

The Knife River Current

September, 2025

158 Church Street, PO Box 218, Knife River, MN 55609
Telephone: 218-834-5172

www.krlc.org
kniferiverchurch@gmail.com

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

The Vision Thing

The optician at COSTCO, in Duluth, straightened my new spectacles and said, “Now, open your eyes and tell me what you see.” I looked at the small print on the laminated card and said, “I see the words, but they’re fuzzy. It’s not quite right.” Undeterred, Crystal was confident. “Oh, you’ll get used to it. It takes a while for your brain to adjust.”

I thought of the blind man who, when he was asked by Jesus, “Do you see anything now?” said, “I see people but they look like trees walking.” (Mk 8: 24) Well, it wasn’t quite that bad, but it wasn’t good either. It shouldn’t have been that difficult. I had ordered reading glasses to wear over my contact lenses. Identical frames and lenses as before – albeit, without the scruffs and scratches.

Unfamiliar with the lingo of optometrists, I tried my best as a layman: “The ‘sweet spot’ doesn’t seem to be in the right place.” I demonstrated. “When I move my head to the right I can read out of my right eye but the left is fuzzy. When I move my head to the left I can see clearly with that eye but not the right one.”

Crystal took some quick measurements and reconfirmed her diagnosis: “It must be your brain. It takes time to adjust.” “I don’t think so,” I protested. She went to get the manager. Sitting directly in front of me, the manager looked intently into my eyes, and then drew some marks on the new lenses. Removing my glasses she clamped the frames into a gizmo to calculate critical measurements. “Aha! I see the problem; the lenses are not properly aligned! We’ll have new glasses for you in a week – no extra charge.” As I left COSTCO, I felt we had made some headway, but I really hadn’t planned a return trip anytime soon to COSTCO. I wondered, would I have to see Crystal again?

My wrestling with the technicians at COSTCO on the “vision thing” reminded me of the important work that’s being done at Knife River Lutheran Church. 2700 years ago, when the Proverbs were assembled for what we call the Old Testament, one anonymous sage wrote, “When there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18 KJV) Yes, clear vision is critical.

We, at KRLC, are in the process of clarifying our vision. Through a congregational survey instrument soon to be distributed to all members, and the small group discussions to follow, we will encourage participants to share their perspectives regarding the strengths, challenges, and opportunities that lie before our congregation. After that, at the beginning of the new year, we will launch “The River Project” through which every member of our congregation will see themselves both in the history and unfolding future of our church. (Much more about the “River Project” in the weeks to come.) These are just two parts of a creative effort through which we peer into the future, discerning and trusting God’s plan for mission and ministry.

In worship, within small groups, and within the devotional life of individuals, Knife River members will be praying for clarity through this time of discernment. Thank you for all the ways you are helping our church focus on the essential things of mission and ministry! May God’s guiding Spirit help us to see clearly!

It’s partly a brain thing. Even more, it’s a faith thing. As we enter our 99th year of ministry, let us be open to – and participating with - the Holy Spirit; the One who is always about the vision thing!

Mark Holman
Cell: 612-214-0392
Email: holman28@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

	Sept 7	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28
<u>Ushers</u>	S Jaspersen A Jaspersen	L Bujold C Beardsley	D Jackson S Hubbart	M McMillion C Whiting
<u>Lector</u>	C Smith	C Beardsley	D Jackson	C Whiting
<u>Communion Asst</u>	A Hubbart S Hubbart	S Berger P Berger	C Whiting K Bloom	D Grong L Grong
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	V Gorman and T Northey-----			
<u>Offering Counters</u>	K. Struve J. Lee	L. Olson M. von Goertz	S Jaspersen M. Garey	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>	Alison Shaw -----			

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS	SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS	SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
2 Hannah Weishaar 2 Dave Schlomann 4 Carol Carlson 7 Beth Alexander 8 Norbert Norman 20 Bill Meyer	23 Carmen Beardsley 24 Delores Jackson Sandra Schumann 27 Gail Safstrom	3 Carol & Steve Carlson 23 Carmen & Kyle Beardsley 26 Jan & Dennis Swanson 28 Joanie & Ed Lee

COUNCIL BUZZ – August 2025

Greetings to all

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 Hire

- Diane Lewandowski, Admin Assist, will be on site Tuesdays and Thursdays for 4 hours per day. REMINDER that she will only respond to emails during her scheduled work hours. Please contact using her office email, office.krlc@gmail.com. If there is an emergency, contact Pastor Mark.

