



Tri-County Ministry News

December 2022 — January 2023

From Deacon Tara

“Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

—Matthew 24: 42-44

I don't know about you, but I've always thought I was a pretty patient person. But then I find myself in a traffic jam or a long grocery store line and my patience seems to fly out the window. As a whole, the world is impatient.

The season of Advent is set aside for us to wait and watch for the birth of this precious holy child, God's one and only son sent into the world for us. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* (John 3:16-17)

I love Advent because it reminds me to slow down and be patient. The last couple of years I've bought some special Advent calendars for myself. This year, they are a tea Advent calendar and a chocolate Advent calendar. Once Advent begins, I'll open that day's tea and chocolate and will enjoy it while I spend time with my Advent devotional. It's a simple way for me to slow down and savor this season of light, hope and joy.

This Advent, what is one way you can stop, wait and watch for the birth of a Jesus? Take the time to slow down and savor the gift that comes at Christmas. For the birth is so much more than just a story. It is the beginning of the Word made flesh.

“In the little town of Bethlehem, A miracle was born to set us free. We read about it every year. I want to live my life So that everyone can see That it's more than a story.” (lyrics and music: More than a Story; Go Fish)

Advent and Christmas blessings to each and every one of you!

Deacon Tara

Parish News

Our Christmas Schedule

Programs

December 4

- * Trinity
- * First Presbyterian

December 18

- * Faith

Christmas Services

Sunday, December 18

- * 9:00—Presbyterian at Assisted Living

Friday, December 23

- * 5:00 — Our Savior's in McHenry

Christmas Eve

- * 4:00 — Lutheran Church of McVille
- * 4:00 — Trinity in Binford
- * 5:30 — Grace in Grace City
- * 10:00 — Faith in Hannaford

No worship services in the Tri-County Ministry churches on December 25 or January 1.

Advent 2022

“Be Born in Us Today”

In our Advent series this year, we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

Bringing Blessing (Genesis 12:2): God promises Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. When Jesus was born, that promise came true with an abundance.

Bringing Renewal (Isaiah 40:31): The prophet Isaiah declared that a Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ's birth restores our strength that we might serve him.

Bringing Guidance (Psalm 31:3): The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, often doubting God's plan for them. With the arrival of Jesus on the scene, we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way.

Bringing Power (Exodus 15:6): John the Baptist pointed to the power of God present in Jesus Christ. As we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus, we point others to the power at work in our lives through our Emmanuel, God with us.



Congregational News

Faith of Hannaford

Faith Sunday School students will present their Christmas program during the 10:30 worship on December 18. Potluck dinner will follow.

Aeson Ernest Everson was baptized at Faith on Sunday afternoon, November 27. He is the son of Mallory and Joseph Everson. Aeson was born September 26, 2022, in Fargo. Baptismal sponsors were Alice & Keith Carr, Laurie & Rick Podell, Frances Everson, and Matt Moeller. We welcome Aeson to the family of God.

Ushers for December: 12/4 Jay Grovers; 12/11 Sunday School; 12/18 Andrea Walkers; Christmas Eve Kevin Muncys.

First Presbyterian

Special services are planned for each of the three Sundays before Christmas:

- December 4 — Christmas Program
- December 11 — Christmas Sing-a-long
- December 18 — Christmas Candle Light Service

9:00 Sunday mornings at Assisted Living in Cooperstown

Grace of Grace City

Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:30. Kauri Johnson will celebrate her First Communion. Welcome, Kauri, to the fellowship of the Lord's Supper.

Our Savior's of McHenry

A special congregational meeting will follow the **10:30** worship service on Sunday, December 11. Purpose of the meeting is for discussion of the future of Our Savior's. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held December 18.

Communion will be celebrated on December 11 rather than December 4.

Annual Meetings

Annual meetings will be held in our congregations following Sunday morning worship services.

Trinity in Binford

January 15, 2023

McVile Lutheran

January 22, 2023

First Presbyterian

January 29, 2023

Faith of Hannaford

January 29, 2023

Grace of Grace City

February 5, 2023

Our Savior's of Klotten to be determined.

Special congregational meetings were held November 6. All congregations approved the 2023 congregational ministry contributions to Tri-County Ministry, based on percentage of active confirmed members.

Lutheran Church of McVille

Kit Layne Smith and **Kahl Cooper Smith** were welcomed to the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism during the worship service on November 27. They are the children of Amy and Taryl Smith. They were born March 9, 2022, in Fargo. Kit's baptismal sponsor is Scott Rorvig. Jenna and Tate Smith are Kahl's sponsors.

The church will be decorated for the Advent and Christmas seasons following the worship service on December 4.

The Annual Meeting will follow the worship service on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Reports should be submitted to the church office as soon as possible after the first of the year so that the annual report may be assembled and mailed to members prior to the meeting.

Our Savior's of rural Kloten

Our Savior's is moving into their annual winter break. The last worship of the year will be December 18. The church will reopen on April 2 (Palm Sunday) unless plans change.

The date of the annual meeting is yet to be determined.

Trinity of Binford

The Sunday School program and tree trimming will be part of the worship on December 4. Note that the worship time will be **9:30**. Coffee hour and **Trinity WELCA's annual Christmas bake sale** will follow. Each WELCA member is asked to donate two dozen baked goods.

A note about poinsettias: the grocery store is unable to get poinsettias this year. If you do bring a poinsettia to the church and wish to have it listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please notify Theresa.

Quilters will take a break after the first week in December so that more quilt tops can be sewn. Quilt backings are needed. Donations of full-size flat colored sheets, flannel and cotton yardage are welcome.

The annual meeting will be held following the worship on January 15, 2023. One council position will need to be filled, as Cheryl Rickford is completing her second term. Reports should be submitted to the office by January 9.

Funeral services for Bunnie LaPlant were held at Trinity on November 14. She passed away November 6. Blessed be her memory.

Tri-County Ministry 2022 Advent Project

Bring your donations to your church on or before Christmas Eve for your local food bank.
(This is a list of SUGGESTIONS. Donate as you wish.)

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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with our member churches and
communities.