



From the Pastor's View:

Since our newest hymnal (commonly referred to as the ELW) was published, we have been introduced to many outstanding hymns. One of my favorites is #641, “All Are Welcome”. The stirring text and singable melody were both created by the contemporary artist, Marty Haugen.

These days, the 4th verse comes to my mind:

Let us build a house where all are named,

their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,

taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Through this time of Interim Ministry – between the many years of leadership by the well-loved Pastor Susan Berge – and, the new chapter of ministry when we will eventually be Calling our new Pastor, our Church Council is shaping a creative process through which all members of KRLC will be asked to share their dreams, and sharpen our vision for our next chapters of Spirit-led ministry.

First, our Congregation has taken action to select a five-member Call Committee – including Scott Shelerud, Debbie Allert, Melanie McMillion, Patti Stoddard, and Steve Carlson. Members of this group will be officially installed on Sunday, October 5th. Through the next many months, we will be receiving updates from this group.

Second, our Church Council has prepared a “KRLC Congregational Survey.” It has been distributed in several ways, including through this newsletter. Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts, states “*young women and men shall see visions... and elders shall dream dreams.*” (Acts 2:17) So, the young and the old from KRLC - and everyone between - will be asked for their input. Questions include: What do you most appreciate about your church?; What parts of our ministry do you think deserve greater emphasis?; What qualities do we most value in our next pastor?; What qualities do you think we should avoid?; and, the list goes on. The Surveys need to be completed and returned to the office (or, completed on-line) by October 19th. In the weeks following, we will schedule several “Table Talk” conversations to follow up-coming worship services.

Third, artists, geologists, historians, and story-tellers are preparing the creative **“River Project”** to be launched and conducted through the season of Epiphany. You won’t want to miss this! More details to come!

As we clarify our congregation’s vision, we draw from the memories, hopes, and dreams of people of all ages. We will depend upon your enthusiastic participation to make the conversations lively and helpful in sharpening new directions, as the Holy Spirit guides us to prepare and Call a new Pastor.

Do you have visions and dreams for KRLC? ***All are Welcome, in this Place!***

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
<u>Ushers</u>	J Allert D Allert	B Berg C Whiting	R Alreck T Northey	D Grong L Grong
<u>Lector</u>	D Allert	K Bloom	T Northey	D Grong
<u>Communion Asst</u>	M McMillion	T Northey	D Jackson	N Dent
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	V Gorman and L Anderson-----			
<u>Offering Counters</u>	M McMillion L Anderson	K Struve J Lee	L Olson M von Goertz	S. Jaspersen M. Garey
<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>	L. Burkhard TBA	L. Burkhard TBA	C. Smith A. Shaw	A. Jaspersen G. Ojard

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS		OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS		OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
2	Randi Alreck	14	Anne Jaspersen	5	Christin Carlson & Brad Frankenstein
6	Tami Magnuson	24	Sharon Shelerud	5	Steve & Lisa Horner
8	Kay Bloom	25	Glenn Johnson	11	Curtis & Bobbie Mattson
10	Sue Sigel	26	Janet Emery	14	Derek & Jullian McCorison
10	Kristy Pollard	31	Susan Hubbart	15	Julie Ponath Whiting & Craig Whiting
11	Caleb Pollard				
12	Lisa Anderson				
14	Miranda Jackson				

Council Buzz – September 2025

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

- Diane Lewandowski, Admin Assist, can be contacted by using her office email, office.krhc@gmail.com. If there is an emergency, contact Pastor Mark.

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

- The council has distributed a Congregation Survey to gather input to be used in planning the future direction of KRLC.. Responses are due October 19. Methods of distribution include:
 - Hard copy at conclusion of service September 14
 - Mass email to members and friends of KRLC
 - WEB availability
 - Will be included in next newsletter
- Responses can be delivered to the church, emailed or electronically submitted through the WEB link
- 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 Congregation and Call Committee. The Call Committee may seek additional information as they move forward with their task of recommending a permanent Pastor hire.