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

- The council is continuing to draft a Congregation Survey to be distributed to gather input. Responses will be compiled and shared. Distribution date TBD
- The council is planning a “table talk” activity that will focus on determining critical skills the congregation is looking for in a new pastor. We will plan it to follow an upcoming worship service . . . exact date TBD
- 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 Call Committee once formed

Call Committee process

- The Call Committee Application has been distributed via email, WEB and pick up from the church.
- Applications are due to the office by April 26. The council will meet on September 8 to review applications and set a date for a congregational meeting to vote on the proposed call team.
- Once the team has been finalized, a meeting will be scheduled with Deacon Susan Williams from the Synod to review duties and process. That meeting will be scheduled late September/early October.
- The team will share the status of their search throughout the process that do not breach confidentiality of the applicants.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2025 Council.

Submitted by Helene Hedlund, Council President

CONFIRMATION START UP

- The first onsite meeting for confirmation is scheduled for **September 17 at 6:30.**
- **The 17th is also the Steak and Chop fund raiser. All returning or new confirmands are invited to attend as guests of the Council. There will be no charge for your dinner. We hope you can attend as you prepare for your first on-site meeting with Pastor Mark.**
- All 6th and 7th graders are invited to participate in this two year program.
- Please contact either Pastor Mark or Helene Hedlund to confirm your participation.

Mark Holman
Pastor and Facilitator
holman28@gmail.com

Helene Hedlund
Program Coordinator
hhedlund.dl@gmail.com

EDUCATION NEWS:

Children's Church: Alison Shaw will lead Children's Time (crafts and activities) through September 28, 2025. Children's Church lessons will start on October 5, 2025. If you have questions about Children's Church, please contact Pastor Mark (218-834-5172).

Teacher Installation: On September 21, 2025, teachers for Children's Church for the new year will be blessed at the communion rail with the laying of hands by Pastor Mark and the children.

Bible Purchases: Christian Education Committee is looking for donations to cover the purchase of Bibles appropriate for pre-K – 1st grade children and for 4th grade students. These Bibles will be handed out on September 21, 2025 following teacher installation ceremony. Contact Lawrence Burkhard (Christian Education chair) at 218-721-2427 for further information.

SILENT AUCTION

We're thrilled to announce that planning is underway for our upcoming Silent Auction, which will be held during our Knife River Community Steak and Chop Fry on Wednesday, September 17 at 5:00 pm at Knife River Lutheran Church. This exciting event will help raise critical funds for the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf and Global Refuge.

But we can't do it without YOU!

We're currently **seeking donations of items, services, gift cards, and experiences** for the auction—and we'd love your help. Do you own a local business? Know someone who does? Whether it's a gift basket, a handmade item, or tickets to an event, your contribution can make a big difference.

How you can help:

- **Donate** a product, service, or experience
- **Connect us** with local businesses or individuals who may want to support
- **Spread the word** by telling others about our upcoming community event

All donors will be recognized at the event. It's a great way to give back while promoting your business.

If you'd like to contribute or learn more, please contact Jillian McCorison at 612-723-3356 or mccorisonjillian@gmail.com. Donations are tax-deductible, and we're happy to provide documentation upon request.

Thank you for helping us bring this community event to life. Together, we can make a real impact!

CHURCH MOUSE!

THANK YOU NOTES!

I want to thank you for the very generous educational grant you awarded me. I will use this money to help pay for my tuition. Your kindness is very much appreciated. Thank you so much! Sincerely, Danielle Mattson

I am truly thankful to be a recipient of the educational grant from the Endowment Fund. I am looking forward to continuing my education and appreciate the investment from the church in my future studies. Thank you for your generous support. Sincerely, Nolan Anderson

Thanks to support from Knife River Lutheran, the Lake County Development Achievement Center can continue to provide specialized support and training to those individuals who face barriers in being fully included in their community. Our goal has been met to in supporting everyone we serve to gain community employment if they desire. As always we are truly blessed to have you in our corner. Michelle L. McDonald, Executive Director

Your LSS Ambassadors thank you all so much for your support of our “Jammie Drive” for Bethany Crisis Center! To date, we have delivered 51 sets of jammies to a most appreciative staff at Bethany! But wait....we aren’t done yet! donations at our summer community picnics. Jammies will be purchased and delivered to Bethany as we wrap up the “Jammie Drive”! Thank you each and every one! Randi, Annie J and Lee!

Steak & Chop Fry on Wednesday, September 17th \$10 PP. Proceeds will go to the TH Food Shelf and Global Refuge: A bit more about this organization: Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, they have welcomed those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis. As newcomers begin their new lives in the United States Global Refuge, through their work in refugee resettlement, provides respite services, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children. To date, they have served over 800,000 people from around the globe. Thanks for your generous support of this important mission. NOTE!!! All confirmands will receive a free meal prior to the start of confirmation at 6:30 pm!

THURSDAY POP-IN DINNERS

Now that the busyness of summer is waning, consider popping into McQuades in Two Harbors on Thursday evening at 5 pm! You never know who you’ll see there! No reservations! No responsibility! Come at the last minute. Dutch Treat! Order off the menu! Cameraderie is free! See you there?

