

November, 2025

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From the Pastor's View:

The Knowing, Caring Community of Christ”

President Lyndon B. Johnson was our nation's 36th President. Early in his life, he served as a public school teacher. LBJ was a man, a teacher, and a President with a heart. He was instrumental in passing landmark legislation that brought opportunities and Voting Rights to our nation's most disadvantaged citizens. I have often wondered - what was the genesis for such committed and abiding care for the disadvantaged? Doris Kearns

Goodwin, historian, and author of one of my favorite books, Leadership in Turbulent Times, provides some insight.

At one point, LBJ's father, Sam Johnson, was dying. The father asked his son, to return him to the family home & community in which he grew up. Sam told his son, “*I want to be where people know when you are sick... and care when you die.*” So, LBJ took his Dad home. There, people *KNEW* and *CARED*.

I have been reminded of Sam Johnson's dying wish as I've served among the people of Knife River. Of course, we are not on our deathbed. But, we know plenty of “knowing” and “caring.” For example, through recent weeks, people of KRLC have extended compassionate hospitality to grieving family members as they have gathered for Memorial and Funeral services. On a couple of these occasions, the venue for the knowing and caring has been at church. On another occasion, the service and hospitality was at the Two Harbors Fire Station! For these gatherings, the faithful have rehearsed and offered inspiring music; they have prepared the space and food; and, they have known and cared through loving hospitality.

On several occasions, I've been reminded of the third verse of the familiar hymn, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”.

We share our mutual woes.
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

The word the Apostle Paul used for love was *agape*: that is, “a selfless, unconditional love, that seeks no reward or acknowledgement.” That Greek word is used 115 times in the New Testament. It has to do with love. It has to do with “*knowing*” and “*caring*.”

That's the kind of love that has been breaking out these days, in this place. Thanks be to God!

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CAN WE TALK?

Following worship, for several Sundays, we have scheduled “Table Talks” to address important issues. These Adult Education offerings will explore such topics as:

November 2: Brief presentation related to the recent Congregational Survey. What do KRLC members most value out our congregation? What are the pastoral leadership qualities we most desire as we look to the time of Calling a new pastor?

November 23: Living Wills – Who Needs Them? For What? This will be the first of two sessions to explore the preparation of personalized “Health Care Directives.” Dr. Anne Skadberg, Tara Damyanovich,

and Pastor Holman will offer an orientation to how we might clarify and state our values, hopes, and expectations for the medical treatments we want to receive near the end of life. (And, importantly, what treatments we might not want to receive.). Session #2 is scheduled for December 14.

November 30: “The Year of Matthew”. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (November 30) our Gospel readings will come from Matthew. (Through the past year, we have journeyed through Luke’s Gospel.) Join us on this beginning day of Advent as we explore some of the unique perspectives, themes, and emphases of Matthew. This will be a good way to prepare for the worship year ahead.

December 14: Living Wills – Who Needs Them ? session #2

Christmas Giving – This year, we will continue our tradition of providing special Christmas gifts for Senior residents living in the Two Harbors community. We have committed to providing 25 much-appreciated gifts this year; and, we do this in partnership with other congregations of the Two Harbors ecumenical community. These gifts involve a \$20-\$25 expenditure per gift; and, they need to be returned to the church office by December 6 in a gift bag (but, not wrapped). Also, please securely attach the ornament tag to the gift. Watch for more information in upcoming worship bulletins.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
<u>Ushers</u>	E. Lee J. Lee	K. Walter N. Walter	K. Garey M. Garey	B. Anderson T. Anderson	S. Jasperson A. Jasperson
<u>Lector</u>	E. Lee	S. Hubbartt	K. Garey	T. Anderson	L. Jackson
<u>Communion Asst</u>	K. Bloom	S. Berger	E. Lee	A. Hubbartt	R. Alreck
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	Linda Grong	-----			
<u>Offering Counters</u>	T. Northey L. Anderson	M. McMillion S. Jasperson	K. Struve J. Lee	L. Olson M. von Goertz	K. Kari M. Dent
<u>Children’s Church/ Kid’s Connect</u>	C. Smith A. Hubbartt	S. Socha S. Pollard	A. Jasperson A. Shaw	R. Alreck G. Ojard	L. Burkhard A. Hubbartt
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	B & Meyer	Available	Available	R. Alreck L Burkhard	Gild & Graze
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS		NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS		NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
4	Patti Stoddard	20	Anthony Hubbartt	4	Kathy & Sam Black
5	Sandra Bjorum	22	Pat Bugge Hoggarth	20	Randi Alreck & Lawrence Burkhard

