



# Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

December 2019 — January 2020

## *From Pastor Sherri*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wait....what? Our seasons seem to blur together as early as Halloween into Thanksgiving melding into the “Christmas Season” as retail is trying to maximize the shopping season. This all happens with good reasons, as this time often is where many businesses make their profits for the year.

In contrast, November 24 is the last Sunday of the church year, and our New Year begins on December 1 with the ADVENT SEASON. This is a time of waiting and watching. What is it that we watch and wait for? We think it is celebrating the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago or wondering when he is coming again. However, the *main focus* is the Advent of God, or Christ’s coming in the midst of everyday life — whether in the news or in our personal circumstances; whether frightening, confusing, or mundane. Christ is already here!

The Advent-Christmas Seasons and celebrations that flow into the New Church Year will be focused on waking us up to Christ’s presence in the *here and now!* Christ’s presence in our weekly worship as well as our daily lives is our focus and we will do this with prayer. Please take the opportunities presented to grow in our collective prayer activities as well as our daily prayer. Please see the insert in this newsletter entitled *Prayer Ventures for December 2019* for a daily prayer guide, and use this with your family. Join us in Sunday worship as we light our Advent Candles and take advantage of opportunities that celebrate the season such as the Christmas Cantata at the Lutheran Church of McVile, the community Live Nativity in Cooperstown, and our youth Christmas programs.

From the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 22, we read, “*Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?*” Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” These will be our theme verses for 2020 starting in Advent. Loving God with all our hearts, souls, and minds shapes our Advent prayers. Loving our neighbors will be the theme for Lent, which leads up to Easter.

So immerse yourself fully into the seasons, always waiting and watching for Christ to show up in your life, in our community, and in the world.

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# Parish News

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## ***“Go Tell It!”***

As we look ahead to Advent, singers from our parish and the surrounding communities are preparing a Christmas Cantata. Performances will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00.

We are excited to share with you the beautiful story of the preparation for Jesus’ birth with “Come, Messiah, Come,” the thrilling experience of His birth, singing “How Great our Joy” and the excitement to share this incredible story with familiar Christmas carols. “Go Tell It!” composed and arranged by Jack Schrader creatively tells this story with narrations and songs.

The choir is under the direction of Linda Loe and is accompanied by Verna Lindvall.

Please join us at The Lutheran Church of McVile on December 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> or both!

## ***Advent Dinner Church Wednesdays at 6:00***

Very informal worship around the dinner table. Come and try this new experience!

- ◆ December 4 at Our Savior’s in McHenry
- ◆ December 11 at Lutheran Church of McVile
- ◆ December 18 at Faith in Hannaford

## ***Christmas Programs***

**First Presbyterian** — December 8, 9:00 at Assisted Living

**Club 3:16**—Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 at Lutheran Church of McVile (following the potluck dinner church)

**Faith** — December 15 during the 10:30 worship service

**Trinity** — December 15, the Sunday School will participate in the **10:30** worship service. Potluck dinner follows.

**Grace** — December 15 at 5:30 (no morning worship), supper following

## ***Christmas Services***

*Sunday, December 22*

- ◆ 8:30 Our Savior’s of Klotten
- ◆ 9:00 First Presbyterian at Assisted Living
- ◆ 5:00 at Trinity in Binford (no morning worship service at Trinity that day, no Christmas Eve service)

*Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve*

- ◆ 10:30 a.m. at Lutheran Church of McVile
- ◆ 3:30 at Our Savior’s in McHenry
- ◆ 5:00 at Grace in Grace City
- ◆ 10:00 p.m. at Faith in Hannaford

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# Congregational Events

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## **FAITH**

- The annual women's Christmas party will be held on Wednesday evening, December 4, at 6:30. Potluck. Bring a friend and a gift to exchange.
- The Faith Lutheran Sunday School program will be held December 15th. This year's program is titled "The Biggest Christmas Present Ever." This is a reminder about what a gift God did give when He sent His Son. A gift of love, a gift of hope, was sent to everyone. --Janet Brigman Hoskins

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF COOPERSTOWN**

- Worship time has been moved to 9:00 for the winter, and all services will be held at Assisted Living.

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

- Coffee hour will follow the December 8 worship service, as a time of farewell to Rick and De Frederick.
- The Annual Meeting will be held January 12. Evan Farnsworth has completed two terms on the council and may not be re-elected. Missy Erickson may serve a second term on the TCM Council.
- Our Savior's and Grace will be paired on the worship schedule for January through March. The councils have approved alternating the times monthly between 8:30 and 10:30.

