



TRI-COUNTY
MINISTRY

Tri-County Ministry News

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

For Such a Time as This

It is exciting to look back on the founding of Tri-County Ministry and to marvel at the ministry that has taken place over the years. How exciting it was to be a part of such innovative ministry! We were even featured as one of the case studies in a book about cooperating congregations. But we are called mission and ministry together in this time and this place. "...for such a time as this."

We also admit that there have been some changes over the years. Originally, we were operating with 1400 people across our communities. In 2018, we have fewer than 400. How does this change our situation? Can we really operate the same way as before?

It was such a pleasure to gather with fellow disciples in Regional Meetings in McVile, Hannaford, and Grace City in September to talk about the future of Tri-County Ministry through the eyes of faith instead of fear. Our hope is in Christ and not in ourselves.

So what is the vision for this ministry?

Parish First, Congregation Second: From Cooperation to Collaboration

Wednesdays: Focus on Youth and Families.

Parish-wide ministries: Men's ministry, VBS, Bible Studies.

Sundays: Parish relationships VS. Individuals sharing a pastor.

Visitation Teams: Pastor and Lay Visitation Teams.

Faith formation: Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

Each congregation has set goals and there is much overlap. What are we trying to duplicate in more than one location? Can we collaborate on mission? What is our new ministry model?

The areas we need to address are 1) Staffing; 2) Finances; 3) Governing Structure; 4) Mission Leadership; and 5) Communication.

So where do we go from here? We are still in the conversation and ideas stage. We are forming a Mutual Ministry team that will facilitate more conversation within and between congregations. Please watch for communication over announcements, newsletters, Facebook and email so you can participate in this process.

"Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14)

~Pastor Sherri

Our Invitation to You!

We at McVile Lutheran Church would love to have you join us to prepare and perform a Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals will be on Sunday evenings 6:30

-8:00 at McVile Lutheran Church.

The first rehearsal will be on October 21st at McVile Lutheran Church. The performance date is tentatively set for Sunday, December 16th. The possibility of a second performance, probably Saturday the 15th, will be discussed at rehearsals.

We hope you will share your talents with us to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Contact Linda Loe @ 701-371-5434 or email rlloe@gondtc.com if you have questions.



Worship time alerts

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown

- ♦ 11:15 — October 7
- ♦ 9:45 — October 14, 21, & 28, all at Assisted Living



Hello? Hello?

Please note Pastor Sherri's cell phone number: 336.688.2879.

The phone at the Binford parsonage (676.2762) has been disconnected.



Fall Clean-Up Days

Red Willow Bible Camp

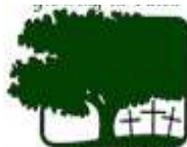
October 13 & 27

Check-in between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. and work as long as you can or until projects are completed.

Lunch will be provided at noon.

RSVP the Tuesday prior. 676-2681.

Thank you!



We're updating

For six weeks starting Sunday, October 7, a sheet will be passed around in each church asking everyone to update their address, phone and e-mail information.

This sheet will also give you the opportunity to opt in to receiving the newsletter by e-mail. Any use of e-mail that we can find will be one way we can eliminate some expense, both for paper and for postage. If you're not able to be in church on a Sunday to update your info, please contact Theresa at the TCM office in Binford (phone and e-mail listed on back page of this newsletter.)



Sunday, October 7, is the last day to bring your m&m containers back to church for our summer mission project. Cash, change, or checks made out to Tri-County Ministry.

What is the Tri-County Ministry Foundation?

The Tri-County Ministry Foundation exists to enhance the future ministry of rural congregations with a financial foundation that will ensure their proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Youth programs

Club 3:16

Lutheran Church of McVile

First & third Wednesdays of the month, 3:30—6:00

BLAST

Wednesdays at 3:15 at Trinity in Binford

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

Every Sunday morning at 10:00

Confirmation / Affirmation of Faith

Plans for our 2018-2019 confirmation classes are being made. Please watch for notifications through the mail, e-mail, or texts.



Haunted Trunk or Treat!

The Lutheran Church of McVile is hosting “Haunted Trunk or Treat” on October 31 from 4:30 until 6:00. EVERYONE from everywhere in TCM is invited to join the fun.

Decorate your trunk with Halloween décor and fill containers with treats to share with the young ghosts and goblins that will be out and about that evening. We want to create a safe environment for kids to gather Halloween treats. The kids are invited to a craft table to make something to take home, too.

This is an event for the young at heart to encourage a safe evening.

Casting Crowns Concert

Friday, October 5

7:30 pm

Alerus Center in Grand Forks

(You’ll be notified of departure times.)

Contact: Corrina Olson at 701-270-7288

Please contact Corrina if you would like to be placed on the list in case someone cancels out.

Greetings Tri-County Ministry family!

What a privilege it is for me to be your intern this year. I've been here for two whole weeks, and am having such a wonderful experience! You have been so welcoming and I feel so thankful that God has placed me here to learn from and with you.

I come to you from the Twin Cities where I have lived for the past two years as a student at Luther Seminary. Following my year at Tri-County, I will return to Luther Seminary for one year of studies before being ordained as an ELCA pastor! These next two years will certainly pass by as quickly as the previous two years, so I am committed to savoring every experience and relationship God blesses me with.

A bit about me: I grew up in Bottineau, the youngest of eight children. From a very young age, church was important to me. I grew up going to Bible Camp at Camp Metigoshe (where I was privileged to work as chaplain this past summer), and was formed by loving and challenging pastors and lay leaders. I went to NDSU after high school, and then moved to AZ for the entirety of my twenties. While there, I was married and had my daughter Nicole, and made a career in the grocery industry.

When Nicole was a toddler, we moved back to North Dakota to be near family. We settled in West Fargo, and lived there until the time I started seminary. I raised Nicole as a single parent after my marriage ended when she was three. My church family provided the love and support during those years, and I was called into many leadership roles in worship, music, and youth ministry.

In 2005, God called me into full time Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. I had been working

part time at Peace Lutheran in Fargo as the worship coordinator/band leader and as the confirmation coordinator, when a full time position opened up at Faith Lutheran in West Fargo. I worked at Faith Lutheran for 11 years, and through my work there discerned a call to pastoral ministry.

One of my goals for this internship year is to get to know you, and I mean ALL of you! I want to learn about small town and rural life, to hear your memories and experiences. I want to hear about your congregation's history and its present, and your faith journey.

Here are a few specific ways you can help me reach my goal:

1. Remind me of your name every time I see you (it might take several times, so just keep reminding me!).
2. Invite me to your home or to a local cafe for a meal of coffee. I have found that visiting over food is the best way to get to know people.
3. Meet me at your church building to do a walk through. I want to hear stories and memories of your congregation! My hope is to do at least three walk throughs in each of the Tri-County congregations.

One of my favorite Bible verses is John 1:16, which says, "For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace." This is exactly how I feel about being here at Tri-County. God's grace is abundant in your worship and your commitment to being God's faithful people in changing times. And an additional helping of grace is poured out, grace upon grace, as you extend God's love and grace to one another and to me.

Intern Pastor Amy Kippen

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Like us on Facebook!

Fall Supper & Auction

Saturday, October 27

Supper at 5:30

Auction at 6:30

Lutheran Church of McVile

(Items donated for the auction may be brought to the sewing room at McVile Lutheran.)