

FEBRUARY, 2025

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FROM THE PASTOR

By now, most who receive this newsletter will be aware that after 20 years of serving as Knife River's first solo Pastor, I have announced my retirement from ordained ministry as of June 1, 2025. Of course, this is a bittersweet experience for me; without a doubt, these last 20 years have been the most joyful and richest years of my 39 years of service as an ordained Pastor. There is so much I will miss! But I also look forward to the opportunity to explore other aspects of myself and of a life with fewer professional obligations and commitments, just as those of you who have already retired know well. I am so appreciative of the kind and affirming words that have already come my way either verbally or in writing---it means so much to me that we have had such a blest and productive ministry together!

One of the most difficult things for any Pastor and spouse leaving a beloved congregation is that they need to move away from congregational membership or participation in order to make space for a new vision, a new Pastor. This means that both Phil and I will no longer be members of this church or worship here or participate in church sponsored activities. Obviously, this is a great loss for both of us! To clarify---friendships and activities involving congregational members but that are *not church sponsored* can continue for us. But sadly, activities that fall under the umbrella of church sponsorship are things we must both step back from. We will want to continue cherished friendships! But, we cannot continue our involvement in worship, musical, fellowship, or study activities of the church itself. This will be a significant change for us!

Obviously, this is also a significant change for the congregation. There will understandably be a time of grief and anxiety as this transition is being navigated. We are so extremely fortunate to have such capable leadership at this time---in our Council President, in our entire Council, in various areas of ministry within the congregation, and from our Synod. Council President Helene Hedlund will be doing her usual effective job of guiding us through the process on the congregational end and communicating clearly about the process. Deacon Susan Williams, from our Synod office, will be providing expert assistance throughout this transition of my retirement, then a time of interim ministry that includes congregational self-assessment, and then the calling of a new Pastor.

Mostly, I want to assure every one of the following:

- There is no urgency! This is not a crisis. There is a well-established policy and process that will take some time(probably more time than one thinks it should!) and will offer clarity moving forward.
- The congregation is not on its own! The Synod guides every step of this process, with specific timelines and tasks that will become clearer over time, a good many of them happening after my retirement.

There will be a Farewell event for me on my final Sunday, May 25, which will include Synodical representation as well. Know that any questions you may have can be directed to Helene, and please know that God continues to have great plans in mind for this congregation and all it will do moving into the future!

In Christ, Pastor Susan

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

This month we continue to worship in the season of Epiphany; this is a time when light, revelations, and miracles show up in our Scripture lessons and our service of worship.

Sunday, February 2-The Presentation of our Lord. JOYFUL will sing. We will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar.

Sunday, February 9-A Sunday after Epiphany. We will worship in a traditional style with Communion by intinction. The Knife River Ringers will play. Our Annual Meeting/potluck brunch will follow.

Sunday, February 16-A Sunday after Epiphany. Our worship will be led by Pastor Kris Garey, with Pastor Susan on vacation, and we will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction. There will be a time for healing and anointing.

Sunday, February 23-A Sunday after Epiphany. Sticks and Strings will lead our worship, with Holy Communion by intinction.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Our KRLC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, following worship. Please plan to attend and sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area as to what you might contribute to the Potluck Brunch that accompanies our meeting.

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
<u>Ushers</u>	C. Whiting S. Carlson	T. Anderson B. Anderson	S. Jasperson A. Jasperson	M. Garey K. Garey
<u>Lector</u>	S. Carlson	B. Anderson	L. Jackson	K. Garey
<u>Communion Asst</u>	V. Gorman	E. Lee	T. Northey	N. Dent
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	R. Alreck & M. von Goertz -----			
<u>Offering Counters</u>	K. Struve J. Lee	L. Olson M. von Goertz	Scott J 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>	J. McCorison A. Shaw	S. Socha D. Mattson	L. Burkhard A. Hubbartt	A. Jasperson G. Ojard

GIFTS RECEIVED

A gift to God's Barnyard in memory of Paul Struve was received from Paul & Mary von Goertz.
A gift to the memorial fund in memory of Paul Struve was received from Doug & Becky Pruitt.
A gift to the memorial fund in memory of Audrey Carlson was received from Doug & Becky Pruitt.