9	Chris Skadberg	25	Jan Bergman	28	Ella & Lyle Jackson
12	Bobbie Mattson	25	Tor Skadberg		
12	Vi Hanson	27	Steve Berger		
14	Lyle Jackson	30	Samantha Anderson		
18	Randy Ellestad				

Council Buzz – October 2025

What's Happening

- Draft and implement archiving process – ongoing
- Complete committee Structure processes – will require Bylaws change.
- Annual Review of Policies - ongoing
- Review Committees and identify committee liaisons - ongoing

Administrative Support -- Volunteer Needed

- As you know, Melanie has stepped back from many administrative support duties as a volunteer. As such, we have hired a part-time Administrative Support professional. Her primary duties focus around the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter and other miscellaneous tasks on behalf of the Pastor, the Council and other committees. However, there are times that we need backup for these types of duties. It could be the result of work load, illness and/or vacation.

If anyone is interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact Helene at hhedlund.dl@gmail.com.

Plans to gather input from Congregation as we explore what's next for KRLC

- The council has distributed a Congregation Survey to gather input to be used in planning the future direction of KRLC.. Responses are due October 19.
- Council and Pastor have begun conversations about additional activities that involve the congregation to gather input for the future of KRLC. Details will be shared when finalized.
- Results of all input activities will be shared with the Congregation and Call Committee. The Call Committee may seek additional information as they move forward with their task of recommending a permanent Pastor hire.
- The first TABLE TALK to review/share /responses is scheduled for November 2 immediately following the service. Plan to attend and be part of the conversations that shape the future for KRLC.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2025 Council.
Submitted by Helene Hedlund, Council President

Church Mouse

Thank You Notes:

From North Shore Community School

Thank you so much for your donation of teacher school supplies. It was very thoughtful of you to think of the teachers at our school. The Supplies are very much appreciated. They will ease our teaching and benefit our student learning. With gratitude, *Leigh Jackson*

What a treat to pick from donated school supplies you gathered for NSCS. I use the White-Out tape daily and the kids benefit from fresh Expo Markers as they showcase their problem-solving skills in math and capture their ideas for writing. Thank you for thinking of us. Your kindness is much appreciated. Kindly, *Amber Schoen*

Thank you so much for thinking of our school community at NSCS! Your thoughtful school supply gifts are so very helpful for our classrooms! Your generosity is amazing. Thank you,
Dani Rolfe-6th Grade Teacher

The congregation offers a special thanks to *Melanie McMillion* for coordinating this school supply drive annually and for delivering our donations!

From Jan & Dennis Swanson

During this season of Thanksgiving, we especially wanted to thank Knife River Lutheran Church for being there for us through the death of our son Steve. As we were reading through sympathy cards, we came across one that read "The Kindness of others is a genuine reflection of the Kindness of God". Totally describes KRLC. If you ever wondered if prayers really help? We can assure you we felt every one of them. They were and still are what has carried us through this most difficult time... Priceless.

CONGRATULATIONS!

If you follow our favorite shutterbug's work, you won't be surprised to learn that *Ed Lee's* photo "Shard Ice at Sunrise" was selected as the winning photo in the "Depth of Field" contest on <http://www.viewbug.com/> Congratulations, Ed! This acknowledgement of excellence makes the countless miles and hours logged in the pursuit of that perfect capture so fulfilling!

