



Tri-County Ministry News

December 2023 — January 2024

Advent and Christmas in TCM

Our Sunday Advent Series: "Joy When You Need It Most"

Sometimes joy finds us; sometimes joy feels far away. The Apostle Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Always? What about when times are hard? Paul believes that faith gives us reason to touch joy, even when we aren't feeling it. Joy is something we can choose, and its presence can make all the difference.

December 3 — "I'M COMING TO YOUR HOUSE"

Will you have visitors for the holidays? Elizabeth did. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth was so joyful she could barely contain herself. When her unborn child kicked, it was interpreted as a response of joy. When someone wants to visit you, it is a joyful circumstance. Christmas means God wants to visit you. Such news might cause you to jump for joy.

December 10 — "TIDINGS OF JOY"

Sometimes joy finds us; sometimes joy feels far away. The Apostle Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Always? What about when times are hard? Paul believes that faith gives us reason to touch joy, even when we aren't feeling it. Joy is something we can choose, and its presence can make all the difference.

December 17 — "JOY TO THE WORLD"

The angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people." What's the nature of this word encompassing joy? It's complicated. For it is at the same time both a gift and a discipline, an experience of grace and an act of courage.

This series come from Village Presbyterian Church.



Christmas Programs

First Presbyterian

December 3
9:00 worship hour

Trinity

December 10
10:30 (note the time)

McVille Lutheran

Wednesday, December 13
6:00, with a potluck supper
following

Faith

December 17
10:30 worship hour

Christmas Eve

4:00 McVille
Grace, Grace City
Trinity, Binford
10:00 p.m. Faith, Hfd.

(No worship services at
First Presbyterian and Our
Savior's on December 24)

Parish News

Exploring Acts:

Synod-wide scripture read

All congregation members across the Eastern North Dakota Synod are invited to participate in a synod-wide Scripture read! Together, we will dwell in the words and stories of the book of Acts.

Each day, you are encouraged to read one chapter of Acts, and every Sunday afternoon we will gather via Zoom from 2:00-3:30 for conversation with Dr. Eric Barreto, Professor of New Testament at Princeton Seminary.

This event kicks off with an introductory Zoom session on January 7, and the reading schedule begins January 8.

Learn more at www.eandsynod.org/events/exploring-acts

Faith of Hannaford

The women of Faith will hold their annual Christmas party on Wednesday evening, December 6, at 6:30. Potluck supper; bring a gift to exchange and bring a friend!

First Presbyterian

The Presbyterians are once again doing Marvel's Mission of collecting gifts for Christmas for the State Hospital in Jamestown.

Trinity of Binford

The Christmas tree will be trimmed during the 8:30 worship on December 3. Everyone is welcome to participate! And the annual WELCA cookie walk/bake sale will take place on **December 17** — coffee hour and bake sale in the narthex following the 8:30 worship. All WELCA members are asked to donate baked goods.

Poinsettias may be brought to the church any time after the first of December. If you are giving one in memory or in honor of someone and would like it listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please let Theresa know.

Annual Meetings

Trinity— January 21
McVile— January 28
Faith — TBA

Grace — January 21
Presbyterian—January 28
Our Savior's — TBA

Parish-wide Pounds for the Pantry total: 570 pounds!

(donated to local food pantries)

The givers at First Presbyterian are the 2023 champions!

NO WORSHIP SERVICES IN TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Tri-County Ministry Council Special Meeting
November 7, 2023
7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford

PRESENT: Amy Olson, Olen Ophaug, Becky Muncy, Janice Johnson, Lori Ellingson, Marvin Goplen, Rev. Brad Skogen (Assistant with the Bishop END Synod), Theresa Fiebiger

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Brad

CALL TO ORDER: Olen Ophaug

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Finances

- Special congregational meetings were held Sunday, November 5, 2023. All congregations approved their Congregational Ministry Contributions for the 2024 TCM budget, knowing that the proposed budget did not include any called pastoral staff.
- Proposed budget was distributed, along with another budget possibility including two ordained pastoral staff.
- When would a budget change be approved? At the same time that a Letter of Call would be approved.
- Much discussion and education would be needed before an actual budget change is made.

Feasibility

- Look at the history of the churches' contributions to TCM compared to now and to a budget including pastoral staff.
- Possibly invest CDs into the budget. (TCM currently holds just under \$100,000 in CDs which have purchased to be used for operating expenses.)
- Motion by Marvin Goplen, seconded by Becky Muncy, that the Call Committee go ahead with an initial interview over Zoom. Motion carried.

Ministry Site Profile

- Minor corrections needed in names/addresses.
- Discussion of Mutual Expectations and how the expectations would / could be divided between a pastor and a deacon. Mutual Expectations were left as is and could be divided by a pastoral staff.

LORD'S PRAYER

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by
Janice Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

TCM Parish Administrator

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Lay Leaders Truley Trautman, SAM
Marla Larson, SAM
Gilbert Black
Marvin Goplen, SAM

TCM CONGREGATIONS

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