



TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

# Tri-County Ministry News

March 2019

## From Pastor Sherri

"It is our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ..."

These are the words that are sung by the pastor during our communion worship. It is a prayer to God. We give thanks for God's creative power, God's care, and God's faithfulness to us. We also give thanks to God for the blessings of the day. In this sung prayer, we remember God's act of salvation through Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promised return, as well as Jesus' originating the sacrament for his disciples. We also call on the Holy Spirit to draw worshipers into the presence of the risen Lord, nourish them in the body and blood of Christ, unite them with Christ in the communion of the saints both now and over all time and send the worshipers in mission to the world. Whew! That is a BIG prayer!

I have had an earworm in my head for the last few days. It is the sung words to this prayer. We sometimes reduce worship to our own preferences. Our own favorite hymns; our own favorite music; our own desire for variety; or some other preference or worship style. But what if we came just to worship God? Worship is our duty and our joy! Why would we not want *everyone* to experience this worship?

As Christians, we have been so afraid of alienating people that we have lowered our expectations for living a faithful life. As Presbyterians and Lutherans, we also have been a part of this movement. To be an "active" member in many churches means that you have been to worship and communed with us once per year. Really?!?

What if we took another tack? What if we raised our expectations instead? Would some not change their behavior? Sure. But SOME will rise to the occasion. Some will experience the joy that God cares for and is faithful to us. Others will experience God's power in this world and in their lives! Isn't that what we are about as followers of Jesus? We worship, share the body and blood of Christ, read scripture, pray, gather, bless each other, and then go out in mission to bless others with this love of Christ. Yes, it is our duty AND our joy.

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* -Matthew 28:19-20

# Lent: Forty Days of Healing and Restoration

by Intern Amy

The church season of Lent (the 6 weeks leading up to Easter) is an important time in the yearly rhythm of the Christian life. It is, as Pastor Sherri says that Lent and Easter are “The Super Bowl of church”! It is the time when we as Christians really lean into our faith, through intentional practice and prayer. It is the time of the year that we “double down” on our faith, committing to church attendance twice weekly, and committing to daily spiritual practices. Many people choose to give something up for the season of Lent, and many people choose to add a spiritual practice into their daily routine. Whether adding or eliminating, these intentional practices help us to deepen our awareness of Jesus, who on the cross gave up his life and in doing so added hope and joy to our lives.

We are excited about Lent in Tri-County, and have been busy planning. Congregations will be hosting one another on Ash Wednesday and the following five Lenten Wednesday eve services. Holy week services (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) will also be shared with our neighboring congregations.

Our midweek Lent theme this year is prayer. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer Service as our worship liturgy. If you’ve experienced Holden Evening Prayer, you already know what a blessing it is. If this will be your first time, you are sure to find it meaningful and beautiful. Each week during worship there will be a time for “candle prayer”. Think of it like Christmas Eve, holding candles while we sing Silent Night, only for an extended time; time to be drawn into God’s presence through the flame, and time to dwell in prayer. It will be holy time indeed, for people of all ages and stages.

After worship (on all Wednesdays EXCEPT Ash Wednesday), we will gather for supper. It will of course mean yummy food and fun fellowship, and this year we will also add the FAITH5 steps. Together around the supper table, with all generations of our faith family included, we will:

SHARE: our highs and lows

READ: a passage from the Bible

TALK: about the Bible passage

PRAY: together

BLESS: one another



Plan to join us for all the Lent worship services, as we live out our calling to be church together. Plan to double down on your faith life during these forty days, and find healing and restoration in the process. Plan to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, the journey that will lead us to Easter, the "Super Bowl" of the Christian year!

# This year's Lenten challenge

It is the hope of Tri-County Ministry to raise enough money during Lent to purchase a water well. Please consider making a donation to help raise these funds.

Buckets will be passed around during the offering time in each church  
Sundays, March 10—April 21.

## Simple water well - \$2500

The lack of access to clean water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. It's also one of the most powerful opportunities to create change. With a simple well, or spring box, **as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water**. Communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school. Talk about a future filled with hope!