WELCA OUTREACH

Each fall, WELCA meets to allocate "Sunshine" donations to worthy organizations. Suggestions were made in September over a potluck dinner. Allocations were voted on in October.

***Lutheran Social Services Youth & Family Services** received \$350 to purchase mattresses for Another Door Youth Shelter, Renaissance Transitional Living or Permanent Supportive Apartments.

***Lutheran World Relief** received \$425 for relief assistance where the need is greatest. Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. LWRs work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and they do not evangelize. They provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. They partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. They break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Their goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.

***Justice North** received \$425. Justice North is a nonprofit civil law firm serving all of NE Minnesota with the "Justice Bus" dedicated to the principle that equal access to justice is a basic human right, regardless of background or circumstances. They open the doors of the legal system to the most vulnerable in our communities by providing critical legal assistance to preserve clients' safety, security, and stability. They provide representation, limited services, advice, or information to individuals with issues that fall outside of the criminal justice system. For people facing civil legal challenges such as the threat of losing their home, safety, health care, income, or even their families, navigating the justice system without a lawyer can be nearly impossible.

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Our congregation's Socha sisters *Liza (age 9) & Sally (age 7)* are the newest and youngest volunteer kiddo co-chairs of Julebyen's "Hindertop"...the inaugural hobby horse racing event! As hobby horse (think stick horse) enthusiasts, Liza and Sally are thrilled to debut this growing international sport at Julebyen! (Their previous experience includes derby racing and honorable mention at Churchill Downs)!

Scheduled for 10, 11, 1 & 2 on Saturday, December 6th Liza and Sally will open the stables, freeing 12 Nordic hobby horses to giddy up through the course! Prizes awarded to all participants including adults! Come and cheer on Liza & Sally along with their mom Sara and give the ponies a spin! Thanks Liza & Sally for stepping up!

Operation Green Light for Veterans!

From November 4-11 Lake County will join the rest of the country in Operation Green Light-a visible show of support and gratitude for those who have worn the uniform, especially those transitioning from active service to civilian life. Participation is simple-replace one visible exterior light with a green bulb or display a green light in your home! You can send a powerful message that says "Thank You for your service and Welcome Home"!

A November Offering As Our Days Shorten

Come, sit at our table. Be present in the bread we break and share. It is our daily bread lifted out of both grace and struggle. It is the bread of compassion and joy, sorrow and courage. We bless you who have journeyed with us through the hours of this day. Now it is evening, and the day is almost spent. Come to our supper table. Be our guest. Let us see your face in each of our table companions. At this hour light the lamps of our hearts and attend our deepest hungers. May it be so!

—by Macrina Wiederkehr, in [Seven Sacred Pauses: Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day](#)

GIFTS RECEIVED:

Undesignated gifts to the memorial fund in memory of Steve Swanson were received from Bill Berg, Lisa Anderson, Beth Alexander & LeAllen Estrem, and Don & Gerry Graden.

Memorial gifts to the choir, for kitchen supplies, and for technology needs were given in memory of Steve Swanson by Dennis & Jan Swanson.

A donation for Children's Bibles in memory of Steve Swanson was received from Scott & Anne Jaspersen.

A gift to the Quilters in memory of Pat Hanson was received from Del & Susan Hubbartt.

A gift to God's Barnyard in memory of Pat Hanson was received from Delores Jackson.

An undesignated memorial gift was received in memory of Janine Patterson from Kay Struve.

Celebration of Music concert is back!!!

We are delighted to announce the return of the much loved "Celebration of Music" concert that will be held on Sunday 14 December 2025 at 5pm. Several of our church and community members have already signed up to provide us with wonderful music of the Christmas and winter season. We would like to extend this invitation to you and possibly even a friend to join us in celebrating music by sharing your talents in song or instrumental music. If you are interested in participating, please contact Anne-Lu Hovis at 801 230 4666 or annelubasson@yahoo.co.uk with subject line "Celebration of Music". There might even be some Scandinavian cakes served afterwards.

