

**February, 2026**

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## From the Pastor's View:

### **Together – Let's Walk the Lenten Journey:**

The 40 days of Lent begin, this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. For many of us, the season is a special time for spiritual discipline, prayer, reflection, sacrifice, and renewal. The season of Lent is traditionally observed by Roman Catholics, people of the Orthodox traditions, and those in some Protestant traditions (like us Lutherans!). Simply put, Lent is a time to “still our hearts and draw nearer to God.” Through the 40 days, we are called to put our priorities in order.

Forty Days... By Whose Count? Forty is an important number in the Bible: Noah experienced 40 days and nights of rain; Elijah walked for 40 days to Mt. Horeb; the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years; and, Jesus (right after his Baptism) experienced 40 days of temptations. So, 40 is important. But, if you count 40 days from Ash Wednesday you don't quite get to Easter. That's because through the penitential season of Lent – the 40 days – we don't count the Sundays. Sundays are always days to celebrate the Resurrection! Do you want more arithmetic? How do you calculate the date for Easter? I know it is on the tip of your tongue – but here is a refresher – “*Easter is the first Sunday, after the full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox.*” Got that? The important thing is this – Lent is the extended period from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is a time for spiritual renewal. I think of Lent as a time to open our hearts a little wider... and understand God's mercy a little deeper.

Through the season of Lent we will have several opportunities for study and reflection. First, there will be a series through which interested people will gather on Wednesdays for prayer, reflection upon a well-chosen devotional, and a light supper. (Please note the detailed announcement included in this newsletter. Participants will want to reserve the selected book.) A second opportunity will be offered on March 1<sup>st</sup> in a Table Talk presentation entitled “*Politics and the Pulpit.*” I look forward to relating some of the Lenten biblical themes to current events. As followers of Jesus, how do we appropriate our faith to the events of these days? A third opportunity will be a Table Talk conversation focused on the “Practice of Prayer.” The date for that Table Talk will be determined soon.

Through the 40 days – let us deepen our spiritual disciplines. May the coming Lenten season be a rich blessing for us all.

### **A Note about Generosity:**

In the 12th chapter of Genesis, the People of God were called “Blessed to be a Blessing.” These few words serve to describe our identity and our mission. As I studied our year-end financial report, I was heartened and amazed by how generous are the people of KRLC! Our offerings stretch to meet real needs locally and globally. People from KRLC gave dollars & cents, pigs & chickens, Pjs & socks, food & medicines... and, the list goes on! By the grace of God, we strive to serve people in need! Thanks be to God! And, thanks be to YOU as your generosity has made a real difference. Yes, *Blessed to be a Blessing!*

### **Improving Our Worship Service!**

Our KRLC Worship Committee strives to plan worship that is creative, interesting, and faithful. Currently, our committee is reviewing some of our worship practices. One item for your input is this: is it best to include “*Announcements and Opportunities for Service*” at the beginning or the end of the Sunday service? In short, how do we attend to the “nuts & bolts” of our ministry activities, meetings, etc., while not disrupting worshippers’ needs for silence, personal prayer, and readying ourselves to either hear God’s Word or “Go in Peace”?

If you have opinions or suggestions in this regard, please share them with Worship Committee Chair, Pat Meyer or Council President, Helene Hedlund.

## **Council Buzz – January, 2026**

### **What’s Happening**

- Draft and implement archiving process – ongoing
- Complete committee Structure processes – proposed changes will be on Congregation Annual meeting agenda
- Annual Review of Policies - ongoing
- Review Committees and identify committee liaisons – ongoing

### **Administrative Support**

- Diane Lewandowski will be on leave from February 17 through May 12. Hannah Weishaar has been hired to serve in this capacity during Diane’s absence. You can communicate with Hannah via email [office.krlc@gmail.com](mailto:office.krlc@gmail.com) She will work up to 10 hours per week on a flexible scheduled . Thanks you Hannah and have a great break Diane!!

