

**May, 2025**

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[www.kniferiverlutheran.church](http://www.kniferiverlutheran.church)

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**FROM THE PASTOR      “Tusind Tak!”**

Are you familiar with the Danish phrase, “Tusind Tak!”? I first heard it when I married into Phil’s family, which included a Danish Grandmother. My Mother-in-Law might say it to another family member after some helpful gesture, and I learned it means, literally, “a thousand thanks!” As I am preparing to complete my ordained ministry, both at Knife River and within my 39 year span including other ministry settings, it seems to me that I would need at *least* a thousand thanks to do justice to the gratitude I am feeling. I am grateful to God, who called me into ministry and has provided guidance and blessing all along my journey. I am grateful to my family members, who supported my ministry efforts and sometimes made sacrifices so that I could do what was needed. I am grateful to congregations which were willing to call a woman Pastor—Zion in Grand Rapids, Bethlehem in Two Harbors, Knife River-- in each case, for their first time, and who were then unfailingly supportive and affirming. I am especially grateful for the 20 years spent here in Knife River as the first half-time solo Pastor; this has been the Call of my heart and the place in which I felt I was privileged to do my best and deepest ministry. We have been through times of challenge and joy, but through it all God has blessed our partnership; we can truly feel so grateful for how we have grown and thrived throughout this time. A “tusind tak!” can hardly express my gratitude to all of you.

It has been so interesting to me to receive the well-wishes and advice of many as I approach retirement. Humorously, the advice has often been directly contradictory! Some have urged finding other meaningful work to do and another congregational family to be a part of, while others have urged taking at least a 6 month hiatus from any sort of work or congregational engagement. And as I listen to the stories you have shared about your own retirement process, I realize anew how each of our journeys is particularly unique to us. The fact is, none of us knows what lies ahead or how our life journey will continue on, whatever period of transition or life season we may occupy. Here, though, is what we do know: We know that God is always good! We know that God is always present! We know that in Christ, we are bound together in love, wherever our journeys take us. We know that God is always going before us to guide us and behind us to guard us. Maybe that’s enough to know.

In closing, I pray God’s blessing on each and every one of you individually, and on this congregation, corporately. I know what great things God has in store for Knife River Church!

With love and giving a “tusind tak!”---Pastor Susan Berge

**WORSHIP IN MAY**

With a later Easter this year, we will continue in the 50-day Easter season all through the month of May. This season is characterized by deep peace and hope, which should be enhanced by the cautious coming of spring along the North Shore. There is something unique about each Sunday this month of May: our Synod meets in Assembly over May 4, so Pastor Kris will be preaching and presiding; May 11 is Mother’s Day, when all women leave with a sweet treat to thank them for their love; May 18 will be both Confirmation Sunday and Graduating Senior Recognition Sunday; May 25<sup>th</sup> will be my last Sunday here and includes many special musical and celebrative moments.

Sunday, May 4- the Second Sunday of Easter. We will worship in a traditional service, celebrating Holy Communion at the Altar. JOYFUL will sing.

Sunday, May 11-the Third Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day. Our worship will include Holy Communion by intinction, and the Knife River Ringers will play. There will be an opportunity for Healing and Anointing during the service.

Sunday, May 18-the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Confirmation/Senior Recognition. Patti Stoddard and Helene Hedlund will share special music on this Sunday, as we celebrate Holy Communion at the altar.

Sunday, May 25-the Fifth Sunday of Easter/Pastor Susan’s Celebration Service. This service will be filled with music and also include Holy Communion by intinction. A program will follow, and then a brunch.

**MAY VOLUNTEERS**

	<b>May 4</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 25</b>
<u>Ushers</u>	S. Jasperson A. Jasperson	K. Garey M. Garey	V. Gorman C. Smith	J. Allert D. Allert
<u>Lector</u>	M. McMillion	A. Hubbart	C. Smith	D. Allert
<u>Communion Asst</u>	R. Alreck	D. Jackson	McKinley Carl	T. Northey
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	Laurie Jackson	-----		
<u>Offering Counters</u>	S. Jasperson M. Garey	M. McMillion A. Jasperson	K. Struve J. Lee	K. Pollard M. Dent
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	Available	Available	Available	Available
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team
<u>Children’s Church/ Kid’s Connect</u>	J. McCorison G. Skadberg	R. Alreck D. Mattson	L. Burkhard A. Hubbart	R. Alreck A. Shaw

