



# Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

September 2019

## *From Pastor Sherri*

Moses led God's people out of Egypt and out of a life of slavery. In their second month together, the people were convinced that Moses had led them into the desert to starve to death. And God gave them quail and bread from heaven. The Lord led them on this journey through the wilderness. When they had no water, God gave them water. God provided for God's people again and again. This went on for 40 years —a whole generation —until the people learned to trust God.

As God's people in Tri-County Ministry, we continue this journey in order that we may trust God and God's promises. This transformation takes time.

For an intern, we watch them lead worship, complete projects, proclaim the Gospel message in sermons and in their actions throughout their time with us. Their outer actions do not change throughout the year, so many people are not even aware of the changes. But the interns are transformed on the inside. The process of accepting a pastoral call requires this necessary transformation. Just as the Israelites were transformed from slaves into God's people, so are we transformed into what God has waiting for us — in our promised land. God transforms people in order that we may learn to love and trust God and proclaim the crucified Christ in our words and our actions.

We thank God for giving us our Pastoral Intern, Amy Kippen, and we send her with God's blessings as her transformation process continues.

So, our own transformation as God's people continues. The Mutual Ministry team has listened to all of our congregations and reported the findings to the TCM Council. The Council has reviewed the report and continues to make decisions on our future together. Please thank your congregation representatives on the TCM Council. Stop them the next time you see them and pray for them right there! Let them know that God is leading this parish through a time of transformation. And let them know that in this process, you trust God and are being transformed.

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# Parish News

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## ***God's Work Our Hands***

### ***Trinity***

**Sunday, September 8**

Worship at 10:30

Noon meal at Binford Fire Hall 11:30-1:00, with freewill offering for Great Plains Food Bank.

Trip being planned to the food bank for sometime this fall.

### ***Lutheran Church of McVille***

**Sunday, September 8**

Potluck lunch with the service project being the cleaning and preparation of the parsonage for the incoming intern pastor. A potluck sign up will be posted.

Please call Sheila Beglau at 701-3677598 if you have any questions.

### ***Our Savior's of McHenry***

**Sunday, September 8**

Collection of items needed at Red Willow Bible Camp:

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Dish towels
- Dish cloths
- Tissues

## ***EaND Synod Endowment Sunday***

We will be celebrating the EaND Synod Endowment by collecting a special offering in our ELCA churches at TCM. This will happen on **September 29th**.

What is the EaND Synod Endowment? "The purpose of the EaND Synod Endowment Fund is to sustain rural ministry and enhance quality pastor leadership within the synod," as stated in the Objectives and Investment Policy.

Who benefits from the funds? "The endowment gains are dispersed within the following categories:

Scholarship aid for seminarians

Student loan repayment aid program

Pension equity program

Rural internship assistance

Leadership development"

We at Tri-County Ministry have benefited from this program mightily! I, Pastor Sherri have personally received almost \$8000 against my Seminary student loans so far. I will continue to receive funds until my loans are paid off as long as I serve in this Synod. I also know that Pastor Kara received a yearly amount while she was serving TCM.

Our Intern Program has received \$4000 over the last two years to apply to our Intern Program expenses. Our interns receive funds while they are interning in this synod and our seminary students receive funds from this endowment every year in Seminary, including their internship year. Intern Pastor Amy receives \$4000 each year, so her total will be \$16,000! Let's give back in support of rural ministry! Thank you all, in advance, for your generosity!

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# Congregational Events

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## **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE**

- September 18 — First day of Club 3:16
- October 20 — Christmas cantata rehearsals begin
- October 26 — The annual church auction at McVille Lutheran Church. A free will supper will be served from 5:00pm to 7:00pm with the auction running from 7pm until done. Please join us for brats, beans and root beer. Donations are needed for the auction and can be dropped off at the church in the quilting room. We are hoping to get some great auction items to raise money for the church. Please call Sheila Beglau at 701-3677598 if you have any questions.
- December 11 — Christmas program
- December 14 & 15 — Christmas cantata

## **TRINITY**

- A meeting is planned for Wednesday, September 4, to discuss Sunday School/BLAST. 7:00 at the church. All parents/grandparents/guardians are invited to bring ideas for our youth education program.
- A Pony Express is being planned by the Trinity Council for this fall. It will kick off on Sunday, October 13, with a Harvest Festival worship and potluck brunch.

