

MARCH, 2025

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FROM THE PASTOR Some further thoughts on retirement

Anyone who has gone through a major life transition, whether retirement or a move or marriage, will be familiar with some of the feelings I am experiencing at this time: excitement, anticipation, angst, sadness, unsettledness, and an unfortunate tendency towards irritability! I hadn't quite realized the extent of what is involved in the process of retirement, both professionally and personally. Much of it involves attending to details, never my strong suit. I also find myself feeling that I live in a place of waiting, of being in between more settled situations, and that's not a place in which I'm particularly comfortable. On the other hand, I am SO very grateful for all the expressions of appreciation and affirmation that have come my way the past two months, which are so typical of the kind of congregation Knife River Lutheran Church is---caring, encouraging, and loving.

One of the opportunities of entering into this time of transition is the chance to look back, both over my 20 years here as the first solo Pastor and also over the nearly 39 years of ordained ministry of my career. I am able to see how God has blessed me to bless others through my partnerships with the congregations I have served, and it is truly so satisfying to reflect on that. I hope that all of you are also reflecting, with gratitude, on the ministry we have done together these past 20 years, as well as simply being aware of how much difference all of you make in what God is up to in this church and community!

I do want to take this chance to address two questions that I have repeatedly been asked:

- (1) Do Phil and I really have to stop worshipping at Knife River once I retire? Do we really have to stop attending church picnics or playing in musical ensembles or dropping in on study groups? The simple answer to these questions is "yes". We can no longer participate in that way. And I understand that this seems extreme and maybe even unfair; certainly it is unique to the ministry profession that one must leave their beloved church community when they retire from their work. However, it is truly necessary. For a new Pastor with a new vision to have the same opportunities that I experienced here, I simply must not be a part of the community in that way. Friendships and non-church sponsored activities are absolutely fine! But these church sponsored activity boundaries are set by our larger church body, as they are by most denominational church bodies, and it is my responsibility to be aware of and respectful of them.
- (2) Will I really no longer perform pastoral acts, like weddings, funerals, baptisms, pastoral care and visitations? Even for people to whom I was especially close? (As if such a list could be developed?!) Again, the answer is that I cannot perform pastoral acts---for anyone in the church---once I retire. This holds true whether the event is held within the church or out in someone's backyard. That will no longer be my privilege or responsibility, difficult though that may seem.

There is a learning curve for all of us involved in this time of transition. I am so grateful for our exceptional church leadership in our council and the Synodical support and guidance we receive. God is good, even in times of change!

In Christ, Pastor Susan Berge

WORSHIP IN MARCH

The month of March sees us move from the final Sunday in the season of Epiphany, which is Transfiguration Sunday, into the season of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5. Lent is marked by reflection, simplicity, and an acknowledge of our brokenness and the significance of Christ's atoning death.

Sunday, March 2-Transfiguration Sunday. We will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar.

Wednesday, March 5-6:30 PM. Ash Wednesday service. This service includes Holy Communion at the altar and imposition of ashes, a reminder of our mortality. JOYFUL will sing.

Sunday, March 9-1st Sunday in Lent. Our traditional worship service will include Holy Communion by intinction and music from our Sweet Chaos dulcimer group.

Sunday, March 16-2nd Sunday in Lent. Sticks and Strings will lead our worship, including Holy Communion by intinction.

Sunday, March 23- 3rd Sunday in Lent. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction and our Knife River Ringers will play. There will be a time for Healing and Anointing.