**Easter Sunday Plant Offerings:**

- An orange begonia was received from Delores, Jill & Leigh Jackson in memory of Ron Jackson & Helen Swanson.
- A mixed-bulb garden was received from Helene Hedlund in honor of confirmands, past and present.
- A tulip plant was received from Nancy & Michael Dent in honor of their mothers, Charlotta, Lois and Doris.
- A hyacinth was received from the Socha Family in memory of Paul Ostman.
- A mixed-bulb garden was received from the Socha Family in memory of Kelsey Granowski.
- An Easter lily was received from Bart, Lisa, Sam & Courtney Anderosn in memory of Paul & Pat Healy, and George & Pat Anderson.
- An Easter lily was received from Paul & Mary von Goertz in honor of their seven grandchildren.
- An Easter lily was received from Pat & Steve Berger in honor of Noreen Jackson.
- A mixed-bulb garden was received from Pat & Steve Berger in honor of Elsie Dunne.
- A kalanchoe was received from Trish Northey in memory of Lyle Northey.
- A cyclamen was received from Hannah Weishaar in memory of Charlie & Mary Weishaar, Dorothy Dolloff and Roger Dolloff.

- A begonia and a kalanchoe were received from Kay Struve in memory of Paul Struve and Ethel Wieme.
- A mixed-bulb garden was received from Bill & Pat Meyer in memory of Harriett Porter Meyer.
- A cyclamen was received from Anne & Scott Jaspersen in memory of all neighbors.
- A mixed-bulb garden was received from Katie Monger in memory of Steve & Kay Howe.
- A cyclamen was received from Pastor Susan and Phil Berge in memory of Patricia Williams and Burton & Virginia Berge.
- Two mixed-bulb gardens were received from Joanne Lind in memory of Norman Lind and Sig & Emily Erickson.
- An Easter Lily was received from Laurie Jackson & family in memory of Aime, David, George & Delores Salakka.
- A begonia was received from Steve & Carol Carlson in memory of Bertil & Audrey Carlson.
- An Easter plant donation was received from Will & Rachel DeRocher in loving memory of Debbie DeRocher.
- The floral arrangement on the buffet in the Narthex was received from Steve & Carol Carlson in memory of Ken & Evelyn Ojard, Carol's parents.

MAY BIRTHDAYS		MAY BIRTHDAYS		MAY ANNIVERSARIES	
4	Bud Gorman	15	Derek McCorison	7	Darci & Mike Stiff
4	Elizabeth Berge	20	Laura Stone	13	Earl & Julie Stewart
9	Anja Ojard	28	Nancy Dent	17	David & Kathryn Hubbart
10	Joe Friebe	29	Richard Mattson	28	Kay & Steve Bloom
12	Trygg McCorison	30	Emit Ross	31	David & Linda Grong
14	Karen Walker				

**Council Buzz – April 2025 by Helene Hedlund, Council President**

**Greetings to all and Happy Spring!!**

**What's Happening**

- Established Major Outcomes will continue for 2025
- 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

**Kitchen Serving Training - REMINDER**

Thank you to all who have completed the training. Training is still available for those whom still need it. You can access the site by going to the KRLC website.

**Pastor Transition comments:**

- A component of the transition process is for the council to conduct an exit interview with to meet withan for an exit interview. We have completed that interview. It was a great conversation that reflected on her ministry as well as suggestions/considerations for the future.
- The Worship Committee has arranged for pulpit supply for the month of June.
- The Council has arranged for pastoral care for the month of June.

