



Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY
MINISTRY

October 2019

From Pastor Sherri

God sent Elijah into the desert during a drought. But not to die — the ravens fed Elijah bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, as instructed by God. Then, God sent Elijah to stay with a widow to whom God had already instructed to house and feed the prophet upon his arrival. Elijah found the widow preparing a last meal for herself. Without the means to buy any food, she and her son would starve to death before the end of the drought. “God told me that you will have enough food to live through this drought,” Elijah told her. Then the widow’s son became so ill that he stopped breathing. The prophet stretched out the boy on the bed and cried out to God, “Let this child’s life come into him again!”

Do we feel that God has led Tri-County Ministry out into the desert to die? Do we feel we have enough means for one more meal and then it is over for our parish? Do we feel that our churches have stopped breathing?

Elijah did not give up. He laid the boy on the bed and cried out to God. The leadership of Trinity-Binford and Lutheran Church of McVille have entered into an intentional time of prayer, study of scripture, listening for God’s voice and dreaming for these congregations. With the help of the Eastern ND Synod and a process called “Vital Signs”, we are embarking on intentional transformation. This is a spiritual process and we are re-rooting ourselves in the good news of Jesus Christ by bringing God’s promised future for this ministry into focus. This is God’s project among us not only for these two congregations, nor only for our parish. This project is about Jesus changing the world. This process comes with expectations and accountability; therefore the TCM Council has given their blessing and signed a Covenant of Transformation. Where is God leading us? How is the Holy Spirit breathing new life into us?

The Lord listened to Elijah’s voice and breathed life into the boy. When Elijah presented the boy to his mother she cried, “*Now I know you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is true!*” (1 Kings 17:1-24)

Parish News

Marriage Matters

Overnight retreat

November 1 –2

Red Willow Bible Camp

Led by “On Bended Knee,”

Eric & Pam Hulstrand

It’s time to sign up for this!

For dating, engaged and married couples. With a combination of teaching time, group interaction and couple time alone.

Topics include communication, conflict resolution, personality similarities/differences, family of origin, finances and leisure activities.

Registration form is available at redwillowbiblecamp.org

“Worship is a Priority”

This summer, a committee was formed by the TCM Council to study the worship schedules and travel routes for our worship presiders. The committee (Linda Loe, Vickie Goplen, Becky Muncy, Marvin Goplen, Theresa Fiebiger, and Pastor Sherri) met a couple of times, brainstormed, and came up with a new plan.

Starting in October, we have new worship times!

- **Our Savior’s of Klotten at 8:30**
- **Lutheran Church of McVile at 10:30**
- **First Presbyterian at 8:30 (9:00 on the third Sunday of each month at Assisted Living)**
- **Faith of Hannaford at 10:30 (9:30 Sunday School)**

The three west churches — Trinity of Binford, Our Savior’s of McHenry, and Grace of Grace City — currently worship at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:15. They’ll create a plan to cooperate in worship times and then go to the 8:30/10:30 times later this year.

Youth News

Faith4Life Binford begins Wednesday, October 2 with a potluck supper. Theme events

will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on scheduled Wednesdays.

Parents will attend this first event. Other theme events in October are October 16 & 30. The 30th is “bring a friend” night.

The first Faith4Life fellowship event is scheduled for Friday, October 11. Event TBA.

All Faith4Life students will be blessed during the worship services in their congregations on Sunday, October 6.



This is a test. Are you reading the Tri-County Ministry Newsletter?

If so, e-mail the TCM office at trinitybinford@mlgc.com and answer by saying “Yes, I read the newsletter.”

Congregational Events

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE

- **Christmas cantata** rehearsals begin Sunday, October 20. Linda and Verna invite all singers to participate in this annual event, which will be presented on December 14 & 15. Rehearsals every Sunday evening, 6:30-8:00.

- The annual **fall supper and auction** at McVille Lutheran Church is set for Saturday, October 26. A free will supper will be served from 5:00 to 7:00 with the auction running from 7:00 until done. Please join us for brats, beans and root beer.

Donations are needed for the auction and can be dropped off at the church in the quilting room. We are hoping to get some great auction items to raise money for the church.

Please call Sheila Beglau at 701-367-7598 if you have any questions.

- McVille Lutheran Church will be hosting their second **Trunk or Treat** on Halloween night, October 31st from 5:00 until 6:30 pm. We encourage anyone interested in being a part of this fun evening to decorate their car trunk for Halloween and greet the trick-or-treaters with goodies. (Meet in the parking lot at 4:30.) In case of inclement weather, the event will take place inside the church. Last year we had 11 decorated trunks and 40+ kiddos. Let's try to beat those numbers this year!

OUR SAVIOR'S OF MCHENRY

- **Thank you** to the following for mowing our church yard this summer: Montana, Sue, Jerry & Cindy, Richard, Lester, Luverne, and Corey & Missy.

Thank you Rick Short for spraying the church yard and **thank you** Sue and Susie for donating to have our church building sprayed.

God's Work Our Hands Sept. 8

Faith members donated a total of \$625 to the Hannaford Park Board for the new city park's playground equipment.

Trinity served a noon meal to the community at the firehall in Binford. Donations totaling \$886 were given for the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo.

Our Savior's of McHenry collected 47 items for Red willow Bible Camp: dish towels, dish cloths, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, and a couple of brooms.

