



## ***From our pastor***

*“In repentance and rest is your salvation,*

*In quietness and trust is your strength,*

*But you would have none of it.” - Isaiah 30.15*

I have especially enjoyed the Isaiah texts leading into Christmas season this year because of the descriptive language and the vision of the coming kingdom of God. For example, last Sunday while driving to worship, I had to slow down for two deer bounding across the road and leaping across the field — a common occurrence in that area. Shortly after that incident, I heard words read in worship, “...the lame shall leap like a deer...”. Wow, what a vision I was given in preparation for that text! And the next day, sharing that same passage with an elderly person who struggles to walk with the aid of a walker. What a gift we are given in God’s Word.

And today, as I read the words from chapter 30 about rest and quietness and trust as I struggle with preparations for the rest of the Advent and Christmas services, I especially identify with the part about “...you would have none of it.” I fight against the quietness and being able to trust God in the midst of change and the normal struggles of everyday life. We are prompted to connect with God and enjoy the things that we let slip in the everyday rush of the rest of the year: the beauty of creation; the delight in a child’s eyes; playing with pets; and most of all, digging deep into the Word of God. Sometimes nature can give us a clue into the kingdom as we look up into the branches of tall trees, and remember that they grow slowly. A good reminder to me to stop rushing ahead of God. Can we allow God to bring refreshing strength into our life again, and accept God’s gifts of peace and joy?

God’s grace and peace to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

~ Pastor Sherri

## Annual meetings scheduled

Our Savior's of McHenry .... January 12

First Presbyterian .... January 19

Faith ... January 19

Our Savior's of Klotten .... January 19

Trinity .... January 26

Grace .... February 2

Lutheran Church of McVille .... February 2

All annual meetings will be attended by the congregation's primary pastor.

Once all annual meetings are completed, we'll get back to our regular rotation of pulpit supply.

## Primary pastor

Now that Pastor Sherri has joined the staff of Tri-County Ministry, the pastors have reviewed their responsibilities. As in the past, each congregation has a "primary pastor." That pastor has the general oversight of the congregation, even though both pastors share responsibilities. Congregations' primary pastors:

Pastor Sherri — Trinity, Our Savior's of McHenry, Grace, and Faith

Pastor Kara — Our Savior's of Klotten, Lutheran Church of McVille, and First Presbyterian

## Souper Bowl of Caring in February

\$7,478,665.

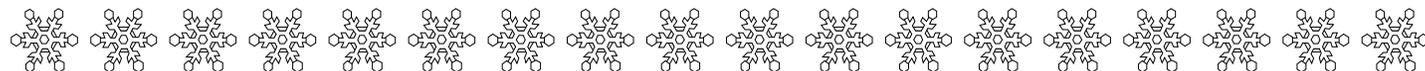


That is the amount collected in cash and food donations by 8,111 organizations for charities in their areas in 2013.

The Souper Bowl of Caring was born in the 1990s in South Carolina, and has become a national movement coinciding with the Super Bowl. The goal of the Souper Bowl is to make sure that no one goes hungry.

Congregations in TCM are invited to participate in this event. A special offering can be taken on Super Bowl Sunday or on the last couple of Sundays in January. A meal could be served after church. The offering goes to the organization of the congregation's choice. It can go to a local food pantry, or as far as a world hunger program.

Go to [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org) to register your congregation and to get resources. Maybe this can become an annual TCM-wide event.



## Winter Fun Days in TCM



Sunday, January 26

Sunday, February 16

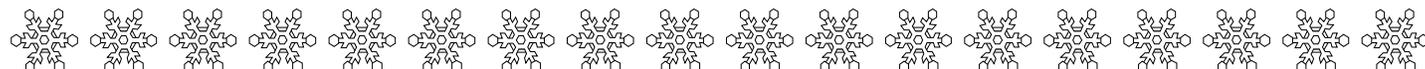
2:00 at Faith in Hannaford

2:00 at the home of Rob & Linda Loe

Bring your board games.

(south of McVille)

Sledding!



## **Worship time alerts**

*Our Savior's of Kloten:*

**No services until spring**



*First Presbyterian:*

**9:45 on January 12 & 26**

**9:45 on February 2 & 16**

*Please watch your weekly bulletin announcements and newspapers in case changes in the scheduling need to be made.*

**Thank you to everyone at Tri-County Ministry for giving me a warm welcome into your midst.**

**I so appreciate all the work that was done on the parsonage in Binford as well as the hand unloading the trucks.**

**The welcome baskets and certificates that were provided by all the churches were well thought-out and coordinated for filling my needs during this transition.**

**I also thank you for the food that was waiting for me on my counter and in my refrigerator--yum!**

**As I continue to settle into the community, I look forward to spending more time with all of you. I thank God and I thank you for all the blessings that have been showered over me.**

**Pastor Sherri**

## **Lent 2014 Devotional**

Have you ever wanted to have your reflections published [anonymously]? Well, here is your chance! This year, we at TCM are going to put together a Lenten devotional by using our personal favorite verses, passages and stories from the Bible. Here is what we are asking from people from across our seven churches:

- ◆ What is your favorite Bible verse, passage or story?
- ◆ Why does this verse, passage or story matter to you?
- ◆ What do you hear God saying?

Sounds simple enough for you, right? Good. Because we want this to be a simple task for us to share what matters to us while we read, think and pray.

This is going to be published anonymously (for you really bashful writers) in early March. We are all equals when it comes to encountering God through scripture, and we want to grow together in our faith by combining our own experiences and reflections. Each and every one of us (that means all of God's children of all ages and walks of life) is invited to share. We hope to receive an overabundance of replies so that we can expand this project beyond the 40 days of Lent.

And now for the details of how this devotional will happen:

1. After the new year, you will be seeing some half-sheets of paper magically appear in your church buildings. On these papers are going to be the three questions listed above. If you would rather submit an electronic version, please contact Pastor Kara.
2. For those who are willing to share, the questions will need to be filled out and returned by February 15.
3. Pastor Kara will compile the reflections into a snazzy booklet that will be TCM's own daily devotional for the season of Lent (March 5-April 20).
4. The devotional will be available by early March. You can pick up your own paper copy in congregations or go online to the TCM blog or website to download the devotional. We will have large print available. Please let us know if we need to deliver your copy.

We look forward to reading what your favorite part of Scripture is and why the Word of God matters to you personally!

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January, February, March, April, June,  
August, September, October, and  
November.

***Service of Installation***  
*for*  
***Rev. Sherri Frederikson***

***Sunday, January 5, 2014***

***10:30 a.m.***

***Trinity in Binford***

***(Tri-County Ministry Parish Worship)***

***Dinner will be served.***