## March Service Listings

### Grace Ushers

3/3 Dale & Janice Munson  
3/10 Cindy & Leon Meehan  
3/17 Kevin & Judy Black  
3/24 Mitch & Lori Ellingson  
3/ 31 Duane & Norma Matt  
Church cleaning – Cindy  
Meehan

### McVille Lutheran

Usher: Jim Monsebroten  
Acolyte: Seth Monsebroten  
Coffee:  
3/3: Dean & Norma Trost  
3/10: Haley Klefstad & Doug  
Trostad

3/17: Les & Kristi Berdal  
3/24: Edroy & Beth  
Monsebroten  
3/31: Marian Hendrickson &  
Mary Wall

### Cleaning:

Feb 25-Mar 10: Clayton & Kathy  
Ward, Diane Rohde  
Mar 11-24: David & Stephanie  
Sateren  
Mar 25-Apr 7: Randy & Debbie  
Trostad, Curt & LeeAnn Loe

### Lenten

#### Wednesdays

**Binford/McHenry/  
Grace City**

**Ash Wednesday,  
March 6**

5:30 at McHenry

**March 13**

6:00 at McHenry

**March 20 & 27**

6:00 at Grace

**April 3 & 10**

6:00 at Trinity

**Faith/Presbyterian**

**Ash Wednesday**

7:00 at Faith

**March 13 & 20**

6:00 at Faith

**March 27,**

**April 3 & 10**

6:00 at Presbyterian

**McVille/Kloten**

**Ash Wednesday**

7:00 at McVille

**March 13—April 10**

6:00 at McVille

**The Wednesday**

**services at all  
churches March 13  
through April 10  
include supper after  
the Holden Evening  
Prayer.**

# **Congregational Events**

## **Celebrate National Quilting Day**

Saturday, March 16, is National Quilting Day. Lutheran World Relief especially celebrates the quilters in congregations across the country who put their faith into action. Hundreds of thousands of quilts each year help our neighbors around the world who are struggling with displacement, poverty, illness, natural disaster or conflict.

Within the Tri-County Ministry area, quilts are given to shelters, hospitals and nursing homes, Bible camp, babies and graduating seniors, as well as Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you, quilters, for your hard work and dedication!

(P.S. Quilters would gladly accept donations of thread.)

### **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE**

- **Help Put Hunger in a Vortex!** Please help fight hunger by donating coins to our local food pantries. 1 in 13 People in North Dakota struggles with hunger. 1 in 11 children in North Dakota struggles with hunger
- McVille Lutheran will be hosting a free movie matinee, "The Passion of the Christ", on Sunday, March 24th at 2:00 pm. The movie, produced in 2005 and directed by Mel Gibson, depicts the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It is very moving, especially given that it will be shown during the season of Lent. However, the torture and crucifixion is very graphic. Anyone ages 18 and over is welcome to attend. Popcorn and pop will be served. Please come and join us for an afternoon of fellowship!
- McVille Lutheran Church is sponsoring a **"Shamrock Tree"** at Wangler Foods Grocery in McVille. Pick a shamrock and on the back will be a candy treat for you and a request for one or two small items to be purchased for the Caring Closet or a local pantry. Your gifts may be left in a box in the grocery store or in the entry of the church. Thanks for helping spread the "Love, Faith, Hope and Luck" of the shamrock to area people in need.



### **TRINITY**

- Potluck dinner follows the 11:15 worship service on Sunday, March 10. Our Savior's council members will be guests.
- Fifth Sunday noisy offering on March 31

### **FATIH**

- A special offering was received on Sunday, February 24, for Lutheran Social Services in celebration of the 100th anniversary of LSS.

# **TCM Council Highlights February 19**

Election of officers and committee assignments;  
Mutual Ministry—meetings still being held at McVille, Kloten, and Grace City;  
New (used) photocopier purchased for TCM use;  
Revision of TCM By-laws to provide descriptions of committees;  
2019 meeting schedule (May 21, September 24, November 19);  
Presentation of Lent schedule;  
Funding for Lay Worship Leaders continuing education.

## **Councils/Session 2019**

**Faith:** Dan Larson, Bob Brown, Jason Grover, Mary Grover, Becky Muncy.

**First Presbyterian:** Bev Campbell, Dennis Jungels, Bob Campbell, Paul Motter, Angie Olson, Kathy Larson

**Grace:** Gilbert Black, Jason Otto, Katie Black, John Gisi, Jo Black, Janine Gisi, Kathy McCracken, Mitch Ellingson, Travis Black, Pete Johnson

