



# Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

April 2020

## *From Pastor Sherri*

*"...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* -Isaiah 40:31

Some days I have been very weary. Within one week, we cancelled worship and quickly had to figure out how to worship with you using technology. The great part about it is that we have been talking about utilizing technology for our worship at Tri-County Ministry longer than I have been your pastor. I am not unlike many of you. I don't change until I am forced to change. Deacon Tara and I are utilizing Facebook for Sunday worship and are working on reaching out to those who have access to a computer but are not on Facebook.

Besides Sunday worship, Deacon Tara has been holding an evening prayer time utilizing Facebook Live, which means we can either pray with her or watch the recording at a later time. Additionally, Deacon Tara is reading to kids online Monday through Thursday at 7:00 pm and is connecting with our families who have children. A team of lay folks is reaching out to our shut-ins regularly, making sure that our folks in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes are acknowledged as well.

We are all learning to do things in new ways while avoiding crowds and staying home, except for the necessary activities of buying groceries or medicine. Some of us even get outside for some fresh air and a little exercise. Others are holding school for their youth while still working from home. I have also heard that some parents have enjoyed the extra hands to do chores as families' movements are restricted.

How have you seen God working in your life during this pandemic? As I minister to others, old friends and colleagues have encouraged me in my faith in those times that seem either overwhelming or disorienting. God has blessed me with many relationships from my present circumstances as well as long-time friends and colleagues from the past. Just when I need answers or a word from God, one of these faithful followers of Christ proclaims God's Word to me. EaND Synod staff continue to encourage pastoral staff and provide resources for ministering to our congregations in new and creative ways. God carries me and renews my strength.

Have you checked in with your neighbors or someone from your faith family yet? We all need to stay connected to others, and sometimes that involves picking up the phone and calling someone who does not have computer access. Do they have everything they need? How are they doing today? Sometimes, God comes to us through our neighbor's phone call.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, you are not alone. God is near to us and is working among us right now. You have a church family and neighbors who care about you.

*"Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed."* -1 Chronicles 22:13b

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# Parish News

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## **PLEASE SIGN UP!**

If you're receiving this newsletter via USPS, you have not yet subscribed to the Tri-County Ministry e-newsletter. This is the perfect time to subscribe!

By signing up, you save a stamp every time a newsletter is published, PLUS you receive a weekly e-newsletter from the TCM office.

(FYI only about a fourth of our households are receiving the newsletter by email.)

If you want to be a good steward of our resources and be up-to-date on what's happening in our parish, please subscribe by emailing

**trinitybinford@mlgc.com**

And while you're at it, if you are a Facebook user, please like our Tri-County Ministry page. It is one more way of staying informed.

## **HOLY WEEK**

**April 5, Palm Sunday** — 10:00 am on Facebook

**April 9, Maundy Thursday and April 10, Good Friday**

Both at 6:00 on Facebook, Tri-County Ministry page

**April 12, Easter Sunday** — 10:00 on Facebook

## **HOW TO WATCH ONLINE**

**Worship services** —

- Tri-County Ministry page on Facebook
- YouTube Tri-County Ministries channel, once we have enough subscribers (Please go to YouTube, search for Tri-County Ministries, and then hit "subscribe." We need 100 subscribers in order to get our own link.)

**Bible studies** — Zoom (free app). Deacon Tara will share information with you on getting into the Bible study.

**Tara's story time and prayer time** — Find Tara L. Ulrich on Facebook

## **TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY COUNCIL 2020**

Faith: Becky Muncy and Dan Larson

First Presbyterian: Paul Motter and Janice Johnson

Grace: Lori Ellingson and Jess Carlson

Lutheran Church of McVile: Linda Loe and Corrina Olson

Our Savior's of Klotten: Dale Nelson, Dick & Myrna Hanson

Our Savior's of McHenry: Missy Erickson and Lyle Black

Trinity: Bob Delfs and Betty Stabenow

TCM Council and individual councils/session may choose to meet online using Zoom. Please contact a staff member for more information.

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# Congregational News

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## **HOW TO KEEP GIVING TO YOUR CONGREGATION**

With worship services being canceled, our churches are looking at a loss of regular offerings. Because almost all expenses of the churches and parish continue even when worship isn't being held in our buildings, members are being asked to keep up their regular giving. We are still doing ministry and worship — it's just online rather than in person.

### *Ways to give:*

- Send your offering directly to your church or church treasurer.
- Go to your bank and set up an automatic transfer; the transfer can be weekly, monthly, or whatever you wish.
- Include your church in your bank's bill pay service.

Online giving through third-party vendors is being explored. Information will be shared if our churches/parish add those giving options.

## **PASTOR SHERRI'S UPDATE FROM MEDICAL COMMUNITY**

. . . It is not a matter of "IF" infected people come in, but "WHEN". Medical personnel are concerned that people adhere to suggested guidelines with social distancing, washing hands and disinfecting surfaces at work and at home. With all the information coming at you, they want us to *stress the basics!*

Medical teams serving Griggs and Nelson Counties are committed to serving you and will be handling more patients and transferring fewer than normal to larger facilities. Please help us by calling your congregation members and neighbors to see if they are staying home and, at the same time, have access to everything that they need.

As the peak of this virus is not supposed to hit our area until May (per our local leadership), Pastor Sherri has asked Congregation Council Presidents to cancel worship services and social gatherings until further notice..

