



Tri-County Ministry News

November 2021

From Deacon Tara

“We pray for blessings; We pray for peace; Comfort for family, protection while we sleep; We pray for healing, for prosperity; We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering; All the while, You hear each spoken need. Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things; ‘Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops; What if Your healing comes through tears; What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near; What if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise.” (Blessings by Laura Story)

This song by Laura Story has always hit me straight in the gut. Our lives are filled with worry, suffering, pain and grief. Yet God promises never to leave us or forsake us, especially during these difficult times. What if our blessings truly do come during these times?

This month (November) we remember and give thanks for all God has given us. Often during this month, as I scroll Facebook, I see many of my friends posting something they are thankful for every day leading up to Thanksgiving. But why do we wait until this month? Why don't we give thanks and count our blessings every single day of the year?

I think so often we struggle to give thanks the rest of the year because we experience grief, pain and suffering. But in the words of this song, we are reminded that we do not journey alone. God walks with us through the joys and sorrows. God sits with us in the dark. We have communities of faith that bless us in the midst of these difficult times.

This year, I'm thankful for so much, but I also grieve for those lives lost. I am thankful for the churches of Tri-County Ministry. I am thankful for new life born after a deep loss. I am thankful for all the people God has placed in my life. I am thankful that my sister and I got to spend our mom's birthday with her in June after a year of restrictions and not being able to visit her at the nursing home. For what are you thankful for this year? What are your blessings in the midst of both joy and sorrow?

“Count your blessings. Name them one by one. Count your many blessings. See what God has done.” (from an old hymn)

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”-Psalm 34:1

May the Lord shower blessings upon you each and every day.

Deacon Tara

Parish News

Remembering the Saints

On November 7, All Saints' Sunday, many of our congregations will pause to remember those we have lost since All Saints' Day 2020.

Eunice Munson
Delores Haugen
Mike Fliflet
Norman Dahl
Robert Mosholder
Erma Lindvall
Art Eslinger
Larry Fliflet
Lola Leir
Bud Hoyt

Blessed be their memories.

Orange Banner Day in TCM

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." -John 15:12

As people of God, it is important for us to acknowledge the brokenness we see in this world. There is so much death and destruction, so much heartbreak and brokenness.

On November 7, each of the churches of Tri-County Ministry will hang an orange banner with the number 215 on it in their sanctuaries. These banners will stay hung up for those 215 days. That number represents the mass graves of the indigenous children found in Canada. During worship, we will be praying for these children as well.

We also invite all members to wear orange to worship on November 7th. A young ingenious girl tells about an orange shirt her grandmother gave her. When she arrived at the boarding school, that shirt was taken from her. Orange shirts represent truth and healing.

As we remember these children, it is important to acknowledge the struggles and tragedies they endured. We honor their place in and their contribution to the shared story of America.

Pounds for the Pantry TCM-Wide Challenge

November 1—21

Each church will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products to be given to the food pantry of their choice.

The church collecting the most donations by weight will become the home of the traveling turkey!

Collect items through Sunday, November 21, and then notify Theresa at the TCM office with the poundage report the next day, please.

(sponsored by Lutheran Church of McVile)



Congregational News

Our Savior's of McHenry

A big thank you to our mowing volunteers — Jerry & Cindy, Sue, Susie & John, Corey & Missy!

Our annual community All Saints Service will be on Sunday, November 7. During this service, we remember all those who have been connected with our community. This year, we'll light candles in memory of Art Twedt, Betty Smith, Melvin Midgely, Ruth Martinson, Arlene Jensen, Monte Haugland, Janice Thompson, Monte Hoyt, Kari Irmen, Jerry Ronholm, Harold Luecke, Lola Leir, Howard Wergeland, Bud Hoyt, and Roger Graham.

Lutheran Church of McVile

Club 3:16 will meet on Sunday afternoons this year from 1:00 until 3:00. So far November 7 and December 5 are the dates. This is obviously subject to change due to whatever covid considerations are in place at the church at the time.

November is McVile's month for alternative scheduling. Worship will be at 7:00 each Saturday evening. The council will meet following the November 6 worship. Come at 6:00 on November 13 for soup supper.

Trinity of Binford

Trinity WELCA sponsored two "planned potluck suppers" in October with freewill offerings to make up for not having the annual roast beef dinner for two years. Another potluck will be held December 12, along with the cookie walk.

The congregation will have the first vote on the revised constitution during the special meeting on November 14.

Our Savior's of Kloten

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, December 5, following the 8:30 worship service.