**Lutheran Church of McVille:** Sheila Beglau, Haley Klefstad, Norma Trost, Teresa Rorvig, Corrina Olson

**Our Savior's of Kloten:** Dale Nelson, Gail Flohaug, Dick Hanson, JoAnne Brennan (this list is not complete)

**Our Savior's McHenry:** Jason Vollmer, Annola Black, De Frederick, Jerry Tufte, Sue Bakko, Richard Harding

**Trinity:** Marvin Goplen, Bob Delfs, Cheryl Rickford, Theresa Fiebiger, Duane Feiring, Gary Delfs

**Tri-County Ministry Council:** President — Vickie Goplen; Vice-President & Finance Committee — Connie Eslinger; Sheila Beglau, Secretary & Events Committee; Denny Goetz, Treasurer and Finance Committee;

Finance Committee — Paul Motter, Becky Muncy, Bob Delfs, Lyle Black

Technology Committee — Linda Loe, Dale Nelson

Events Committee — Myrna Hanson/Richard Hanson, Jess Carlson, Lori Ellingson, Missy Erickson

## **Save the date**

**Marriage Matters**

**Overnight retreat**  
**November 1 –2**

**Red Willow Bible Camp**

Led by “On Bended Knee”, Pam Hulstrand  
Registration form is available from Theresa at the TCM office.

## **Tri-County Ministry Council Retreat**

**Saturday, March 9**

**9:00 — 3:00**

**Trinity in Cooperstown**

**Noon meal will be served (Intern Amy will cook!)**



# Youth Events

**March this on your calendar:**

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp**

When: June 23-28

Who: Boys and girls in grades 7-12

Where: Luther College Decorah, Iowa

Cost: \$550 (\$150 deposit)

More details will be available in the

**BLAST** — 3:15 Wednesdays at Trinity in Binford

**CLUB 3:16** — 3:30 first and third Wednesdays at Lutheran Church of McVille.

**GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL** - 9:30 Sunday mornings in March

**FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL**— 10:00 Sunday mornings

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

**Saturday, March 23**

**9:00 — Noon**

**Site to be determined, depending on participants**

Pre-registration is needed! Please talk to Pastor Sherri, Intern Amy, or Theresa.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sherri.

Class is open to all youth ready to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parents/guardians also attend the class.



Faith4Life! Binford will not be held during Lent. Confirmation students will attend and assist with Wednesday Lenten services.

**Time to sign up for Red Willow Bible Camp!**

- **Creation Camp:** June 23-28, July 7-12, July 28-August 2 (entering grades 4-6)
- **Disciples Camp:** July 14-19, July 38-August 2 (entering grades 7-9)
- **Senior High AMP! Camp:** July 14-19 (entering grades 10-12) Seekers Days: May 31 & July 24 (entering grades K-6)
- **Taste of Camp:** June 5-7, June 23-25 (entering grades K-2, plus a family member)
- **Pathfinders:** June 5-7, June 23-25 (entering grades 2-3)
- **Holy Hoops:** July 21-26 (entering grades 4-9)
- **Wilderness Week:** August 4-9 (entering grades 8-12)
- **Counselors in Training (Cit) Week:** June 2-7 (entering grades 10-12)



**Intern Amy's Corner —**

# Keep the Wave Alive

I love my home, North Dakota  
One reason today is my fav'  
We've great people, weather, culture  
But legendary is the North Dakota wave!

You know what I speak of, don'tcha?  
Two raised fingers with hand on the wheel  
It's friendly and understated  
The way North Dakotans like to feel.

As the oncoming vehicle approaches  
We must decide what we will do  
Will we wave first or second?  
The timing is so crucial too.

For if we are not attentive  
Or we wait just half second too long  
We feel frantic to complete it  
Before the car is passed and gone!

Perhaps you are not a waver.  
I get that. It sometimes seems strange  
But today I offer an idea  
A thought, a suggested small change.

You know how at church we venture  
(It's a bit of a hullabaloo)  
We rise and move from our places  
To offer "Peace be with you!"

What if we combined these two blessings  
Passing peace with the ND wave  
Something new with the old gold standard  
Let's call it the "ND Peace Wave"!

It's so simple that anyone can do it.  
Allow your two fingers to sort of recline

Just put a bit of distance between them  
And they form into the peace sign!

Now, there's one more piece to this new thing.  
Perhaps it's the most important part.  
As you offer the peace sign to others  
You must also offer your heart.

Inside your mind you must wish them  
Every good thing from above.  
Through the words, "Peace be with you!"  
They'll be wrapped up in God's great love.

So next time you're on your way  
somewhere,  
To work or just a nice Sunday drive  
Perhaps you could see it as your chance  
To keep the ND wave alive!



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harmony with our member  
churches and communities.**