



Tri-County Ministry News

April 2024

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

There are 8 Sundays of Easter. Eight Sundays to celebrate our risen Savior. To praise Jesus the Christ who brings light to our darkest corners of life.

There was once a dark cave, deep down in the ground, underneath the earth and hidden away from view. Because it was so deep in the earth, the light had never been there. The cave had never seen light. The word "light" meant nothing to the cave, who couldn't imagine what "light" might be. Then one day, the sun sent an invitation to the cave, inviting it to come up and visit. When the cave came up to visit the sun it was amazed and delighted, because the cave had never seen light before, and it was dazzled by the wonder of the experience. Feeling so grateful to the sun for inviting it to visit, the cave wanted to return the kindness, and so it invited the sun to come down to visit it sometime, because the sun had never seen darkness. So, the day came, and the sun entered the cave, it looked around with great interest, wondering what "darkness" would be like. Then it became puzzled, and asked the cave, "Where is the darkness?" (Source Unknown)

The story of the cave is that it reveals the fundamental weakness of darkness. It's actually quite simple. Darkness cannot exist in the presence of light. Whether through the brilliance of the sun or the flickering of a solitary candle, darkness is dispelled, and light takes its place.

"God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all. If we walk in that light, we live by the truth. If we walk in that light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." — 1 John 1:5b

God's light was a promise to His chosen people. He would always be with them. As powerful as this gift of light was, God created us with the freedom to make our own choices. A gamble indeed, and one that allowed people to turn away from God, causing sin and darkness to remain in the world. God didn't want anything to separate us from His love, and so He sent a second gift . . . the ultimate GIFT. The promise of light was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia!

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

As always, God's gifts don't just stop there. We have that light of Christ within each of us. No matter how dark the world around us may seem at times, we are children of light. In 1 John 2:8-10 we have a new commandment: Jesus the true light is already shining. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

Celebrate Easter for the next 8 weeks -- be a light for others.

**Women of the ELCA
Spring Roundup**



Saturday, April 20

Sheyenne Riverbend Resort south of Valley City

10:00—3:00

Completely Free!

Speakers include Jess Gulseth, Director of Red Willow Ministries and Park River Bible Camp

Music by Triplicity

Vendors

Quilting and demonstrations

Food

Favor bags

Child care

RSVP ASAP jbhuso@hotmail.com

Carpooling is encouraged!

A note about the cover letter:

The story of the cave (the italicized paragraph) was found in Eva Steiner's Bible.

Eva, a member of Faith in Hannaford, passed away in March.

The article to go along with the story was contributed by Marla Larson.

**KUMBLA
SUPPER**

Saturday, April 6

**Community Center in
Hannaford**

4:00 — 7:00

Fund Raiser

sponsored by

**Faith Lutheran Church of
Hannaford**

***Dates for your
summer calendar:***

June 1-2: END Synod
Assembly in Fargo

August 4: Tri-County
Ministry Parish Worship
at Red Willow Bible Camp

August 24: Red Willow
Ministries Quilt Auction

August 31: "save the
date" received from
Deacon Tara as she and
her husband Kelly
celebrate their marriage
in Jamestown

Tri-County Ministry Council
March 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford

PRESENT: Linda Loe, Myrna Hanson, Allen Hetland, Janice Johnson, Gilbert Black, Cheryl Rickford, Marla Larson, Truley Trautman, Marvin Goplen, Bishop Tessa Leiseth, Theresa Fiebiger

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Marla Larson

CALL TO ORDER: Gilbert Black

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the October 6, 2023 and November 7, 2023 meetings were approved and filed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved and filed

Balance on Hand February 29, 2024	General Fund Checking	\$30,245.28
	Savings Account	\$23,681.56

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Gilbert Black

Vice President – Amy Olson

Secretary/Treasurer – Janice Johnson

OLD BUSINESS

Technology Committee / Grant: Discussion of whether or not to continue pursuing the use of technology within the parish. Consensus was to move forward. Theresa will set up a committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion with Bishop Tessa:** Bishop Tessa addressed the clergy shortage throughout the ELCA. Suggestions included raising up our own pastor, applying to be an intern site, participating in the TEEM program.
- **Parish Worship Service:** Consensus of the council to have the annual parish worship service this summer. It will be scheduled for August 4 at Red Willow Bible Camp. Marvin offered the use of his deck for a potluck picnic following the service. Suggestion of asking Rusty Bender to speak.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Marla Larson** – Monthly visitation continues, and she also sends cards.
- **Truley Trautman** – Confirmation classes continue. Students are becoming involved in worship and participating in church life.
- **Marvin Goplen** – He continues to do pulpit supply as needed; will officiate at Winifred Goplen's memorial service on June 29.
- **Gilbert Black** – Continues to preach when possible.

CONGREGATION REPORTS

- **Faith** – Kumla supper Saturday, April 6, 4:00-7:00 at the community center in Hannaford
- **Trinity** – Youth led a lay service in February
- **First Presbyterian** – Had a baptism in January
- **Lutheran Church of McVile** – Weekly midweek Lenten services are being held, attendance has been good. Confirmation students are participating in worship and Lenten suppers. Quilting and Bible study continue. Had a baptism in February. Sunday attendance is up.
- **Our Savior's** – Opening on Easter Sunday
- **Grace** – Brunch follows 8:30 worship services.

NEXT MEETING: June, date to be determined.

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

TCM Parish Administrator

Theresa Fiebiger 676.2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Lay Leaders Truley Trautman, SAM
Marla Larson, SAM
Gilbert Black
Marvin Goplen, SAM

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford .. faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

Grace of Grace City

Our Savior's of Kloten &
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We exist to serve Christ in harmony
with our member churches and
communities.