## **GRACE**

- Sunday School begins September 15.

## **FAITH**

- September 29 — Rally Sunday
- November 24 — Thanksgiving Dinner
- December 15 — Christmas Program

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

- October 20 — Fall clean-up

## **WORSHIP TIME ALERTS**

### **First Presbyterian**

- No worship  
September 1
- 9:45 the remaining  
Sundays in  
September

### **Trinity**

- 10:30 on  
September 8

### **McVille Parish**

- No worship  
September 1.  
Worship at Stump  
Lake.



## **EaND Synod WELCA CONVENTION**

**Saturday,  
September 21  
Trinity, Valley City**

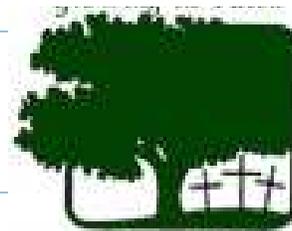
**No information is  
available at this  
time.**

**Please watch your  
bulletin  
announcements.**

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# *Red Willow Ministries*

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## **Marriage Matters**

**Overnight retreat  
November 1 –2**

### **Red Willow Bible Camp**

Led by “On Bended Knee,”  
Eric & Pam Hulstrand

For dating, engaged and married couples. With a combination of teaching time, group interaction and time alone as a couple.

Topics include communication, conflict resolution, personality similarities and differences, family of origin, finances and leisure activities.

Registration form is available from Theresa at the TCM office or online at [redwillowbiblecamp.org](http://redwillowbiblecamp.org)

## **Site Manager needed at Red Willow Bible Camp**

This is a full-time with benefits and optional housing. Responsible for the upkeep and repair of all buildings, vehicles, pontoon boat, and lawn care equipment. Skills in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical are a plus.

Oversee the pool during summer and make sure it is closed properly in the fall and opened in the spring.

Work with volunteers to accomplish projects and cleaning of grounds and buildings.

For more information please contact Rick Frederick, Executive Director at 701-676-2681 or email:

[rick@redwillowbiblecamp.org](mailto:rick@redwillowbiblecamp.org) for more information.

Open until filled.

## **Roof Replacement at the camp**

Red Willow Bible Camp is in the midst of replacing a portion of the Retreat Center roof that is over the dining hall and kitchen. The roof has developed several leaks. So far, \$21,200 has been raised toward this project which is estimated to cost between \$44,700 and \$50,000 depending on the amount of needed replacement of insulation and timbers. The project will begin this fall. The camp is asking for your help to offset this unplanned expense. Donations may be mailed directly to the camp.

## **RWBC Clean-up Dates**

September 7 & 14

October 5 & 12

Check in at 9:30; free noon meal provided

Free lodging the night before each date.

Please call ahead with numbers and dates.

701.676.2861

# ***Intern Amy's Farewell FAITH5***

What a joy it has been to be your intern this year. As my time comes to an end, I thought it fitting that I use FAITH5 as a framework to look back on our time together.



## **STEP 1- SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS**

My Highs:

- I have received your love in countless ways, and it has blessed me deeply. You have welcomed me with open arms and hearts and affirmed my call to be a pastor.
- This area of North Dakota is so beautiful! I have gotten to see so many of God's creatures; deer, racoons, skunks, badgers, elk, foxes, gophers, and so many different birds, including the snow geese migration. This was one of the most spectacular things I have seen in my whole life!
- Over this year, I got to walk with five families through the grief of losing a loved one. Presiding at their loved ones' funerals was an honor beyond description.
- The women's Bible studies in both McVille and Hannaford — what a joy to learn with all of you.
- Our Lent water project — we blessed so many people with the gift of water through our generosity. Wow, it is amazing what we can do together! And our Lent worship services — Holden Evening Prayer Service and Candle Prayer was holy time indeed.
- Getting to work closely with Pastor Sherri, Theresa, and my internship committee, led by Marla Larson. I seriously could not have asked for a better supervisor, co-worker, and committee. They were encouraging and open, and challenged me as well.
- Leading Faith4Life! Confirmation and getting to know the kids — they are amazing. I think so and so does Jesus. My prayer is that they know this fact deep in their bones.