Sunday, March 30-4th Sunday in Lent. JOYFUL will sing on this service, including Holy Communion by intinction.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

	Mar 2	Mar 5	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
<u>Ushers</u>	B. Berg S. Carlson	D. Jackson M. McMillion	D. Grong L. Grong	M. McMillion C. Beardsley	D. Jackson K. Bloom	S. Hubbartt A. Hubbartt
<u>Lector</u>	S. Carlson	M. McMillion	D. Grong	C. Beardsley	K. Bloom	A. Hubbartt
<u>Communion Asst</u>	Melanie M.	D. Jackson	C. Whiting	K. Bloom	D. Grong	S. Hubbartt
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	Anne Jasperson -----					
<u>Offering Counters</u>	T. Northey A. Jasperson	Melanie M.	K. Pollard J. Lee	K. Struve J. Lee	L. Olson M. von Goertz	S. Jasperson M. Garey
<u>Children's Church/ Kid's Connect</u>	C. Smith O. Smith		R. Alreck A. Shaw	L. Burkhard A. Hubbartt	A. Jasperson G. Ojard	S. Socha D. Mattson
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	Kay/Trish/Sue		B/P Meyer	S/P Berger	Berges	Available
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	MARCH BIRTHDAYS	MARCH ANNIVERSARIES
31 Joe Bredow	21 Susan Berge	31 Mary & Paul von Goertz
2 Vicky Ojard	23 Beth Anderson	31 Marge & Norton Johnson
4 Del Hubbartt	26 Robin Whaley	
10 Jerri Swardstrom	27 Debbie Hubbartt	
11 Kay Struve	28 Curtis Mattson	
13 Nicole Ojard	30 Helen Hedlund	
14 Diane Friebe	31 Jim Allert	
17 Dan Schutte	31 David Hubbartt	
19 Andi Magnuson		
19 Sara Cuypers		
20 Georgia Ojard		

Council Buzz – February 2025

Welcome to our new Council members, Steve Berger, Anne Jaspersen and Jillian McCorison

What's Happening

- Establish major outcomes for 2025
- Draft and implement archiving process – ongoing
- Complete committee Structure processes – will require Bylaws change.
- Annual Review of Policies
- Review Committees and identify committee liaisons

Kitchen Serving Training

Most of you have completed the training required to serve food etc. That training is set to expire. Randi Alreck will be posting some options to update the training. Our target is to have it completed prior to the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. A special note to our youth: Many of you have begun helping with event set up and serving. It is noticed and appreciated. Please make sure you complete the training so we are in compliance with County food prep statutes. If you have questions, check with Randi Alreck. Thanks all.

Pastor Transition comments:

It is expected that there will be questions about the pastor transition process. We will learn more about it when the council meets with the synod liaison on May 22, but in the meantime, this is what we know.

- Between now and June 1, the focus will be on Pastor Susan completing her pastoral ministry. It will conclude with a celebration of her pastoral leadership on May 25, her final service and celebration program and brunch. With the assistance of Ed and Joanie Lee, Jim Allert, and Steve and Carol Carlson, Melanie is chairing the event planning. It will be great!! Save the date
- As recommended by the Synod, we are arranging for pulpit supply for the month of June. The Worship Committee is overseeing this task.
- Based on recommendations by Pastor Susan, the Council has arranged for pastoral care for the month of June. Randi Alreck, Kris Garey and Kay Bloom have agreed to provide that care. Thank you.
- We understand there have been discussions about who will serve on the call team. Our congregation is so fortunate to have many members that are willing to commit to that process. **But we need to be clear . . . it is too early for that discussion.** We will have more details about that once we meet with Deacon Susan on May 22. Again, in the meantime to avoid confusion, we heartily recommend that discussions

as to potential call team members be put on hold. The first step in that process is to have a named Interim Pastor recommended by the Synod and approved by the Council in place. Once the Interim gets to know our congregation, assessment surveys/discussions will take place as to the needs of KRLC. In our case, those discussions will most likely include whether it is time to increase our pastor position beyond ½ time. A call team will be formed in accordance with our Bylaws (5 persons) and will be voted on by the Congregation. Once the team is in place, their work will begin. These activities will take time. It could be that we do not have a permanent Pastor in place until 2026.