Call Committee process

- The call committee was affirmed by the congregation at a special meeting held September 14. Members include:
 - Deb Allert
 - Steve Carlson
 - Melanie McMillion
 - Scott Shelerud
 - Patti Stoddard
- Their first meeting with Deacon Susan Williams, Synod Rep, is October 8, 2025
- The team will share the status of their search throughout the process that do not breach confidentiality of the applicants.

Other

- The Steak and Chop Dinner was a huge success and lots of fun. Thanks to all who did the planning and all those who contributed pot luck sides.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2025 Council.

Submitted by Helene Hedlund, Council President

LET'S TALK:

In October we will begin a series of occasional "Table Talks", a time for engaged conversation about a variety of subjects. These monthly learning opportunities will be scheduled for round-table discussions following our Sunday Worship services. Future topics will include: "Findings and Themes from the Congregational Surveys", "Health Care Directives – Preparing a Living Will", and "Introducing the Year of Matthew", the lectionary resource we will be using in the next year.

More details to come.

KRLC Steak and Chop Fry
Fundraising event for:
Two Harbor's Food Shelf
Global Refuge

Laughter, food, music and good conversation with friends were the highlights of our KRLC Steak and Chop Fry community event. God's uplifting spirit was present in our midst, and the weather was beautiful. This enjoyable event was planned by the Church Council to replace the Fun Fall Fest and Scandinavian Meatball Dinner which will not be held in 2025. It was designed to be a fun and joyful fundraising event, and it turned out to be just that.

The net proceeds from the event will go to the Two Harbor's Food Shelf and Global Refuge. Here is an overview of the income: Ticket sales \$880, Donations \$840 and Silent Auction \$1,950 for a total of \$3,670. We have a few food costs to pay out, but each charity will get somewhere over \$1,700. Thank you to everyone who helped with the event!

It is especially important to thank the individual and business donors for both their financial gifts and their silent auction gifts. Here are the silent auction gifts, their donor and their buyer:

Silent Auction Winners	What item	Who Donated	\$1,950.00
Sandra Schumann	Coffee lover's bundle	Anonymous	
Debbie Allert	Back 40 Books	Back 40 Books	
Jim Allert	Seagren's \$100 gift card	Seagren's	
Anne Jaspersen	Duluth Skyline	Joe and Barb Russell	
Janet Emery	Quilt	KRLC Quilters	
Jillian McCorison	Boreal Farms Basket	Pat & Steve Berger	
Kristy Pollard Kari	2-night stay Larsmont Cottages	Larsmont	
Michael Kari	Callie's Sweets	Burlington Station	
Kristy Pollard Kari	Full Moon 18x24 metal print	Ed Lee	
Cindy Betzler	Back 40 Books	Back 40 Books	
Cindy Betzler	Back 40 Books	Back 40 Books	
Kay Struve	Kitchen collection	Anonymous	
Lee Bujold	Solo Campfire set & chair	Melanie McMillion	
Sue Hubbartt	A+ Garden center	A+ Garden Center	
Kris Garey	Holman Brunch in January	Pr. Mark and Marcia Holman	
Kris Garey	Scandinavian Kringler	Pr. Mark and Marcia Holman	
Kris Garey	One hour of Yoga lessons	Nancy Hong	
Anne-Lu Hovis	Great Lakes Candy	Great Lakes Candy Kitchen	
Anne-Lu Hovis	Great Lakes Candy	Great Lakes Candy Kitchen	
Marcia Holman	Great Lakes Candy	Great Lakes Candy Kitchen	
David C	Great Lakes Candy	Great Lakes Candy Kitchen	
Courtney Anderson	Back 40 Books	Back 40 Books	
Mary von Goertz	10 lbs of Alaskan salmon	Forest Johnson	
Gail Safstrom	Stonewall Kitchen collection	Anonymous	
Gail Safstrom	Candle collection	Anonymous	

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

CHURCH MOUSE

THANK YOU!

Randi Alreck reports that our generous congregation delivered 81 pairs of “jammies” to the **LSS Bethany Crisis Center**. Thanks to all that donated jammies or cash during our summer community picnics to fund this important ministry at Bethany Crisis Shelter.

