



# Tri-County Ministry News

July — August 2023

## From Deacon Tara

*“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard!” -AA Milne*

These words from AA Milne capture so much of what I’m feeling as my call to Tri-County Ministry has come to an end. On June 5th, the councils from each of the six congregations and the Tri-County Council met for my exit interview with Bishop Tessa. It is a night I won’t soon forget.

As part of the exit interview, Bishop Tessa asked all gathered to share affirmations with me and asked me to do the same for TCM. I was reminded of how much I’ve grown. I never imagined the ways I would have to step up after Pastor Sherri left. I performed funerals, baptisms and even confirmation services. We shared times of both joy and sorrow. I’m forever grateful for the ways each community has surrounded me in prayer and love these last three years.

Bishop Tessa walked me throughout the sanctuary: walking from the front of the sanctuary, to the pulpit, to the table, and ending at the baptismal font. At each place, she asked, “What happened here?” I again was reminded how the Holy Spirit showed up each week. But most of all, at the font, she reminded us all how we are called and claimed by God. “You are a baptized child of God; whatever else you are, remember that you are that; for that is the basis of whatever else you are.”



This promise is so important as we move forward. I’m again reminded of the venture prayer because we don’t always know where God is leading, but God’s hand is always leading and guiding us. God promises never to leave us or forsake us. My prayers go with you in this time of discernment.

Thank You again for your partnership in the gospel these last three years. I’ll forever be reminded of our time together when I hear these lyrics from the song “For Good” from the beloved musical Wicked: *“I’ve heard it said; That people come into our lives; For a reason; Bringing something we must learn; And we are led; To those who help us most to grow; If we let them; And we help them in return; Well, I don't know if I believe that's true; But I know I'm who I am today; Because I knew you!”*

God bless you all today and always!

Deacon Tara

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# Parish News

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## ***Annual Quilts and More Auction***

**Saturday, August 26  
Red Willow Bible Camp**

10:00 Viewing opens in the gym; silent auction opens in the chapel

11:00 Noon Lunch in retreat center  
Live music in the retreat center and in the chapel

12:30 Live auction in the chapel

How can you support the Bible Camp? Donate an item for the live or silent auctions. Quilts, crafts, theme baskets, canned goods . . .

Come to the auction and bid! Bring someone who's never been to the auction!

If you need more information, please check the camp's website

***redwillowministries.com***

or contact Theresa Fiebiger.

## ***Tri-County Ministry Annual Parish-wide Worship Service***

**Sunday, August 6  
Red Willow Bible Camp Chapel**

9:30—Coffee hour in the chapel

10:00 — Service of Holy Communion  
Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth will preach.

Come and worship with your brothers and sisters and Christ.

All are welcome!

## ***News about visitation***

Marla Larson, Synodically Authorized Minister, is planning to do visitation within our TCM Parish. She plans to call on our nursing home residents, shut-ins, those hospitalized or recovering, and anyone who would like a visit.

We will continue our visitation practice established a while back: visits should be requested a person him/herself or by someone in their family or designated by the family.

You may contact Marla directly (701.769.2474) or call Theresa at the TCM office in Binford.

## ***New address***

Tara Ulrich  
1615 16th Street SW  
Apt 2B  
Jamestown ND 58401

**Tri-County Ministry Council**  
**June 19, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford**

**PRESENT:** Rob Loe, Olen Ophaug, Allen Hetland, Janice Johnson, Gilbert Black, Cheryl Rickford, Angie Olson, Theresa Fiebiger

**CALL TO ORDER:** Gilbert Black

**OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Gilbert Black

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** New Business - Technology

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting were approved and filed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approved and filed

|                              |                        |             |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Balance on Hand May 31, 2023 | General Fund Checking  | \$56,514.57 |
|                              | Parsonage Fund Savings | \$13,164.32 |
|                              | Special Funds Savings  | \$8,242.20  |

A \$10,000 CD has been purchased from Bravera, bringing total CDs to \$50,000.

Question of decreasing congregation ministry contributions to TCM. Possible budget revisions will be talked about at a later date.

Each congregation is to update active confirmed membership lists by July 1, before budget planning begins.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Call Committee:** Although inactive, the TCM Call Committee remains in place.

**TCM Parish Worship:** August 6 at Red Willow Bible Camp. 9:30 coffee hour and 10:00 worship. Doughnuts will be purchased from the Farmhouse Café in Binford for the coffee hour. Bishop Tessa Moon-Leiseth will preach. Volunteers may be needed to clean the chapel at the camp before August 6.

**Worship Scheduling:** Motion by Rob Loe, seconded by Allen Hetland, that worship services will not be offered by Tri-County Ministry on holiday weekends – Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, New Year's. Thanksgiving weekend is optional, with decision to be made by individual congregations. Motion carried. Scheduling for worship on weeks where there is not enough pulpit supply will remain as is – congregation may cancel worship or hold a lay-led service. Plans are for Pastor Russ Pollock to preach twice monthly, primarily at Our Savior's and McVile.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Confirmation Classes:** Consensus of the council that Truley Trautman be asked to lead confirmation classes.