## **OUR SAVIOR'S OF KLOTEN**

- **Joint Worship Service** — Our Savior's will host a joint worship service with Lutheran Church of McVile on Sunday, December 1. The service will be at 10:30.
- **Winter Break** — The congregation will hold worship services through the month of December, and then will go on winter break until the first of April.

## **Annual Meetings**

- Our Savior's Kloten — December 8
- Trinity — January 5
- Our Savior's McHenry—January 12
- Faith — January 19
- Lutheran Church of McVile — January 26
- First Presbyterian — February 2
- Grace — February 9

**Special Congregational Meetings were held in the seven Tri-County Ministry congregations on Sunday, November 3. All congregations approved the 2020 assessment of \$525 per active confirmed member for the year.**

## **Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, December 29**

**All TCM Congregations**

**Regular worship times**

**Lay-led worship**

**Be ready to participate!**

## **TRINITY**

- **Tree Trimming** — Hanging of the Greens during the 8:30 worship service on December 1.
- **WELCA**—Christmas meeting will be held Saturday, December 7 at 11:00 a.m. Northland Rescue Mission in Grand Forks will be the mission emphasis; a freewill offering will be received. The men of the church are welcome to the potluck noon luncheon.
- **Cookie Walk** — WELCA’s annual bake sale will follow the 8:30 worship service on Sunday, December 8. Coffee will be served.
- **Quilting** — The quilters will meet one or two Mondays in December, and then go on hiatus until the middle of January, allowing time for more tops to be sewn. Anyone who wants to sew may stop in the quilt room and pick up some squares.
- **Annual Meeting** — The Annual Meeting will follow the 10:30 worship on January 5. Potluck dinner after the meeting. Cheryl Rickford may be re-elected to the Trinity Council; Denny Goetz has served two terms on the Tri-County Ministry Council and cannot be re-elected.
- **Worship Times** — Trinity will be paired with McVile on the worship schedule for the months of January through March. Watch your calendar for the times each month — 8:30 or 10:30.
- **God’s Work Our Hands** — The trip to the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo for a service project on November 16 was postponed. Watch for a date sometime next year, possibly in February.

## **GRACE OF GRACE CITY**

- New worship times begin in December — December at 10:30 and January at 8:30.

## **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE**

- **Third Grade Bibles** — On October 27th - Kendra Henke and Kodee Klefstad were presented with their 3rd grade Bibles at the Lutheran Church of McVile. Also receiving Bibles this year: Lila Sateren, Hannah Hilliard, Sophia Betz, and Gavin Haman.
- **Christmas Program** — Wednesday, December 11th - 6pm potluck, 7 pm program - followed by birthday cake fellowship.
- **Bible Study** — No Wednesday morning Bible study in December. The study will resume on January 8 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Worship Times** — Please watch worship times January through March, as McVile is paired with Binford on the worship schedule. Note that worship will be at **8:30** on January 5.

**Tri-County Ministry Council**  
**November 19, 2019 at 6:30pm**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church, Binford**

**A quorum was not present.**

**PRESENT:** Denny Goetz, Bob Delfs, Lori Ellingson, Missy Erickson, Lyle Black, Becky Muncy, Dale Nelson, Vickie Goplen, Pastor Sherri Frederikson, Theresa Fiebiger

**ABSENT:** Sheila Beglau, Linda Loe, Connie Eslinger, Jess Carlson, Richard Hanson, Paul Motter

**OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Pastor Sherri

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vickie Goplen

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** None

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting were filed.

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

Balance on Hand: General Fund 10.31.19	\$15,977.06
Parsonage Fund 12.1.19	\$9,311.46
Special Funds 10.31.19	\$3,302.63

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Intern Pastor Program:** Pastor Sherri reported that an intern pastor will not be coming to Tri-County Ministry as anticipated.

Discussion of staffing models, staffing costs, and needs of the parish. Primary needs are preaching, visitation, and visibility in the communities. Pastor Sherri will contact Shar Gumke (END Synod office) and the Presbytery for possible assistance in planning. A special meeting of the TCM Council may be scheduled if Shar is available to meet.

**Vital Signs:** Denny Goetz gave a brief update. The TCM Foundation has agreed to pay the fees for the Vital Signs process.