Mark your calendar now and join in the beautiful evening of music to lighten our winters.

Call Committee update:

The call committee has met twice as we begin the process of calling our next minister. On Oct. 8th the five members met with Deacon Susan Williams from the ELCA Northeastern Minnesota synod to review how our church will compile a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). It will take 7 meetings for us to properly develop this document for the needs of KRLC.

The MSP will then be used by the NE MN ELCA synod to help match us with potential candidates from all 65 synods across the country. We will then interview and consider selected candidates.

The process is very well thought out and we have excellent resources from our synod and therefore are not left to try to figure this out ourselves.

We are currently gathering information from the congregation from surveys and answers to posed questions to help us gain further understanding of what our congregation feels are the most important qualities of our next minister. We will endeavor to keep the congregation updated on where we are at in the process. **We would very much ask for your prayers for wisdom and clarity as we go forward.**

Deb Allert, Melanie McMillion, Scott Shelerud, Patti Stoddard, Steve Carlson

It All “Boils” Down to Feeling the “Heat” in the Holiday Season !!

At a special congregational meeting following the service on October 26th, the congregation unanimously voted to replace our aging heating/domestic water heating boiler at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Our current boiler is approximately 20 years old, has had several major breakdowns and the availability of replacement parts & service was a major concern with the heating season fast approaching. The new boiler will be a wall-mounted, combination unit which in addition to supply building heat, will also supply domestic hot water “on demand.” This should result in a significant savings in propane costs as the current boiler system configuration heats approximately 55 gallons of domestic water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As well as improved efficiency, the installation of the wall-mounted combination unit eliminates the need for the large domestic hot water tank in the already crowded small boiler room. So as the cold holiday season approaches, we can all relax knowing we will not suddenly be awakened from our holiday naps to hop in our sleighs and head to the church to set up electric space heaters and hope that Santa Claus can deliver and install a new boiler for us quickly. A special thanks to David Grong, Ed Lee, Pete Stoddard and the rest of the Property Committee for all the hard work done to get this very important building improvement researched and approved.

Also, a shout of thanks to Pete Stoddard for replacing/adjusting the blower thermostats on our church heating registers. These blower thermostats have been non-functional over many years and their operation will help circulate more warm air throughout our church and improve our heating efficiency.

The History of Churches Feeding the Poor

The history of churches feeding the poor is deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus and the early Christian movement. Early Christians were known for their charitable efforts, including the establishment of soup kitchens and the provision of meals to the needy. These efforts were driven by a commitment to charity and a desire to alleviate poverty.

The modern soup kitchen movement gained prominence during the 19th century, with religious organizations like the Salvation Army playing a significant role in opening and operating these kitchens. During economic crises, such as the Great Depression, secular groups and individuals also contributed to addressing widespread hunger.

Today, soup kitchens continue to be operated by a diverse array of entities, reflecting a collective effort to combat food insecurity.

In 1939 the Federal Government stepped in with the Food Stamp Program as an answer to the Great Depression. It became a permanent program in 1964 with the Food Stamp Act and in 2008 it became known as SNAP or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The reason for this history lesson is that SNAP’s funding will run out in November, and it is being caused directly by the Government shutdown.

It’s time for us to step up and remember our history of feeding the people who have less than we do. Going forward, we can play a big part in our local area by helping to fund CHUM and the Two Harbor’s Food Shelf. Please send in your donations now so we can help with this urgent need. Make your check payable to KRLC and list Chum or the Food Shelf as a designation. Thank you!