The **Men’s Group** (chaired by **Ed Lee**) and **Jillian McCorison** deserve a big, big thank you for their work in planning and executing an amazing new event at KRLC! **The Steak & Chop Fry** was a huge success with over 100 guests enjoying a bountiful grilled dinner with sumptuous sides organized by **Vicky Gorman! Delores Jackson** provided a \$250 Thrivent gift card to offset the meat costs! Jillian and her team added a silent auction to the fundraiser with lots of wonderful, useful donations coming from you-our members and area businesses. From books to lodging, art work to yoga lessons, our KRLC Quilters quilt added to the garden bounty and a Solo Stove, it was a fun way to “win” and be generous to the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf and Global Refuge/refugee resettlement. Yay Everyone! Same time next year? (Hint, hint)!

To the woman of WELCA Thank you for your kindness of the birthday wishes and prayers for an old wobbly 95 yr old, also to those who celebrated at my Birthday Party! Was a hoot!! Joanne Lind

GREATFUL HEARTS!

This is the time of year when **Christian Education** ramps up! Children’s Church, Confirmation, bible purchases, teacher installation and more all happens quietly under the leadership of Lawrence Burkhard. There’s a team of volunteer teachers that work in pairs with the kids and need to be scheduled; there are curriculum materials to choose and purchase-many things that we don’t see, so we offer great appreciation to Lawrence Burkhard for leading this effort for the congregation! Thank you!

Behind the scenes, we are most fortunate that **Ed Lee** coordinates the Thursday Men’s Group. **Bill Meyer** is the “de-facto” Kitchen Manager (but don’t call him that!), **Scott Jaspersen** chairs the Property Committee, **Steve Berger** chairs the Memorial Garden Committee, **Steve Carlson** chairs the Columbarium Committee, Lawrence Burkhard chairs the Endowment Committee and **Pete Stoddard** is our HVAC! You’ll see these guys multitasking (hard to believe....right) in many ways throughout our church. We are blessed by their cheerful, selfless dedication and hard work on our behalf to ensure that our church remains a welcoming and vibrant place. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP!

Pop-In Dining continues on Thursdays at 5 PM at McQuades in Two Harbors. Just show up-no reservations! No one is in charge. Order off the menu and then saunter down to Larsmont Trading Post for a music jam from 6-8 PM led by Jim Madison! Bring an instrument, bring a friend! It’s fall so let’s fall back into the routine of Thursday fellowship! See you there!

OCTOBER WELCA

“Gather” subscribers should’ve received a September/October issue by now! WELCA will resume at church on Tuesday evening. WELCA will meet on Tuesday, October 11 at 6 PM in the lower level. Lee Bujold will serve refreshments. All women are welcome. Convivial, thoughtful discussion, a little donation to the Sunshine Fund. WELCA members will also decide how to disperse their funds to worthwhile nonprofits that need our assistance now more than ever.

Special thanks go to **Gail Safstrom** who served as our “Little Miss Sunshine” for 4 years. Gail’s daughter **Lisa Horner** also made the beautiful cards you received! **Anne Jaspersen** and **Randi Alreck** will be assuming those duties going forward.

Beth Anderson has served as WELCA treasurer for 9 years! Thank you to Beth for her years of service. **Sandra Bjorum** will assume those duties! Much appreciation to each of you!

SILVER LININGS

The family of Dennis & Jan Swanson recently endured the heartbreaking loss of their son. Steve's memorial service was a loving tribute to his life and generosity of spirit along with recognition of his struggles in life, leaving this writer with the poignancy of the legacy Steve left behind, for he turned his own struggles with post-traumatic stress into a beacon of hope by establishing a non-profit to support fellow first responders. His courage and compassion have already made a profound impact on lives; his final act of selflessness was to be an organ donor, giving the gift of life to others in his death. May all who know the Swansons join them in celebrating their son's enduring light-a reminder that even in the darkest moments, God's grace can bring forth silver linings.

Community Partners, in its' 25th year, has a fun event on Saturday, October 18th from 5-8 PM at the Two Harbors American Legion! Let's support the work that **Hannah Weishhaar** does there and the countless hours that **Bill Berg** volunteers for area residents through Community Partners and show up! Who doesn't love a "spud bar" and a brat!!! There's dessert too and prizes galore. \$20 gets you in the door! Stay tuned for details as we lend our support to help older adults age successfully and live independently!

