



Tri-County Ministry News

February 2024

From Gilbert Black, our TCM Council Chair

(This letter also appeared in your annual report booklets)

The following excerpt of when the best was contributed by Dean Morgan. There is a question to ask that can apply to you as an individual as well as to you as a church. The question: "Do you believe that your best years are behind you, or do you believe that your best years are yet to come?" Some people as well as some churches believe that their best years are behind them. Many people, as well as congregations, believe that their future will be less than that which has passed. If as an individual we believe that our best years are behind us, we won't be much good for the future; as a matter of fact, believing that could lead us not only to being nonproductive but could lead us to disastrous circumstances.

For us to be effective as people and as churches, we must live into the confidence of God's promise that some of our best years are yet to come. In Revelation 21:5 these words are found: "And He who sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" This does not mean that the future will become progressively better and better. Rather, it means that in the midst of pain, confusion, financial hardship, and suffering that lies before us in our future, God goes before us to make all things new -- inviting us to the future that He has both promised and prepared for us. God is not simply in the past. God is in the present and the future leading and drawing us toward the newness of life.

Now as we believe in this newness, let's look at ourselves and our churches' mission. We glorify almighty God and His Son, Jesus Christ through worshipping, uplifting believers, and making disciples.

Tri-County Ministry is working hard to prioritize church attendance and provide faithful service for the parish. We are fortunate to have the commitments of an excellent staff with Pastor Russ and our SAMS. Thank you, Pastor Russ, Marla, Truley, Marvin, and Theresa for your faithful service. There have been prayerful considerations to fill the empty pastoral positions. We had a couple interested in Tri-County but unfortunately their family commitments kept them from coming. Currently there are multiple pastoral openings in North Dakota and almost no candidates to fill them; however, we continue pray for God's help and guidance.

(continued on next page)

Parish News

(Gilbert's letter continued)

Another Tri-County mission is to share the Gospel through each Sunday service. We continue to offer opportunities to be connected to God and be hopeful. Thank you for your support and prayers for the churches throughout our Tri-County Ministry parish.

With new commitments we can gather to grow relationships within the body of Christ and receive God's grace through preaching the word, through worship services, and Holy Communion.

We are ready to trust and serve the Lord as He is ready to give us new vitality, new victory, new joy, and new fellowship. With all of us working together the best is yet to come!

Lent 2024

Ash Wednesday — February 14

Services of Holy Communion:

- 6:30 at Trinity in Binford (supper at 5:45)
- 7:00 at Grace of Grace City
- 7:00 at Faith of Hannaford
- 7:00 at Lutheran Church of McVile (soup supper at 6:00)

No midweek Lenten series for Wednesday evening worship is planned this year in Tri-County Ministry. However, each church may do something on their own.

Trinity in Binford: one mid-week service with a supper, probably early in March. (Sign-up sheet in the narthex to serve for Ash Wednesday and the one Lenten supper)

Lutheran Church of McVile: Wednesday services each week of Lent (February 21—March 20) with supper at 6:00 and worship at 7:00. (sign-up sheet in the narthex for the suppers)



Giving Hearts Day
Thursday, February 8

***Donations may be made to the
Eastern North Dakota Synod and to
Red Willow Ministries.***

Givingheartsday.org

Congregational News

Faith of Hannaford

Valentine plates will be delivered on February 11.

First Presbyterian

Brynlee Lynn Kramer, daughter of Brett and Megan Kramer, was baptized during the worship service on January 28. We welcome her to the family of God.

Trinity of Binford

The Annual Meeting was held January 21. Duane Feiring was elected to serve on the Trinity Council; Marvin Goplen completed his second term on the council. Lent was discussed and the Trinity Council will set a Lenten service and supper.

The annual **Souper Bowl** will be on Sunday, February 11. Vote for the Chargers or the 49ers in a noisy offering for the Griggs County Food Pantry.

Winifred Goplen passed away December 18 in Cooperstown. A memorial service will be held June 29 at Trinity. Blessed be her memory.

What to do during Lent . . .

On the back of our February calendar, you'll find a **40 day reading plan** for Lent.

Lent begins February 14; readings are given for each day except Sundays.

Between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, there are five Wednesdays. In place of midweek worship, you may want to plan something within your household. Some suggestions:

1. Make a list of things you're grateful for and share it as a family.
2. Read scriptures together as a family.
3. Have a prayer or meditation session as a family each night.
4. Participate in service projects together as a family.
5. Make a "Lenten Jar" to collect spare change for charity.

Happy moments, Praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God.

Quiet moments, worship God.

Painful moments, trust God.

Every moment, thank God.

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

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TCM CONGREGATIONS

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