### **Plans to gather input from Congregation as we explore what’s next for KRLC**

- As we continue to explore Table Talk Topics, we will want to expand how they are scheduled beyond Sunday mornings after church. We will be seeking input as to preferred times

### **Table Talks**

- A table talk relating to Politics and the Pulpit is scheduled for February 8 under the direction of Pastor Mark.
- If anyone has suggestions for table talk topics, contact a council member.

### **Upcoming**

- February 8 Table Talk
- February 15 KRLC Annual Meeting
- February 22 Council Meeting (Sit Down)

Thank you for your continued support of the Council.

Submitted by Helene Hedlund, Council President

## **FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS**

**Feb 1**

**Feb 8**

**Feb 15**

**Feb 18**

**Feb 22**

<u>Ushers</u>	A Hovis S Carlson	T Anderson B Anderson	S Jasperson A Jasperson	M McMillion E Lee	D Friebe C Beardsley
<u>Lector</u>	A Hovis	B Anderson	L Jackson	M McMillion	P Berger
<u>Communion Asst</u>	A Hubbart	R Alreck	S Berger	V Gorman	T Northey
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	M von Goertz & R Alreck -----				
<u>Offering Counters</u>	K Kari A Jasperson	S Jasperson M Garey	K Struve J Lee	M McMillion	L Olson M. von Goertz
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	Available	Available	Available		Available
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team
<u>Children's Church/ Kid's Connect</u>	A Jasperson Gretta Ojard	C Smith A Hubbart	R Alreck TBA		L Burkhard TBA

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS		FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Kristen Pless	1	Joe & Katie Hubbart
9	Viveca Norman	4	Chris & Anne Skadberg
13	Ella Jackson	22	Georgia & Dennis Ojard
13	Jan Swanson	23	Lisa & Bart Anderson
17	Scott Jasperson		
20	Dani Mattson		

### **LENTEN Devotional Selected**

The 180 page book **For Such A Time As This ; An Emergency Devotional** by Hanna Reichel (published September 4, 2025) is the selected for share study this season. The church has ordered twenty-four (24) copies to be available at no cost to interested individuals. The books are expected to arrive in mid February. To reserve a copy, please send a request to [randi.alreck@gmail.com](mailto:randi.alreck@gmail.com). Due to current demand for this book, the local bookseller predicted that securing additional copies would be difficult. If you wish to obtain a book earlier, please check with booksellers. The cost, generally \$16.99 - \$19.99, may vary by bookseller.

An opportunity for prayer and book discussion at the church will occur each Wednesday in March starting at 4:00 p.m. A simple soup supper follows at 5:15 p.m.

### **BETHANY Crisis Shelter Winter Needs**

Bethany Crisis Shelter provides short-term (up to 90 days), emergency shelter and care for the physical and emotional needs of children (newborn -age 17) in our area. Knife River Lutheran Church has \*offered support of Bethany Crisis Shelter during the month of February. Winter requests include: Cash donations for a variety

of needs including bolster of food/meal budget for ‘extras’ such as ethnic foods; new mittens and hats for youth but especially for toddlers and preschoolers; new toddler boots; NEWBORN clothing (new); sleds to get outside and have some fun! There is also a shortage of toddler/preschool clothing (new) for **boys**. Bethany has an organized inventory of all clothing managed by a dedicated staff member. This inventory allows Bethany to respectfully and immediately meet children’s clothing needs. The ability to do this is made possible by the donations from churches and individuals.

*For cash donations:* Note ‘Bethany Crisis Shelter’ on checks made out to KRLC /offering envelopes. Sleds and new clothing may be left in the narthex/foyer by the Red Heart. Because of the current need, donations will be delivered to Bethany each week. Thank You KRLC. Anne Jaspersen, Lee Bujold, and Randi Alreck, LSS Ambassadors

\*Three local organizations were contacted. Bethany was the only one that responded.

## **CHURCH MOUSE**

### **THANK YOU:**

Thank you so much for my Christmas presents! I received stamps, sippers and body wash. My gifts were much appreciated. May God’s blessings be upon you in the coming year. Your friend, Nancy McDonald-Waterview Shores.