ELDER CARE CHRISTMAS GIFTS submitted by Melanie McMillion

It’s early to be thinking about Christmas, I know, BUT we’ve received the ornaments from the Two Harbors Ministerium for our Elder Care Christmas tree! Watch for the tree to be posted on the kiosk in the narthex very soon! Gifts are for those in the nursing home or assisted living facilities in our area.

The process is the same as in past years – select an ornament with a gift suggestion from the tree. Plan to spend \$20 - \$25 on the gift (some did not ask for much, but please try to supplement in order to help reach the dollar range). Put the gift, with tissue paper, in a gift bag (no wrapping paper, please!!). Do not seal the bag, but DO tape or staple the gift ornament to the bag. You may put a signed Christmas card in the bag with the gift if you wish, but it is not required.

If you'd like to participate, but don't like or are unable to shop – take an ornament, give it, along with \$25 cash to Melanie, and VOILA! Your kindness has been easily accomplished! Thank you!

Please, please, please remember to sign your name on the sheet posted on the kiosk in order to sign-out the ornament you've chosen! It makes it so much easier to track down a gift if it is late! Gifts due to church **NO LATER THAN Friday, Dec. 5**. See why we start so early? 😊

KRLC Treasurer's Report**9/30/2025**

General Operations Summary	2025	2024
Income from donations	\$ 101,416.99	\$ 97,549.42
Expenses	\$ 101,186.16	\$ 105,530.15
Donations vs expenses	\$ 230.83	\$ (7,980.73)

Under budget

Under budget



Budget
\$ 123,194.70
\$ 123,194.70

Designated Account Summary	2025	2024
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 29,097.70	\$ 37,101.26
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 28,062.08	\$ 25,615.51
Donations vs expenses	\$ 1,035.62	\$ 11,485.75



The Bottom Line	2025	2024
Total Income	\$ 130,514.69	\$ 134,650.68
Total expenses	\$ 129,248.24	\$ 131,145.66
Fund Balance change	\$ 1,266.45	\$ 3,505.02



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 10,230.83
Outreach	\$ -
Building and property fund	\$ (4,539.96)
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 89,384.00
Memorial	\$ 9,697.58
Passthru	\$ 303.20
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 110,075.65
Decrease from last year	\$ 6,903.79

Total of all cash assets	\$ 211,840.34
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 12,010.28



Other Fund Balances	Amount
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Columbarium fund	\$ 22,472.20
Reserve required by State Law	\$ 4,500.00
Available after required reserve	\$ 17,972.20
Columbarium debt is fully paid	\$ -

Endowment fund	\$ 79,292.49
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

Color Key

Income	Green
Expense/Debt	Red
Total	Blue
Change	Yellow
Balance	Lt Blue

September

Thank you so much for your donations during Sept We had a profitable month!

Giving during 2025 has exceeded 2024 and expenses are lower this year than last year!

We have also earned over \$3,000 in interest in the MM fund which is not included in donations.

Our Steak and Chop Fry net proceeds of over \$3,400 will be paid to the Two Harbors Food Shelf and Global Refuge during Oct. Each will receive just over \$1,700. Thank you to all involved.

We continue to be a beacon of light to those people who are in need of our help!

This report is full of smiling faces! Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10:15am Table Talk Activity- Survey Results	3 9 am Bone Building (Cancelled) 2pm Handbell rehearsals	4 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	5 10 – 1 Quilters	6 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	7	8
9 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10:30am Sit Down Council	10 9 am Bone Building 2pm Handbell rehearsals	11 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10:00am Worship Committee 5:00 pm JOYFUL Practice 6 pm W/ELCA	12 10 – 1 Quilters	13 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	14	15
16 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship	17 9 am Bone Building 2pm Handbell rehearsals	18 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	19 10 – 1 Quilters	20 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	21	22
23 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10:15am Table Talk Activity- Living Will Pt 1 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Tonight!	24 9 am Bone Building 2pm Handbell rehearsals	25 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	26 10 – 1 Quilters	27 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	28	29
30 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship						

November 2025