COUNCIL BUZZ by Helene Hedlund

In anticipation of questions as to the transition process and timelines, the purpose of this memo is to provide a tentative timeline as we respond to Pastor Susan's announcement to retire effective June 1, 2025. As you know, PS has shared that decision with our Council as well as our Congregation.

As I understand it, KRLC has not gone through a complete "call process" previously so there may be many questions as to the timeline of the process. I will be providing a tentative timeline. Why do I identify it as tentative? As the process continues there may be clarifications and/or modifications to this timeline. Even though our Council members are not experts as it relates to this process, we will be able to rely on our Synod to guide us through the various stages of transition.

First, this is not a quick process. There should be no expectation that a new Pastor will be in place by June 1. I have listed various phases below:

Phase 1 January through June 1

- The council and congregation will continue to provide support to Pastor Susan's ministry as she prepares to retire.
- In addition to the council and congregation, Pastor Susan has informed the Synod of her anticipated retirement date.
- The Synod will provide support to our congregation as we navigate this process. Deacon Susan Williams is the Synod transition designee and has the expertise to work closely with the Council during this transition. She will work with us to identify an Interim Pastor until a Call Committee is formed and completes its work.
- The Council has a transition meeting scheduled with Deacon Susan for **May 22, 2025**.
- In the meantime, the Council will meet with Pastor Susan for an exit interview. This conversation will focus on her ministry, her ideas as to current and future needs and her parting advice for KRLC. A date has yet to be determined for this interview but it will most likely occur sometime in May.
- Deacon Susan will propose an Interim pastor for the Council to interview and become acquainted with. Interim pastors are uniquely qualified to assist congregations as they go through this type of transition. The Interim will come to us with specific transition skills and experience for this purpose.
- The final activity during this Phase will be to plan a celebration event recognizing Pastor Susan's years of service to the ministry and most particularly, to KRLC. Her final date in the pulpit will be **May 25, 2025**. Details about the celebration will be shared once they are finalized.

Phase 2 June through TBD

- During Phase 2, there may be a few Sundays that we will call upon guests to lead our worship, similar to when Pastor Susan was on Sabbatical. Our Worship Committee will be asked to assist in scheduling guest leaders.
- In conjunction with our Synod Liaison and Council, an interim will be identified. The duration of Phase 2 is unknown. The purpose of this time is for the Interim to get to know our congregation and community, lead our worship and assist the congregation in identifying a "call committee."
- The Interim will lead the congregation through an assessment of needs, wants and desires as it relates to our new Pastor. Discussions may include staffing and/or assessing the need to expand our pastor call beyond ½ time.

- This will be a time of future planning, but one of the reasons for an interim pastor is to allow time to grieve the loss of our beloved pastor and to move past it. If we bring someone in too soon, we are setting them up for failure. They will not be the same as Pastor Susan nor will they do things the same way.
- Once again, there is no defined time period for the Interim ministry, but we should expect that it could take up to 6 months or beyond.

Phase 3 Call Committee

- Our Constitution defines the Call Committee to consist of 5 members elected by the congregation. Details as to this portion of the process will be shared once we have received direction from the Synod.
- The Call process will be confidential primarily to respect the privacy of applicants as they communicate with possible current congregations as to their intentions. We should not expect to know much detail, if any, during this time,
- Once the Committee has completed their work, candidate(s) will be introduced to the Council and Congregation for final decisions.
- It is not typical for council members or staff to be part of the call committee.
- There is not a specific timeline for this process, but it usually takes several months.

Phase 4 The Call to our New Pastor

- Once our new Pastor has been identified. It will be a time to celebrate and get to know our new Pastor, introduce them to our community and continue the KRLC concept as being the “Heart of the Community.”

