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

From Deacon Tara

"Easter says you can put death in the grave, but it won't stay there."

~ Clarence W Hall

I heard this quote many years ago and it's stuck with me. In fact, you probably remember me using it in a sermon at some point over these last three years. This quote is such a powerful reminder to all of us that life not death has the final word.

On Ash Wednesday, we hear those powerful and profound words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." Throughout the season of Lent, we are reminded of our own immortality. I can still picture my friends and I standing around our friend Ben's urn during Lent five years ago. Even in Ben's death, reminders of life were all around us.

The reality is that death and the possibility of death are all around us throughout our lives: a cancer diagnosis of a loved one, an unexpected accident, and in so many other words. Yet Easter is that time when we are reminded of God's power. Only God has the power to overcome death and the grave.

On Easter morning, the women come to the grave and find it empty. They are surprised. Jesus' body is supposed to be there. Yet it's not. In this simple act, we see God's power unleashed. I'm reminded of the words we hear in John 3:16-17: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

And because of that great love, on Easter Sunday, we can all proclaim, *"Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"*



Parish News

Our 2023 Lent Project: Project Ignite Light

Since Ash Wednesday, our churches have been collecting donations for Project Ignite Light. Donations will help purchase items for children in crisis situations.

Our goal is to collect **\$1750**. That amount would purchase approximately 35 backpacks and the items needed to fill them.

Included in the backpacks:

- Pajamas, socks and underwear
- Toiletries
- Fruit snacks & water bottle
- Flashlight
- Other items that are gender and age specific

Fleece blankets have also been made in some of our churches; these blankets are given along with the backpacks.

Monetary donations are being received in each church through Easter Sunday.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 2

- 8:30 Our Savior's
- 8:30 Grace
- 9:00 First Presbyterian
- 10:30 Faith
- 10:30 Lutheran Church of McVile
- 10:30 Trinity

Maundy Thursday, April 6

- 5:30 Trinity
- 7:00 Faith

Good Friday, April 7

- 7:00 Grace
- 7:00 Lutheran Church of McVile

Easter Sunday, April 9

- 7:30 Faith
- 8:30 Our Savior's
- 8:30 Trinity
- 9:00 First Presbyterian
- 10:30 Grace
- 10:30 Lutheran Church of McVile

THANK YOU

Marvin Goplen

*for your years of service to Tri-County Ministry
as a Synodically Authorized Minister.*

You are appreciated!

Marvin is retiring from regular lay preaching.

He'll be preaching both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Congregational News

Faith of Hannaford

A special fund raising event is set for this weekend.

Kumla Supper

Saturday, April 1

4:00 — 7:00

Hannaford Community Center

Proceeds will go toward the window/siding fund.

During the Palm Sunday worship service on April 2, Tucker and Colton Schneider will celebrate their First Communion. We welcome them to the Lord's Supper.

Lutheran Church of McVile

Club 3:16 meets on April 16, 1:00 — 3:00.

Trinity of Binford

During the Maundy Thursday service on April 6, Colton Delfs will be welcomed to the Lord's Supper as he celebrates his First Communion.

The memorial service for Sherman and Donna Rorvig will be held at Trinity on Saturday, April 15, at 2:00. Sherman passed away on December 17, and Donna on December 19. Blessed be their memories.

Our Savior's of rural McVile

Worship resumes on Palm Sunday, April 2.

The Annual Meeting will be held following the April 2 worship service.

Grace of Grace City

The congregation will gather for brunch following the 8:30 worship on Palm Sunday, April 2. Note the worship time. Sunday worship will be at 10:30 for the remainder of April.

RWBC summer schedule

Seekers (K-6)

- June 2

Taste of Camp (K-2)

- June 11-16
- July 30-August 4

Pathfinders (2-3)

- June 11-16
- July 11-August 4

Explorers (3-4)

- June 4-9
- June 18-23

Creation (4-6)

- June 4-9
- June 18-23
- June 25-30

Disciples (7-9)

- June 4-9
- June 18-23
- June 25-30
- July 30-August 4

Amp Camp (9-12)

- July 23-28

Holy Hoops (5-9)

- June 25-30

Family Camp

- July 2-5