My Lows:

- Time went too fast as time seems to do!
- By nature of TCM, I wish we had had more time together both in fellowship and in Bible study. My low is that there is typically only time to shake your hands after service and head to the next church.
- Leaving the Faith4Life! Confirmation kids. :(
- Driving 2000+ miles each month means that I have seen a lot of dead animals and have sadly killed several myself. Thankfully, I never hit a deer!

**(continued on next page)**

## **STEP 2- READ A BIBLE VERSE OR STORY**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.*

## **STEP 3 - TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE VERSE**

One of my goals for my internship was to form what is called “pastoral identity.” At first, I thought pastoral identity was a thing you put on like a coat. I thought I just needed to become comfortable in the “pastor” collar or white pastor robe.

What you all taught me is that identity is not something you put on and take off but is a transformation that happens in your heart and soul. You have helped me make this transformation; you have helped me BE a pastor.

I chose the verses from 2 Corinthians because of this change in my identity — the verse speaks of freedom and that is what you have given me, freedom to learn and grow and become a pastor. It then speaks of unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror. As I became a pastor, you became more of a mirror to me, and in each other we have been able to see the face of Jesus. The verse ends — We are being transformed into the same image (of God) from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. You have been my teachers, and I pray I have been yours, so that as we transform together, God’s kingdom comes more and more on earth as it is in heaven.

## **STEP 4 - PRAY**

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for the time we have had together, time to love and laugh, time to talk and discern, time to grieve and comfort, time to learn and wrestle with you and grow, and time to be reminded of your amazing grace, shown through Jesus our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen

## **STEP 5 - BLESS**

Receive this blessing, my beloved sisters and brothers in Christ: May God’s love transform you today and every day.

I could not have had a better internship experience. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With much love and gratitude, Pastor Amy

## ***ELCA Churchwide Assembly Report – Denny Goetz, Lay Participant***

I had the privilege of attending our Churchwide Assembly held in Milwaukee August 5-10. This assembly is held every 3 years in different locations throughout the country. Nine hundred twenty-seven voting members, both Pastors and Lay persons, participated from 65 Synods. Twenty individuals from our Eastern ND Synod churches, including our Bishop Terry Brandt, attended.

The Assembly included daily worship services, plenary sessions, Bible studies, speakers from our Church Council, our Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, leaders of other church bodies, and the many participants who were able to debate and vote on the proposed faith statements, memorials, and budgets.

We elected Bishop Eaton for a second 6-year term and a new Church Secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, for a 6-year term.

The following is a summary of the primary actions that were voted into some form of declaration, study, or constitutional change or addition for the ELCA Church.

We approved the social statement “Faith, Women, and Justice”.

We adopted a Strategy Towards Authentic Diversity in the ELCA.

We presented a Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent.

We adopted 26 memorials on topics ranging from gun violence to seminary tuition.

We adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA’s long standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.

One very important memorial that we

adopted calls for the development of a social statement and social message on the relationship of the Church and State.

We adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People’s Campaign that align with the ELCA’s social teachings.

We adopted a resolution that committed the ELCA to support the World Council of Churches “Thursdays in Black” campaign towards a world without rape and violence.

We adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17<sup>th</sup> as repentance for the shooting event on June 17, 2015, when a member of an ELCA church shot and killed 9 people during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston, SC.

We adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy.

In summary, our ELCA is a very healthy and involved church body in our country, being 3.5 million strong, making it one of the largest Christian churches in the US. We are known as the church of God’s Work Our Hands.

Constitutional and policy changes or additions need to be updated by every church and synod; however, nothing is forced upon individual churches. We are given lots of latitude to use the intent of the policies and statements of the church governing body as guidance for ourselves, moving forward.

***(Denny’s full report can be found at [www.tricountyministry.org](http://www.tricountyministry.org) and also on the Tri-County Ministry Facebook page. You may also go to the ELCA website for much more information.)***

**Tri-County Ministry Council**  
**July 23, 2019 at 6:00pm**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church, Binford**

**PRESENT:** Denny Goetz, Lori Ellingson, Missy Erickson, Lyle Black, Connie Eslinger, Becky Muncy, Myrna Hanson, Richard Hanson, Linda Loe, Vickie Goplen, Paul Motter, Intern Pastor Amy Kippen, Pastor Sherri Frederikson, Theresa Fiebiger

**ABSENT:** Sheila Beglau, Bob Delfs, Jess Carlson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vickie Goplen

**OPENING:** Following the opening prayer, Pastor Sherri & Intern Amy gave a presentation on a “parish first” system, using the TCM confirmation program as a model. Using this system, the TCM Council would lead the process:

- Acknowledge what is true.
- Make decisions about necessary change.
- Design a new system.
- Lead the response to change.

