



Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY
MINISTRY

December 2020 — January 2021

From Deacon Tara

How are you at waiting? Do you get impatient when you are waiting in line at the post office or grocery store? Do you wait to open a present or do you want to open it immediately? I have always thought that I was pretty good at waiting. But to be honest, this year especially has tested my patience. When will we be able to worship in our building again? When will we have to return to online/virtual worship because the numbers are spiking? Will Pastor Sherri be leaving for Norway soon? The truth is that I cannot control these facts and neither can any of us. So this year, I am incredibly ready for the season of Advent.

Advent is one of my most favorite seasons because it reminds me that God is the one in control. There is just something so incredibly holy about waiting for the birth of the Christ child; this precious infant who is born in a stable, who comes as the light in the midst of darkness, the hope in the midst of despair and the joy in the midst of sorrow. This precious child who reminds us that God loves us so much that God will never leave us or forsake us. Even in the midst of a pandemic and even in the midst of leadership changes, God is still here active and moving in the world.

As part of my Advent/Christmas décor, I collect Nativity scenes. Every year, I keep one up all year round as a reminder that God is active and moving in the world. This tradition started when my friend Mark walked into our friend Louise's office and saw that she had a nativity on her desk. It was spring of the year. Mark asked her, "Why do you have a Nativity on your desk?" Louise responded by asking Mark a question in return: "Do we celebrate Jesus just one day a year?" She then proceeded to share how she keeps it up as a reminder that God is always with us and we should not honor and remember Jesus only on Christmas but every day of the year. I heard that story and immediately knew that I had to start my own tradition of leaving a Nativity out for the entire year.

This year especially that Nativity has reminded me that God is the one who is in control. God knows every concern and joy in our hearts. God knows what we struggle with every day. God knows us by name and calls and claims us as God's beloved children. As God's beloved children, this year Advent especially reminds us what it means to love our neighbor and cling to God's son who is the light in this dark world. May you cling to the promises of the one who comes to bring light in the midst of darkness.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it." Thanks be to God!

Parish News

Advent and Christmas in TCM

IF WORSHIP SERVICES ARE RESUMED

Programs:

First Presbyterian —

Sunday, December 6 during 8:30 worship

Faith — Sunday, December 13 during 10:30 worship

Grace — Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. (no morning worship)

Christmas Services:

Wednesday, December 23

* 7:00 Lutheran Church of McVille

Thursday, December 24

* 3:00 Our Savior's of McHenry

* 5:00 Trinity of Binford

* 10:00 p.m. Faith of Hannaford

“Worship Is a Priority”

Are you feeling déjà vu all over again? You might remember “worship is a priority” from a newsletter a year ago. At that time, a new Sunday schedule was being set in place, using 8:30 and 10:30 as worship hours. The new worship hours allowed the clergy more time to spend with the worshipers, and simplified the calendar for all.

From the beginning of Tri-County Ministry, the schedule has adhered to the goal of having worship in each church every week. Now, as we look at staff changes, we revisit how we do worship to fit the needs of our congregations.

We are starting right now to see changes. Saturday evening worship will occasionally be on the schedule. And combined services might become more normal. Talk about this in your churches. Annual meetings will be a great time for discussion.

How are we willing to cooperate? Would you like to see alternating services? Would you drive to another church for worship once in a while? Would you worship on Saturday evening? What about streaming the worship from one congregation to another? (Streaming wouldn't be attempted again until all technology is in place.)

Discussion and suggestions are more than welcome!

Notice of Special Meeting

Special Congregational Meetings have been scheduled to follow the worship services in our congregations on **December 5 and 6**. The purpose of the meetings is to vote on the proposed 2021 Congregational Ministry Contribution of \$525 per active confirmed member.

The Tri-County Ministry Council is in conversation with the synod office, and is reviewing constitutions and by-laws to ensure that the special meetings are still able to be held. We will follow all appropriate recommendations to ensure that this vote is legal.

Congregational News

Lutheran Church of McVile

Members of the Lutheran Church of McVile are encouraged to fill out the survey if they have not yet done so. There are extra copies in the main entry of the church. The deadline to return them is January 1st, 2021.

Our Savior's of Kloten

The Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, December 6, following the 8:30 worship. (Completely subject to change!)

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Annual Meetings in 2021 (all subject to change)

- January 10 — Our Savior's of McHenry
 - January 17 — Lutheran Church of McVile
 - January 24 — Faith of Hannaford
 - January 31 — Grace of Grace City
 - February 7 — First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
 - February 14 — Trinity of Binford
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As we end 2020, we say "thank you" to the leaders of our congregations who serve on the Tri-County Ministry Council. Some of these representatives have completed their terms and some could be re-elected.

Richard & Myrna Hanson, Dale Nelson, Linda Loe, Corrina Olson, Jess Carlson, Lori Ellingson, Missy Erickson, Lyle Black, Bob Delfs, Betty Stabenow, Paul Motter, Janice Johnson, Dan Larson, and Becky Muncy.

Calendars versus COVID

As this newsletter is compiled, **worship in the TCM churches has been suspended until further notice.** However, services are included on the December and January calendars, in case worship resumes.

