



Tri-County Ministry News

TRI-COUNTY
MINISTRY

March 2020

From Pastor Sherri

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly!" -John 10:10b

Ash Wednesday, February 26, began the Lenten season. Lent is the 40-day period before Easter designated for reflection and building stronger relationships with God, both as individuals and communities. Ash Wednesday and Lent feature a call to repentance — a renewed turning toward God so our relationships may be genuine.

Many will be renewing their relationships with God by reading devotionals, attending special services and perhaps trying to practice more discipline in our spiritual practices. We do preparations to rid ourselves of all things....to empty ourselves in order to be filled by God in Christ. When we do this, the focus is not on our work, but the work of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus tells his disciples and us to "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them." The word translated here as PIETY is actually "righteousness" and is the focus through Lent.

Righteousness is not an obedience to rules...but to an inward faithfulness and obedience to the *Spirit of the Love of God, Love of Neighbor, and Care of the Self*. Matthew's vision of LIVING WELL applies to both our private lives and to the life of the church.

Lent with this LIVING WELL series is a time when we strip away all the frills to get at the basics of what it means to be Christian. What difference does Faith make in our everyday lives?

As Presbyterians and Lutherans, the way we work on our spirituality is not through some practices we created. The practices we participate in are created by God, and IN THEM...GOD COMES TO US!

God promises to come to us in our BAPTISM.

God promises to come to us in COMMUNION.

God promises to come to us in WORSHIP.

God promises to come to us in the RIGHTLY PREACHED WORD.

LIVING WELL gives us an opportunity to connect Sundays with our everyday lives. The Sunday themes are: Financial Wellness; Intellectual Wellness; Socio-Emotional Wellness; Vocational Wellness; Physical Wellness; and what holds all of this together and undergirds our lives is our Spiritual Wellness.

One Lenten practice at TCM is to meet on Wednesdays for worship and a meal. We will again be worshipping in three regions this year with 6:00 pm worship followed by a meal in which we will connect with each other in an intentional way. ***(continued on next page)***

Parish News

(From Pastor Sherri continued)

Everyone is welcome at any of our services. So, I invite you on this Lenten journey of Living Well and Practicing our Spirituality with intention.

“Living well is a personal journey that presents each of us with unique opportunities to steward our gifts in all dimensions of our lives.

It is up to us to tend these dimensions of our well-being so we may live as resilient people for the sake of the world.” “Living a centered life focused on God affects each aspect

of our well-being. Turn to God for strength as you seek to live well in Christ. Nurture your relationship with God through prayer, devotions, worship, nature, art, and music.

Explore who you are and know whose you are.” –*Portico Web Site and “A Simple Way to Pray: A Letter to his Barber” -M Luther*

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

March 4 — April 1

6:00 Holden Evening Prayer with supper at 6:45.

March 11

- Grace City
- Faith in Hannaford
- McVile Lutheran

March 25

- Trinity of Binford
- Assisted Living
- McVile Lutheran

March 18

- Grace City
- Assisted Living
- McVile Lutheran

April 1

- Trinity of Binford
- Assisted Living
- McVile Lutheran

Results of SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Special meetings were held in each of the seven TCM congregations in February. Each congregation approved the Letter of Call to Deacon Tara Ulrich. This is a term call of one year.

Deacon Tara accepted the call and has moved into the parsonage in McVile. (See her contact info on back page.)

Welcome to Tri-County Ministry, Deacon Tara!

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY COUNCIL RETREAT

Saturday, March 28

9:00 — 3:00 at Trinity in Binford

(rescheduled from February 29; please add to your calendar)

**Check out Tri-County Ministry’s Facebook page
for daily ideas on keeping a holy Lent.**

Congregational Events

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MCVILLE

2020 Council Members & Committees

- President – Corrina Olson
- Vice President – Rob Loe
- Secretary – Mary Gleason
- Treasurer – Teresa Rorvig
- Financial Secretary – Norma Trost
- TCM Council Reps – Corrina Olson & Linda Loe
- Stewardship/Mission – Teresa Rorvig & Mary Gleason
- Worship & Music – Norma Trost
- Building & Grounds – Frayne Berg, Rob Loe, AJ Stutrud
- Education – Corrina Olson
- Synod Assembly Delegates – Norris & Corrina Olson
- RWBC Ambassador – Amy Olson
- Prairie Rose Conference Delegate – Amy Olson

OUR SAVIOR’S OF MCHENRY

- Many thanks are sent out to DeAnna Frederick and Dick Harding for their service on the Our Savior’s Council.