- As you have probably heard, KRLC will also be searching for Administrative Assistance for our pastor and congregation and for a Church Musician. Both Melanie and Carol will be available through the summer, but have targeted fall to step back from their leadership roles in these areas. Note . . . they aren't going anywhere . . . they just recognize the time has come to make a change.
- There has also been mention of a transition team. At this time, there is no plan to have yet another group identified as a transition team. The Council will provide leadership during the process, the Interim will use their training along with the congregation to help us decide the direction of KRLC, the Call Team will do the work to recommend a permanent Pastor hire and YOU, the congregation, will be instrumental in the final decision.
- We also recognize that this is new ground for KRLC. This congregation has been blessed with consistent and extraordinary leadership by Pastor Susan. Even though she will be missed, this is a time for reflection, renewal and growth as we move forward.

Please know that as questions arise, let the Council know. What we can answer we will and what we can't, we'll find out.

Stay warm . . . stay well and thank you for your support of the 2025 Council.

Submitted by

Helene Hedlund, Council President

HEADS UP ON VOTING MEMBERSHIP STATUS

One of my final tasks as the Pastor of this congregation is to update the membership list and leave it in good order for the next pastor, never an easy thing to do. As Melanie and I have been working on this list, we have been guided by our Congregational Constitutional definition of what constitutes membership. Specifically, we have focused on Voting Members, since some important votes lie in our congregation's future in regards to calling a new pastor, which is not likely to happen until next Autumn, at the earliest. A Voting Member is an individual who has either been confirmed into this congregation or has joined this congregation as an adult. Furthermore, a voting member must be an "active member", which is defined as someone who has communed and made a contribution of record towards the congregation in the current or previous year. These classifications are not intended to be divisive or punitive but are simply the reality of the structure and process that guide our church body and our individual congregation. We rarely give them any thought until an occasion arises when it matters, like calling a new pastor. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Melanie or Pastor Susan. And, if you would like to officially join the congregation, please let Pastor Susan know!

Lenten Time of Quiet Submitted by Kris Garey

As many of you know, for several years Knife River's Lenten season has included a light evening meal and an evening book study on a Spiritual topic. Most often Randi Alreck has been our guide, working with others. This year, Randi will be out of town and the suggestion has come for a *Lenten Time of Quiet*.

Our Lutheran Worship materials remind us: "Lent's forty days are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us."

This Lenten time, consider finding a few moments of quiet, personal reflection during each week. Pick a Wednesday, or any other day. Perhaps silence phone, tv, radio; perhaps read words ancient, or new. Sit outside, or inside. Gaze at a photo--or spot a great-grey owl, or a wind-sculpted snow drift, or a row of icicles. Or watch the moon on a winter evening, or birds at a feeder, or kids sliding down a hill.

Find a favorite verse, or a Psalm; watch birds go by the window; or, sit with a friend over tea or coffee and talk about Jesus. Read the words of a hymn, or listen to one---I'm choosing the Lenten spiritual "I Want Jesus to Walk with me" (#325 in our hymnal--a recording of gospel-singer Marion Anderson singing it is at: [youtube.com/watch?v=5TvF5dl9P0Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TvF5dl9P0Q).)

The words, read, sung, or listened to, can help us recognize our own life's journeys. Slowly reading the words may take you to new ponderings:

I want Jesus, to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me,
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me. In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus, to walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

May your Lenten Journey bring you calming quiet, and may that gift from God help sustain you. --Kris Garey.
Note: our Knife River Ash Wednesday Worship will be held March 8, at 6:30 p.m.

KITCHEN NEWS – Are You Trained?

Kitchen Serving Training

Most of you have completed the training required to serve food etc. That training is set to expire. We would like to renew that training prior to the Palm Sunday Breakfast. Online training is available at <https://extension.umn.edu/preserving-and-preparing/cooking-safely-crowd> Click on "Cooking Safely for a Crowd" and then scroll down to video Please keep track of when you complete the training. We will be developing a tracking method in the near future.

A reminder to our youth . . . Many of you have begun helping with event set up and serving. It is noticed and appreciated. Please make sure you complete the training so we are in compliance with County food prep statutes.

Kitchen Orientation

Kitchen Orientation training will be scheduled in the near future.

