



# Tri-County Ministry News

May — June 2023

## ***From Deacon Tara***

*“For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”*

~Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Sometimes Scripture surprises me in ways I don't expect. I came across this text and found myself shaking my head. It didn't seem to be true in the moment. Just the other day, I found myself driving home in the midst of another snowstorm. I thought spring was here and then it was snowing again.

But then this Sunday, as I drove between churches, clear signs of spring were revealed before my very eyes. I saw a raccoon run across a little pond of water. I saw grass peaking out from the melting snow piles. I saw flowers starting to peak through the ground. And on many farms, baby calves are being born. Signs of new life are all around us. We just have to look around to see them.

I know many of us — me included — are tired from this long weary winter. We need the reminders that spring and new life are here. I think that's why my eyes were opened to these snippets along my drive recently. And my prayer is that you too find some joy and see the beauty of this new season.

The truth is that Easter reminds us that life, not death, has the final word. Clarence W. Hall reminds us, “Easter says you can put death in the grave, but it won't stay there.”

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God!

Deacon Tara

# Parish News

## Prairie Rose WELCA Cluster Gathering

Saturday, May 6

American Lutheran  
Church in Tolna

8:30 am — 12:30 pm

(Noon meal — \$7)

*“Hopefulness”*

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

~Romans 5:5

In kind donations for the Hope Center in Devils Lake (toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, hair care products, deodorant, body wash, lotion, or cash donations)

Hosted by the WELCAs of the Morning Star Parish.

RSVP

[Morningstar@gondtc.com](mailto:Morningstar@gondtc.com)

or call 701.262.4714

## Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly

June 3-4  
Holiday Inn in Fargo

*“Equip”*

To build up the saints for the work of the ministry,, for building up the body of Christ. ~Ephesians 4:12

Registration deadline is May 18 (online)

Each of our Lutheran congregations is urged to have a delegate or two. Visitors are also welcome.

## Our 2023 Lent Project: Project Ignite Light

Hey, people of Tri-County Ministry, we did it! In fact, we double did it!

Total raised for our Lenten project was **\$3,402!** That is almost double our goal of \$1,750.

Plus, a whole lot of fleece blankets were made! Donations and blankets all go to the Project Ignite Light headquarters in the old North Central School near Rogers. Think of the children our gifts will touch.

Let your light shine!



**Tri-County Ministry Council**  
**March 27, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford**

**PRESENT:** Rob Loe, Olen Ophaug, Allen Hetland, Janice Johnson, Gilbert Black, Cheryl Rickford, Deacon Tara Ulrich, Theresa Fiebiger

**CALL TO ORDER:** Gilbert Black

**OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Deacon Tara

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** None

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of the October 17, 2022 meeting were approved and filed.

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

Balance on Hand February 28, 2023	General Fund Checking	\$49,829.48
	Parsonage Fund Savings	\$12,411.19
	Special Funds Savings	\$8,240.15

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion by Allen Hetland, seconded by Rob Loe, to combine the Tri-County Ministry Council offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Motion carried.

*President* – Gilbert Black (MSC nominations cease and unanimous ballot cast Cheryl Rickford, Rob Loe)

*Vice President* – Olen Ophaug ((MSC nominations cease and unanimous ballot cast Cheryl Rickford, Rob Loe)

*Secretary/Treasurer* – Janice Johnson (MSC nominations cease and unanimous ballot cast Rob Loe, Allen Hetland)

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Our Savior's in McHenry:** Gilbert gave a brief update on Our Savior's; the congregation withdrew from Tri-County Ministry on December 31, 2022, and is working toward a vote to withdraw from the ELCA.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Update on SAMs/Lay Preachers:** Marvin Goplen is retiring from regular preaching in April. The staff and lay preachers have contacted potential lay preachers within the parish; one member has expressed an interest and will be contacted by Deacon Tara.

**Summer Scheduling:** Consensus that during the summer months, churches will have the option of doing lay worship services or canceling worship on the Sundays when there is not enough pulpit supply.

**END Synod Assembly weekend:** June 3-4 will be designated as a lay-led weekend throughout the parish. Deacon Tara reported that visitors from the Central African Republic will be in the END Synod following the Synod Assembly, with the possibility of a meet and greet gathering in our area.

**Annual Parish Worship:** Council agreed to have annual worship at Red Willow Bible Camp on August 6. Theresa will contact Bishop Tessa about preaching that day.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Deacon Tara – Led First Communion class on March 25 with two students from Faith and one from Trinity. Confirmation classes are on break during Lent, with the expectation that the students will attend Lenten services. Confirmation dates have been set: May 14 at Trinity and May 28 at Faith. Tara will be leading a Bible study at the women’s retreat at RWBC on April 15.

### **CONGREGATION REPORTS**

**Lutheran Church of McVile** – Shortage of people but those who are attending are enthusiastic and willing to be involved.

**Our Savior’s of Klotten** – Worship services will resume on April 2. Annual meeting will be held following the service that day.

**First Presbyterian** – Roof on church building will not be replaced. Worship continues at Assisted Living; question of how worship will be handled once nursing home residents move to new facility.

**Faith** – 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated June 25, 2023. Confirmation service has been set for May 28. Easter service at 7:30 with breakfast following. A kumla supper will be served on April 1 to raise funds for the siding and windows.

**Trinity** – Lenten services with supper as weather permits. Confirmation and senior recognition on May 14.

**Grace** – Brunch will be served following the Palm Sunday worship.

**NEXT MEETING:** June (Date to be determined; special meeting may be called if necessary)

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

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

---

# Congregational News

---

## Faith of Hannaford

### 125th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, June 25

9:00 Coffee and fellowship

10:30 Worship followed by a meal

2:00 Program (including former pastors and members), with cake and ice cream served afterwards

*ALL ARE INVITED!*

Walker Allen Hetland is received into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism on April 30 at Faith. Walker is the son of Caitlin and Kevin Hetland. His baptismal sponsors are Aubrey and Chris Rondestvedt.

Two memorial services will be held in May: Della Johnson's service will be at the Faith Cemetery on May 11, and Delila Everson's service will be May 15 at Faith. God bless their memories.

## Lutheran Church of McVile

### Annual Spring Salad Supper

Wednesday, May 17

6:00 at the church

Guest speaker will be Cindy Oien, Nelson County Health System Social Services Director. She'll discuss "Caring for People Living with Dementia." Special music by Dakota Prairie students. All are invited!

## Trinity of Binford

Trinity Council held their first meeting of 2023 on April 17. Council members are Marvin Goplen (President), Bob Delfs (Vice President), Becky Delfs (Financial Secretary), Theresa Fiebiger (Secretary/Treasurer), Shian Hoyt and Kayla Feiring.

Trinity will host Binford's Memorial day program on May 29. Pastor Jerry Rosin will be the speaker.

## *Blessings to our Confirmands . . .*

### Trinity (May 14)

- ◆ Brooke Anderson

### Faith (May 28)

- ◆ Brooklyn Barclay
- ◆ Ryleigh Walker

## *. . . and to our Graduates!*

### Lutheran Church of McVile

(Sr. Recognition May 7)

- ◆ Seth Monsebrotten
- ◆ Valerie Reiten

### Our Savior's

(Sr. Recognition May 7)

- ◆ Krista Lippert

### Trinity

(Sr. Recognition May 14)

- ◆ Andie Anderson
- ◆ Lauryn Halvorson

### Grace

(Sr. Recognition TBA)

- ◆ Hudson Topp
- ◆ Abigail Dreher

**TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF**

**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 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)**

**Like us on Facebook!**

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