



Tri-County Ministry News

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

From Pastor Kara

Grace and peace.

As I sit and write, the sun is shining and the grass is a bright green. I find it hard to believe that fall is just around the corner. This summer, I was thrown off guard more than once by looking out and seeing the wheat fields empty with only stalks remaining. In my mind the growing season is just beginning, and yet the harvest has arrived. To be fair, my indoor container garden began to blossom in mid-August, so I guess I'm delayed just a bit.

In July, I attended a conference where the keynote speaker focused on liminality. This is a term I had never used before, but it is one that captures the essence of what it often means to be people of God and the Church. Liminality is the space that is unknown in which we ask "Now what?" after the plans we made have happened and before we make new. Liminal spaces are literally times of transition. For example, I found this term captured the exact feeling after graduating and being ordained. So much of my life had one plan that I kept my focus on. And then I floundered briefly because I had yet to find a new plan for the future. In our churches, this happens after centennials, church suppers, and confirmation only to find ourselves wondering what comes next. We live in the space of the unknown, where we know that God has a plan but we are not quite sure what that future looks like.

I have come to realize that each of us deals with the future in our own way. Some of us have the schedule that is filled out for every hour to come while others keep their schedules open, waiting to see what comes. I am one whose calendar is usually blank beyond a few scheduled meetings just so I can fit in last minute invitations. I happen to be one who loves living in the uncertainty. I like the fluidity and the challenge of dealing with random events that pop up in my life. I am one who loves the liminal space where the future possibilities are endless, where I have no idea what God has planned but I am certain that it will exceed my expectations.

We are always living in the spaces where God is at work. We are works in progress. Our congregations are works in progress. And even though the liminal space can be tough on us, I personally find great joy and comfort knowing that God is not done yet with us. God created the world a long time ago but creation still takes place. I believe that it is in liminality where God is busy crafting our future, especially when we struggle to see what good may be coming our way. God's first act of creation was bringing order to chaos, and I believe that God continues to shape the chaos that is our lives.

May God be with you as you live in the present uncertainty, keeping your faith strong and solid with your eyes looking toward the future of hope that God is creating. Amen.

September 11th in TCM

This year marks the 15th anniversary of 9/11. Our councils and staff are planning various events to mark the day.

Fall Mission Project

On September 11, we will launch a fall fund raising program—the Military Biblestick.



The Biblestick is a small personal listening device holding the audio New Testament and selected Psalms. Biblesticks are currently being distributed by chaplains to our troops, both at home and deployed. Biblesticks are provided strictly through

monetary donations, at a cost of **\$25** each. The family of each troop is also entitled to receive a free MP3 Bible.

The Military Biblestick is a program of *Faith Comes by Hearing*, the same organization through which many Tri-County Ministry members have purchased the audio Bible.

From September 11 through November 11 (Veterans Day) you will have the opportunity to leave a donation at your church. You may write a check to your church, and write “Biblestick” on the memo line.

Can we raise enough to provide a Biblestick for 100 servicemen and women?

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

This special day of service in the ELCA will be observed in various ways by our churches:

- ◆ **Our Savior’s of Klotten** — Pancake and sausage breakfast, 8:00-1:00 at the school in McVille. Freewill offering, with proceeds to McVille Fire Department and Nelson County Food Bank.
- ◆ **Trinity** — Community dinner honoring all emergency workers
- ◆ **Our Savior’s of McHenry** — in kind donations for Red Willow Bible Camp
- ◆ **Faith** — Collecting an offering for the local emergency responders; youth will write thank-you cards during worship.



**God's Work
OUR HANDS**

God’s work, our hands shirts are available at the TCM office in Binford. Please let Theresa know how many your church would like for the day.

New adult education videos available

Animate FAITH and Animate PRACTICES. Each series consists of seven sessions that include a short video and topics for discussion. The videos feature leading Christian voices exploring key topics in Christianity. Some examples are:

GOD-Faith is a Quest

RELIGION-Spirituality is not Enough

JESUS-The Revolution of Love

SALVATION-Abundant Life Now

Trinity-Binford Animate FAITH

Sundays at 6:30 pm

October 2 through November 13

Dessert & Coffee and Freewill Offering

The public is invited.

“To Reach Out Without Fear”

EaND Synodical WELCA Convention

Saturday, September 17

United Lutheran Church in Cavalier



Please contact your WELCA president if you're interested in attending.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

~Matthew 25:35-36

TCM Council Highlights— July 26

Adult Education: Pastor Sherri introduced the “animate” series. Plans are underway in some on the TCM congregations to use this series. TCM will purchase the animate Faith series and the animate Practice series. Congregations will cover the costs of participant materials.

September 11: September 11 is God’s Work Our Hands Sunday, as well as the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11. Pastor Sherri has been recommending to congregations that they mark the day by focusing on emergency workers. This September 11 is also the day that TCM will begin a fall mission project, the Bible stick program for military personnel and their families. Project will end on November 11.

Parsonage Fund: Motion made and carried approving transfer of Trinity parsonage funds from TCM Parsonage Fund to Trinity.

Next meeting: September 28

Worship time alerts

First Presbyterian

- ♦ **September 4 — 9:45**
- ♦ **September 18 — 9:45 at Assisted Living**



Our Savior’s of Klotten

- ♦ **No worship on September 4 & 11**

Lutheran Church of McVile

- ♦ **No worship on September 4**

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Sherri Frederikson.....676-2762
(cell) 336-688-2879
PastorSherri@yahoo.com
Box 226, Binford ND 58416

Rev. Kara Wiechmann322-4926
(cell) 605-770-4005
pastorkaraw@gmail.com
Box 115, McVile ND 58254

TCM Parish Administrator
Theresa Fiebiger676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
797-3112
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

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

McVile Lutheran Church322-4952
mcvilleparish@gondtc.com

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

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

Trinity of Binford676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

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

website: www.tricountyministry.org
blog: www.tricountyministry.com
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published nine times per year:
January, February, March, April, June,
August, September, October, and
November.

**First Annual
Run-Walk-Pray Trail 5K**

Red Willow Bible Camp

Saturday, September 10

Registration at 8:00

5K begins at 10:00



Pre-registration available through the camp's website.

Open to adults and kids! Come on out to the camp and participate in any of the three ways — running, walking, or praying.

This is a fund raiser for RWBC, with proceeds going to the camp programs.