



Tri-County Ministry News

February 2022

From Deacon Tara

I've seen this graphic a few times scrolling through social media over the last few years. Now to be honest, as a single 43 year old, Valentines Day has not been one of my favorite holidays. It's a very obvious reminder that I'm still alone. Often times my single friends and I have referred to it as "Single Awareness Day." Yet this graphic has become such a beautiful reminder of God's love and what we truly should celebrate on this day.

God indeed loves us so much that God sent God's Son into the world for each and every one of us. Even when we are single, widowed or alone, God brings individuals into our lives to bless us and show us how immensely loved we are. And this love is grounded in God's love for God's children!

I'm reminded of the words that are often used at a wedding ceremony from 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8: *"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."*

Through the waters of Baptism, God continually calls and claims us as God's beloved children. As God's children, we see, feel and experience God's love today and always. God's love never ends!

So on Valentine's Day, celebrate and show yourself and those you love the kind of love God shares with you every single day. Happy Valentine's Day!

For God so lo**V**ed the world
that he g**A**ve
his on**L**y
begott**E**n
so**N**
tha**T** whoever
believes **I**n him
should **N**ot perish
but have **E**ternal life.

John 3:16

Deacon Tara

Parish News

215 days of orange banners

By the end of February, we will be a little over half way through our recognition of the indigenous children lost in traumatic and unjust ways.

The banners were placed in our churches on November 7, and will remain there for 215 days to commemorate the 215+ children whose remains were found in a mass grave.



Souper Sunday

Super Bowl Sunday is **February 13th**. Some of our churches make the day into *Souper Bowl* Sunday too.



Since 1990, over \$170 million has been collected nationwide via Souper Bowls to fight hunger. This money has not been sent off to some unknown organization. Rather, it has been given directly to local food pantries and organizations of the donor's choice.

Here in TCM, some of our congregations make this an annual event, collecting funds for food pantries in Griggs, Nelson, Foster and Eddy Counties.

This can be a "souper" easy fund raiser! A way to donate all your loose change. A way to vote for your favorite team with your pennies. Or just writing a check to your church, designating it for Souper Bowl. Participation by each church will be announced in Sunday bulletins.

A prayer for the children

Vibrant God

Your creation explodes with the colors of the rainbow

Your peoples reveal the beauty of diversity

We remember today when the joy and dignity of a precious child was destroyed.

We lament today for the childhoods lost through the residential school system.

We mourn for the spirits crushed and the futures compromised.

Celebrate the hope and joy of every child

Tell the stories of resistance that make us stronger

Build the bonds of solidarity to ensure "never again"

In the name of the one who was child among us. Amen.

Congregational News

Our Savior's of McHenry

The funeral service for Richard Harding was held at Our Savior's on December 15. Richard passed away December 10 at his home. Blessed be his memory.

The Our Savior's annual meeting was held following worship on January 16. Officers for the coming year are Jason Vollmer, President; Lyle Black, Vice President; Susie Brandt, Secretary; Missy Erickson, Treasurer. Miles Pound, Jerry Tufte, and Sue Bakko also serve on the council.

Trinity of Binford

Quilting will resume on Monday, February 7. Quilt backs are needed, either flannel or cotton. Eight and a quarter yards will make two backs. Or, two yards of the extra wide backing will make one back. Flat sheets also work for backs, plain colored, not white or prints.

Bring your loose change, cash, or check to church on February 13 to vote for your favorite team in the Super Bowl and donate to the Souper Bowl.

E-News vs paper

If your email address is in the TCM address book, you are most likely receiving a weekly e-newsletter, as well as the regular newsletter published every month or two.

Costs are going up, both for paper and postage. Many of our households have already moved to paperless TCM news. If you are receiving both paper and electronic, or just paper, please consider taking your name off the snail mail list unless you absolutely don't have access to email/internet.

Notify your church secretary or Theresa at trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Annual Meetings

February 6

Trinity of Binford following the 10:30 worship. Potluck dinner will be served.

February 20

Our Savior's of Klotten, worship at 1:30 with Annual Meeting following

Special Meetings

Special congregational meetings will follow the worship in all churches on Sunday, February 20, to approve issuing a Letter of Call from Tri-County Ministry.

(Alternate meeting date is February 27.)

The Letter of Call is for a half-time pastor position.

Please watch the weekly e-news and Sunday bulletin announcements for any further information on the vote.

Tri-County Ministry Council

January 5, 2022

1:30 p.m. on Zoom

PRESENT: Olen Ophaug, Linda Loe, Rob Loe, Dan Larson, Janice Johnson, Gilbert Black, Corey Erickson, Missy Erickson, Bob Delfs, Deacon Tara Ulrich, Theresa Fiebiger

CALL TO ORDER: Linda Loe

OPENING PRAYER: Deacon Tara

OLD BUSINESS

TCM Call Committee: Linda gave an update on the committee's progress to date and also on the call process checklist.

Dan presented a proposed compensation package for a half-time pastor.

Compensation form is to be completed and submitted to synod office for approval.

Motion by Janice Johnson, seconded by Bob Delfs, to approve recommended compensation package. Motion carried.

Special congregational meetings will be held Sunday, February 20, in the TCM congregations for the vote on approving a Letter of Call. (Alternate date is February 27)
Discussion on use of telephone or electronics to allow for voting if worship services are not held.

NEW BUSINESS – None

ITEM FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION – TCM Agreement and Continuing Resolutions, possibly adding more guidelines regarding the call process.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 at Trinity
(Alternate date is Thursday, February 17, 7:00 at Trinity)

CLOSING PRAYER: Deacon Tara

Respectfully submitted by
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

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