**Scheduling Strategy:** Congregational Councils from Trinity, Our Savior's of McHenry, and Grace met on October 27. They propose that for six months of the year (April, May, September-December) each congregation have a lay service once every seven weeks to make the 8:30/10:30 worship times workable. Proposal tabled due to lack of a quorum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tri-County Ministry registered name:** Documents of Tri-County Ministry and Tri-County Ministry Foundation are being reviewed. Tri-County Ministry is listed with the ND Secretary of State as "Tri-County Ministry Council." Action is required to correct the registration. Tabled due to lack of a quorum.

## **STAFF REPORT**

**Pastor Sherri:** Written report was distributed. She emphasized the parish calendar that has been distributed and asked that councils be aware of the calendar when scheduling events.

## **CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES**

**Our Savior's of McHenry:** will be having a farewell coffee hour for Rick and De Frederick following the December 8 worship

**Grace:** A Facebook group has been set up for the congregation to help with notification of cancellations and other congregational notices; Christmas program December 15 at 5:30.

**Trinity:** Trunk or Treat on Halloween; WELCA led the worship service on November 10; Monday quilting continues; God's Work Our Hands trip to the Great Plains Food Bank postponed until January or February.

**Our Savior's of Kloten:** Christmas tree was trimmed the first Sunday in November; will host a joint worship with Lutheran Church of McVile on December 1; annual meeting is December 8; winter break January through March.

**Faith:** Annual Thanksgiving meal following worship on November 24; Christmas program December 15.

**First Presbyterian:** Christmas program December 8; collecting gifts for the patients at the ND State Hospital in Jamestown; worship services at 9:00 at assisted living every Sunday this winter

**Lutheran Church of McVile:** Christmas cantata December 14 & 15

**NEXT MEETING:** Saturday, February 29, 2020 (retreat and meeting; storm date is March 7)  
A meeting may be called before then if necessary.

**CLOSING:** Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by  
Sheila Beglau, Secretary  
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

## ***Upcoming Dates***

**Help keep our master calendar up-to-date. As events are scheduled, please notify the TCM office.**

- February 1 Healthy Congregations workshop, McVile or Tolna  
2 Souper Bowl Sunday  
Presbyterian Annual Meeting  
9 Grace annual meeting  
12 Faith4Life theme event  
15 Possibility of parish servant event at Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo  
16-17 Faith4Life overnight servant event (tentative)  
19 Faith4Life theme event  
26 Ash Wednesday worship services  
29 TCM Council retreat and reorganization
- March 4 Lent services  
7 TCM council retreat make-up date  
11 Lent services  
14 First Communion class  
18 Lent services  
25 Lent services  
27 Faith4life fellowship event  
28 First communion make-up date

## ***Service Listings***

### **Grace Ushers**

- December 1 Dale & Janice Munson  
8 Leon & Cindy Meehan  
15 Kevin & Judy Black  
22 Mitch & Lori Ellingson  
29 Duane & Norma Matt  
December church cleaner - Jo Black  
January 5 Larry & Marsha Scanson  
12 John & Janine Gisi  
19 Loren & Katie Larson  
26 Gilbert & Jo Black  
January church cleaner - Janice Munson

### **Our Savior's, Kloten**

DECEMBER

Janitor & Usher—Brian Naas  
Fellowship – potluck

### **Lutheran Church of McVile**

DECEMBER

Usher – Edroy Monsebroten  
Acolyte—Jessie Monsebroten  
Altar—Verna Lindvall  
Coffee—

- Dec. 8 David & Stephanie Sateren  
15 Jim & Marlana Monsebroten  
22 Curt & Judy Twete  
24 Dan & Theresa Rorvig/  
Randy & Debbie Trostad

Janitors

- Dec. 2-15 Dan & Kelli Schmitt  
Dec. 17-30 Darlene Reinhart,  
Haley Klefstad

JANUARY

Usher—David Gleason  
Acolyte—Gunner Zlotkowski  
Altar—Amy Olson  
Coffee—

- January 5 Allen & Sharon Stutrud  
12 Rick & Gayle Haabak  
19 Darlene Reinhart &  
Don Thompson  
26 Karen Olson & Frayne Berg

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

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**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

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



**“GO, TELL IT”**

**Christmas Cantata**

**Lutheran Church of McVile**

**Saturday, December 14  
7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 15  
4:00 p.m.**