The TCM Council would be charged with doing the work and then leading with a non-anxious presence.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** None

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** Minutes of the May 21, 2019, meeting were filed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Accepted as presented.

Balance on Hand: General Fund 6.30.19	\$8,356.05
Parsonage Fund 6.30.19	\$7,808.32
Special Funds 6.30.19	\$3,897.87

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Annual Parish Worship:** Plans for the July 28 service were finalized (kitchen workers, ushers).

**Intern Pastor:** Motion by Denny Goetz that residence of intern pastor rotates between available TCM parsonages, and that the incoming Intern Pastor (2019-2020) reside in McVile. Motion seconded by Missy Erickson and carried.

**Fund Raising:** Discussion of a possible capital campaign, with question of the focus of the campaign. Denny Goetz volunteered to contact the synod office for advice on how to proceed with a campaign. Denny also informed the council that Bob Delfs would be willing to serve on a fund-raising committee/task force.

**Mutual Ministry Update:** The written report was distributed to the council members. The report will be included in the next TCM newsletter as well as being available in each church, on the website, and from all council/session members.

Consensus of the council that the full minutes of each TCM Council meeting be printed in the TCM newsletter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Sunday Worship Schedules and Routes:** Marvin Goplen and Marla Larson (SAMs) were present to voice concerns on traveling long distances in short times between worship services. A committee was formed to study scheduling/routes: Pastor Sherri, Theresa Fiebiger, Marvin and Vickie Goplen, Becky Muncy, and Linda Loe. The committee will schedule a meeting.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Pastor Sherri:** submitted a written report

## **CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES**

**Lutheran Church of McVille:** much activity on the building and grounds, including painting the kitchens, cement work, handrails, new windows in church offices; VBS was held; three funerals; Family Faith Night August 11; garage sale brought in about \$1000 for the Caring Closet.

**First Presbyterian:** a wedding (which was held at Trinity in Cooperstown).

**Trinity:** Wednesday evening worship services in July. Council is planning a trip to the Great Plains Food Bank this fall for God's Work Our Hands; everyone is invited to go along on this service project.

**Our Savior's of McHenry:** annual indoor picnic and pie auction will be held July 27; new windows on one side of basement.

**Faith:** Wednesday evening worship in June; two baptisms; one funeral; new roof has been ordered.

**Our Savior's of Klotten:** Dick and Myrna Hanson will host a potluck and worship service at their cabin on August 4.

**Grace:** Class reunion and family reunion.

**Next Meeting:** September 24, Binford at 6:00 pm. Paul, Vickie, and Connie will bring treats. (Executive Committee at 6:00 September 16; Finance Committee at 7:30 September 16)

Meeting adjourned with prayer and blessing.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sheila Beglau, Secretary  
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

# ***TCM Five-Talking Point Committee (Mutual Ministry) Report***

A committee meeting was held on Weds. June 19, 2019 at the home of Becky Goetz.

Present: Rev. Sherri Frederikson, Lead Pastor Tri-County Ministry,

Becky Goetz, Trinity Binford

Jerry Tufte, Our Savior's McHenry

Rita Jungels, Presbyterian Cooperstown

Dale Nelson, Our Savior's, Kloten

Kelli Schmitt, McVillage Lutheran

Paulette Gronneberg, recorder - Faith

Not Present: Jo Black, Grace Lutheran, Grace City; Lu Haugen, Faith, Hannaford

The informal setting meeting began with devotions by Pastor Sherri. Psalm 46: **God is our refuge and strength**, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

The scripture prepared us to tackle the task ahead confident that God is with us and will carry us through. The committee began with a review of the assignment, to gain perspective from their members on five talking points: Staffing, Finances, Governing Structure, Mission/Leadership, and Communication.

## **Congregation Reports**

### **Faith Lutheran**

#### **Staffing:**

We wish for a pastor living in and visible in our community and who has a relationship with our members. Visitation was cited as very important.

Concerns shared of overloading (burning out) the current pastor as the demographic scope of TCM renders it difficult for any pastor to become a part of any one community.

