



# Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

July—August 2019

## *From Pastor Sherri*

“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart... But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” --2 Cor 4:1, 7

Ministry is of the Spirit. And where the Spirit is, there is the freedom that comes from “seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror” in Christ’s face and “being transformed into the same image” (3:18; 4:1-5).

God’s power transforms us. God’s power is transforming each congregation that is a part of a parish called Tri-County Ministry. The congregations are not eliminated by the parish; we are stronger by being together in cooperative ministry. Parish First—For Life! Means that there are things we can do in partnership with one or two other congregations or even across the parish that we cannot do in one congregation by ourselves.

A Vision sets the direction. A Vision gives us something to aim towards so that we are moving forward and not standing still. And the details are worked out by the TCM leadership and by each congregation that is a part of the parish. Can we move toward ministries that give us life?

God’s Spirit is moving among us in many ways. Instead of “white-knuckling” it and coming from a place of fear, can we move with the freedom of the Spirit? For example, instead of asking the question, “How can we help an over-worked pastor?” ask a bigger question: “How can we get people more engaged with their faith?” And these questions: “How can we help congregation members have a more active faith?” “How is God calling each person to grow and change in this in-between process of Tri-County Ministry?”

Clay jars is a metaphor for our human vulnerability—so that it can be clear that this excess of power belongs to God and does not come from us.

God used Moses to lead God’s people to the promised land. A weak, human being. God said, “Fear not, I will be with you. I will lead you. You will be victorious!” God gave his Son so that we may have life and be free to live by the Spirit. God makes promises. God keeps promises. Christ does not mislead, deceive, or disappoint and Christ did not rest on the weakness of human beings, but on divine power. Trust in that Spirit that guided Moses through the desert into the promised land. Trust in God’s Spirit who is now guiding us, God’s people. Yes, we are as fragile as clay jars. And yes, God’s love and Spirit continues to transform us.

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# Parish News

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## ***Tri-County Ministry Parish Worship***

Sunday, July 28  
Red Willow Bible Camp

**10:00** Coffee hour in the chapel

**10:30** Worship  
Blessing of Synodically  
Authorized Ministers

Holy Communion  
(Offering at the worship is  
designated for Tri-County  
Ministry)

Potluck meal in the dining  
hall following the worship.  
(Freewill offering for Red  
Willow Bible Camp)

*Watch Sunday bulletins for  
announcements about other  
activities for the day.*

***Red Willow Bible Camp***

***Golf Scramble***

***Thursday, July 26***

***Cooperstown Country Club***

***Quilts and More Auction***

***Sunday, August 25***

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## ***Tri-County Ministry Council Highlights May 21, 2019***

**Mutual Ministry Update:** Mutual Ministry representatives from each congregation will meet on June 19. They will compile a report to be submitted to the TCM Council.

**Annual Parish Worship:** The annual parish worship service will be held Sunday, July 28 in the chapel at Red Willow Bible Camp.

**Role of SAMs:** Synodically Authorized Ministers may officiate at weddings and baptisms, may preach and preside at communion with permission from the synod office. TCM also has volunteer ministries in place, such as visitation and various committees. Discussion on possibility of raising up more SAMs in our parish.

**Congregation-led Worship:** Discussion of the future possibility of each congregation planning and leading their own worship periodically.

**TCM Foundation:** Question on the use of the funds and when principal funds may be disbursed.

**Fund Raising:** The possibility of fund raising was discussed. More discussion at the next TCM Council meeting.

**Budget Adjustment:** Tri-County Ministry has the possibility of hosting an intern pastor for the 2019-2020 year. An increase in the budget would be necessary. Motion approved allowing an intern pastor to begin in TCM in September 2019. Motion approved that Intern Pastor Program line item in the 2019 budget be increased to \$33,000.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 23; 6:00 in Binford

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# Congregational Events

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## **WORSHIP TIME ALERTS**

### **First Presbyterian**

- 9:45 July 7 at the church; July 21 at Assisted Living; August 4 at the church; August 11, 18, & 25 at Assisted Living
- 11:15 July 14 at the church

### **Trinity**

- Wednesday evening worship in July
- No worship at the church on August 25. Worship at Red Willow Bible Camp at 10:00.

### **Lutheran Church of McVile**

- **Correction:** Worship in the Park on July 21 is at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday evening worship in August

## **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE**

### **Club 3:16**

We've been blessed to have experienced another wonderful year at Club 3:16 at McVile Lutheran Church! We are thrilled that the program continues to grow and that more families join us each year to deepen their relationship with Jesus. We just wrapped up the second day camp for the summer and so now it's time to look ahead to next fall. We have planned a Family Faith Night for **August 11, from 4-6pm at McVile Lutheran Church**. ALL current Club 3:16 families are encouraged to attend as well as any families that are interested in learning more about our program. This event will launch the Club 3:16 programming for the 2019-2020 school including: registration, orientation, schedules, activities for the kids and a meal will be provided. Please note: Registration/Orientation must take place before a child may attend the first session of Club 3:16. If you are unable to join us on August 11th, other arrangements will need to be made. Please mark your calendars and RSVP (or direct any questions) to [haleyklefstad@gondtc.com](mailto:haleyklefstad@gondtc.com).

### **TRINITY**

Worship services in July will all be at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings.

