



Tri-County Ministry News

September 2024

What is Truley, Marvin and Marla's actual job or what does it mean to be a "SAM"?

I was asked to write this article so everyone in Tri-County Ministry has an idea of what the Synod Authorized Ministers do.

The contract that Truley, Marvin and I sign says, "in partnership or the absence of a called pastor" —

1. We will preach and teach the Word of God. Most of you see us in the pulpit, but Truley has a special calling as she also teaches confirmation. Last year she taught classes in Binford and McVile. This year she will teach students from Trinity, McVile and Faith. In December, I taught a First Communion class at Faith.
2. We will preside at worship and if authorized by the Bishop to administer the sacraments. Therefore, we preside at communion and are able to baptize.
3. We will provide pastoral care: visitation, officiate at weddings, baptisms, confirmation, funerals and uphold members in prayer. I give special attention to visiting members in assisted living, the nursing home and those who don't get out much. I try to visit once a month in New Rockford, McVile, Binford, Hannaford and Cooperstown. I am also the primary person who visits members in the hospital or if someone is dying but if I am not available both Truley and Marvin are willing to step in and have done so. We have all officiated at funerals. Know that you are upheld in prayer by us.
4. We will support the total ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Eastern North Dakota synod. This means that each year we are expected to go to Synod Assembly, attend Prairie Rose conference meetings, the Fall Theological Conference at Fair Hills and do continuing education. A mentor that is provided by the Synod meets with us at least quarterly. Once a year we send to the synod an annual report listing how we have served in the past year and are then interviewed (through Zoom) by two members of the Synod Lay Ministry Committee.

You probably didn't realize that Tri-County Ministry (that means every member of every congregation) also signs the same contract. Actually, Gilbert Black signs the contract as Council President. You say 1) that you will Participate in worship, learning and fellowship activities. 2) you will Support Tri-County Ministry through your service and gifts. 3) you will accept and uphold Truley, Marla, and Marvin through prayer, and accord us love, respect and good will. We thank you for your encouraging words of support. 4) you will expect us to do what we signed on to do — baptize, celebrate Holy Communion, preach, visit, teach etc.

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(SAMs continued)

Tri-County Ministry pays Synod guidelines for preaching (\$225 for the first service and \$50 for the second service on a Sunday, plus mileage). For all other ministerial responsibilities, we are paid \$30/hour plus mileage. Tri-County also pays for our Synod meetings and continuing education. The Synod asks for a mentor fee of \$200 to help offset expenses on their end. Our contract is from September 1 to August 31 and is renewed annually.

Marvin has been serving as a lay minister since the mid 1980's when it was called the G.I.F.T.S (Growing in Faith to Serve) program. Truley and I started in the G.I.F.T.S. program in 2000. It took us 2-3 years to complete the course work to be certified. Lay Ministry has gone by different names over the past 20 years – one was "Lay Disciples of the Prairie." In 2018 EaND Synod started the Lay Ministry Program which seeks to equip lay leaders to serve congregations and can be a first step to active ministry as a pastor.

Submitted by

Marla Larson, Lay Minister

An Afternoon of Music

McVille Lutheran Church Women are hosting a concert fundraiser on Sunday, September 15, 2:30 pm at the McVille auditorium. Verna Lindvall, McVille, and college friend Val Meidinger, Barnesville MN, will perform several styles of music including country, boogie, jazz, inspirational, spiritual, with vocals, guitar, piano, and Native American style flute. There will also be a "Name That Tune" segment which will be very fun (you may even win a prize)! The concert is free will.

There will also be a silent auction on a quilt and baskets. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Eastern North Dakota Synodical WELCA Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 28
Sharon Lutheran Church in Grand Forks
Registration at 8:00 a.m; opening at 9:00

"I Was a Stranger" (Matthew 25:43)

Speakers, service projects, vendors

Assembling blessing bags for Community Violence Intervention Center (bring full size shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, brush, wide-tooth comb, headband, adult coloring book, sharpened colored pencils)

Collecting yarn for James River Correctional Facility



eandwelca.net

Facebook — Eastern ND WELCA

Thank you Rusty!

Rusty Bender, formerly of Cooperstown and the First Presbyterian Church In Cooperstown, has been preaching monthly in Tri-County Ministry since last year. Late this spring, he accepted the position of Director of Church Life at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo and made the move from Bismarck.

Over the summer, Rusty was accepted into the Master of Divinity program at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. This program will allow him to do his studies online while continuing his ministry in Fargo.