Faith of Hannaford

The congregation of Faith will serve their annual Thanksgiving dinner following the worship service on November 21. Take out is available.

***Special
Congregational
Meetings***

***following worship
services***

***Sunday, November 14
(Saturday, November 13
at McVile)***

***For the purpose of voting
on the 2022
Congregational Ministry
Contribution of \$525 per
active confirmed
member.***

Tri-County Ministry Council
October 14, 2021
7:00 p.m. at Trinity in Binford

PRESENT: Richard Hanson, Olen Ophaug, Linda Loe, Dan Larson, Allen Hetland, Janice Johnson, Angie Olson, Gilbert Black, Lori Ellingson, Laurie Erickson, Lyle Black, Bob Delfs, Deacon Tara Ulrich, Theresa Fiebiger

ABSENT: Rob Loe

CALL TO ORDER: Linda Loe

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Deacon Tara

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Under Old Business – C. Call Committee

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Approved and filed

TREASURER’S REPORT: Approved and filed

Balances of Hand 9.30.21	General Fund	92,509.64
	Parsonage Fund	9,474.08
	Special Funds	3,945.75

OLD BUSINESS

TCM Agreement and By-Laws: Changes to agreement and by-laws were recommended by the TCM Executive Committee. Discussion and further changes were made. Motion by Dan Larson, seconded by Gilbert Black, to approve all changes. Motion carried. Updated agreement and by-laws will go into effect upon review by Shar Gumke.

Worship Scheduling: Theresa reported on the challenges of Sunday scheduling, and that lay-led services will be necessary for two Sundays in November. Resources will be provided for those services. Future discussion may be necessary regarding scheduling.

TCM Call Committee: Linda reported that the call committee is active. She outlined the protocols required of them, including confidentiality. As McVille’s representative to the call committee, Rob Loe will step off the TCM Council while the committee is active.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Services: Consensus of the TCM Council that Sunday worship will not be held in the congregations on December 26. Each council/session may opt in or out of having worship on Sunday, January 2, 2022.

2022 TCM Budget: Budget was presented by the Finance Committee, with a recommended Congregational Ministry Contribution of \$525 per active confirmed member. Recommended budget seconded by Bob Delfs; motion carried. Special congregational meetings will be held the weekend of November 13/14 to approve the Congregational Ministry Contribution.

STAFF REPORTS

Deacon Tara: Faith4Life confirmation has begun. Youth are still being encouraged to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2022; final deadline to sign up will be November 15. Tara assisted in the planning of the Trinity Sunday School. She has been visiting members as possible. Two baptisms are on the schedule. She attended the Fall Leadership Conference at Fair Hills, and will be attending the ELCA Extravaganza in February (for youth leaders). She participated in Walking Together Sunday by preaching at St. Mark's in Fargo. She authored several articles for the December *Christ in Our Home* devotional.

Theresa: Worship Committee has planned a section of the worship services on November 6/7 for the orange banner/remembrance of mass graves of indigenous children.

CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

Our Savior's of Klotten: The congregation celebrated Mary Lou Krogh's birthday during a coffee hour following worship.

Grace: Participated in Walking Together Sunday; confirmation classes have begun with six students.

Faith: Community turkey dinner on November 21; Pony Express; looking at further repairs to church and parsonage.

Trinity: Sunday School has begun; Saturday evening worship and suppers in October; quilting beginning.

Our Savior's of McHenry: Bud Hoyt funeral; participated in Walking Together Sunday.

First Presbyterian: Church cleaning and de-cluttering; coffee hour with Deacon Tara when she preaches there; baptism scheduled for October 31.

Lutheran Church of McVile: Wednesday morning Bible study focusing on Romans; quilting on Wednesdays; Club 3:16 will be starting soon; work continues on landscaping and parsonage repairs; a special congregation meeting was held to review updated constitution.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Ecumenical Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by
Lori Ellingson, Secretary
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

Deacon Tara Ulrich..... 701-580-0949
deacontaralee@gmail.com
Box 448
McVile, ND 58254

TCM Parish Administrator
Theresa Fiebiger 676.2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford 769-2387
faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

Grace of Grace City
kmac@daktel.com

Our Savior's of Kloten &
McVile Lutheran Church.... 322-4952
lutheranchurchmcville@gmail.com

Our Savior's of McHenry.... 785-2117
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Trinity of Binford 676-2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Tri-County Ministry
Box 226
Binford, ND 58416
Phone 676-2761
email: trinitybinford@mlgc.com

website: www.tricountyministry.org

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