



Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY
MINISTRY

February 2019

From Pastor Sherri

"We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing."

-2 Thessalonians 1:3

Faith grows as it is something that is living. Faith grows in our lives by practicing and engaging our faith. Faith is more than a feeling or belief. Faith is something we do—just as love is more than a feeling, it is something that we do. Love is a commitment, a partnership, a choice and a daily action and so our faith, as well, is all these things. It is so exciting to see the ministries that are blossoming throughout our parish as people are using their gifts and engaging their faith in relationship with others! These new ministries are not carried out by pastoral or administrative staff. These are people engaging their faith with the community beyond our church doors. Many of the ministries that are sprouting are not just in individual congregations, they are across multiple congregations. We go out in the name of Christ. Why? Because he sends us.

TCM MEN'S MINISTRY: A leadership team has been formed by representatives from all seven congregations. They are steeping themselves in prayer, Bible study, and forming relationships with each other in order to establish a firm foundation for this ministry. You will be hearing more about this as events take place in the months to come.

TCM HEART-2-HEART VISITATION MINISTRY: In addition to pastoral visitation, seven people have stepped up to participate in home visitation to our shut-ins. They will be visiting monthly, praying, and some will offer communion. You may notice an additional sending rite to our regular communion liturgy on Sunday as our homebound people eat at the communion table with us. A built-in support system for these ministers is in place in order for me to communicate with and encourage these ministers on this exciting adventure!

TCM MUTUAL MINISTRIES: Congregations are still in conversation on how to move forward in ministry. The Mutual Ministry team will bring their recommendations to the TCM Council and will communicate these recommendations to the congregations through regional meetings within the next quarter.

SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTERS: I am excited to share with you that three of our Lay Preachers have gone through the process that the Eastern ND Synod has put in place in order to expand their role at Tri-County Ministry. This candidacy process is similar to the formation of pastors with psychological exams, candidacy committee interviews, education, and essays. Pastor Rick Hall, Trinity-Cooperstown, and I meet with our Lay Preachers and SAMs monthly in order to offer our support and encouragement. We will also gather for a Spring Retreat at Red Willow. Congratulations to Marla Larson, Marvin Goplen, and Truley Trautman!

Congregational Events



On Sunday, February 3, the Rams and the Patriots will go head-to-head in Super Bowl LIII, while nearly 42 million Americans will be struggling to find their next meal. In our nation, more than 12 million children struggle with hunger.

What can our churches do? Well, what if everyone who watched the game gave one dollar or one can of food to those in need? *Remember, 100 percent stays local, benefiting a charity of your choice.*

If your congregation has not yet discussed this, you may certainly choose another Sunday for an event in your church. A monetary collection, a collection of food items, or a combination of both!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE

- McVille Lutheran will be having a potluck brunch after worship on February 24th. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite breakfast/brunch dish to share. You may even make use of the kitchen to make scrambled eggs, pancakes, french toast, whatever you wish! Please come and enjoy a time of food and fellowship! All are welcome!

TRINITY

- Souper Bowl noisy offering on Sunday, February 3. Vote for your favorite team with your loose change/cash/check (made out to Trinity). Offering goes to Griggs County's Bread of Life Food Pantry.
- Potluck brunch follows the 8:30 worship service on Sunday, February 10.
- Trinity Quilters have received a massive amount of new flannel, the annual donation from Tammy Risk. Anyone from the area who would like to join quilting is welcome; help is especially needed with cutting squares and assembling the quilt tops.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

- ⇒ February 3 — First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
 - ⇒ February 10 — Grace of Grace City
- Meetings follow the Sunday morning worship service.

WORSHIP TIME ALERTS

First Presbyterian

February 3 & 24 — 11:15

February 10 & 17 — 9:45 at Assisted Living

A new ministry in the works

Plans are underway for starting a Men's Ministry in our Tri-County parish. After several planning meetings by representatives from the parish churches, a leadership group has decided to spend this first year developing resources and ideas for how a men's ministry could meet the needs of men in our rural communities. We have decided to adopt the same structure that is being used for our confirmation program: the three legged stool model.

1) Study the word, 2) Plan mission projects, and 3) Sponsor fun, social events.

The development of this ministry is an outcome of the Mutual Ministry planning meetings that were led by Pastor Tedd and Pastor Sherri over the past year. For now, the leadership group will continue its work before starting any programs. Members of the team include: Denny Goetz - Trinity, Dan Larson - Faith, Gilbert Black - Grace, Paul Motter - First Presbyterian, Russ Pollock - McVile, Dale Nelson - Our Saviors of Kloten, and Rick Frederick - Our Saviors of McHenry. Men of our parish are encouraged to visit with any of these leaders with your suggestions for helping build this ministry.

