



From the Danielsons

Did you learn to say the Apostles' Creed by heart at some point in your life—maybe in confirmation or Sunday school or worship? There are many times when we come to the “creed” part of worship when we see people close their books or their bulletins and say the Creed from memory. (We used to do that, before we found ourselves moving from the Lutheran Book of Worship to the Evangelical Lutheran Worship to the Presbyterian Hymnal, all on one Sunday morning. Each of these books has a slightly different wording to the creed than the others!)

Anyway, many of us know the Apostles' Creed by heart; but we have never known anyone (including ourselves!) to say the Nicene Creed by heart. You remember the Nicene Creed—that really long one that talks about “very God from very God, begotten not made . . .” It's such complicated language that it's not so easy to understand what it's saying, let alone to memorize it. But the truth is that this creed has been a friend to us personally, through many difficult times. It comes to mind again and again, to comfort and to give courage and strength.

Why? Listen to the first sentence of the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.” Seen and *unseen*. Think of how many things that affect our lives—things we can touch, taste, feel, smell as well as things we can only imagine—think of how many of these things are things we can't see. Most of them, as it turns out.

Everything that is in our future, everything that is yet to come, is unseen even though we can imagine what it might be. Most of what constitutes our physical self is unseen. The minds and hearts of others are only partially available for us to see. We can see only what is right around us in the physical world. So it's important to remember that Almighty God is the *Maker* of all, even what is unseen. And God is *God* to all things, even what is unseen.

Does this mean that God gave me my cancer, or you your arthritis? Did God cause the earthquakes and hurricanes and fires and floods that bedevil us? Not at all. God created a wonderful world full of life and the potential for life. It is not a perfect world—it is not a god and we are not gods—so things sometimes go wrong. Wars start. We get cancer. Divorces happen. People we care about come and go from our lives. Winds and temperatures come together in ways that can be destructive. People suffer.

But there are not pockets of the universe, pockets of our lives and experiences, pockets of our bodies or our minds, that exist apart from God. There are not places where God doesn't go, or where we have to go first and then pray for God to join us. God has created all that is—not just what we see and perceive and understand, but also those things that we *can't* see, *can't* perceive, *can't* understand.

Here's the long and the short of what we're trying to say. As we leave your midst and you continue on walking a new and currently *unseen* path, we say “God bless you; God be with you.” But that is not as a way of reminding God not to forget you, or of manufacturing some kind of good future for you. It is a most heartfelt way of telling you that we love you, and of reminding all of us that you are in the best of all possible hands. God *is* with you—in what you see and in what you don't see.

God bless you; God be with you!

Pastors Marli and Cheri Danielson

Tri-County Ministry Parish Worship

**Sunday, November 7
10:30 a.m.**

Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford

**Noon meal,
prepared and served by Trinity Binford
(please note that this meal is not potluck)**

**Farewell program for Pastors Marli and Cheri
Danielson after the meal**

**(No worship services in our eight
individual TCM churches that morning.)**

November worship notes



Because of the parish worship service on November 7, our TCM congregations (except for McHenry) will observe All Saints' Day on November 14. For some congregations, this will include the traditional candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of those who have passed away during the past year.

Our Savior's of McHenry will hold their annual All Saints' Day service on Monday, November 1. During this service, they will remember all those with a McHenry connection who have died during the past 12 months.

One Thanksgiving Eve service will be held in our parish this year, and that will be the McVille Community Thanksgiving Service on November 24. The service will be held at the Lutheran Church of McVille at 7:30 p.m.

Most of the remaining congregations of Tri-County Ministry will have their Thanksgiving services on Sunday morning, November 21.

Annual mission project coming up



On Saturday, December 11, the Tri-County Ministry confirmation class will take their annual trip to Grand Forks to spend a day working at the Northlands Rescue Mission. Starting in November, boxes will be placed in our churches for donations to the mission.

Monetary donations will also be accepted; those gifts may be given to Pastor Jessica or mailed to the TCM office in Binford. These donations will either be used by the confirmation students to purchase more items for the mission, or will be given directly to the mission.