- The Administrative Support task force is making progress. Steve Berger, Ed Lee and Helene Hedlund and Melanie McMillion make up the task force. Reminder that tasks include
  - Recommend number of hours and salary
  - Property group will be reviewing space for suitable work station and necessary equipment
  - Draft job description
  - Council to approve description and work station modifications
  - **Prior to posting, a special Congregation Meeting will be scheduled to review the job description, proposed office modifications and to review and discuss budget implications. We will need Congregation approval to move forward.**
  - Post description
  - Conduct interviews
  - Other as determined
- Melanie will be available during orientation and training for the Administrative Assistant. She will remain an active volunteer and resource for KRLC. Thank you for that.
- Reminder that Pastor Susan’s final Sunday is May 25. There will be a program and brunch following the service to celebrate her years of service to the ministry and to KRLC in particular.
- As questions arise, let the Council know. What we can answer we will and what we can’t, we’ll find out.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2025 Council.

## **JOYFUL IN THE COMMUNITY**

Our choir director, Patti, has set the following dates to rehearse for our farewell piece of music for Pastor Susan’s retirement program. The dates are May 6, 13 and 20. We will rehearse at 7:15pm. Anyone who wishes to sing in this final musical tribute is welcome. We know you may not be able to be at all of them, but come when you can. Any questions talk to Patti S., Joanie or Ed Lee.

## **OUR CHURCH HELPED BEAR THE BURDEN FOR A GREIVING FAMILY**

By Paul von Goertz

Many of you know I write the Knife River Heritage & Cultural Center monthly newsletter. For the May and June issues, I am writing a two-part story about Captain Charles Anderson who rightly deserves to be called “The Father of Knife River.”

He had a colorful life as a US Navy captain in the Civil War and later as a Great Lakes ship owner and its captain. Born in Olso, Norway, he took a liking to Knife River and the Norwegian immigrants living here and became very successful as a landowner and saloon operator.

He married twice with his first wife dying. In the spiral-bound booklet *Memoirs of Knife River*, published by “The Descendants of the Original Settlers,” the writers state that “Three of the children of this second marriage to Marie Bugge were lost in the waters of the Knife River right behind their farmhouse: Roy age 13, Pearl age 12 and Thema age 10. They all died on August 4, 1918.

According to the *Memoirs of Knife River*, “At first, they were thought to have drowned, but that theory didn’t seem logical, since some were good swimmers, and the water was really not that deep. Folks still remember the funeral service in the little church that still stands today (now Knife River Lutheran Church). The sight of the grief-stricken parents and the three white caskets in the front of the church could never be forgotten.”

Years later a felon whom the good captain had befriended with a job, now living in Ontario, Canada, confessed to a priest on his death bed to the murder of all three children. He told the priest he had an argument with Cap over his pay and killed the children in revenge. The priest conveyed the confession to authorities in the U.S. who eventually got the information to Anderson family members.

I have a mental picture of our church filled with a shocked and grieving community and three small white caskets in front. How sad. I know our church existed in 1918 because when we added the addition to our church in 2002, I was removing an outside wall when I found a whiskey bottle wrapped in a newspaper dated 1913. I should note here that in 1913 the church was owned by Presbyterians (!).

I hope that our House of God and the presence and support of the Anderson's church family and the community gave the grieving family some level of solace. Cap Anderson died in July, 1926 at the age of 86 years. Wife Marie (Bugge) died in 1970 at age 88.

May 2025 Church Mouse

### **THANK YOU from Kaia Anderson**

*Congratulations on your upcoming graduation Kaia!*

KRLC,

Thank you so much for the generous donation from the endowment committee.

I really do appreciate everything that you all do at the Church, and will be using the funds to help pay for my last semester at Lake Superior College.

I am so grateful for the continued support from the Church throughout my college career.

I am very excited to graduate this spring and am planning on furthering my education in Fine Arts in the future. It's good to know that I have a community supporting me through my schooling and being so willing to help out every time. I am grateful for the opportunities that are given to me especially when it comes to my education and development.

Again, thank you very much, -- Kaia Anderson

**The KRLC community looks forward to seeing Kaia's future art exhibits.**

### **Congratulations Fiber Artist Anne-Lu**

*How does she do it...?!*

The textile art piece "**Namaqualand bloom**" created by Anne-Lu Hovis has been accepted into the SAQA (Studio Art Quilt Associates) group exhibit "Out of Africa" that was juried into 3 major fibre art shows in 2025. It was in the recent Mancuso art show in Hampton, VA. The next show will be in September at the Mancuso show hosted in Oaks, PA September 11-14, 2025 and later this year in California. (Could this be a road trip destination for the quilting artists of KRLC?) Check out [www.quiltfest.com](http://www.quiltfest.com)

Anne-Lu has more two water themed fibre art pieces, "**Autumn - Strolling along the river**" and "**Finding our way - Cairns**", which will show through the Phipps Center of Arts Enriching Program, Richmond, WI. The Enriching Arts program brings original artists' work into senior living facilities.