Concern that the overwhelming responsibilities of lead pastor for TCM will make it difficult in the future to replace the overworked, overburdened pastor we love so much.

One "be all to all" pastor to cover visitation, youth leadership, & 7 weekly Sunday church services is not possible without help or change. The intern program is very helpful; however, Faith feels strongly we need a second pastor for TCM.

#### **Finances:**

Declining church attendance makes it difficult to meet budget needs. Questions were raised on whether Faith could afford its own pastor, or partner with another "like" congregation if TCM folds. Also discussed at length was the possibility / affordability of a second pastor to keep TCM intact.

**Governing Structure:**

The structure of TCM council meetings and congregation council meetings are very time consuming for the pastor. The idea of reducing the number of council meetings was discussed, and to be more efficient with our meeting time.

**Mission/Leadership:**

Mission support through the combined resources of the TCM parish is viewed as a significant strength. The water well project being one example.

**Communication:**

The concept of “parish first, congregations second” does not resonate with our membership. We believe that congregations must first be viable before it can add value to the parish.

The newsletter should be a tool used to unify the congregations. We understand a newsletter is only as good as the content that is submitted, and we could do better with sharing information.

Video services were not viewed as a preferred method of pulpit supply as many stated we can watch TV sermons at home on Sunday morning.

We are not always timely in sharing member prayer needs with the pastor. We can do better in this area to improve relationships.

**McVile Lutheran****Staffing:**

We need to find ways to lighten the pastor load for Pastor Sherri as we are concerned about burnout. The use of lay person(s) to lighten the load was recommended. The question was introduced, “What are we doing that we can stop doing, and what should we start doing that would help?” Food for thought for all of us.

**Finances:**

Congregations not sharing financial information has been a concern. Each congregation needs to be able to pay its bills through its own treasurer.

**Governing Structure:****Mission/Leadership:**

McVile has several stewardship projects funded through its congregation for food programs, school supplies, etc. A committee has been given a budget, authority and flexibility to operate this fund how it sees fit. The benefits to the community and to the congregation are numerous.

**Communication:**

Communication was expressed as a key relational influence for TCM.

Recommend one newsletter with a page for each congregation. Church contacts for each congregation for newsletter input.

Website utilization could be improved through updating.

The use of the software application **REMIND** is a great tool for sharing information. It is a no response auto delivery system.

## **Our Savior's Kloten**

### **Staffing:**

Concern with the intern leaving that Sherri will once again be overburdened and fear burnout. Sherri shared that a new intern has been assigned to TCM for the coming year which will allow TCM additional time for future planning.

Number one concern for us is to ensure that there is a pastor available when the church members are in need and for funerals. Supply pastor for funerals is not recommended as the services are impersonal and generic.

### **Finances:**

Kloten has been fortunate to keep its doors open and operating due to legacy gifts from member estates and families of former members. God seems to always find a way. The future is a concern as there are no new families and an aging membership. Long-term, our congregation has a desire to continue operations with church services. We have not been meeting in the winter due to the high cost of heating the church.

### **Governing Structure:**

### **Mission/Leadership:**

### **Communication:**

A streamlined bulletin that can be shared throughout TCM may be beneficial, or even between two churches like McVile and Kloten. Large print and small print bulletins are printed by several churches.

Video services are not preferred as members feel they can watch TV at home.

## **Our Savior's, McHenry**

**Staffing:** Congregation voiced concerns about burnout for Pastor Sherri. Too many responsibilities and expectations for one pastor.

**Finances:** Encourage auto deposit as a means of regular tithing for members as it is easy and we don't forget to bring the offering on Sunday morning.

### **Governing Structure:**

Maintain the congregation church councils for specific church-level business.

### **Mission/Leadership:**

### **Communication:**

Recommend one newsletter for TCM with a page for each congregation.

Sharing of resources was cited as a key to the future success of TCM. Sunday school was

discussed as a collaborative example, held in Faith, McVile, Grace City and Binford. Sharing of resource materials will help save money for all the congregations.

### **Presbyterian, Cooperstown**

#### **Staffing:**

We are probably the smallest congregation. Our biggest concern is for Pastor Sherri and fear of burnout. Changes should be made to ease her burden.

#### **Finances:**

We are fortunate not to have financial issues in our congregation due, in-part, to the legacy left by past members. We are working on ways to enhance our purpose through these funds.