CHURCH MOUSE

Coffee Please

A “Little Bird” told me KRLC needs both REGULAR and DECALF COFFEE Donations... ALSO, in March Only, that same “Bird” is looking for either store bought OR homemade cookie donations to be used for after Church Coffee Time when no one has signed up to serve... That same “Birdbrain” will be starting the coffee each Sunday Morning and help clean up afterwards. This is a ‘MARCH SPECIAL ONLY’.

KRLC Warm hearts make warm feet.

The response to the February drive for requested currently needed items by Bethany Crisis Shelter was abundant. Pajamas and other items of clothing, durable warm gloves, hair care products, games, puzzles, Love’s Ice Cream gift card and **97 PAIRS OF SOCKS** were delivered to the Crisis Shelter by Anne Jaspersen on February 18. The value of these new donated items is estimated at \$500+. A check for the additional cash donations totaling approximately \$300 was also sent to Bethany Crisis Center.

THANK YOU Notes

*Received From Lutheran Social Service: *Thank you for your generous gift (\$275) to support the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS).*

*An acknowledgement was also received from Lutheran Social Service for Knife River Lutheran Church’s 2024 donation of \$1650 donation to the Duluth Center for Changing Lives and \$1550 to Bethany Crisis Shelter in Morgan Park.

*Found in our January mailbox from Karen Johnson: *Thank you for the Christmas greetings and appreciation gift! I always enjoy playing for you and being with your friendly, welcoming congregation. Best Wishes in the New Year!* Thank YOU Karen for all you do for KRLC.

*From the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf to the Knife River Congregation: *Thank you for your continued support of the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf. In 2024 KRLC’s financial support was \$4452.50 plus 24# of food items.* KRLC is happy to help our local food shelf carry out its’ mission: **“Reduce hunger and improve the health of people in need by providing food and other resources at no cost.”**

*A letter from VOYAGEURS LUTHERAN MINISTRY gratefully acknowledged the 2024 gift of \$498. “It’s GREAT To Be Alive in God’s GREAT Northwoods!”

KRLC Treasurer's Report

1/31/2025

General Operations Summary	2025	2024
Income from donations	\$ 8,851.75	\$ 8,772.03
Expenses	\$ 11,449.59	\$ 12,084.39
Donations vs expenses	\$ (2,597.84)	\$ (3,312.36)



Under budget

Under budget

Budget
\$ 13,688.60
\$ 13,688.60

Designated Account Summary	2025	2024
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 7,043.00	\$ 1,124.92
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 1,149.66
Donations vs expenses	\$ 5,883.00	\$ (24.74)



The Bottom Line	2025	2024
Total Income	\$ 15,894.75	\$ 9,896.95
Total expenses	\$ 12,609.59	\$ 13,234.05
Fund Balance change	\$ 3,285.16	\$ (3,337.10)



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 7,402.16
Outreach	\$ -
Building and property fund	\$ 712.00
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 86,659.42
Memorial	\$ 12,300.91
Passthru	\$ 343.00
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 112,417.49
Increase over last year	\$ 16,138.32



Total of all cash assets	\$ 210,033.13
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 26,424.07



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	\$ 75,143.44
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

Color Key

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

January highlights

Both donations and expenses were under budget so that is the bad news & good news.

Expenses were also less than last year so that is going in the right direction.

January is always a slow donation month but it's always hard to see us start out in the red!

We continue to receive significant Memorial donations. Thank you to everyone who cherishes the memory of those who have passed on in this way.

It is significant that we have no debt and continue to grow our assets.

Thanks to each of you for your leadership in this area.

If you look at the entire financial picture for 2024, we had a very good year. Thank you so muc

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
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 12-3 pm Quilters 6:30 PM Worship ASH WEDNESDAY	6 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	7	8
9 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Sit Down Council 10:10 am Sticks & Strings Practice	10 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	11 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:00 PM W/ELCA 6:30 PM JOYFUL	12 12-3 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 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	18 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 3:35 pm JOYFUL at Waterview Shores	19 12-3 pm Quilters 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 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	25 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	26 12-3 pm Quilters	27 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	28	29
30 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship	31 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)					UPCOMING: Apr 13 Palm Sunday Apr 20 Easter Sun.

March 2025