



TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

# Tri-County Ministry News

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

## ***From Pastor Sherri***

We continue the Mission-Vision process that we started during this “in-between” time of ministry for Tri-County. What have we accomplished so far?

- We have a Vision for the Tri-County Ministry parish based on Collaboration (see page 4 of newsletter).
- Tri-County Council Members have set congregation goals, of which there is much overlap across the parish.
- We held three Regional Meetings in order to communicate this vision and goals for each congregation and to give a preview of the five areas that we need to work on going forward.
- The TCM Council Members have put together a budget that leaves room for continued “in-between” work for the parish (see Mutual Ministry below).

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- We have a Mutual Ministry Team in place that will guide the discussion around the five areas which need to be adapted to our present ministry of 371 Tri-County active confirmed members. (The model we are using presently was originally structured for a parish of 1400 confirmed members.)
- The five discussion points are the following:
  1. Staffing
  2. Finances
  3. Governing Structure
  4. Mission Leadership
  5. Communication
- Mutual Ministry discussions are already taking place throughout October and November.
- The Mutual Ministry Team will generate a report to be given to the Councils on what they recommend for the Ministry Site Profile that a Call Committee will use to move forward.

This Vision/Mission process is based on engagement of congregation members. Are there ministries that were someone’s passion in the past that we can let go in order to make room for something new?

*(continued on page 2)*

*(From Pastor Sherri continued from front page)*

Can we use our energy in areas that **excite us now**? What are your gifts? How will you use them? What would you be excited to participate in with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:4-8 says, *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**”*

What is YOUR GIFT and how will you share it?

## ***God’s work. Our hands.***

**Mission adventure to Fargo**



**Saturday, November 3**

- ◆ Two hours at Great Plains Food Bank
- ◆ Meal together
- ◆ Tour of Lutheran Social Services and Eastern North Dakota Synod offices.

Five spots are remaining for the service project. Call the TCM office at Trinity in Binford by Thursday morning, November 1, to sign up.

Transportation via TCM van or carpooling.

Sponsored by Trinity in Binford.

## **Walking Together Sunday**

Pastors throughout the Eastern North Dakota Synod will be switching places on Sunday, **November 18**.

Pastor Sherri and Intern Amy will be in Jamestown and two pastors from Jamestown will be in Tri-County Ministry. **There will not be a service in each church that morning, so please plan to worship at a church near you.**

- ❖ 8:30 — Grace in Grace City
- ❖ 9:00 — Lutheran Church of McVile
- ❖ 11:15 — Faith in Hannaford
- ❖ 11:15 — Trinity in Binford

(Presbyterian Church will have the regular 9:45 service at Assisted Living.)

## **Study opportunity in McVile**

Do you feel intimidated by the Bible? Do you think it is difficult to understand? Do you wish you knew more about it? What is the Bible? Why should I read it? What does it mean?

An “Introduction to the Bible” class will be held at the McVile Community Library on November 7, 14 & 28 from 7:00—8:00 pm. The 3-session class will be led by Verna Lindvall of McVile and will answer some of the questions you may have. The classes are free, and will be informal with coffee and free handouts. All are welcome to attend!

Please call Verna if you have questions about the class at 701-322-5697 or 701-797-7286.

## Worship time alerts



### *First Presbyterian of Cooperstown*

- ◆ November 4 & 25 — 11:15
- ◆ November 11 & 18 — 9:45 at Assisted Living

### *Lutheran Church of McVile*

- ◆ November 18 at 9:00

### *Our Savior's of Kloten*

- ◆ No services November 18 & 25

### *Our Savior's of McHenry*

- ◆ No services November 18.  
Worship at Binford or Grace City.

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■ ***The next newsletter will cover***  
■ ***December 2018 and January***  
■ ***2019. Please get calendar dates***  
■ ***to Theresa as early as possible in***  
■ ***November.***  
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## ***Many Thanks!***

A group of about 25 attended the Casting Crowns concert in Grand Forks in September.

A huge thank you to Lannes Edlund for providing a bus and to Bruce Sedler for driving. And also a thank-you to Dakota Prairie and Glenn Phillips for providing the extra help with transportation.