#### **Governing Structure:**

#### **Mission/Leadership:**

Church services have been held in Park Place Assisted Living in Cooperstown a few times each month. We started this because our membership is small and there was a desire by some of our church members who reside in Assisted Living to have services. It has been very successful and relates well to our mission of service to the community.

This year's Lenten services were shared with Faith. Services were well attended and meaningful for our congregation. We are very interested in partnering again in this capacity with Faith on other programs of mutual benefit.

#### **Communication**

### **Trinity Binford**

#### **Staffing:**

We are interested in having a pastor that is visible and available for the congregation. The goal of the lay assistants should be a help but not a substitute for the pastor. Aging and the spiritual needs of that population are a concern in our congregation.

#### **Finances:**

Tithing through automatic auto fund transfer is an idea being promoted to our congregation.

#### **Governing Structure:**

#### **Mission/Leadership:**

We have lots of young children, then a gap so we are starting to rethink the way the Wednesday Sunday School program operates.

There are several very faithful active families that participate in our church activities like teaching for the after-school Sunday School program, but they do not attend church. We as a congregation are interested in making changes to accommodate the new lifestyle of

our working families. This was also noted as a universal rural church issue.

Mission projects have been very successful at Trinity. We work hard to maintain a community presence with other organizations and Red Willow Bible Camp.

The program "Gods Work our Hands" reaches out to the community through assistance to members who may need a project done and are unable to do it themselves.

We have participated in very well-attended and successful fundraisers through collaboration with other community churches and organizations to benefit the food bank, ambulance and fire dept.

**Communication:**

We have the technology at Trinity to accommodate live video services as well as to record services.

**Grace Lutheran**

**Staffing:**

We appreciate the pastoral staff as is; we understand that the demands of a pastor are great but hope to continue to see the pastor in our community at events. Too many said they feel that calling the staff is difficult because the staff is too overworked and could actually use the phone time for something else. "We don't want to be a burden" attitude.

**Finances:**

We need to pay our bills in a timely matter.

**Governing Structure:**

We are satisfied with boards and councils; we should meet more as a church board at least more than once a year.

**Mission/Leadership:**

We have strong leaders to share with TCM. We have limited talents musically but given a mission or project we can lead the application. Our talents include workmanship and education. This also includes our confirmation program. We started this program for one reason but have heard how much the families appreciate having it in Grace City, close to home. We deal with four school districts, scheduling is a nightmare, so having the families together Sunday mornings works well except for the pastor. As a witness to this program, I believe there is time for staff and confirmands to get together in other ways. We also believe that youth is our strength and there needs to be religious education for all ages. As our young families make school choices (and several are choosing bigger school districts) so goes their church selections. We need to continue to make our church family feel comfortable in our small rural setting.

**Communication:**

This is our main item on this list. We appreciate the work and time put into the newsletters and web site. We have qualified people who would like to see more video projects. Many

people have commented on watching church from home. It is a simply process of recording one service and streaming it out there. At least there is a connection to church. The viewers feel that they are a part of the church community. We would like to get more involved with this source of church through TCM.

## Wrap-Up

The Internship program was discussed as very important to TCM. We are very pleased that we will have an intern for the coming year. Intern Amy has been a wonderful asset. The confirmation program was highlighted for its excellence and **Awesomeness!** She will be returning to seminary for her final year. During this time seminarians are able to choose their top three synod pick locations. The preference list will be distributed between the 65 bishops and then the selection process begins. Pastor Sherri gave us encouragement that those who choose EaND will go there as the need is great and there are few who choose this location.

Inhibitors to TCM in general were agreed to be distance between congregations, and the weather.

The next TCM Council Meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup> where this report will be reviewed in print form.

Respectfully submitted by Committee

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

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Binford ND 58416

**TCM Parish Administrator**  
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**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

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faithl@ictc.com

**First Presbyterian of Cooperstown**  
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

**Grace of Grace City**  
kmac@daktel.com

**Our Savior's of Kloten &  
McVille Lutheran Church....** 322-4952  
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**We exist to serve Christ in  
harmony with our member  
churches and communities.**

**God's Work Our Hands  
Noon Meal**  
(Barbecues, salad, chips,  
bars)

Sunday, September 8  
11:30 – 1:00  
Binford Fire Hall

Freewill donations for the  
Great Plains Food Bank

Sponsored by  
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