



Tri-County Ministry News

September 2022

From Deacon Tara

“Worship is more than singing beautiful songs in church on a Sunday. It is more than instruments and music. As a true worshipper, your heart will long to worship Him at all times, in all ways and with all your life.” — Darlene Zschech

I don't know about you, but I love the experience of attending a big concert. The music, the fans, the entertainment value . . .these are all things I look for when I attend a concert. However, it is not the same thing I look for when I attend worship.

Worship is a time for us to come together and ask for forgiveness from God for those things we did wrong throughout the week. Worship is a time for us to praise God for all the many blessings God has bestowed on us. And yes, there is a special joy that comes when children sing these praises! Worship allows us to remember why we gather as a community of faith.

When we leave worship, we are filled up to face the next week head on, no matter what that week brings us. Worship allows us to nurture faith in one another. I'm reminded of one of my favorite verses of Scripture — Deuteronomy 6:4-9: *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”* These words call us to worship and to live our faith in action.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Bishop Patricia Davenport closed her sermon at the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly with a poem from Langston Hughes titled “Live Your Creed.” This poem is a great reminder of why we come together to worship as the people of God.

**I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day.
I'd rather one walk with me than just to show the way.
The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear.
Advice may be misleading but examples are always clear.
And the very best of teachers are the ones who live their creed,
For to see good put into action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn to do it if you let me see it done.
I can watch your hand in motion but your tongue too fast may run
And the lectures you deliver may be very fine and true
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the fine advice you give
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.**

May we live the creed and come to worship to praise God for all God has done!

Parish News

END Synod WELCA Annual Gathering

Saturday, September 24

**English Lutheran Church
Medina, ND**

“Faith, Hope, Love”

Keynote speaker is Deb Wald from Hope Lutheran in Fargo. She is a retired music teacher, singer, song writer, poet and spiritual advisor.

Transportation is available!

\$20

Leaving from Pekin Arts Center at 7:05 a.m.

Call or text Joan Huso at 701.371.0303 to reserve a spot.

And contact your WELCA president to sign up for the gathering.

Registration deadline is September 8. You may also call or text Corrina Olson at 701.270.7288.

In-kind offerings: bath towels, new sheet sets, non-perishable foods and paper products; cash offerings.

Grief Pillows

Deacon Tara is so excited to share with you all an upcoming project.

She is inviting each congregation to make grief pillows. These are made on the same order as the tied fleece blankets.

These grief pillows will be given to children at the loss of someone close to them as a reminder of their love. Each family will also be gifted with a copy of the children’s book *Tear Soup*. More info coming soon.

Confirmation classes

Confirmation will start in October for youth in 7th-8th grades. If you have a 7th grader, please contact Deacon Tara with any questions. Watch your mail for an introductory letter.

Blessing of the Backpacks

It’s back to school time for all our students — preschool through college. A special blessing will take place in most of our congregations. Watch your church’s bulletin for more info. Scheduled so far:

- September 11 — Faith in Hannaford
- October 2 — Trinity in Binford

Backpacks were blessed in McVille during the August 17 worship.

Annual parish worship service

Our annual service was held at Red Willow Bible Camp on August 7. Several from our parish worked ahead of time and on the day. We acknowledge them and send our thanks:

- Chapel cleaning: Janell Feiring, Linda Loe, Theresa Fiebiger
- Communion bread: Janell Feiring
- Worship leaders: Deacon Tara, Gilbert Black, Marla Larson
- Musicians: Dan Larson, Linda Loe, Theresa Fiebiger
- Coffee hour: members of Grace, Klotten, and Faith

Tri-County Ministry Council
August 11, 2022
7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford

PRESENT: Amy Olson, Olen Ophaug, Allen Hetland, Janice Johnson, Gilbert Black, Laurie Erickson, Bob Delfs, Deacon Tara Ulrich, Theresa Fiebiger

CALL TO ORDER: Gilbert Black

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Deacon Tara

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the May 12 meeting were approved and filed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved and filed

Balance on Hand July 31, 2022	General Fund Checking	\$97,689.11
	Parsonage Fund Savings	\$11,978.09
	Special Funds Savings	\$8,238.07

