Lasting Legacy

A good friend of mine named Sara recently told me a story of a conversation she had with her mother about her own teenaged daughter. It went something like this:

Sara: I am worried that she won't make the right decisions.

Mom: All you can do is love her, encourage her, pray for her constantly and let her know what you believe. You can't always be there.

Sara: Hmmm. I'm not sure about that. Actually, I think I believe you can!

Mom: What? What do you mean? How is that possible?

Sara: Well, let me tell you, there were many times when I was a teenager and was about to do something that I knew you wouldn't approve of. At each of those moments, you were right there... right there... spoiling my fun.

Mom: Oh goodness! Well, I guess that's what mothers are for, dear.

Here's a thought with a challenge for the day:

Your children will one day walk away from your grave. On that day, a part of you walks away in them, too.

What part will they carry from your grave in their hearts, minds and spirits? Which

aspects of your personality, your values, your faith, do you hope live on in and through them?

The truth is that we as parents answer that question every day. We build that legacy brick by brick, model by model, moment by moment, prayer by prayer, loving act by loving act. If you want the best parts of you to live on, you must model the best. The best patience. The best choices. The best attitudes. The best faith.

You may think your kids aren't listening to you, but they are watching. From the moment you bring a child home from the hospital, you have a little spy in your midst. Your children will turn out more like you than you ever wanted them to. They will copy your best, and they will certainly copy your worst.

So, what can you do and say today that will keep you there long after you're not there? What can you model and consistently place in front of your children this moment that will become part of their faith, values, and life choices?

A life of deep committed faith is a well lived life. And a well lived is a gift to your grandchildren, and your grandchildren's grandchildren.

Your choices and attitudes become a part of their script starting today.

It's a blank sheet. What will you write?

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Like us on Facebook!

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

Church Fund Raisers in April

Annual Palm Sunday Supper & Bake Sale
Turkey and all the trimmings
April 14
5:00-7:00
Grace in Grace City

Roast Beef Dinner
Quilt Sale and Bake Sale
Sunday, April 28
11:00-1:00
Trinity in Binford