## Tri-County Ministry Council highlights, September 26

**Moving Forward:** Regional meetings have been completed. A Mutual Ministry Team will be established, consisting of members not currently in leadership positions in their congregations or the TCM parish. This team will listen to members concerning five priorities: staffing, finances, governing structure, mission leadership, and communication. Pastor Tedd will compile a list of opportunities for ministry under the Parish First Congregation Second vision. Vickie requested that all council members write down what they remember from and wondered about at the regional meetings. Pastor Tedd recommended that Pastor Sherri choose the members of the Mutual Ministry Team.

**Walking Together Sunday:** Churches throughout the END Synod will be participating in a pulpit exchange on Sunday, November 18. Possibility of joint worship services that morning was discussed; Theresa will work out a schedule.

**2019 Budget:** TCM Finance Committee presented a recommended budget for 2019, using an assessment of \$480 per active confirmed member. Question on whether to add a line item for the Event Committee; funds from an existing Trips and Tours account will be used before adding Event Committee to the budget. Recommended budget was approved.

**Casting Crowns Concert:** Consensus of the TCM Council is to use money from the Trips and Tours account to fund extra ticket fees and transportation costs for the trip to this concert in Grand Forks on October 5.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE:** *All seven TCM congregations approved the 2019 assessment at their special congregational meetings on October 21.*

## **VISION**

### ***Parish First, Congregation Second: From Cooperation to Collaboration***

**September 2018**

- 1) **Focus on Youth and Families:** Wednesdays
  - a. Locations: Trinity & McVille (*Faith, Grace see Sunday*)
  - b. After-school Programs: BLAST, Club 3:16
  - c. Meal: Includes parents and families
  - d. Worship: Youth-friendly Worship
  - e. Equip Parents in FAITH5
  
- 2) **Mission:** Parish-Wide -- Who can we partner with in mission?
  - a. Confirmation
  - b. VBS
  - c. Events
  - d. Mission and Service
  
- 3) **Parish Relationship VS. Individual Churches Sharing a Pastor:** Sundays
  - a. More collaboration on Sunday Worship. Not seven services every Sunday. How can we utilize technology as businesses and schools are already using?
  - b. Adult Faith Formation after worship—again using technology.
  - c. Existing Youth Programs include Pastoral Support (*Faith, Grace*)
  
- 4) **Visitation Teams:** Includes Pastor and Lay Visitation Teams  
Monthly Support Event and continued education by S.A.M. Educator
  
- 5) **Faith Formation**
  - a. Sunday and Wednesday Evening Programs — Adult
  - b. Sunday and Wednesday Evenings — Youth
  - c. Inter-generational Faith Formation (FAITH5)

# The Blessing of FAITH5



## What is FAITH5?

FAITH5 is a simple, easy-to-implement five-step faith practice, perfect for use both at home and at church.

The steps of FAITH5 are:

**SHARE:** your highs and lows

**READ:** a Bible verse or story

**TALK:** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

**PRAY:** for one another's highs and lows

**BLESS:** one another

## How does FAITH5 work at home?

People of all ages and stages can use FAITH5 as a daily faith practice. Sharing highs and lows brings everyone closer together. Getting into God's word and asking what God is saying to us through this word, helps connect our faith in God to real life circumstances. Talking all of our highs and lows to God in prayer helps us remember who is in control and helps us trust that God is always near. And marking one another with the cross of Christ reminds us all who we are and whose we are.

Most households do FAITH5 as a bedtime routine, but the supper table works great too! Do you live alone? Consider calling a friend or family member to check in. Have grandkids? Consider video chatting FAITH5!

## How does FAITH5 work at church?

FAITH5 is a GREAT framework for any and all small group gatherings at church— meetings, Bible studies, confirmation, Sunday school, quilting, etc! Start your gathering by SHARING highs and lows, and have someone READ a favorite Bible verse or passage. Then TALK about the verse for a few minutes.

What words stand out to

you? What images or questions does it bring to mind? In confirmation, this will be the time to TALK about the lesson. In a council meeting, this will be the time to move to the agenda, which typically involves a lot of TALKing! All small group gatherings then end with PRAYER and BLESSING one another. Making the sign on one another's hands or foreheads does feel a bit strange at first, but that strangeness fades as the blessing takes hold.

## Will we hear more about FAITH5 in the future?

Well, I am so glad you asked! The answer is a definite YES! Look for FAITH5 to start showing up in all kinds of places and ways.

## Why are you so passionate about FAITH5?

That is a great question! I have used FAITH5 with my daughter Nicole since she was nine years old. It quite literally changed who she grew to be— grounded in faith and family. I have also helped congregations around the world integrate FAITH5 into homes and church. I have personally seen FAITH5 transform relationships and transform lives. I am thrilled to be able to share it with Tri-County.