General Comments

- It is the goal of our council for this process to be as transparent as possible. We will share any new information or information that needs to be clarified as soon as it becomes available.
- During this time, we will be celebrating with Pastor Susan the time she has spent in the ministry and particularly the time she has spend at KRLC. It goes without saying, we are not happy to see her go, but we do join her in celebrating her successful ministry.
- As is standard practice for ELCA pastors, Pastor Susan and Pastor Phil will not remain members of KRLC nor will they participate in church sponsored activities
- If at any time questions arise as to timelines and process, please contact me. hhedlund.dl@gmail.com

EcoFaith Summit 2025

Theme: Earth’s Cries, Earth’s Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation

When: Saturday April 5, 2025

Where: First Lutheran, Duluth and online.

Lead Speaker: Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda. *Professor of Theological and Social Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California*

Lead Presenter: Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy. *Member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Teaches at Augsburg University and St. Olaf College, guiding students in social justice, spirituality, and racial reparations through an Indigenous lens.*

Registration Opens: January 31, 2025

Contact Lawrence Burkhard for further information.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES
1 Kristen Pless	13 Jan Swanson	4 Chris & Anne Skadberg
4 Brian Stuberud	17 Scott Jaspersen	22 Georia & Dennis Ojard
6 Ronald Hubbartt	20 Dani Mattson	23 Lisa & Bart Anderson
13 Ella Jackson		
13 Christian Von Goertz		

CHURCH MOUSE by Randi Alreck

THANK YOU Notes 

Thank you to the KRLC congregation for your Christmas gift. I'm touched by your thoughtfulness and kindness. Thanks again. **Lawrence Burkhard**

Thank you to our amazing congregation for the thoughtful, generous gift given to me at Christmas. I'm very grateful to be part of our thriving music ministry at KRLC. Music is powerful! It speaks to the heart where words alone can't reach.

A Happy New Year to All Of You – And - May you always have a song in your heart. Love, **'Benchy'**

VALENTINES 

Jesus' love is written on your heart!

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their **hearts**, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Hebrews 8:10

May Jesus' love plant seeds of great joy!

Those who go our weeping, bearing the **seed** for sowing, shall come home with **shouts of joy**, carrying their sheaves. Psalm 126:6

We are bound together in God's love.

Above all, **clothe yourselves with love**, which **binds everything together** in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14

Mark Your Calendars!

Pastor Susan's Farewell Event will be held on Sunday, May 25 with a special worship (her final at KRLC) at 9 am, followed by a program and then brunch. This is Memorial Day Weekend; please mark your calendars now so you won't miss out!

A team, led by Melanie, has been put together to plan this event. Jim Allert will serve as MC, with Melanie. Carol & Steve Carlson will be spearheading the celebration brunch. Your involvement is needed, so please be generous in offering your help! Ed & Joanie Lee will be spearheading the music for the event, including worship and the program (coordinating with the worship committee regarding worship music). They will be contacting church musical groups regarding participation. The entire team will be working in the next couple of months towards developing the program. If you have questions regarding the event, feel free to contact Steve, Carol, Ed, Joanie or Melanie.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

WINTER PICNIC FEBRUARY 19TH 5:00 TO 6:30

Monthly Picnics are a part of our "Heart of the Community Outreach. It's free, bring a friend, donations are welcome.

KRLC Treasurer's Report	12/31/2024	FINAL
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General Operations Summary	2024	2023		Budget
Income from donations	\$ 146,131.80	\$ 142,439.30	Excellent	\$ 146,235.04
Expenses	\$ 147,116.02	\$ 132,511.95	Over budget	\$ 146,235.04
Donations vs expenses	\$ (984.22)	\$ 9,927.35		

Designated Account Summary	2024	2023
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 51,230.73	\$ 41,988.36
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 41,053.58	\$ 50,066.28
Donations vs expenses	\$ 10,177.15	\$ (8,077.92)