Thank you so much for the surprise Christmas gift you shared with me. You are so very generous. I enjoy playing at KRLC and am happy to help out when I’m available and until you find a permanent replacement. Happy New Year to All, Karen Johnson

Thank you to the KRLC congregation for your Christmas gift. I’m touched by your thoughtfulness. Sharing with you my musical gifts is a blessing. Thanks again. Lawrence

KRLC Congregation. I would like to Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for KRLC as an Administrative Assistant. Everyone I have met has been very welcoming and supportive. I would also like to add that I am truly touched by your generous Christmas gift. I really appreciate the recognition of my work over these past few months. Thanks again! Diane Lewandowski

### **KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND YOUR EAR TO THE GROUND!**

Randi Alreck has a knack (or is it divine inspiration) for choosing memorable Lenten studies for those that want to participate from our congregation. 2026 is no exception! Lent runs from Wednesday, February 26-Thursday, April 2. What will she choose for times such as these?

Thank you Randi!

### **Milestones!**

Congratulations to Laurie Jackson! Laurie retired from the Lake Superior School District on January 9<sup>th</sup>! New year, new horizons. Best wishes as you author this newest chapter in your life!

### **HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT!**

Gunny Skadberg, a sophomore at THHS, took 12th place at the Giants Ridge Invitational varsity freestyle race in Giants Ridge on January 10. This is the highest a Two Harbors skier has ever placed at this highly competitive meet which brought together 57 teams of all sizes from all over Minnesota. Congratulations, Gunny! Sounds like you are “Birkie-ready”!

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Ed Lee is CLP’s 2026 calendar cover photo winner, featuring an absolutely stunning photo of Split Rock Lighthouse and a full moon! CLP invites you to grab your 2026 calendar at their office! It’s Free!

### **POP UP DINNER AT LARSMONT TRADING POST!**

Thursdays at the Trading Post have become the go-to gathering spot for great live music/open mic hosted by Jim Madison. With a new kitchen and a deep fryer, the menu has been expanded at the Trading Post so yes....French Fries and Thursday specials including pizza! See you there! 5:30-8 PM!

### **THANK YOU CHURCH COUNCIL!**

A great chili supper was coordinated by Vicky Gorman and Jan Swanson! Thank you to each church council member for offering up these great community suppers where we break bread and catch up on what’s happening! If the weather outside is frightful you can count on delicious food and great company! Join in!

*Lord, Lead us from death to life,  
From falsehood to truth,  
Lead us from despair to hope,  
From fear to trust.  
Let peace fill our hearts,  
Our world, our universe.  
Let us dream together,  
Pray together, work together,  
To build one world  
Of peace and justice for all.  
Amen  
(Anonymous)*

### **Children’s Church and Kid’s Connect God’s Global Barnyard**

The children express a big thank you for your support of their mission project of ELCA’s God’s Global Barnyard. The children selected 23 chicks, 4 roosters, 2 herd of goats, 5 piglets, 1 fish farm, 1 share of a fish farm, 3 honeybees, and 4 school supplies for a classroom. Their selections totaled to \$2,700 and remaining funds were placed in “Give Where Needed Most” box for the ELCA to use wisely. These selections were made possible through their yearly offerings and your generous contributions via Barnyard coin banks, Sunday offerings, and memorial gifts. Thank you so much.

### **God’s Global Barnyard Coin Banks**

For those wanting God’s Global Barnyard coin banks, feel free to take them from the table in the library. Lawrence will restock the table with more banks as needed.

**Community Partners invites you to join them for an informal time of projects and morning coffee.**

Cup O’ Joe Craft Group will meet Monday, February 9 from 10:00 - 11:00 at the Two Harbors Community Center. Whether you whittle or knit, embroider or watercolor, you are welcome to gather with us with whatever

project you are currently working on. We'll have the coffee pot on. No commitments, come when you can! For more information, or any questions, please call 218-834-8024.