McVile Lutheran's Caring Closet

Open 9-5

***Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
& Fridays***

Whether looking for a place to donate, or looking for a need for yourself or someone else, the Caring Closet is a hub between donors and people in need. Gently used clothing, household goods, unopened toiletries and non-perishable foods, and baby items. Located in the church basement.

Financial Peace University

Sunday evenings, Feb 10th — April 7th

6:00-7:30 at Trinity in Cooperstown

Facilitated by Pastor Rick Hall

Cost — \$110 (don't let this stop you; contact Pastor Rick for more info)

Financial Peace University (FPU on the church calendar) is open to any and all from our area. Contact Pastor Hall if you have questions (797.3611). This is a class that can change lives and help promote healthy financial situations in our communities of faith as well as our community as a whole.

From Intern Pastor Amy — "I participated in Financial Peace University several years back. I cannot say enough good things about it. I learned so much about how money works (and doesn't) and was able to come up with my own financial plan to get out of debt. It indeed has given me so much peace and has made me so proud of myself too. I really encourage you to attend FPU."



Youth Events

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Saturday, March 23

9:00 — Noon

**Site to be determined,
depending on
participants**

Pre-registration is needed! Please talk to Pastor Sherri, Intern Amy, or Theresa.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sherri.

Class is open to all youth ready to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parents/guardians also attend the class.

BLAST — 3:15 Wednesdays at Trinity in Binford

CLUB 3:16 — 3:30 first and third Wednesdays at Lutheran Church of McVille.

GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL & FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL— 10:00
Sunday mornings



On Feb 17-18, Faith4Life! Binford and Faith4Life! Grace City students will head to Fargo for an overnight Fellowship/

Servant Event. We will have a fun and faith filled 27 hours together! Activities include a Fargo Force game, a tour and service work at Churches United for the Homeless, a visit to the MSUM Planetarium, and a visit to Concordia College! Be sure to keep us in your prayers for safe travels, deep learning through service and worship, and pray that we will have an adventurous time together filled with laughter.

Last minute addition to calendar: Faith4Life! Binford will meet on Wednesday, February 6, at the regular time. This is in addition to the other Wednesdays already scheduled.

February Service Listings

Lutheran Church of McVille

Altar Committee – Peggy Johnson

Usher – Jason Beglau

Acolyte – Savannah Huso

Stewardship

February 3 Amy Olson & Marlene Nelson

10 Jason & Sheila Beglau

17 Russ & Joanne Pollock

24 Potluck Brunch, Robert & Verna

Cleaning

Jan. 28 – Feb. 10: Norris & Corrina Olson

Feb. 11-24: Les & Kristi Berdal

Feb. 25-March 10: Clayton & Kathy Ward,
Diane Rohde

Grace

Ushers

February 3 Pete & Jess Johnson Family

10 Myron & Leona Kulsrud

17 Kevin & Judy Black

24 Travis & Katie Black Family

Cleaning — Judy Black

Intern Amy's Corner

The Power of Ritual

A few years back, I had the privilege of hearing Dr. Tony Campolo speak. Tony is a nationally renowned speaker, who happened to be at Concordia College for the day, speaking to an auditorium filled with college students and adults. Dr. Campolo was one of the most powerful speakers I'd ever heard and I left feeling challenged to share with anyone who would listen the lesson he taught me that day.

He spoke about giving kids both roots and wings. He named several tools that the church has to help grow roots and wings. And he also spoke of ways that parents can nurture both. I was especially interested in what he had to say about the power of ritual. He shared that ritual serves four purposes:

1. Rituals create solidarity and oneness.
2. Rituals teach what is important.
3. Rituals renew loyalty and commitment.
4. Rituals create a sense of peace and safety.

Every family has rituals, and some are good and some are not so good. When families have healthy rituals, the family stays strong and children find their identity in the family and home, rather than getting their identity from the world. The ritual of praying together as a family every night teaches kids what is important, and teaches them that God is listening and active in our lives. The ritual of Sunday worship as a family teaches kids that worshipping is what Christians do. And, of course there is FAITH5, that simple 5-step nightly ritual of SHARE*READ*TALK*PRAY*BLESS.

In the end, Dr. Campolo said, "Rituals hold us when we can't hold ourselves." I left that evening feeling more confident than ever that FAITH5 has the power to transform our families and our grow our connection to God.

FAITH5— Every Week at Church and Every Night in Every Home. A healthy family ritual that holds us close to each other and close to God.

Try it tonight!

Many thanks!

A few of our Tri-County Ministry Council representatives have completed their second term and will be leaving the council.

Our appreciation goes out to Vickie Goplen, Kathy McCracken, Corrina Olson, and Paul Motter for their faithful service to our parish.

TCM Council members:

Our first meeting of the year will be Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 at Trinity.

Lutheran Social Services of ND

100th Anniversary Sunday, February 24

We give thanks for the many services of LSS:

- For families
- For youth
- For seniors

Locally, LSS has offices in Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, and Devils Lake.

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