



# Prairie Faith Parish Nurse News~~May 2026

Mind

Body

Spirit

The **Prairie Faith Parish Nurse Ministry** embarked upon its mission in April 2015, with Nancy Bollig serving as the parish nurse. The initial focus was to “fill in the gaps” in whole person health care needs (mind, body, spirit) within the PFSM communities, without duplicating any services or resources that already exist. Over these 11 years, the parish nurse ministry has been involved with a variety of different ministries and activities, all supporting holistic health in some way.

## Currently, the parish nurse ministry:

- ♥ Provides parish nurse services when requested for various reasons, provides health education, coordinates existing community resources for persons, may set up medications, may provide home, hospital and nursing home visits, and can accompany patients to doctor’s visits to help them understand their diagnoses and medical plan.
- ♥ Sponsors community projects such as a coat/hat/mitten drive for food pantries, snacks and extra emergency clothing for grade school children in the school nurse office, and coloring books/activity books/crayons for children who are in waiting room at the law enforcement center.
- ♥ Provides medical appointment transportation from a community volunteer base when the out-of-town general public transportation van is unable to serve that particular ride request, with mileage reimbursed.
- ♥ Sends letters and cards to a list of Prayer Partner/Pen Pals.
- ♥ Hosts the annual Longest Night Worship Service on December 21 for the community.
- ♥ Hosts pancake feed fundraisers.
- ♥ Provides prayer shawls for people who are going through a difficult time.
- ♥ Provides the monthly parish nurse newsletter for area congregations and for anyone who may have interest.
- ♥ Provides a group opportunity to practice yoga, meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Mondays at the WaKeeney Public Library community room.
- ♥ Sends out comfort meal gift cards to persons in the community going through a difficult time.
- ♥ Promotes health related events in the community which are sponsored by other agencies.

## These are some of the activities which have been provided at various times over the past 11 years:

- ♥ Prayer/healing services.
- ♥ Community educational events with many different topics, including Advance Directives; Hospice and Palliative Care; Stress Management; Strategies for Pain Management; Creative Expression and Healing through Music; Sleep: Issues and Answers; Sexual Violence; Domestic Violence; Addiction; Mental Health First Aid Certification; Healthy Cooking on a Budget; Bluegrass Concert in the Park; Self-defense; and more.
- ♥ Thanksgiving Meals for those in the community who have no family to share a Thanksgiving meal with, while also inviting the general community to come and celebrate the Thanksgiving meal together.
- ♥ Hosted book/Bible studies led by PFSM pastors and interns with topics such as: *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*; *And Became Truly Human*; *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*; *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*; and *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*.
- ♥ Coordinated the *Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit* program for several years in partnership with the Trego Rec Commission.
- ♥ Wrote multiple grants and received community donations for the Matt and Kristi Morton Family following the loss of their home in a wildfire.
- ♥ Organized from the ground up the **Trego Community General Public Transportation Van** (“out of town van”).
- ♥ Hosted a 12-step recovery group at Bethlehem.

## The current Health Ministry Advisory Board membership:

Margaret Day, Donna Deines, Mary Cunningham, Beverly Armbruster, Liz Deines, Josh Keller, Dianne Bollig, and Nancy Bollig. Prairie Faith pastors and interns have also regularly participated on the Board over the years.

## The Health Ministry Advisory Board has exciting news to share!

Dianne Bollig is nearing completion of the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing curriculum, and she will soon be actively participating as a nurse for the Prairie Faith Parish Nurse Ministry, bringing a fresh perspective to the parish nurse ministry.

## What exactly is a “parish nurse/faith community nurse”?

A parish nurse is different than a nurse within the parish. Some basic information follows.

### Core Requirements to be a Faith Community Nurse:

- **Active RN Licensure:** A current RN license is required.
- **Education:** A **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** is generally preferred or required.
- **Experience:** Generally, 2–5 years of clinical nursing experience is recommended to have developed proficient assessment and problem-solving skills.
- **Specialized Training:** Completion of a 40-hour **Foundations of Faith Community Nursing** curriculum is required, which covers spiritual care, holistic health, and professionalism.
- **Attributes:** Strong communication skills, empathy, ability to work in a ministry context, and being self-directed.

### Role Focus:

- **Holistic Health:** Focusing on the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of a congregation or community.
- **Roles:** Acting as a health educator, personal health counselor, advocate, and volunteer coordinator.

## Financial support for the Prairie Faith Parish Nurse Ministry:

Funding has come from various sources over the years, including seed money from a Prairie Faith Shared Ministry family’s memorial fund, seed money from PFSM Council, Heartland Community Foundation and the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, grants written for specific projects and programs, a laptop provided by the Harvey Foundation, private donations, memorial donations, fundraisers such as the Pancake Feed to fund the comfort meal ministry, the Baked Potato Bar held by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in March, the loose change collection from the children at St. John, donations received at Lenten Breakfasts, annual donations from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and donations received through the Trego Hospital Endowment Foundation. Donations are welcomed year-round and are essential to sustain this ministry. *We currently are experiencing a need for financial contributions and we invite you to consider supporting our efforts which extend throughout our Prairie Faith community. Donations are considered tax-deductible within the extent of tax law.*

Please watch the Prairie Faith Parish Nurse Newsletter in the upcoming months to participate in future ministries, projects, and activities! ***Everyone is invited to attend Parish Nurse Ministry Advisory Board meetings to share ideas and concerns—the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the library.*** Please also feel free to contact Nancy or a board member at any time with your ideas, suggestions, or concerns. In addition, your prayers are welcomed and needed at all times! **Thank you for your support of and participation with the Prairie Faith Parish Nurse Ministry over the past 11 years—we look forward to serving for many years to come!**



The parish nurse ministry serves the community, regardless of any church affiliation. Feel free to call or email to: schedule a confidential appointment to discuss your health/wellness questions, schedule transportation to a medical/dental/counseling appointment if you need a ride, request a prayer shawl or comfort meal gift card for someone in the community going through a difficult time, locate community health resources, request other parish nurse work, or discuss your ideas for the health ministry!

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