



Tri-County Ministry News

February — March 2026

If you missed your annual meeting:

Greetings and salutations,

When asked to write a little something for the annual reports, my first thought was what will I say that hasn't already been said? Second was, what a great privilege it is to share something with everyone about the last year on TCM council. I'm going to do my best!

Throughout the year we had many great discussions, one being the discernment of having two other congregations join our wonderful faith family. Through pizza and possibilities, it was wonderful to see all the positives/strengths of Tri-County Ministry as a whole congregation, as well as the strengths of the individual congregations. Remembering how fortunate we are to have SAMs Marvin, Truley, and Marla. How great is it to have lay leaders in Gilbert and Bob. We certainly can count our blessings there to have such a great staff to fulfill all of our needs!

With that, I believe Maghon Taylor says it best in *100 Days of Praise and Positivity: A Devotional Journal*: "Want to hear some good news? You don't have to have everything figured out. You don't have to have all the answers. If you put your faith and trust in God, He will guide you to the right decisions." As I spent the last year in the chairperson's seat on council, I do hope that I accomplished just that.

I don't always know the answers or necessarily the right decisions to make. What I do know is that we are stronger together, and what a joy and greatness we all have being a part of a large faith family. Everyday TCM is redefining what it means to be a church in a rural community, and I am thankful for each and every one of you that is making this happen.

Whether you are in the pew or the pulpit, know that God is working with you and through you each and every day. So, as we move into the New Year hold that with you on your heart, TCM is greatness because of you and God.

Amy Olson
TCM Council Chairperson 2025

Lent series 2026: *Dying His Death, Living His Life*

In this series of special worship services for Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word and song, we contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Ash Wednesday (February 18)

- *Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness*

We remember that Christ enables us to daily die to our sins to live a new life in him.

The Five Lenten Sundays (February 22—March 22)

- *Dying to Pride, Living for Others*

We recall that our arrogant pride has been buried with Christ so that we might selflessly live for others.

- *Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven*

We embrace the truth that our greed for the things of the earth died with Christ on the cross so that we might live to seek the treasures of God in heaven instead.

- *Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith*

We recognize that God has made it possible for all our doubt to die with Christ the Crucified so that we might live by faith alone in him.

- *Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace*

We marvel at the news that God allowed all our turmoil to die on the cross so that we might live in the everlasting peace of Christ.

- *Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace*

We rest in the assurance that God's judgment toward us died with Christ Jesus so that we might live solely in the grace freely given to each one of us.

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Services of Holy Communion

7:00 at Grace, Trinity, Faith, and Lutheran Church of McVille



Wednesdays, February 25 — March 25

Lutheran Church of McVille

6:00 — Soup Supper

7:00 — Lenten service

Annual Meetings

February 1 — Lutheran Church of McVille

February 1 — Grace of Grace City

February 8 — Trinity

Giving Hearts Day Thursday, February 12

Some suggestions with connections to Tri-County Ministry:

- ◆ Red Willow Ministries
- ◆ END Synod of ELCA

Early giving is open!

Givingheartsday.org

A change with the newsletter

We're trying something new! Rather than monthly newsletters (with a couple of combinations during the year) two-month newsletters will be the new thing. This does involve some more planning than usual.

The e-news will continue weekly and any changes or updates will always be sent out.

Please be extra prompt with calendar and news items in getting them to the parish office.

Keeping Red Willow Ministries in mind



A couple of big events planned for August.

100th Anniversary Celebration

August 7-9

Check the website for the weekend schedule

redwillowministries.com

Annual Quilt Auction

August 22

Not many details available yet, but we're in perfect quilting weather!

One thing to be thinking about: the showcase for the 100th anniversary. Quilters, crafters, and artists are invited to donate items relating to camp. (Art can include painting/drawing, woodworking, metal work ... endless possibilities!)

Keep an eye on the website or maybe your mailbox for more info about both these events.

One more thing: **registration for summer camp is open.** Our churches and WELCAs will assist with fees. This year's theme is "Wear Love." Camping season begins June 14 and ends August 14. Check the website or the poster in your church.

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

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Preachers **Truley Trautman, SAM**
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**We exist to serve Christ in harmony
with our member churches and
communities.**