Follow up with Anne-Lu: Ask her how she comes up with the ideas for her creations.

### **Congratulations Gunny**

*"Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No. It's Gunny Skadberg on Nordic skis!"*

Gunny Skadberg skied his way to an invitation to compete in the NENSA (North Eastern Nordic Ski Association) U16 Championship Nationals held at Prospect Mountain Nordic Ski Area, Woodford, Vermont on March 7-9. The event is for boys and girls ages 14-15 from each New England state plus special invited entries from regions in the US and Canada. In the competitions, Gunny placed 6<sup>th</sup> in freestyle, 6<sup>th</sup> in sprints and 18<sup>th</sup> in classic with an **overall 7th place ranking**.

Highlights for Gunny included staying at a at a very cool old lodge and getting to know other dedicated young skiers.

Snow is gone. Now we'll next see Gunny on a bike!

### **Thank you!**

\*\*Dear Members of Knife River Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your donation of \$1,310 to Bethany Crisis Shelter. This generous donation helps us provide a safe, warm & comfortable place for kiddos to come to while they and their families navigate difficult situations

We could not do what we do without the support of our community. We appreciate your faithfulness to those we serve! Duncan Gregory & Nathan Towslee, Co-Directors.

\*\* Thank you to JOYFUL for sharing their touching music with Waterview Shores Care Center on March 18.

\*\*A warm thank you to Perkins for the donation of pancake batter for our Palm Sunday breakfast!

### **Welcome!**

\*\*Welcome to our new members Todd & Katie Monger, received on Easter Sunday! We are so happy to have you in our church family!

\*\*Welcome to those baptized during the month of April, Oscar Smith, son of Cody & Alayne Smith, and McKenna & Kaden Lemke, children of Alex & Lindsay Lemke.

### **Congratulations!**

\*\* Congratulations to our graduating seniors, Ali Shaw and Dani Mattson! May you continue to grow in God's grace as you begin the next steps in your life journey! Well done!

\*\* Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmands, Sadie Pollard and McKinley Carl! Welcome to each of you as official voting members of our congregation!

### **Dedication!**

\*\*Our beautiful new Paschal Candle was blessed and dedicated on Easter Sunday. This candle of the resurrection was dedicated in memory of Audrey Carlson, purchased with numerous memorial donations in her honor.

**KRLC Treasurer's Report 3/31/2025**

General Operations Summary	2025	2024
Income from donations	\$ 29,467.35	\$ 33,880.12
Expenses	\$ 35,674.54	\$ 38,392.24
Donations vs expenses	\$ (6,207.19)	\$ (4,512.12)

	Budget
Under budget	\$ 41,065.80
Under budget	\$ 41,065.80



Designated Account Summary	2025	2024
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 12,977.31	\$ 15,702.62
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 6,106.76	\$ 6,629.34
Donations vs expenses	\$ 6,870.55	\$ 9,073.28



The Bottom Line	2025	2024
Total Income	\$ 42,444.66	\$ 49,582.74
Total expenses	\$ 41,781.30	\$ 45,021.58
Fund Balance change	\$ 663.36	\$ 4,561.16



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 3,792.81
Outreach	\$ (845.00)
Building and property fund	\$ 949.15
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 87,558.69
Memorial	\$ 12,320.91
Passthru	\$ 696.00
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 109,472.56
Increase over last year	\$ 5,295.33



Total of all cash assets	\$ 207,118.76
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 15,426.64



Other Fund Balances	Amount
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	\$ 75,174.00
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

