



# Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY  
MINISTRY

July — August 2020

## *From Pastor Sherri*

*“Then Jesus said, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’” – John 8:31b-32*

Last Sunday, I talked about my own lack of knowledge of history. I know it was not my best subject in high school; however, as an adult I am intentional about learning the history of an area whenever I move to a new place. And still, I have been caught in embarrassing situations by my lack of knowledge. I told two different stories in my sermon. I told the story of asking a friend to go to a local fair when I lived in the state of Washington. My knowledge of detaining Japanese Americans during WWII was obviously lacking. I am sure that we must have talked about Internment Camps in some history class, but seeing the look on my friend’s face changed everything for me. My dear friend trusted me enough to tell me his family history and of their internment at the local fairgrounds. He chooses not to attend that fair in honor of his ancestors.

Throughout my time at Tri-County Ministry, I have learned more about a local Spirit Lake Indian Reservation and its history from a dear colleague than in my first 28 years of living in North Dakota. Relationships change everything. Relationships open us up to hearing things that we would rather not address. Our relationship with God and our relationships with our neighbors shape our lives for the better.

“History, despite its wrenching pain cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage need not be lived again.” I like this quote from Maya Angelou because she helps us identify that much of our history is painful and it does take great courage to learn more about it and to make the connections to what is happening in our country today.

How do we have the courage to face our past? What relevance does the past have for the present time or moving into our future? How does this history shape the current events in our country? We live in our bodies and we carry the blood of our ancestors in our bodies. How is racism blinding us to wholeness as a people and children of God? It *will be uncomfortable* to be open to learning from our black brothers and sisters-in-Christ, but so necessary right now. Can we be curious enough to be open to someone else’s lived experience? We changed laws in the past, but how can we now transform hearts — starting with our own? Dear beloved sisters, brothers, and siblings-in-Christ: I pray that we continue to grow in grace for others as Christ transforms us.

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Romans 12:2

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# Parish News

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## **Give Offering — earn points, earn miles . . .**

Three of our congregations are now set up for online offerings.

### **Faith of Hannaford, Lutheran Church of McVille, and Trinity of Binford**

have all entered into an agreement with Vanco to facilitate online giving.

For a one-time donation, or recurring offerings, go to the Tri-County Ministry website.

Click on “About.” Then find Links on the left sidebar, click on it and find the donation page you want. Go ahead and set up your offering.

Use your reward credit card to earn points/dollars/miles. Or use your debit card. Or have your offering withdrawn directly from your checking account. Your offering can be set up in whatever manner works for you!

## **Annual parish worship service**

Sunday, August 2

10:30 a.m.

Red Willow Bible Camp

Installation of Deacon Tara Ulrich

Sermon will be given by Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, END Synod

Service will be outdoors. Please bring your own chairs.

Masks optional.

No noon potluck.

(Of course, if conditions change drastically before August 1, this service will be rescheduled.)

## **A day of remembrance**

COVID has changed the way that we handle funerals and memorials. Instead of family services in the funeral homes and funerals and memorials in our sanctuaries, we hold private services at the graveside. But what about mourning as a faith community? Over the past few weeks, we have buried many friends and neighbors and commended them to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

On Sunday, **July 26**, we will designate as a “Remembrance” across our parish. It will not be as elaborate, nor will it replace our All Saints Sunday in November, but we will acknowledge our community grief and remind ourselves of those families who grieve among us.

## **About the calendars**

The July and August calendars we created on an “as if” basis. As if all the churches listed would be open for in-person worship. (McHenry made their decision to remain closed before the calendars were printed. First Presbyterian will have a discussion after July 5.)

Any changes will be published in the Thursday TCM E-News.

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# Congregational News

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## ***Lutheran Church of McVille***

### **School Supply Drive**

Once again, the Stewardship/Mission Committee will be sponsoring a program to provide backpacks and school supplies to local families who may find it a hardship to purchase supplies for their children. Reusable bags are available in the church narthex, and may be brought back to the shopping cart in the church. If you would like to donate to this project, the following is a list of needed items which will be collected at the church beginning July 1 through August 15.

Thank you for your support and contributions!

Pencils	Pens
Highlighters	Crayons
Markers	Colored pencils
Glue sticks	Glue bottles
Scissors	Rulers
Pocket folders	Three-ring binders
Notebooks (wide ruled and college ruled)	
Erasers (Both bar erasers and pencil top)	



### ***Mailing info for congregational offerings:***

#### **Faith of Hannaford**

Mary Jo Grover  
707 Foster Ave. NW  
Cooperstown, ND 58425

#### **First Presbyterian**

Rita Jungels  
509 10th Ave. SW  
Valley City, ND 58072

#### **Grace**

John Gisi  
1951 82nd Ave. NE  
New Rockford, ND 58356

#### **Our Savior's of Kloten**

Mary Lou Krogh  
Box 324  
McVille ND 58254

#### **Lutheran Church of McVille**

Box 306  
McVille, ND 58254

#### **Our Savior's of McHenry**

Missy Erickson  
9057 16th St. NE  
McHenry, ND 58464

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

Box 226  
Binford, ND 58416

### **Rummage Sale**

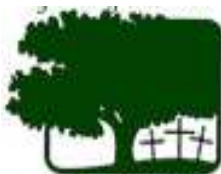
Saturday, July 18  
9:00—2:00 on the McVille Lutheran Church lawn  
Proceeds to the Caring Closet

### ***Our Savior's of McHenry***

The Council of Our Savior's has elected to keep the church building closed until further advancement of the North Dakota Smart Re-Start Guidelines. Members are encouraged to worship online, or if they so desire, to travel to a church having in-person worship.