Read the calendars as "subject to change." We have so many unknowns at this point, and cannot say when any gatherings will resume.

Please pay attention to the TCM website, the Facebook page, all email communications and text messages. And whenever you see a special

announcement, spread the word to anyone who doesn't have internet.

Communication is a priority! Stay in touch with your neighbors, and stay in touch with the TCM office to report any changes in church calendars.

Food Pantries need our donations!

Bread of Life Food Pantry
Box 365
Cooperstown, ND 58425

Carrington's Daily Bread
875 Main St.
Carrington, ND 58421

Hunger Free Food Pantry
436 1st Ave. North
New Rockford, ND 58356

Michigan Food Pantry
c/o Debbie Narum
3950 County Rd 35
Michigan, ND 58259

Great Plains Food Bank
1720 3rd Ave. North
Fargo, ND 58102-4254
Or give online at
greatplainsfoodbank.org

Word on the Street

Deacon Tara's reading suggestions

Bipolar Faith: A Black Women's Journey with Depression and Faith by Monica Coleman. I have had this book on my to read pile for awhile now. I am not very far into this book but I am already loving what I am reading. It is interesting to read about what it is like to live with a mental illness and be a person of color. I am thankful that Monica is not holding back anything as she tells her story.

The Advent Narrative by Mary Geisen. This new book is written by my blog friend Mary. This is a beautiful resource for learning about Advent and how it works together with our faith and the life of Jesus. If you are looking for an Advent resource for yourself, this might be just the perfect book for you!

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. Another book that I am reading as I engage and learn more about racial injustice. This book has a lot of history of different cases that have unfolded in the past. It is books like this that challenge me to think more deeply about how we have so much work to do when it comes to racial injustice.

Mailing info for congregational offerings:

Faith of Hannaford
Mary Jo Grover
707 Foster Ave. NW
Cooperstown, ND 58425

First Presbyterian
Rita Jungels
509 10th Ave. SW
Valley City, ND 58072

Lutheran Church of McVile
Box 306
McVile, ND 58254

Grace
John Gisi
1951 82nd Ave. NE
New Rockford, ND 58356

Our Savior's of Kloten
Mary Lou Krogh
Box 324
McVile ND 58254

Our Savior's of McHenry
Missy Erickson
9057 16th St. NE
McHenry, ND 58464

Trinity Lutheran Church
Box 226
Binford, ND 58416

Tri-County Ministry Council
November 5, 2020 **7:00 p.m. at Trinity in Binford**

PRESENT: Dale Nelson, Corrina Olson, Linda Loe, Becky Muncy (via phone), Paul Motter, Janice Johnson, Lori Ellingson, Jo Black, Missy Erickson (via phone), Lyle Black, Betty Stabenow, Bob Delfs, Pastor Sherri Frederikson, Deacon Tara Ulrich, Theresa Fiebiger **ABSENT:** Jess Carlson, Dan Larson, Richard Hanson

CALL TO ORDER: Bob Delfs

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Sherri

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Approved and filed

TREASURER’S REPORT: Approved and filed

Balances of Hand 10.31.20	General Fund	59,962.29
	Parsonage Fund	11,822.77
	Special Funds	3,903.80

BUSINESS

COVID Guidelines: Pastor Sherri distributed a handout regarding church music during COVID; COVID guidelines are available from the END Synod website. Masking was discussed, especially pertaining to lay preachers with vulnerable health; masks are being worn in all churches (some required and some recommended.)

2020 Budget Preparation: All congregations have updated their active confirmed membership lists.

	January 1, 2020	November 1, 2020
Faith of Hannaford	54	45
First Presbyterian, Cooper	21	21
Grace of Grace City	55	33
Lutheran Church of McVile	78	72
Our Savior’s of Kloten	21	20
Our Savior’s of McHenry	36	35
Trinity of Binford	64	53
Total	331	279

2021 budget proposal was presented. Using the updated active confirmed membership numbers, the proposed annual congregational ministry contribution is \$525 per active confirmed member. Budget is based on staff of Deacon and Parish Administrator and does not include an interim pastor. Budget also includes salary increase for Deacon Tara based on synod guidelines for compensation in multi-point parishes.

Discussion: Keep or sell the TCM van? (Van Expense will be kept in budget and discussed later.) Pulpit supply/Sams – how many worship services are they comfortable with leading each month? Necessity of cooperation among the congregations in worship scheduling.

Motion by Corrina Olson to approved budget as presented. Motion seconded by Janice Johnson and carried.

Special congregational meetings were schedule for Sunday, December 6 to approve the congregational ministry contribution for 2021. (Any congregations worshipping on December 5 would have special meeting following worship.)

Salary Increase: Motion by Lori Ellingson, seconded by Paul Motter, that salary increase for Deacon Tara go into effect December 1, 2020. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: February 2021 after all annual meetings have been held, or as needed.

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

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TCM CONGREGATIONS

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faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

Grace of Grace City
kmac@daktel.com

Our Savior's of Klotten &
McVile Lutheran Church.... 322-4952
lutheranchurchmcville@gmail.com

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

Trinity of Binford..... 676-2761
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**We exist to serve Christ in
harmony with our member
churches and communities.**