OLD BUSINESS

- **TCM Parish Worship:** Discussion and service held August 7 at Red Willow Bible Camp; consensus to continue having the annual joint service.
- **Our Savior's in McHenry:** The congregation held a special meeting in July; no decisions have been reached. Motion by Bob Delfs, seconded by Amy Olson, to give Our Savior's a deadline of October 15, 2022, to reach a decision regarding their relationship to Tri-County Ministry. Motion carried. Motion by Bob Delfs, seconded by Amy Olson, to amend the motion, moving the deadline to October 16, 2022. Amended motion carried. Consensus of council to move forward with budgeting process and prepare two budgets for 2023, one budget with Our Savior's remaining in the parish, and one budget with them withdrawing from the parish.
- **Sunday Scheduling:** Discussion of summer scheduling and returning to regular scheduling in September with the goal of having weekly worship in all seven congregations. Trinity in Binford will hold services on Saturday evenings in September. Discussion of using a video series for Sundays when there is not enough pulpit supply. Churches are encouraged to begin discussing their Christmas services, since Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Sunday this year.
- **Budget planning:** Budget meeting was set for September 15 at 9:30 a.m. Active confirmed membership numbers as of July 1 need to be given to Theresa by September 1. Special congregational meetings to approve the Congregation Ministry Contribution for 2023 will be held on Sunday, November 6.
- **Call Process:** Theresa brought forward a suggestion by a member that TCM begin looking for a pastor without waiting for the call process to go through the synod. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS - None

STAFF REPORTS

- Deacon Tara – Confirmation planning is beginning; possibility of breaking the classes into groups – 7th grade and 8th grade. Baptisms have been held at Faith and she has presided at funerals at McHenry and Hannaford. She's leading a TCM service project where grief pillows will be made and given to young people following the death of a loved one. The book *Tear Soup* will also be included with the pillow. She'll be attending the Fall Leadership Conference at Fair Hills in September, and has been watching the ELCA Churchwide Assembly via streaming.
- Theresa – Asked churches to let her know about God's Work Our Hands projects so they may be included in the newsletter. She is working on the RWBC quilt auction and urged council members to attend.

CONGREGATION REPORTS

- **Trinity** – is planning a community dinner in September as their God's Work Our Hands project, and will be raising money for the Great Plains Food Bank
- **Faith** – Held a fundraiser during Hannaford Days for new siding on the church. A TV and laptop are being purchased for use during worship. Worship at CAB park will continue through August. Funerals for Jerry Olson and Lorraine Burgum.
- **Our Savior's of McHenry** – Volunteers have mowed and cleaned the church. Funeral for Myrna Aasand.
- **Our Savior's of Klotten** – Funeral service for Arvid Ophaug was held in July.
- **First Presbyterian** – Shingles on the church will be patched. Worship continues at Assisted Living. Vickie Goplen has prepared lay service on symbols of the church and other congregations are welcome to use it.
- **Grace** – No report; congregation continues to move forward.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 17

LORD'S PRAYER

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by
Laurie Erickson, Secretary
Theresa Fiebiger, Recorder

Congregational News

Faith of Hannaford

After worshipping at CAB Park through the summer, the congregation will return to the church building on September 11 for worship and Rally Sunday. Our three third graders — Oakland Barclay, Reagan Burchill, and Trey Rondestvedt — will receive Bibles during the worship service.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, two members have been received into the family of God. **Hudson James Hook** was baptized Saturday, August 6 with Marla Larson officiating. Hudson was born January 18, 2022, the son of Brandon Hook and Bryna Larson. His baptismal sponsors were Brooks and Nicki Larson. **Eleanor Faye Bivens** was baptized by Deacon Tara on August 21. Eleanor is the daughter of Emily and Jason Bivens. She was born June 9, 2022. Baptismal sponsors were Laura & Kory Gilbertson and LeAnn & Mac Cimbura. The funeral service for Jerry Olson was held July 30 at Faith. Jerry passed away July 25 in Cooperstown. Lorraine Burgum passed away August 9 in Cooperstown. Her funeral was held August 13 at Faith. Blessed be the memories of Jerry and Lorraine.

Lutheran Church of McVille

McVille Bible Study will start back up on Wednesday, September 21st.

A food pantry is located in the basement at McVille Lutheran Church, open **24 hours a day**. Enter through the SE door and take the stairs at your left. The Pantry is located in the SE classroom. There is no cost and all is available to anyone in need in our region.

If you are in need of additional help, please contact McVille Lutheran Church at 701-322-4952 or Deacon Tara Ulrich at 701-580-0949. Any requests will be kept confidential.

The clothing and household items are not available at this time. The Caring Closet is no longer accepting donated items.

Our Savior's of McHenry

The funeral service for Myrna Aasand was held August 11 at Our Savior's. Myrna passed away in Carrington on August 6. Blessed be her memory.

Trinity of Binford

Sunday School begins on September 11, but will usually meet the first and third Sundays of the month. September dates are the 11th and 18th at 9:00 a.m. Kelsey and Ciara would welcome anyone who would like to help.

Trinity Council and WELCA are sponsoring a roast beef dinner as a *God's Work Our Hands* project. This community dinner will be held Sunday, September 18, at the Binford firehall; serving 11:30 until 1:00. Freewill offering for the **Great Plains Food Bank**.

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

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TCM CONGREGATIONS

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harmony with our member
churches and communities.**