



Advent Greetings

“Hurry up and wait! Hurry up and wait! That is all we ever do!” Have you ever heard that before? Have you ever said that before? Growing up in a large family, I heard my mother and father chant this again and again as they prepared their brood to go to school, church, and family outings.

Is that not typical of our lives...it seems that we are either hurrying to go to a doctor’s appointment, for example, and then getting there early or on time just to wait an extra 30 minutes in the waiting room?

We hurry with our Christmas preparations only to have them interrupted by the Advent Church Season....hurry up and wait! We prepare for the birth of Jesus only to listen to bible texts referring to his coming again....hurry up and wait!

Maybe it would be helpful to think of our lives as the “Waiting Room,” like in the doctor’s office. We can decide how we wait. Are we angry and frustrated as we wait? Or can we instead be calm and patient and make use of that waiting time? And how about the Advent Season? Can this also be a “Waiting Room” as we prepare for the Christmas Season?

“...And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

-Luke 13:35b

Pastor Sherri

Grace and peace, love and joy to you all!

Well, Tri-County, we have reached the end of another year. We start our church year over with the season of Advent and await Christmas. We find ourselves in the midst of so much excitement as the rest of the world is also celebrating a joyous holiday season. May we all see the light that comes in the darkest time of the year: the light that is God's love.

Blessings to you during the coming weeks. When you find that your hearts are heavy, may God grant you comfort and peace. When you find that your hearts are overflowing, may God give you people with whom to share your joy. May God bless you abundantly and may you be blessings to others!

In Christ,

Pastor Kara

Our Advent / Christmas schedule

Christmas Programs

December 14

- Binford Parish Blast — 11:00 at Trinity
- First Presbyterian in Cooperstown — 9:45
- Grace of Grace City — 11:15
- Lutheran Church of McVille — 4:00

December 21

- Faith in Hannaford — 11:15

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 2:00 Griggs County Nursing Home in Cooperstown
- 3:00 Our Savior's of McHenry
- 4:00 Lutheran Church of McVille
- 4:30 Trinity of Binford
- 5:30 Grace of Grace City
- 10:00 Faith of Hannaford
- 10:00 Lutheran Church of McVille



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Our Advent devotional booklets are available in each church. The daily verse will also be posted on Facebook and the TCM blog.

Confirmation students trekking through TCM

On Saturday, December 6, our confirmation students will pile into the TCM van and take a tour of Tri-County Ministry. They'll start out in Hannaford at 9:00, then go to First Presbyterian in Cooperstown, Our Savior's of Kloten, and Lutheran Church of McVille. That should bring them to Trinity in Binford at noon, where they'll join the Trinity WELCA for lunch. The afternoon will take them to McHenry and Grace City, where the tour will conclude at about 2:00.

Souper Bowl of Caring

January 19 — February 1, 2015

Each year, we have the opportunity to donate to our local food banks or other hunger organizations through the Souper Bowl. Some of our congregations have been participating in this event for a few years already, and this is a chance for all congregations to accept the challenge.

How can your church participate?

- ◆ Take a noisy offering during the worship service. Use soup pots to collect loose change / cash. Last year, one of our congregations took their noisy offering on Super Bowl Sunday, with a soup pot for each team competing in the Super Bowl.
- ◆ Serve brunch or lunch after your worship service and take a special offering.
- ◆ Take a special offering during coffee hour.
- ◆ Hold a food drive.

Your Tri-County Ministry staff challenges all churches to be a part of this annual event to end hunger.

Remember that you may choose the recipient organization of our donations. Go to www.souperbowl.org for more info and to register your congregation.



Worship time alerts



Our Savior's of Kloten:

No services from December 28 until spring

Our Savior's of McHenry:

December 14 — 11:00 at Trinity for the Christmas program

Trinity:

December 14 — 11:00

First Presbyterian:

December 7, 14, & 28 — 9:45
January 11 — 9:45

Books and Bibles for sale

The TCM office at Trinity in Binford has several Bibles on hand in different versions: New Century Version, New Revised Standard Version, and Contemporary English Version. Most of them are \$20.

We also have copies of miscellaneous books, including *Making Sense of Scripture*, *Reclaiming the L Word*, and *Reclaiming the C Word*. The books can be purchased for \$10 each.

Please contact Theresa if interested, or stop in the Trinity office.

WELCA Christmas parties

- * Wednesday, December 3: Faith WELCA at 6:30
- * Saturday, December 6: Trinity WELCA at 11:00
- * Sunday, December 7: McVile LCW Cookie potluck and program

Annual Meetings

January 11 Our Savior's of McHenry

January 18 Our Savior's of Kloten

First Presbyterian

Faith

January 25 Trinity

February 1 Grace

Lutheran Church of McVile

If any of these dates need to be changed, announcements will be made in the Sunday bulletins.

Special meetings held

On November 2, all seven of our TCM congregations held special meetings. The one item on the agenda was the approval of the assessment for 2015. All churches approved the recommendation of \$400.

Tri-County Ministry Council will hold their final meeting of 2014 on Wednesday, **December 10**.

Many thanks to **Paulette Gronneberg** (Faith in Hannaford) and **Vickie Goplen** (First Presbyterian in Cooperstown) for their two terms of service on the council.



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 City.....674-3112
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
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Christmas Cantata

“Canticles in Candlelight”
(by Joseph M. Martin)

Sunday, December 14
7:30 p.m.

Lutheran Church of McVile

Presented by the community choir of McVile and the surrounding area

Using scripture, narration, carols and candles, the cantata tells the treasured story of Christ's birth. The cantata is filled with traditional music enhanced with familiar classical references. Verna Lindvall is the accompanist and Linda Loe is the director.