### **Call Committee**

"As the Call Committee has finished up its tasks on information gathering and is hard at work finishing up the Ministry Site Profile and interview preparation, we will be entering the "period of silence" we have mentioned various times during updates on the process we are following. We will no longer be available to discuss our activities with you as we move into the next phase of synod process, and ask you to respect those boundaries.

We appreciate the support you have shown us thus far, and would ask that as we continue our prayers, you will also continue your prayers for the committee and for our future pastor -- who we are confident the spirit will lead us to and will lead to us!! Your Call Committee"

2025 was an amazing year for Outreach giving from our members.

We had a new record amount! This is so great and your generosity should be celebrated!

We donated over \$33,000 to worthwhile charities. When you add

in the Synod 10% and Vayager's which are budgeted, we were over \$47,000!

Thank you for helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

	Year End	Year End	Difference
Local Outreach	2025 Amount	2024 Amount	
General Outreach to be divided	\$ -	\$ -	
Two Harbor's Food Shelf	\$ 13,552.00	\$ 6,242.50	
CHUM	\$ 1,325.00	\$ 1,280.00	
LSS Center for changing lives	\$ 1,562.50	\$ 1,650.00	
Lutheran Social Services		\$ 275.00	
Best Christmas Ever	\$ 235.00	\$ -	
North Shore Horizons		\$ 100.00	
Bethany Crisis Center	\$ 2,111.00	\$ 1,550.00	
Neighbor in Need by KRLC		\$ -	
Lake County DAC	\$ 550.00	\$ 425.00	
Together Here ELCA	\$ 753.00	\$ 255.00	
EcoFaith Network	\$ 440.00	\$ 495.00	
<b>Total local outreach</b>	<b>\$ 20,528.50</b>	<b>\$ 12,272.50</b>	<b>\$ 8,256.00</b>

World Outreach	2025 Amount	2024 Amount	
World Outreach to be determined	\$ -	\$ -	
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 3,195.00	\$ 7,841.04	
God's Barnyard	\$ 6,382.09	\$ 4,028.80	
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 550.00	\$ 300.00	
Global Refuge	\$ 1,867.50		
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 600.00	\$ 450.00	
<b>Total world outreach</b>	<b>\$ 12,594.59</b>	<b>\$ 12,619.84</b>	<b>\$ (25.25)</b>

<b>Council allocation- Steak fry/FFF</b>	<b>\$ 4,807.47</b>	<b>\$ 8,525.19</b>	included above
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<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 33,123.09</b>	<b>\$ 24,892.34</b>	<b>\$ 8,230.75</b>
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	2025	2024	2023
<b>Year end outreach total</b>	<b>\$ 33,123.09</b>	<b>\$ 24,892.34</b>	<b>\$ 28,952.35</b>
Synod- 10% of 3 year ave. income	\$ 13,460.36	\$ 12,845.80	\$ 11,974.76
Voyager's Camps	\$ 622.00	\$ 498.00	\$ 498.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 47,205.45</b>	<b>\$ 38,236.14</b>	<b>\$ 41,425.11</b>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 2 pm Annual Report Submissions Due	2 9 am Bone Building  2pm Handbell rehearsals	3 9 am Lector  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	4 10 – 1 Quilters	5 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers  5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	6 8:30 Men's Bible Study	7
8 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Table Talk: Politics and the Pulpit Annual Report Distributed	9 9 am Bone Building  2pm Handbell rehearsals	10 9 am Lectio 10:00am Worship Committee 5:00 pm JOYFUL Practice 6 pm W/ELCA	11 10 – 1 Quilters	12 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers  5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	13 8:30 Men's Bible Study	14
15 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Annual Meeting (Brunch-Pot Luck) Next Week: Newsletter Deadline	16 9 am Bone Building  2pm Handbell rehearsals	17 9 am Lectio 10 am Planning Team  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	18 10 – 1 Quilters  6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service/Confirmation	19 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers  5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	20	21
22 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Sit Down Council Newsletter Deadline 2:00PM TODAY!	23 9 am Bone Building  2pm Handbell rehearsals	24 9 am Lectio  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	25 10 – 1 Quilters	26 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers  5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	27	28

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