The urgent needs of the rescue mission are as follows:

Bike locks	Bikes	Spices
Men's deodorant	Shavers	Duffle bags
Plastic totes	Wallets	Phone cards
K-Mart gift cards	Shaving cream	Work gloves
Men's clothing		

All junior and senior high youth, as well as adults, are invited along on this trip. In order for adequate transportation to be arranged, and also so we can let Northlands know how many workers to plan for, you are asked to contact the Binford office or Darla Fliflet if you plan to go.

TCM Confirmation Class

Saturday, November 20

Faith Lutheran in Hannaford

9:00 — Noon

**Carpooling and other transportation
will be made available.**

**Students and parents, please watch
your mail for the postcard with more
information.**

Tri-County Ministry Council highlights

An expanded Finance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday evening, October 13. The representatives from the seven congregations who will make up TCM beginning in 2011 discussed the budget for the upcoming year.

A budget was recommended, and was voted on by the congregations on October 24. All seven congregations approved the committee recommendation. (Anyone who did not see a copy of the proposed budget may contact a council representative, if interested.)

The council's next step will be to look at interim pastor possibilities.

The October TCM Council meeting was postponed due to the weather, and has been rescheduled for November 8. Bishop Rindy will be present at that meeting.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth —

No special activity is planned for November.

Sunday night discussion and study continues at the home of Darla Fliflet. These evenings are open to all youth in grades 7 through 12. They meet each Sunday night except those on holiday weekends.

A winter newsletter will be coming out sometime in the next couple of months, including information about ski trips and other events.

And, it's not too early to start thinking about the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We hope to take a group from Tri-County Ministry!

“The Stars Tell the Story” during Advent



The first Sunday of Advent is November 28. The eight TCM congregations will begin a series of special services for our Sunday morning worship, and the theme of the stars will be carried through until January 2.

- * The Perfect Star is bright with God the Father's creating LIGHT!
- * The Fallen Star (Lucifer) points us toward our need of saving.
- * The Promised Stars are Christians, eager to spread the bright light of Christ.
- * The Guiding Star leads us to Bethlehem.
- * The Morning Star is Jesus, whom we await to celebrate this season.

Mark December 5 on your calendar for our annual Hanging of the Greens.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ending November 15

Members of Tri-County Ministry have risen to the challenge of raising \$25,000 for the future of our parish. By the end of October, over half of that goal had been realized.

The capital campaign officially ends November 15, but donations will certainly be accepted after that date. Checks may be made out to Tri-County Ministry and mailed to the TCM office in Binford (PO Box 226).

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown will be matching the first \$25,000 in donations. The funds are being set aside for future needs of our parish.

Check out Tri-County Ministry on Facebook!

Anyone having calendar dates, news, or pictures that could be posted on the Tri-County Ministry website or a daily update for Facebook is asked to e-mail them to the parish office in Binford.

TCM STAFF

Pastor Jessica Merchant..... 769-2231
(cell) 218-230-4479
uncas16@hotmail.com

Pastor Cheri Danielson..... 676-2762
(cell) 789-8016
cheridanielson@dflytech.com

Pastor Marli Danielson..... 676-2762
(cell) 789-8006
marli_danielson@dflytech.com

TCM Parish Administrator
Theresa Fiebiger 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Youth Leader
Darla Fliflet..... 797-2149
flifletfive@invisimax.com

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford 769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
797-3112
bthomas@invisimax.com

Grace of Grace City..... 674-3112
kmac@daktel.com

Mabel of Sutton..... 769-2396
bstokka@yahoo.com

McVille Lutheran Church..... 322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

Our Savior's, Kloten..... 322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

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

Trinity of Binford..... 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Trinity of Cooperstown..... 797-3611
trinityofcooperstown@mlgc.com

Trinity Parsonage..... 797-3463

Tri-County Ministry
Box 226
Binford, ND 58416
Phone 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

www.tricountyministry.org

Fall Luncheon & Bake Sale

Saturday, November 13

11:00 – 1:00

Lutheran Church of McVille

**Meal of stew, coleslaw and desserts sponsored
by Our Savior's of Kloten**

Bake sale sponsored by McVille Lutheran