



## ***Advent Greetings***

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” *Luke 2:15*  
Greetings to you during this Advent and Christmas season!

I find one of the biggest challenges is living in the midst of waiting. We wait for Christmas Eve when our churches officially start the season of Christmas, but by then the rest of the world has been celebrating for weeks. We wait for that night when we remember again the promise that Christ comes to our world as an infant. We wait to be reminded of how God acts to save our broken world in the small baby born in a stable.

A few gentle reminders: Don't get swept away in a desire to buy the perfect gift and forget that often the best gift is our time and love. Be aware that when many of us talk about the joys of families who gather, we can forget those who have no family, those whose family causes them pain, or those who will be unable to travel to celebrate together. Christmas is about the joy and hope that God gives the world through the Christ child, not just about celebrating our traditions (as much as we love Christmas decorations or goodies).

May the peace, love, hope and joy of God be with you all!

Pastor Kara

---

While living in Grand Forks during the fall, I attended church in several congregations which are home congregations to my family members. One Sunday, I confused the worship time of my brother's church because they had changed over from the summer schedule into the fall/winter schedule. Finding out my mistake and having 45 minutes until the beginning of worship at my aunt's congregation, I spent the time walking my dog in the neighborhood. It was also the neighborhood where I was going to church that morning. A man walked up to me and asked me where the Lutheran church was located. He had been walking and was confused on his directions. Even though he was only two blocks from the church, he happened to be walking in the wrong direction. I walked with him for one-half block until we could see the church and I could point the way.

After church, my aunt and I chatted in the sanctuary for 30 minutes or more. We parted in the Narthex since we had entered by different doors. While putting on my coat, the gentlemen that I had met on the sidewalk before church that morning, came up the stairs from the fellowship hall and also retrieved his coat. There was no one else around us, so we chatted and I asked him if he could find his way home again. He said that he thought that he could. Outside the door, he was not as confident in his directions, so I offered him a ride home.

*“The Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” -Matthew 24:44*

My plans had been to go with my brother to church that morning. In my confusion and mistakes, an unexpected stranger showed up. We make plans in our lives but they don't always work out as we think they should. God prepares us for the birth of his Son during this Advent Season in the weeks before Christmas. Let us pause during the Christmas rush in order to welcome the stranger that is to enter our lives in unexpected places and in unexpected ways no matter what our plans may have been.

Pastor Sherri

## Our Advent / Christmas schedule

### Hanging of the Greens

#### *Sunday, December 1*

During the regular worship hour in all the TCM congregations.

### Christmas Programs

#### *December 15*

Binford Parish Blast — 11:00 at Trinity

Faith in Hannaford — 11:15

First Presbyterian in Cooperstown — 11:15

Grace of Grace City — 11:15

Lutheran Church of McVille — 4:00

### Christmas Eve

#### *December 24*

2:00 Griggs County Nursing Home in Cooperstown

4:00 Lutheran Church of McVille

4:00 Trinity of Binford

5:30 Grace of Grace City

5:30 Our Savior's of McHenry

10:00 Faith of Hannaford

10:00 Lutheran Church of McVille

### *Service of Installation for*

*Rev. Sherri Frederikson*

*Sunday, January 5, 2014*

*10:30 at Trinity in Binford*

*(parish joint service)*

*Dinner will be served.*

*(Pastor Sherri begins her ministry  
among us on December 2.)*

## Meet Pastor Sherri

Pastor Sherri is originally from Petersburg, ND, and received an AA and BBA at Valley City and UND. In 1991, she moved to Washington state and worked in the Legal Department of Microsoft at their headquarters in Redmond, WA. After Microsoft, she had the position of the Office Supervisor at Camp Berachah Ministries, a Christian camp and conference center outside of Seattle.

As an active member of a local congregation, she started and led small groups and eventually trained other small group leaders. During that time she received a call into ministry and was encouraged and nurtured by her pastor and sisters and brothers in Christ. She attended Seminary at Seattle University and graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. Receiving her first call in the South, she served congregations in North Carolina.

Pastor Sherri returned to the Midwest two years ago in order to study Norwegian language and, while studying, volunteered and filled in at the University of Wisconsin Lutheran Campus Ministry. Studies also included two summers at the International Summer School in Oslo, Norway.

She spends her free time reading, writing, researching family history, and much time walking her Siberian Husky, Cocoa.

“I am thrilled to be living within driving distance to family again as well as close to the place where 3 of my family members homesteaded over 100 years ago. I have a profound connection to this place and my roots reach back 3 generations. I am thrilled to be serving you and to be called in ministry with you in this place.”

## Worship time alerts



*Our Savior's of Kloten:*

**No services December 1 & 29**

*Our Savior's of McHenry:*

**December 15 — 11:00 at Trinity  
for the Christmas program**

*Trinity:*

**December 15 — 11:00**

*First Presbyterian:*

**December 8 — 9:45**

## How can I help?

Over the past couple of weeks, most of us have seen the devastation both in the Philippines and here in the USA due to natural disasters.

Our churchwide organizations have disaster responses in place, and it is easy to donate.

You may go to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org), or to

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) to make a direct donation. The total of amount of your gift will go to disaster relief.

If you want to donate, but not online, you may mail a check to Tri-County Ministry and designate it for disaster relief.

.....  
■ *January/February 2014 TCM newsletter deadline is December 16. If you have anything*  
■ *for the calendar (especially annual meetings), please get those dates to the TCM office.*  
.....

## ***Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith: The Salvation Army***

In the 1860s, founders William and Catherine Booth meant this tradition (originally called the Christian Mission) to be supplement to most churches already in place, yet found that their converts were not welcomed back into other church traditions. This freestanding Christian church tradition became known as the Salvation Army in 1878. The Army is named for its fight against evil and this is reflected when referring to members as "soldiers" and evangelists (aka preachers or ministers). To join the Army, one must sign the "Articles of War" (declaration of faith) and be enrolled in a public ceremony.

Today the Army has its own set of 11 doctrines found within The Salvation Army Act 1980. Much of the beliefs reflect a Methodist foundation, with one major difference being the belief that sacraments (Baptism and Lord's Supper) are not necessary for salvation and therefore are not practiced. Other doctrines affirm the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice, that God is Creator and Father, the doctrine of the Trinity, that Christ is human and divine, that sin destroys soul and society, and that God answers human sins with salvation and hope available through Christ.

The Army is recognized as a Christian church with a major emphasis upon social programs. Both spiritual and physical needs are cared for as people uphold their faith in God the Creator and Father and in Christ the source of hope while operating thousands of hospitals, schools and other social welfare institutions in over 100 countries. The belief is that one's physical hunger and needs must be filled before one could ever satisfy their hunger and need for the Word of God. The mission statement emphasizes that the need to preach the gospel and meets human needs is motivated by the love of God and based on the Bible.

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

**Rev. Sherri Frederikson** ..... 676-2762  
(cell) 336-688-2879  
sherricknutson@yahoo.com

**Rev. Kara Wiechmann**..... 322-4926  
(cell) 605-770-4005  
pastorkaraw@gmail.com

**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)  
Like us on Facebook!

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



## Christmas Cantata

### “God Is With Us”

A festival of carols and classics,  
with a scripture narrative

**Sunday, December 15**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Lutheran Church of McVile**

Presented by the choir of Lutheran  
Church of McVile and singers from the  
surrounding area.

Directed by Linda Loe and  
accompanied by Verna Lindvall.