Give FAITH5 try tonight. All you need is a Bible (or a verse that's stored in your memory!) and the willingness to be a little bit vulnerable, which can be hard. But rest assured that God's Holy Spirit is ever present and ever working to bring love, hope, comfort, and joy to your open heart.

~Intern Pastor Amy

# Intern Amy's Corner

Hello friends. Welcome to my first "Intern Corner"! What a wonderful and wonder-filled two months it has been since I arrived at Tri-County. In keeping with my passion for FAITH5 (see full article elsewhere in newsletter), here are my highs and lows since joining you all in ministry!

## Highs:

Meeting all of you and experiencing your warm welcome

Getting to drive and drive and bask in the beauty of the prairie

Living in the parsonage in Hannaford — so wonderful after a one room dorm for two years!

Confirmation starting — I love young people and I love confirmation!

Getting to walk with you in this time of discernment and transition and getting to witness God's faithfulness through you.

## Lows:

Not being able to be with every congregation every week (if I could I would)

Longing for more of you to take me up on my request from last month's newsletter — a meal or coffee together and/or a walk together through your church building

I am seriously bad at remembering names

My absent mindedness — forgetting my glasses or my phone or my computer cord and having to drive back to Hannaford to get them

Highs far outweigh the lows and God is present in the midst of all of it. This is my blessed life and you are in it with me now!

How wonderful and wonder-filled!

Oh, one more low — I wish there was a way to express my excitement without over using !!!!!!!!! Lol

## We're still updating

Info sheets will be passed around a couple more Sundays in each church, giving everyone a chance to update their contact information.

You are also being given the chance to opt in to receive the newsletter via e-mail rather than snail mail. Save a tree / save a stamp! If you don't have the chance to opt in on a Sunday, please contact Theresa at the TCM office. And you can opt in or opt back out anytime. Starting next month, the newsletters will be e-mailed to all who opt in.



## How much money was in those m&m tubes?

So far, we are pennies under \$700!

If you want to make a donation to this summer mission project for South Sudan Lutheran Church of Fargo, a check (made out to Tri-County Ministry) may be sent to the TCM office in Binford.



## Youth programs

### *Club 3:16*

Lutheran Church of McVile; First & third Wednesdays of the month, 3:30—6:00  
(only the first Wednesday in November due to Thanksgiving)

### *BLAST*

Wednesdays at 3:15 at Trinity in Binford (no BLAST November 21)

### *Faith Sunday School in Hannaford & Grace Sunday School in Grace City*

Every Sunday morning

### *Confirmation / Affirmation of Faith*

First Sunday of the month in Grace City; second and fourth Wednesdays in Binford.

Three types of events that create a balanced system for adolescent faith formation.:

**Theme Event:** This is our name for what was formerly known as “confirmation class.” (Here at TCM we like to say we have no class!) Theme Events begin with a meal, then continue with a large group teaching time in the sanctuary. We will learn through videos, stories, game shows, skits, and other engaging activities. We then head downstairs for small group processing and sharing. Our time together ends with a low-key holy time of prayer and blessing.

**Servant Event:** Service in the Lord’s name is an important part of Christian life, and so is a part of confirmation. On the schedule there are servant events yet to be decided. Your ideas are welcome!

**Fellowship Event:** Fellowship Events are meant for students to play together, building relationships with each other and with confirmation pastors and leaders. As with the servant events, fellowship events are scheduled but specifics have not been decided. Ideas are welcome here too!

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## recharge

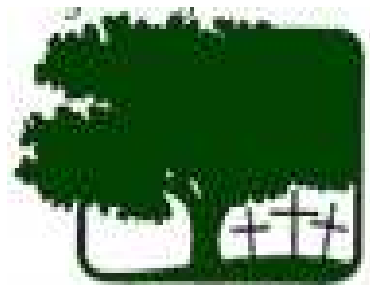
Sr. High Retreat (grades 9-12)

Red Willow Bible Camp

November 30 — December 2

\$110 (check with your church for scholarships)

Register at [bit.ly/rwbcrecharge](http://bit.ly/rwbcrecharge)



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# **Community Thanksgiving Services**

**Wednesday, November 21**

**7:00**

**Lutheran Church of McVile**

**7:00**

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Cooperstown**

**(with food and financial offerings for  
food pantry)**