



# Tri-County Ministry News

May — June 2024

## Reflections on Confirmation for 2023-24

by Truley Trautman, SAM

**Confessing My Faith theme verse:** Romans 10:8A, 9, 11, 13

*“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart....because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. No one who believes in him will be put to shame. For, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

**Confirming My Convictions theme verse:** Psalm 61:1-5, 8

*“Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I; for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings. For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. So I will always sing praises to your name, as I pay my vows day after day.”*

These are the theme verses for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders completing their year of confirmation and preparing for their service of confirmation and reaffirmation of their baptism. I think these two statements of Confessing My Faith and Confirming My Convictions are something each one of us that is a part of the community of faith needs to re-evaluate every so often in our own lives too. How are we living out our faith and convictions in our churches and our own lives?

In working with our six young people who are in confirmation this year, I have so enjoyed listening to them and learning with them during our class times together. They have been amazing to work with even when our one and a half hours of class stretch into almost two hours! They never complain and are willing to do whatever I have asked them to do. A typical class time would be: snack and talk about highs and lows for about 15 minutes, then work on two or three lessons with a specific theme and questions, and then close with about 10 minutes of meditation time in the sanctuary with a candle focusing on a reading/devotion, prayer/meditation time and then ending with blessing each other before we go. The meditation time has become a very special time for all of us to really stop and do some reflecting on what we have talked about that day and for learning to pray for others.

This year I have been using the Faith5 curriculum and we had to cover a lot of material to prepare the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to touch on what it means to be a believer of faith in the Lutheran church. And, because of that, we weren't always able to just talk about the questions they may have concerning their journey of faith. We have a couple more classes together, so I am hoping we can take some time to share together and learn from each other. A confirmation date has not been set yet, but will take place sometime this summer. *(continued on page 2)*

# Congratulations to our Graduates!



*Grace in Grace City*  
*Senior Recognition on May 12*

**Kyle Johnson**

**Tyler Walker**

*Lutheran Church of McVille*  
*Senior Recognition on May 19*

**Kamden Klefstad**

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## END Synod Assembly June 1-2 in Fargo



Our SAMs — Truly Trautman, Marla Larson, and Marvin Goplen — will all be attending the Assembly.

Pastor Russ Pollock will represent Lutheran Church of McVille as their voting delegate.

Cheryl Rickford will be the voting delegate from Trinity. Delegates from our other congregations to be determined.

### *(Confirmation Reflections continued)*

For next year, I would really like to find another curriculum that gives our teens a more basic understanding of what our Lutheran teachings are all about and why we do the things we do. The really sad thing is, I have not been able to find any curriculum for teens that covers the basics. I'm continuing to look and if anyone has any ideas, please contact me.

I would like to thank Kelli Schmitt and Linda Loe for helping me at McVille with giving instructions and demonstrations on how to acolyte, help with communion, what the altar guild does, and the meaning of our seasonal colors in changing of the paraments on the altar and pulpit. Also, to Pastor Russ for performing a mock baptism with us and answering questions about baptism and communion that the students had. Again . . . helping our students understand more fully about why we do the things we do. I would also like to thank Theresa for helping make all the copies of lessons for our books this year and any other copies I needed. She's always there with a smile and helping hand. As you can see, it takes a community!

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives — **Cara, Katelyn, Hailey, Kendra, Kodee and Bella** - and being able to share with you in your faith journey. You are truly an amazing group of kids and I hope I can work with Kendra, Kodee and Bella again next year!

Congratulations to Cara, Katelyn and Hailey on completing your program and we are looking forward to your continued participation in our church family.

Blessings to you,  
Truley

## ***Vacation Bible School***

*Lutheran Church of McVille*

*June 24-28, 9:00-2:00*

*Contact Haley for more info,*

701-270-2621 or [haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us](mailto:haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us)

# Spring Salad Supper

*Everyone Welcome*

*Free to the Public*

**Wednesday, May 29**

**6 pm**

**McVile Lutheran Church**

*Come and enjoy a fun evening of  
good food, fellowship and faith  
sponsored by the MLCW!*

**Program by Triplicity,  
singing spiritual Christian and Sixties tunes**

**Quilt Raffle Drawing**

**Quilt Tickets \$1 each**

**Available from MLCW members**



## In Memoriam

### **K. C. Hanson**

KC died March 25 in Cooperstown. The funeral was held at Faith in Hannaford on April 3.

### **Orvin Hanson**

The memorial service for Orvin will be held at Our Savior's, rural McVile, on Friday, May 10 at 2:00. Orvin passed away in McVile on April 9.

### **Jim and Carole Helmer**

A graveside service will be held for Jim and Carole at Saron (south of Cooperstown) at 2:30 on Saturday, May 4. Following the burial, all are invited to the senior center in Cooperstown for an informal celebration of life. Carole died March 29 and Jim on April 10.

### **Eva Steiner**

A memorial service will be held for Eva at Faith in Hannaford on Saturday, June 8, at 2:00. Eva passed away March 8.

### **Winifred Goplen**

Winifred died December 18, 2023, in Cooperstown. A celebration of life is planned for Saturday, June 29, at Trinity in Binford.

**Here's a little trivia we did in confirmation.**

**Do you know?**

1. How many books in the Bible?
2. How many books in the Old Testament?
3. How many books in the New Testament?
4. How many different authors contributed to the Bible?
5. How many gospels are there? Name them.
6. Who wrote the most books in the Bible?
7. Who wrote the majority of the Psalms?
8. How many years of silence from God were there between the Old and New Testaments?
9. What's an easy way to remember how many books in the Old Testament?
10. What's an easy way to remember how many books in the New Testament?

*Answers in your next newsletter.*

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**Marla Larson, SAM**  
**Gilbert Black**  
**Marvin Goplen, SAM**

**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**

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