SENIOR DINERS CLUB!

If you have enjoyed the delicious \$4.50 senior dining/lunches M-F at Lakeview Hospital in Two Harbors, consider this: you can also enjoy several menu selections at Grandmas’ Restaurant in Hermantown on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 2-4 PM. Dine in or take-out! This is so convenient if you have business in Duluth M-W! Registering with AEOA is simple! Call 800-662-5711, ext. 6899, answer a few questions and boom....you are registered.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Lake County Housing & Redevelopment Authority will provide up to \$10,000 to eligible homeowners seeking to fix health and safety issues in owner-occupied single-family residences. Eligible improvements/remediation include failing health/safety conditions: ADA Accessibility, Lead Paint Hazards, Electrical, Plumbing, Heating, Roofing, Foundation, Windows, Exterior Doors, Insulation, Sealing Exterior Surfaces (weathertight), Sewer & Water Connection. In order to qualify, income guidelines apply (\$53,850 1-person household; \$61,550 2-person household up to \$101,550 for 8+ person household). A workplan must be approved by the HRA and you must work with a licensed contractor. Visit www.lakecountyhra.org or call Matthew Johnson at 218-834-8332.

The Knife River Ringers are getting ready for our next season. We are always looking for new members. If you can read music, you can ring bells! Rehearsals are Monday afternoons at 2:00, beginning September 8, and we usually play during one worship service a month. If you are interested in giving this a try, or have questions, contact any bell choir member, or LeeAnn Olson at 952-217-7780 or at leeannolson@lakeconnections.net.

A grateful thank you to all who generously volunteered in some capacity through June, July, and part of August to keep our Sunday services rich in spirit. Thankful that Pastor Mark has joined us now to lead us into our search and new challenges.

Pat Meyer, Nancy Dent, and the Worship Committee.

“HAPPILY WE BASK IN THIS WARM SEPTEMBER SUN WHICH ILLUMINATES ALL CREATURES...”
HENRY DAVID THOREAU

***** OOPS WE GOOFED!!!! Newsletter calendar indicates JOYFUL practice on both Mondays and Tuesdays. Disregard Monday practices!!! Sorry about that, yikes!!!

KRLC Treasurer's Report	7/31/2025
--------------------------------	------------------

General Operations Summary	2025	2024		Budget
Income from donations	\$ 74,268.65	\$ 76,047.65	Under budget	\$ 95,820.20
Expenses	\$ 79,124.70	\$ 83,634.29	Under budget	\$ 95,820.20
Donations vs expenses	\$ (4,856.05)	\$ (7,586.64)		



Designated Account Summary	2025	2024
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 22,392.46	\$ 24,238.64
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 25,087.72	\$ 14,980.96
Donations vs expenses	\$ (2,695.26)	\$ 9,257.68



The Bottom Line	2025	2024
Total Income	\$ 96,661.11	\$ 100,286.29
Total expenses	\$ 104,212.42	\$ 98,615.25
Fund Balance change	\$ (7,551.31)	\$ 1,671.04



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 5,143.95
Outreach	\$ -
Building and property fund	\$ (4,473.99)
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 88,725.76
Memorial	\$ 9,527.58
Passthru	\$ (2,718.63)
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 101,204.67
Decrease from last year	\$ (3,881.99)

Total of all cash assets	\$ 202,662.63
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 6,318.80



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	\$ 78,985.76
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

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

JULY

Thank you so much for your continued donations to KRLC and to our Outreach programs. July returned to pretty normal levels for donations and expenses. The problem with that is it added to our red ink for the year. It would be nice to knock that down some. The money market account has gained \$2,443 in interest for the year so it was worth setting up.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed LABOR DAY	2 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 6:30pm JOYFUL	3	4 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	5	6
7 9 am Worship in the Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship	8 9 am Bone Strengthening 2pm Handbell Rehearsals 3pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	9 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 6 pm W/ELCA potluck 6:30pm JOYFUL	10 1 – 3 Quilters	11 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner		
14 9 am Worship in the Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship 10:30 am Sit Down Council	15 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2pm Handbell Rehearsals 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	16 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 11:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm JOYFUL	17 1 – 3 Quilters 5 pm Community Steak & Chop Fry/Silent Auction 6:30pm Confirmation	18 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	19 8 am – 6 pm Lake Superior Modern Quilt Guild Private Event	20 8 am – 5 pm Lake Superior Modern Quilt Guild Private Event
21 9 am Worship in the Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Tonight!!	22 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2pm Handbell Rehearsals 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	23 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 6:30pm JOYFUL	24 1 – 3 Quilters	25 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	26	27
28 9 am Worship in the Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship	29 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2pm Handbell Rehearsals 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	30 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 6:30pm JOYFUL			UPCOMING <i>Children's Church starts Oct 8</i>	

September 2025