### **SAMs/Lay preachers:**

- Motion by Janice Johnson, seconded by Rob Loe, that mileage and expenses associated with meetings, conferences and retreats be paid by TCM. Motion carried.
- Marla Larson has volunteered to do visitation. Discussion of the Heart2Heart program.
- SAMs will officiate at funerals/memorial services. Funeral homes have been notified.
- Consensus of the TCM Council that written contracts be drawn up for the SAMs (Marla Larson and Truly Trautman). Theresa will contact the synod office to get sample contracts.

**Technology:** Discussion of streaming of sermons (live or on YouTube), and available grants from the END Synod. Council is willing to experiment with using technology to share worship services among the TCM congregations. Suggestion of getting advice from other parishes using technology. Worship Committee could be involved in the planning.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Theresa stressed the need for communication with her and among the congregations.

## **CONGREGATION REPORTS**

**Trinity** – Hosted Binford’s Memorial Day program. Said farewell to Deacon Tara on June 11. Quilters will be selling their quilts at the Binford Days vendor show. Memorial service for Doris Bakke in July. Trinity was recognized at the END Synod Assembly for their donations to World Hunger.

**Faith of Hannaford** – 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on June 25. Dinner will be served following the parade during Hannaford Days in July. A new speaker system is needed. Funerals/memorial services have been held.

**First Presbyterian** – Worship continues at Assisted Living, but nursing home residents have now moved to the new facility and will not be able to attend worship. The congregation will be voting to sell their building, contents, and property. First Presbyterian is observing their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Rusty Bender will be preaching on July 9.

**Our Savior’s** – Memorial service was held for Larry Flohaug. New outdoor carpeting is being installed on the front steps of the church.

**Lutheran Church of McVille** – Celebration of life was held for Kathy Ward. Caring Closet is offering food; clothing is no longer available. Graveside service for Loren Stutrud.

**Grace** – Held clean-up day on Synod Assembly Sunday.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, July 17, 2023

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

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

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# ***Congregational News***

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## ***Faith of Hannaford***

Helen Johnson passed away April 29 in Cooperstown. Her memorial service was held at Faith on May 12. The funeral service for Elgar Paulson was held at Faith on June 7. Elgar passed away June 1 in Valley City. The memorial service for Myrna Thompson was held June 17. Myrna passed away March 12 in Bozeman, MT. Blessed be the memories of Helen, Elgar, and Myrna.

Faith will serve a noon meal following the parade during Hannaford Days, **Saturday, July 22**. Serving from 11:00-1:00. Proceeds will go into Faith's window and siding fund.

## ***Lutheran Church of McVile***

Vonn Wolf Berg was received into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on May 28. He is the son of Tory and Ivan Berg. Vonn was born February 15, 2022 in Grand Forks. Baptismal sponsors were Tyler and Karleigh Leuhring.

Kathy Ward passed away May 6 in McVile; the celebration of her life was held May 19. Loren Stutrud died June 10 in Grand Forks and was interred June 24 at the McVile Cemetery. Blessed be the memories of Kathy and Loren.

The annual Worship in the Park will be held Sunday, July 23 at 9:30 a.m. David Lofthus will be the preacher.

## ***Trinity of Binford***

Visitation and prayer service were held for Lois Dahl at Trinity on May 25. Lois passed away May 13. Doris Bakke's memorial service will be held Saturday, July 22, 10:00 at Trinity. Doris passed away March 29 in Cooperstown. Blessed be the memories of Lois and Doris.

## ***First Presbyterian***

Denny Thomas passed away May 7 in Aneta. The memorial service was held at Quam-Plaisted Funeral Home on May 25. Blessed be her memory.

First Presbyterian is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. Rusty Bender, former member, will be preaching on July 9.

The congregation is in the midst of making the decision on selling their church building and all property.

## ***Our Savior's of rural McVile***

The memorial service for Larry Flohaug was held Sunday, June 18. He passed away June 1 in Veracruz, Panama. Blessed be the memory of Larry.

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

**TCM Parish Administrator**

**Theresa Fiebiger ..... 676.2761**  
**trinitybinford@mlgc.com**

**Lay Leaders**

**Truley Trautman**  
**Marla Larson**  
**Gilbert Black**

**TCM CONGREGATIONS**

**Faith of Hannaford faithl@ictc.com**

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

**Grace of Grace City**

**Our Savior's of Kloten &**  
**McVile Lutheran Church.... 322-4952**  
**lutheranchurchmcville@gmail.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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**We exist to serve Christ in harmony**  
**with our member churches and**  
**communities.**