TRINITY

- ***Souper Bowl*** — The annual Souper Bowl noisy offering was collected on Sunday, February 2. The Chiefs beat the 49ers by a score of \$70.85 to \$55.94. Offering designated for the Griggs County Bread of Life Food Pantry.
- ***Baptism*** — Beau Lannes Kuster was welcomed to the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism during the worship service on February 16. Beau is the son of Kelsey and Justin Kuster. His baptismal sponsors were Joel & Nichole Ulrich, Alan & Nikki Boote, Leah Edlund, and Jace Boote.
- ***Memorial Service*** — The service for Rita Halvorson was held at Trinity on Friday, February 21. Rita passed away on February 13.

Prairie Rose Conference Assembly

***Sunday, March 21
3:00***

***American Lutheran
Church in Tolna***

***Each of our six ELCA
congregations should
send one or two
delegates to this
meeting.***

***Election of officers,
Discussion of conference***

***Regarding Lenten
Services hosted by First
Presbyterian:
The Wednesday evening
services on March 18,
March 25, and April 1
will be at Assisted Living
in Cooperstown. (This is
not shown on the printed
calendar.)***

Vital congregations do these three things:



- a. Leadership articulates how God shows up in and through the congregation and its people*
- b. The congregation has a clear understanding of God's larger mission and members know their purpose in this time and place*
- c. The congregation can articulate that purpose and create a plan for implementation*



- a. Relationships among leadership, pastor(s) and staff, and members create a loving community with good communication*
- b. People work together respectfully through successes and challenges*
- c. There is a sense of ownership and belonging that drives the commitment and engagement in the mission of the church*



- a. The congregation opens its doors to welcome the stranger and goes beyond its doors to share the love of Jesus Christ*
- b. Creates and nurtures partnerships within the community to make a positive impact on the strength of the community*

As the ELCA [and our seven Tri-County Ministry congregations] looks ahead to the future, we aspire to have congregations whose faith shines in their relationships with God, each other and their community. Vital congregations experience heightened worship, prayer, study of scripture, and sharing of testimony as they discern the presence and will of God in their midst.

Tri-County Ministry Council
February 5, 2020 at 6:30pm
Trinity Lutheran Church, Binford
Special Meeting

PRESENT: Denny Goetz, Missy Erickson, Lyle Black, Jo Black, Becky Muncy, Connie Eslinger, Paul Motter, Vickie Goplen, Linda Loe, Corrina Olson, Dale Nelson, Theresa Fiebiger

GUESTS: Jason Vollmer, Marvin Goplen, Gilbert Black, Shar Gumke

ABSENT: Jess Carlson, Lori Ellingson, Richard Hanson, Bob Delfs

CALL TO ORDER: Vickie Goplen

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Shar Gumke (Assistant with the Bishop, END Synod)

BUSINESS:

- Special meetings held February 2, 2020, in each of the seven Tri-County Ministry congregations were discussed, regarding constitutionality. Shar Gumke presented rules regarding notification, as outlined in the ELCA Constitution. Quorum requirements were also discussed.
- Special meetings held by First Presbyterian and Our Savior's of Klotten met the notification requirements, and those meetings will stand.
- Special meetings held by Trinity of Binford, Our Savior's of McHenry, Grace of Grace City, Faith of Hannaford, and Lutheran Church of McVile did not meet the notification requirements due to cancellation of worship on one of the Sundays the meeting was being announced. Additionally, Our Savior's of McHenry did not have a quorum.
- Motion by Connie Eslinger, seconded by Denny Goetz, that special meetings be rescheduled in the five congregations for February 23, 2020. Notice will be given on Sundays, February 9 & 16. If worship is cancelled on one of those Sundays, the special meetings will be moved to March 1, 2020. If worship is cancelled for both February 9 & 16, the announcement process would begin again and the special meetings would be moved to March 8, 2020. Motion carried.
- Concerns were brought forward regarding finances, dwindling membership numbers, fund raising, and staffing needs.
- Vickie Goplen and Connie Eslinger volunteered to compose a letter addressing those concerns, to be read at the special congregational meetings.

NEXT MEETING – February 29 at Trinity for retreat and reorganization

Meeting adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

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TCM CONGREGATIONS

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

PRIMETIME

**MOVIE OVERCOMER STAR
ARYN WRIGHT-THOMPSON
COMES TO COOPERSTOWN**

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

10:00 a.m.

GRIGGS COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

7:00 p.m.

**CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
GYMNASIUM**

**Primetime is sponsored by the
Griggs County Ministerial Association.**

**Open to the Public
Free Admission**