The Bottom Line	2024	2023
Total Income	\$ 197,362.53	\$ 184,427.66
Total expenses	\$ 188,169.60	\$ 182,578.23
Fund Balance change	\$ 9,192.93	\$ 1,849.43



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 10,000.00
Outreach	\$ -
Building and property fund	\$ 672.00
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 86,336.29
Memorial	\$ 6,800.91
Passthru	\$ -
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 108,809.20
Increase over last year	\$ 9,192.93



Total of all cash assets	\$ 204,368.77
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 19,622.61



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	\$ 73,087.37
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

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

December and annual highlights

Thank you to everyone who donated to KRLC to help make our donation budget for the year! Thanks to each of you, we ended the year only \$103.24 short of our budgeted donations. We did end up slightly in the hole on our operating budget because of some unplanned expenses. That loss was more than made up by the interest earned on our new Money Market Account. The net interest earned was \$1,154.29 which is listed in the designated income area. The total value of our accounts including the Money Market increased by \$9,192.93 from last year. The total of all accounts increased by \$19,622.61 over the same time last year. If you look at the entire financial picture for 2024, we had a very good year. Thank you so much!

KRLC community and world outreach

2024 FINAL

	Full year 2024 Amount	Full year 2023 Amount
Local Outreach		
Local Outreach to be divided	\$ -	\$ -
Two Harbor's Food Shelf	\$ 6,242.50	\$ 4,724.00
CHUM	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,647.10
LSS Center for changing lives	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,565.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 275.00	\$ 2,697.10
North Shore Horizons	\$ 100.00	\$ 495.00
Bethany Crisis Center	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 458.00
Neighbor in Need by KRLC	\$ -	\$ -
Lake County DAC	\$ 425.00	\$ 450.00
Together Here ELCA	\$ 255.00	\$ 485.00
Salvation Army for local use	\$ -	\$ 500.00
other	\$ -	\$ -
Hope Reimagined	\$ -	\$ 125.00
EcoFaith Network	\$ 495.00	\$ 305.00
Total local outreach	\$ 12,272.50	\$ 13,451.20

	2024 Amount	2023 Amount
World Outreach		
World Outreach to be determined	\$ -	\$ -
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 7,841.04	\$ 5,321.74
God's Barnyard	\$ 4,028.80	\$ 5,571.81
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,677.35
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 450.00	\$ 930.25
Total world outreach	\$ 12,619.84	\$ 15,501.15

Council allocation	\$ 8,525.19	\$ 6,367.33
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Total Outreach	\$ 24,892.34	\$ 28,952.35
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In 2024 KRLC gave a total of \$24,892.34 to other people in need! Thank you for your generosity by giving with a grateful heart. In addition to this amount we gave \$12,845.80 to the Synod. About 50% of this amount goes to their Outreach projects. During the month of Dec. the Stewardship Committee met to make their recommendations to the Church Council. These two groups decided to donate a \$4,000 portion of the gain in our financial assets to help others in need locally. \$1,000 was allocated to CHUM, \$1,500 to LSS Center for Changing lives and \$1,500 to Bethany Crisis Center. The undesignated \$75 was sent to Lutheran Social Ser. Part of the discussion in making these recommendations was to remember that we are a non-profit church and we should not be accumulating money for anything other than expected expenditures ie: a new roof, a new furnace and an emergency fund. We have been blessed with abundance which we share with those who have much greater needs than us.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship	3 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	4 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	5 1-3 pm Quilters	6 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	7	8	
ANNUAL REPORTS DISTRIBUTED							
9 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Potluck	10 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	11 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:00 WELCA 6:30 PM JOYFUL	12 1-3 pm Quilters	13 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	14	15	
16 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY	18 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 6:30 PM JOYFUL	19 1-3 pm Quilters 5 pm Church/Community Lasagna Feed by WELCA 5:30 Sticks & Strings 6:30 PM Confirmation	20 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	21	22	
23 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 2 pm Newsletter Deadline	24 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	25 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm. 6:30 PM JOYFUL	26 1-3 pm Quilters	27 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	28		

February 2025