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

**March**

The good news is that March income and expenses were almost the same amount! Additionally, we are below our budgeted amount for expenses in all three months. We are still in the hole \$6,207 for the year even with that positive expense news. Let's get caught up with our donations and focus on what is really important, instead. Over the next two months lets celebrate Pastor Susan's 20+ years of ministry here at KRLC and enjoy the many talents that she shares with us every day.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Sit Down Council ---- ASSEMBLY	5 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	6 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	7 12-3 pm Quilters	8 8:30 Men Meet	9	10 SYNOD ---
11 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship MOTHER'S DAY	12 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	13 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 5:00 JOYFUL 6:00 W/ELCA Potluck @ Safstrom home	14 12-3 pm Quilters 6:30 Confirmation	15 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	16	17 8 am - 2 pm Quilting Guild Workshop
18 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Property Comm. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE CONFIRMATION AND SR. RECOGNITION SUNDAY	19 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	20 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm. 6:30 PM JOYFUL	21 12-3 pm Quilters	22 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 3 pm Synod Meeting With Church Council 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	23	24
25 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Program 11 am Brunch PASTOR SUSAN'S RETIREMENT EVENT	26 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	27 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	28 12-3 pm Quilters	29 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	30	31

# May 2025



**A FOND FAREWELL CELEBRATION** submitted by Melanie McMillion

Sunday, May 25, 2025 will be Pastor Susan's final day with us at Knife River Lutheran Church. Months ago the Celebration Team began planning. Those serving with me in planning the celebration have been working very hard and doing an incredible job. Steve & Carol Carlson have the fancy brunch well in hand, including planning the meal itself, table layout for a seamless flow, beautiful decorations AND enlisting many volunteers willing to renew food service training and help anywhere they were needed. Ed & Joanie Lee are using their musical expertise, familiarity with our church musicians from bells to dulcimers to Sticks & Strings, to JOYFUL and beyond, to coordinate an incredible musical experience during worship and the following program. Jim Allert is working on the team from afar, sharing his creative talents, and he will serve as a co-MC of the program. The Celebration Team is operating like a well-oiled machine, and I am ever grateful to them for working their magic to put together a morning I know will truly be a tribute to and celebration of our beloved Pastor Susan.

The magic begins with a Synod-assisted worship at 9 am on Sunday, May 25. Following worship we will have a brief-ish 10-to-15-minute break and then continue with the program segment (also in the sanctuary). Times are difficult to guesstimate, but I believe worship may go a few minutes longer than normal. The program segment will be held to one hour or less (fingers crossed!), and yes, it does contain a few surprises!! Following the program, the MCs will give directions for dismissal to the lower level for the glorious brunch!

All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Pastor Susan and her stellar service to Knife River Lutheran Church!

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES IN PREPARATION FOR EVENT:**

Anne Jaspersen is heading the **Scandinavian Meatball Team** Monday, **May 5th** in the lower level. Please double check with her regarding time if you have volunteered. The **kitchen will be in use** that day.

The church's **lower level will be in use** starting Thursday morning, **May 22 at 10:00 a.m.** when the Men's Group will be rearranging and setting up tables and chairs for Pastor Susan's Retirement Celebration Brunch and preparation, Celebration and clean up. **Continuing through Sunday, May 25.**

If you have previously signed up for **baking bars/cookies**, please **bring them to the church Saturday, May 24th 10:00 a.m.** when volunteers will cut, plate and wrap. We also will be doing some **fruit and vegetable prep as needed.**

**Sunday, May 25th, the KITCHEN CREW arrives by 7:00 a.m. - 8:50 for the Early Bird Special.** Several **more volunteers** would be helpful for last minute **assembly of brunch parfaits.** **It is our intent that all workers will be able to be upstairs for worship and the program!!**

**All volunteers in the kitchen** involved with food prep, serving etc. **must view the Food Safety video** and let Randi Alreck know you have viewed. **Link is on church website. [krlc.org](http://krlc.org)**

**Clean up crew needs more volunteers!** This shouldn't be a lengthy process with all hands on board!

Please **contact Steve or Carol Carlson** with any other questions/concerns.

The following dates have been set for **REHEARSALS TO SING WITH CHOIR DURING PROGRAM.**

The dates are **May 6, 13 and 20.** We will rehearse at **7:15pm.** Anyone who wishes to sing in this final musical tribute is welcome. We know you may not be able to be at all of the rehearsals but **come when you can.** Any questions talk to **Patti S., Joanie or Ed Lee.**