From Rusty's Facebook page - **And so, I once again find myself waiting to see how this transformation will unfold; trusting that God's timing is in accordance with his perfect plan, I look forward with hopeful optimism to what lies ahead! "Use my life, Lord, to serve Your people. And follow You wherever You may lead. Let everything, I do reveal my trust in You!"**



The Tri-County Ministry Council has awarded Rusty a \$1000 per year scholarship for the next three years to help defray seminary tuition. The scholarship is made possible by the Mitchell Rhoads Seminary Scholarship Fund which was established in the late 1990s by

Rev. Carell and Bonnie Foss in memory of their grandson. Carell and Bonnie were serving Tri-County Ministry at that time.

Many, many thanks to Rusty for sharing his gifts with Tri-County Ministry.

Meet Bob

Bob Schlotman, Cooperstown, has joined the list of lay preachers within Tri-County Ministry. He began preaching in our congregations in July.

Bob is a widower and retired teacher who taught math in Rapid City for 37 years. Raised on a farm, he graduated from Grace City High School; he then received a B.S. degree in Math and Elementary Education from Valley City State.

In 2016 he came to Cooperstown, the home of his wife Beth's family. Linda Olson of Cooperstown is his wife's sister. Bob's mother resides in the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in New Rockford.

Bob has subbed and help coach football at Griggs County Central. He now drives for South Central Transit. Genealogy and numismatics are his hobbies. He is an active member of Trinity Lutheran of Cooperstown and is on the More for Less Thrift Store Board.

Asked how he got interested in Lay Ministry, he replied, "Many things happened in my life that told me that God had plans for me. Experiencing many accidents and near-death experiences had me questioning why. God has a plan because I'm still alive." Friends have confirmed his call to serve by telling him to get involved in lay ministry. Bob will be preaching in Tri-County congregations as he continues to study in the EaND Synod Lay Ministry program.

10 Prayers for Sunday School Teachers

1. Fill me with Your Spirit and power to enable me to lead each of my students to Jesus Christ. ~Acts 4:31
2. Convict my students' hearts of sin and call them to repentance and salvation. ~John 16:8
3. Show any sin in my heart which would hinder the Holy Spirit from using me. ~Psalm 66:18
4. Prepare my students to be laborers of the harvest one day. ~Luke 10:2 5.
5. Give my students the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You. ~Ephesians. 1:17
6. Allow the eyes of their hearts to be enlightened. ~Ephesians. 1:18
7. Strengthen each student and teacher with power through Your Spirit. ~Ephesians 3:16
8. Root and ground each of my students in love and respect. ~Eph. 3:17
9. Help each of my students to have humility, gentleness, patience and show tolerance for one another in love. ~Eph. 4:2
10. Don't allow anyone to deceive them with empty words and help them to stand firm when confronted with evil. ~Ephesians 5:6

Confirmation 2024-25 by Truley Trautman, SAM

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.” — Proverbs 22:6

This year in Faith4Life we will be using the curriculum “Enduring Faith – a 30-Lesson Catechism Study”. The workbook will cover two years, focusing on “Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanations” with lessons on: What is confirmation, the Ten Commandments, The Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, The Means of Grace and the Christian Life. We will focus on the Lord’s Prayer and the Ten Commandments over this school year.

This year we have a 7th grader and an 8th grader from Binford, three 7th graders from Hannaford and two 8th graders from McVile. If you have a 7th or 8th grader and have not received information in the mail, please contact Theresa at the TCM office in Binford as soon as possible so your student may be added to the class.

We are planning to meet on Wednesday evenings from 4:15-6:00 p.m. twice a month for McVile and alternating between Binford and Hannaford twice a month.

Confirmation dates have been set for McVile on May 4 and Binford on May 11.

We are looking for one or two people to be confirmation guides in Binford and Hannaford. A guide will help occasionally on a confirmation night or project and would assist the students when they help during church services so they know exactly what is expected of them when they do such things as read lessons, be an acolyte, usher, help with communion, etc. Guides would occasionally check-in and encourage those students during the confirmation year. If this is something you feel you could help us with, please let Theresa know.

I am looking forward to another year of working with our young people, getting to know them better, and learning right along with them as we go! Please continue to pray for these young people as they learn and grow in faith. They are our future! Let’s give them all the encouragement we can!

Blessings, Truley.

Rally Day in McVille

We are excited to start a new year of Club 3:16 at McVille Lutheran Church. We are thrilled for an ongoing partnership with Sundahl Lutheran Church in Aneta.

We'll kick off the school year in a big way — **September 4th** we will have "Rally Wednesday." Students will arrive after school for a snack, a brief lesson and overview of the year. Beginning at 4:30 we will use our hands to serve others in our community by tying fleece blankets to be donated and assembling birthday blessing bags for the food pantry. We invite our families and congregation members to join us. At 5:30 we will have a brief back to school worship followed by a meal. All are welcome.