## ***Mailing info for congregational offerings:***

### **Faith of Hannaford**

Mary Jo Grover  
707 Foster Ave. NW  
Cooperstown, ND 58425

### **First Presbyterian**

Rita Jungels  
509 10th Ave. SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

### **Grace**

John Gisi  
1951 82nd Ave. NE  
New Rockford, ND 58356

### **Our Savior's of Kloten**

JoAnne Brennan  
112 6th St. South  
McVile, ND 58254

### **Lutheran Church of McVile**

Box 306  
McVile, ND 58254

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

Missy Erickson  
9057 16th St. NE  
McHenry, ND 58464

### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

Box 226  
Binford, ND 58416

## ***Travel Quarantine Orders***

All individuals traveling back to North Dakota from international locations and states in the U.S. that have been classified as having widespread disease by the CDC (list below) must quarantine immediately upon reentry to the state of North Dakota and for a period of 14 days.

Essential critical infrastructure workers, as defined by the United States Department of Homeland Security, are exempt from this order.

Affected individuals are encouraged to fill out the travel form to receive information on how to monitor for symptoms. If you have symptoms and wish to seek medical care, please call before you go in.

1. You are required to remain in quarantine at person's place of residence.
2. While under quarantine, you must take precautions, as directed by healthcare staff and Department of Health personnel, to prevent the possible spread of 2019- nCoV/COVID-19.
3. You must cooperate with the efforts of state or local health authorities to contact other exposed people to prevent the possible spread of 2019-nCoV/COVID-19. This includes providing information regarding people you have had contact with, places you visited or traveled to, and your medical history.
4. Only immediate household members are allowed to be at the place of quarantine. No other individuals are allowed at the place of quarantine unless approved by the North Dakota Department of Health.
5. You are only authorized to leave quarantine for reasons approved by the Department of Health. Prior to leaving quarantine for an approved reason, such as a physician appointment, you must coordinate your plan with the state or local health authority.
6. If you, or any immediate household members at the place of quarantine, have any symptoms suggestive of 2019-nCoV/COVID-19 you must contact the state or local health department immediately. Symptoms may include fever, cough, shortness of breath, body aches, headache, chills, or sore throat.

If you, or any immediate household members at the place of quarantine, become ill or are diagnosed with 2019-nCoV/COVID-19, it is necessary for the North Dakota Department of Health to investigate and trace any persons who may have been in contact with you while you were infectious with 2019-nCoV/COVID-19. You are required to cooperate with this investigation and provide complete and true information to the investigator. This includes providing information regarding people you had contact with, places you visited or traveled to, and your medical history.

A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if that person fails to cooperate with this order to quarantine, which could result in 30 days imprisonment and/or up to \$1500 fine. North Dakota Center Code 23-07.6-02(3).

## ***Meet our Deacon***

Hello Everyone!

My name is Tara Ulrich and I am your new Deacon for Tri County Ministry. I am a North Dakota girl, having lived in this state most of my life. I grew up in Ashley ND. My dad still farms on our family farm with my uncle and aunt. My mom lives in a nursing home in Garrison ND. I have one younger sister, Andrea, who teaches 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Round Prairie Elementary outside of Williston ND.

I am a graduate of the University of Mary, where I earned a degree in Communications with an English minor with an emphasis in Journalism. I am also a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary where I received my Masters degree in youth, culture and mission. I have served congregations in Beulah ND, Dilworth MN, Minot ND and Williston ND.

I have two cats: Luna Lovegood and Neville Longbottom. Yes, they are named after Harry Potter characters. I love to read, write, scrapbook, take pictures and cook/bake. I also love spending time with my friends and family.

Since we are in an uncertain time, I am thankful for technology to be able to connect with all of you. Don't forget to like Tri County Ministry on Facebook.

Peace be with you,  
Deacon Tara Ulrich

## ***PASTOR SHERRI: STATUS OF CALL***

As many of you know, I have accepted a call to ELCA World Missions. My assignment will be as Pastor of the American Lutheran Church, an English-speaking congregation, in Oslo, Norway. A pandemic is not the time to start a new call in another country. In fact, all the personnel assigned to World Missions have been called home to the United States to ride out this health crisis.

Originally, my plans were to mark my time with you by celebrating at an Open House and Sending Service on Palm Sunday. My last Sunday with Tri-County Ministry was scheduled for Easter Sunday. I would have spent the rest of April packing boxes and moving to my new location. That will not happen quite as planned. Although my call will still take place, the timing is "up in the air," as are many of our plans during this Covid-19 Pandemic.

During this interim time, I continue as your pastor and work closely with your new Deacon Tara Ulrich. As you know, our calls complement each other, and so I continue serving you right where God called me seven years ago.

I will be submitting some sermons to ALC-Oslo after Easter, as their interim pastor starts his new call in camping ministry in Minnesota in May. Please let me know if you have any questions as I would be happy to answer them directly.

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

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*deacontaralee@gmail.com*  
*Box 448*  
*McVile, ND 58254*

**TCM Parish Administrator**  
**Theresa Fiebiger .....***676.2761*  
*trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

**Faith of Hannaford .....***769-2387*  
*faithl@ictc.com*

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

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

**Our Savior's of Kloten &  
McVile Lutheran Church.... 322-4952**  
*lutheranchurchmcville@gmail.com*

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

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

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*Box 226*  
*Binford, ND 58416*  
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*website: www.tricountyministry.org*

*Like us on Facebook!*

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

***These events have been cancelled  
or will be rescheduled:***

**Prairie Rose Conference Assembly**

**TCM Council Retreat**

**END Synod Assembly**

**New date: August 15-16**

**Grace Turkey Supper**

**Trinity Roast Beef Dinner**

**Red Willow Ministries Annual Meeting**