- July 10 at the Red Willow cabin of Marvin and Vickie Goplen. Potluck supper at 6:00.
- July 17 and July 24 at the church
- July 31 at the Binford Park. Potluck picnic at 6:00.

### **OUR SAVIOR'S OF MCHENRY**

A group of volunteers took care of spring cleaning at the church. Many thanks to Sue Bakko, Zac Aguire, Cindy Tufte, Susie Brandt, and Missy Erickson!

All are invited to the annual indoor picnic and pie auction on Saturday, July 27. Come and see how high the bid can go for one pie!

## **FAITH**

A noon meal will be served at the church on Saturday, July 27, as part of Hannaford Days. Head over to the church following the parade for sandwiches on homemade buns, salads, chips etc. Serving times are approximately 11:30-1:00. Proceeds will go toward the roof; and Faith WILL BE reroofing this fall.

## ***July/August Service Listings***

### **GRACE—Ushers and Cleaners**

July 7 - Larry & Marsha Scanson

July 14 - John & Janine Gisi

July 21 - Loren & Katie Larson

July 28 - Gilbert & Jo Black

Church cleaner - Creeta Luttswager

August 4 - Pete & Jess Johnson

August 11 - Myron & Leona Kulsrud

August 18 - Jason & Kelly Otto

August 25 - Travis & Katie Black

Church cleaner - Jess Johnson

### **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE**

#### **JULY**

Usher/Acolyte – Don Thompson

Altar – Volunteers

Cleaners: July 1-14 Brian & Renae Arneson, Karen Olson

July 15-28 Glenn & Candice Phillips, Tricia Nerison

Coffee -- Volunteers

#### **AUGUST**

Usher/Acolyte – Ron Anderson

Altar – Mary MacMillan

Cleaners: July 29-August 11 Don & Joanne Stein, Mary Wall

August 12-25 Ron & Gayle Anderson

August 26-September 8 Dave & Ranae Oxtan

Coffee: Volunteers

### **OUR SAVIOR'S OF KLOTEN**

#### **JULY**

Janitors & Ushers – Duties shared by members

Coffee – Potluck

#### **AUGUST**

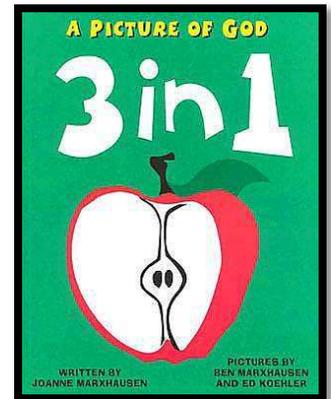
Janitors & Ushers – Joanne Brennan & Mary Lou Krogh

Coffee – Potluck

# Doctrine of the Trinity

By Intern Amy

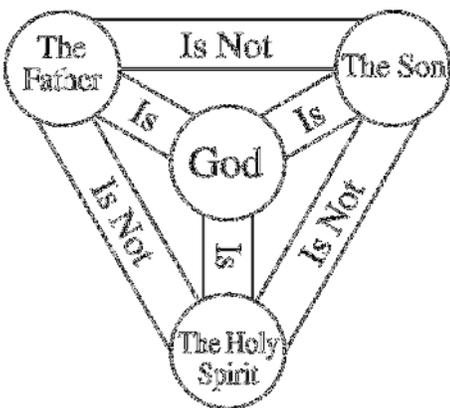
Growing up Lutheran, I learned very early on that God was three in one. As I was writing my sermon for Holy Trinity Sunday, I remembered a book that my church had read to us about the Trinity. It was called "Three in One." In an apple, there are three parts – the skin, the core, and the white part we eat. Just like there are three parts of the apple that are all the apple, there are three parts of God that are all God!



The truth of our God being trinitarian is found in the Bible, of course, but you might be surprised to know that the word Trinity is not! And in the first centuries of Christianity, the nature of our God, and how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fit and interact with one another was a huge point of debate!

The first issue to be worked out was whether or not God the Father and Jesus were both God. Was the Father greater than the Son? How could Jesus be equal with God and also be human? This was the issue that brought church leaders together in the year 325 for the Council of Nicea. The emperor brought together 319 men for an entire month for the purpose of coming to a consensus about the questions above. They concluded that God the father and Jesus were both equally divine. This consensus resulted in the first version of the Nicene Creed. But it failed to include the Holy Spirit.

This was the task of the Council of Constantinople convened in 381. They made changes to the Nicene Creed to include the Holy Spirit, adding that the Holy Spirit is worshipped and glorified along with the Father and the Son. From this came what we now call The Doctrine of the Trinity. To the left is a great diagram shows our understanding of the Trinity. The three are individual and separate from one another, yet of the same God substance.



So— why three in one and not three? Why did God, in all God's wisdom, seemingly make himself more complicated? The answer of course is no, because in the Trinity, our God – three in one — we have a model of love that is relationship. And not just any kind of relationship, but a relationship of self giving love.

Take a look at the Celtic symbol and notice the beauty, the flow from one to another, the connectedness by design. This is the nature of our God, who is relationship

and desires relationship. God, by God's very Trinitarian nature is an invitation into relationship of self giving love, both with this Triune God and with one another.



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

Eat out on  
**Saturday, July 27!**

Noon Luncheon  
Faith in Hannaford  
11:30 – 1:00

Indoor Picnic & Pie  
Auction  
Our Savior's in McHenry  
5:00 – 7:00