We welcome donations for these projects, including: fleece, cake mixes, cans of prepared frosting, birthday decorations (like banners, party hats), disposable aluminum pans, and birthday candles. If you would prefer to make a monetary contribution instead, we will purchase the needed items.

You can also support our year long programming with donations of shelf-stable snack items, lemonade and/or kool-aid mixes, and miscellaneous craft supplies.

Current Club 3:16 families will receive a newsletter with registration information; to register new students, please contact Haley Klefstad. haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us or 701-270-2621.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our youth ministry.

August 4th Tri-County Worship at Red Willow Bible Camp

What a wonderful day! Approximately 50 people worshipped together with Rusty Bender giving the message, "A New Command I Give You." Marvin Goplen, Truley Trautman, Bob Schlotman, Marla Larson, and Pastor Russ Pollock all participated in the service. As the service ended, Pastor Russ asked a member of every congregation to come forward to place their hands on Rusty to bless him on his new journey.



Thank you to Verna Lindvall and Linda Loe for sharing their gift of music on the piano, to Bob and Becky Delfs for hosting the refreshments and donuts before the service, and to Janell Feiring for making the communion bread. To all who helped in any way, the help was gratefully appreciated.

Following the worship service, everyone was invited to have lunch at the Goplen lake home. The food and paper products for both the morning coffee hour and the noon lunch were purchased with Thrivent Action Money. Thank you, Marvin and Vickie, for preparing the barbeque and beverages.

Tri-County Ministry Council
August 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Binford

PRESENT: Amy Olson, Olen Ophaug, Allen Hetland, Janice Johnson, Gilbert Black, Bob Delfs, Marla Larson, Truley Trautman, Marvin Goplen, Theresa Fiebiger

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Marla Larson

CALL TO ORDER: Gilbert Black

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting were approved and filed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved and filed

Balance on Hand July 31, 2024	General Fund Checking	\$37,371.54
	Savings Account	\$24,949.86

Technology Committee / Grant: Amy Olson and Theresa Fiebiger will work with Travis Palm for ideas on how technology could be used in our worship services, such as streaming from one church to another.

Review of TCM Parish Worship: Annual parish service was held at RWBC on August 4, with approximately 50 in attendance. The service and the music were good; Marvin suggested that the sharing of the peace be added to the service.

SAM Contracts: Motion by Janice Johnson, seconded by Allen Hetland, that the 2024-2025 SAM contracts be approved as presented by the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Seminary Fund Certificate of Deposit: Motion by Janice Johnson, seconded by Amy Olson, that Rusty Bender be awarded \$1000 per year for three years toward his seminary studies. Motion carried.

Membership Numbers: Congregations reported their active confirmed membership numbers which will be used to prepare the 2025 TCM budget

Trinity – 45	Our Savior's - 21	Grace – 23
First Presbyterian – 19	McVilLe Lutheran – 50	Faith – 37

STAFF REPORTS

Marvin Goplen – Continues to preach as scheduled, and will do visitation if requested

Truley Trautman – Distributed a tentative 2024-2025 confirmation class schedule; she'll be using a new confirmation series this coming year.

Marla Larson – Visitation continues. She reminded the council of the stewardship planning seminar on August 27, 10:00-4:00 at Trinity in Cooperstown and also over Zoom. Marla and Truley will be attending the Fall Leadership Conference at Fair Hills in September.

CONGREGATION REPORTS

Faith – Summer worship services have been held at the CAB park. Window and siding project fund raising continues, with about half the necessary funds raised so far. Memorial services have been held at the church.

First Presbyterian – Attendance has increased at worship.

Lutheran Church of McVilLe – held a joint VBS with Sundahl of Aneta. Worship in the park for McVilLe Days. Confirmation service was held July 14.

Our Savior's – Bob Schlotman preached at OS and McVilLe recently. A new stone has been added in the cemetery.

Trinity – Memorial service for Winifred Goplen was held June 29.

Grace – Membership / attendance is declining as people move to New Rockford.

NEXT MEETING: September 23, 2024 at 7:00 in Binford

TRI-COUNTY MINISTRY STAFF

TCM Parish Administrator

Theresa Fiebiger 676.2761
trinitybinford@mlgc.com

Preachers Truley Trautman, SAM
Marla Larson, SAM
Gilbert Black
Marvin Goplen, SAM
Bob Schlotman
Rev. Russ Pollock

TCM CONGREGATIONS

Faith of Hannaford .. faithl@ictc.com

First Presbyterian of Cooperstown
jejohnson99@yahoo.com

Grace of Grace City

Our Savior's of Klotten &
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

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communities.