Lutheran Church of McVille shared a potluck lunch following worship. Then, 12 members of the congregation cleaned the parsonage. We are looking forward to having our intern live there for her stay with Tri-County Ministry. Even though it's a big house, it didn't take long to have it looking good. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help!

TRINITY

- **Trinity WELCA** meets Tuesday, October 1. Devotions by Donna; lunch served by Janice. Mission Emphasis is the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch; a freewill offering will be taken.
- October 13 is the date set for Trinity's **Harvest Festival** and Pony Express kick-off. Potluck brunch will follow the 8:30 worship service. Pony Express packets will go out on the trail and need to be returned to the church by November 17. Letters are being sent to members who are not on the list for the packets.
- **Quilting** begins Monday, October 14 at 1:00. Anyone is always welcome to come and help tie quits, cut squares, or have a cup of coffee.
- **Trunk or Treat** at Trinity on Halloween, 5:00-6:30. Anyone who wants may decorate their car trunk / pick-up for Halloween. Kids of all ages are invited to trick or treat in the Trinity parking lot.
- **Sunday School** began September 15 for our preschool and early elementary students. Sunday School will be held the first and third Sunday of each month, and parents will take turns leading.
- **Many thanks** to Bob, Lannes, Lonnie and anyone
- else who helped with mowing the church and parsonage lawns this summer. And thanks to the Beckys for planting and tending the flowers.

FAITH

If You're Happy and You Know it Clap Your Hands!

Sunday School began at Faith on September 29th, with the Sunday School kids singing in church. There are 20 kids participating in Sunday school this year. Kristie Piatz, Melissa Schneider, Beth Burchill, and Mary Jo Grover will be helping out with the kids which range from preschool to 6th grade. Sunday School kids will be singing in church the last Sunday of each month, (except in December) when the Christmas program, on the 15th will be the last day of Sunday school until 2020.

If You're Happy and You Know it Stomp Your Feet!

The old, sometimes leaky, **roof** at Faith has been stomped off and replaced. With the help of generous donations and hard work from our members during fund raising efforts, the project was completed at the end of September and the fund raising goal has almost been reached. By taking a beautiful autumn drive, you will be able to see the wonderful looking new roof!

If You're Happy and You Know It Say Amen!

The 2019 **Pony Express** will be starting in the middle of October; please continue to keep it circulating after you are finished with it.

Finally, L.M. Montgomery says it best at this time of the year: "I am so glad I live in a

Tri-County Ministry Council
September 17, 2019 at 6:00pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Binford

PRESENT: Denny Goetz, Lori Ellingson, Missy Erickson, Connie Eslinger, Becky Muncy, Myrna Hanson, Richard Hanson, Linda Loe, Vickie Goplen, Paul Motter, Pastor Sherri Frederikson, Theresa Fiebiger

ABSENT: Bob Delfs, Jess Carlson, Lyle Black

GUEST: Pastor Jess Daum, END Synod Director for Evangelical Mission

CALL TO ORDER: Vickie Goplen

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Sherri

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Jess Daum

VITAL SIGNS: Pastor Jess gave a presentation on this process being offered by the END Synod. Vital Signs is a two-year process with a Transformation Team of 4-6 people from the participating parish or congregation. \$1000 investment in the program, which begins this fall of 2019. The opportunity to participate was offered to Tri-County Ministry.

REVIEW OF MUTUAL MINISTRY REPORT

Worship Scheduling Committee: Report was given by Linda Loe. Committee met twice and created a new schedule for Sunday worship services, using the worship times of 8:30 and 10:30 throughout the parish. Committee recommended adoption of new schedule. Motion seconded by Sheila Beglau to adopt the new schedule, with Trinity/Our Savior's McHenry/Grace working together on scheduling for their triad. Motion carried.

Motion by Connie Eslinger, seconded by Myrna Hanson that new worship schedule begin in October for Our Savior's Klotten/Lutheran Church of McVillage/First Presbyterian of Cooperstown/Faith of Hannaford, and that the triad of Trinity/Our Savior's/Grace be allowed an extra month to meet and plan a cooperative worship schedule using the 8:30/10:30 worship times. Motion carried.

Staff Model: Discussion of current responsibilities of the SAMs. They lead worship, do visitation, attend lay ministry gatherings, and lead various committees in the parish. Question of whether our SAM program could be grown.

Discussion of what an associate or administrative staff member might include on a job description. Pastor Sherri and Theresa will create a possible list of responsibilities and will submit it to the Executive Committee via e-mail before October 3. Sherri's list will include "what I wish I could do if I had time."

At this time Pastor Jess excused herself from the meeting.

VITAL SIGNS: Motion by Linda Loe, seconded by Denny Goetz, that Tri-County Ministry invest in the Vital Signs process this fall. Motion failed.

Motion by Linda Loe, seconded by Denny Goetz, that individual congregations wishing to participate in Vital Signs would do so with the support of the Tri-County Ministry Council, knowing that an annual 1% increase in synod mission support is expected; request may be made to the Tri-County Ministry Foundation for the monetary investment in the program. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 8, 6:00 at Trinity. Main agenda item: 2020 TCM budget

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Sheila Beglau, Secretary & Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

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

Fall Supper & Bazaar

**Saturday, October 26
Lutheran Church of
McVile**

**Supper at 5:00
(brats & beans)**

Auction at 7:00

**Come to McVile and join
the fun!**