Any changes during the months of July and August will be reported in the weekly TCM E-News.

**Red  
Willow  
Bible  
Camp  
Quilts & More  
Auction**



**Sunday, August 30**

10:00 — Viewing opens,  
silent auction begins

11:00 — Picnic lunch

1:00—Live Auction begins

Raffle tickets are available.  
Please contact either the  
RWBC office or the Tri-  
County Ministry office.

All donations may be  
viewed on the Red Willow  
Bible Camp website or on  
Facebook.

Absentee bid forms are  
available on the website.

Please plan to attend!

As much as possible, the  
lunch and the live auction  
will be outdoors.

(COVID precautions will be  
in place. Masks optional.  
Physical distancing.)

If cancellation becomes  
necessary, post will be  
made on Facebook, the  
website, and through e-mail  
and word of mouth as much  
as possible.

***Our Savior's of Kloten***

In-person worship will resume on Sunday, July 12, at the regular worship time of 8:30. Coffee fellowship will follow.

***Trinity of Binford***

Our annual tradition of Wednesday evening worship in July continues. This year we'll alternate between the church and Binford Park, starting at the church on Wednesday, July 8. Worship is at 7:00. No potlucks or snacks.

***The Word on the Street (by Deacon Tara)***

Are you familiar with Barnes and Nobles staff picks? Pastor Sherri and I are starting a new column titled the Word on the Street. It's a way for us to share favorite books, podcasts etc that we are enjoying and/or learning from currently.

Deacon Tara's picks:

Our world has been once again awakened to the reality of racism in our world. It is not an easy topic for me to talk about or for you to hear. But we must continue to learn and listen. My picks this week have helped me to learn and educated me as well.

**White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism** by Robin Diangelo. Pastor Sherri and I read this book and have engaged with others about this book in a weekly book study. As I continue to learn more and understand about systemic racism, this book has given me good food for thought.

**Unlocking Us: Brene Brown with Austin Channing Brown** (Brown is the author of the book *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World made for Whiteness*) This is a little over an hour long podcast where Brene and Austin discuss racism in our world today. As a black woman, Austin has a lot for us to learn from each other.

Pastor Sherri's picks:

**My Grandmother's Hands** by Resmaa Menakem

**The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration** by Isabel Wilkerson

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# *From Deacon Tara*

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“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.— John 1:1-5

Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved books and loved to write. My mom tells me that all I needed was pen and paper to keep me busy. And most of the time during the summer months, you can find me outside with my nose in a book. So it is probably no surprise to anyone that I find such comfort in these words from the Gospel of John. Jesus, the Word, is where I often my inspiration for my writing. My poems are often prayers to God. My writing is how I finally was able to tell our families story of mental illness. I wrote a book titled “Living as a Daughter: 31 Days of Mental Illness.” My words are grounded in the Word made flesh.

In addition, my Bible (or should I say Bibles; I have more than one) is one of my most treasured possessions. I even have my Grandma Bess’s Bible which was gifted to me after Grandma passed away over ten years ago. The Bible is a love letter from God to all of us. The Bible tells the stories of who God is and who we are as God’s beloved people. The Bible is always teaching me and reminding me how we, as disciples of Christ, are called to “love our neighbors as we love ourselves.”

But, not only, do I learn from the Bible, I learn by listening to the voices of those that are different than me. I learn by reading books that I might not normally pick up. However, my words and actions are grounded in the stories I read in the Bible and how Jesus himself wasn’t afraid to sit with those who are on the margins. The Bible is full of such incredible stories of adventure, forgiveness, hope, and love.

My hope and prayer is that this summer, you will find some time to read your Bible and learn more stories. It is my hope and prayer that you might read a new book that might help you learn and grow in this broken world. And as you read, may you trust in the one who first came as the Word and brings light into the darkness.

Happy Reading!

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

**Rev. Sherri Frederikson**  
*(cell) 336.688.2879*  
*PastorSherriFred8@gmail.com*  
*Box 44*  
*Binford ND 58416*

**Deacon Tara Ulrich..... 701-580-0949**  
*deacontaralee@gmail.com*  
*Box 448*  
*McVile, ND 58254*

**TCM Parish Administrator**  
**Theresa Fiebiger .....** *676.2761*  
*trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

**Faith of Hannaford .....** *769-2387*  
*faithl@ictc.com*

**First Presbyterian of Cooperstown**  
*jejohnson99@yahoo.com*

**Grace of Grace City**  
*kmac@daktel.com*

**Our Savior's of Klotten &  
McVile Lutheran Church.... 322-4952**  
*lutheranchurchmcville@gmail.com*

**Our Savior's of McHenry.... 785-2117**  
*trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

**Trinity of Binford..... 676-2761**  
*trinitybinford@mlgc.com*

**Tri-County Ministry**  
**Box 226**  
**Binford, ND 58416**  
**Phone 676-2761**  
**email: trinitybinford@mlgc.com**

**website: [www.tricountyministry.org](http://www.tricountyministry.org)**

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