OUT AND ABOUT!

Congratulations to the **Lake County Historical Society** as they prepare to celebrate their 100th Anniversary. Their annual meeting is Thursday, October 23rd from 6-8 PM. If you enjoyed "Depot At Dusk" this summer on the station platform you'll want to preview "Depot After Dark" at the annual meeting!

Best Christmas Ever (BCE) is back!!

This year we will, once again, surprise a local family that has fallen on hard times with a Best Christmas Ever! The family will be selected early November. In the meantime, we are starting our fundraising efforts that will go towards a larger item(s) to help the family. Donations made through October 31st will be matched!!! (Up to \$1,000). Please consider designating some of your upcoming offering to this great cause. Donations not eligible for a match can be made at <https://bcmovement.kindful.com/2025-bce-families/bce-esko>

For more general information about Best Christmas Ever reach out to Kristy (Pollard) Kari or check out www.movement.org

WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO

IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE'RE CALLED TO LOVE.

TO LIFT THE WEARY, TRUST IN GOD ABOVE.

TO SPEAK WITH KINDNESS, ACT WITH GRACE,

AND SHINE HIS LOVE IN EVERY PLACE.

FOR IN THE TEMPEST, WE STILL HEAR

HIS VOICE THAT WHISPERS, "DO NOT FEAR"

REMEMBER FRIENDS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE-

TOGETHER, ROOTED, WE'RE HIS OWN.

AMEN

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

KRLC Treasurer's Report	8/31/2025
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General Operations Summary	2025	2024		Budget
Income from donations	\$ 86,758.82	\$ 86,368.80	Under budget	\$ 109,506.40
Expenses	\$ 90,212.64	\$ 93,798.25	Under budget	\$ 109,506.40
Donations vs expenses	\$ (3,453.82)	\$ (7,429.45)		

Designated Account Summary	2025	2024	
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 24,049.46	\$ 26,814.64	
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 26,958.79	\$ 16,823.36	
Donations vs expenses	\$ (2,909.33)	\$ 9,991.28	

The Bottom Line	2025	2024	
Total Income	\$ 110,808.28	\$ 113,183.44	
Total expenses	\$ 117,171.43	\$ 110,621.61	
Fund Balance change	\$ (6,363.15)	\$ 2,561.83	

Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 6,546.18
Outreach	\$ 370.22
Building and property fund	\$ (4,587.11)
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 88,779.00
Memorial	\$ 9,527.58
Passthru	\$ (3,189.80)
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 102,446.07
Decrease from last year	\$ (3,594.34)

Total of all cash assets	\$ 202,928.35
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 5,630.77



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	\$ 78,010.08
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

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

AUGUST

Thank you so much for your continued donations to KRLC and to our Outreach programs. August donations exceeded expenses so we are making progress on the red ink.

I believe we will be successful in this endeavor by the end of 2025.

Please look at you Outreach giving during 2025 and get it done now rather than waiting.

If you have a Required Minimum Distribution of a qualified plan coming up, donating it directly to charity avoids any taxation to you. Ask Ed if you have any questions.

Knife River Lutheran Church

Congregational Survey

Dear Members and friends of KRLC:

During this transition period, as we move toward calling a new Pastor, the Church Council is inviting your input. This survey is one of the important parts of our congregation's self-assessment. Please provide your prayerful consideration to the questions below and submit your responses to the KRLC office by: **Oct. 19, 2025**. You can submit your answers by email to: office.KRLC@gmail.com, mail them to PO Box 218 Knife River, MN or drop them in the box in the gathering area.

A WEB version is available for completion and submittal (please see below)

<https://forms.gle/ieWGRwDEHZ8XEKMc7>

Thank you in advance for sharing your vision for KRLC.

You do not need to provide your name unless you wish to be contacted. We are trying to imagine what KRLC should look like in two years. To help us understand your ideas, we would like your honest opinions and feelings about our community of faith here at KRLC.

After receiving the completed surveys, the Church Council will carefully review these responses and prepare a summary to be shared with all of you. The sharing of these responses and other resulting discussions will occur at a scheduled "Table Talk" sessions in the near future.

In addition, the summary data will be given to members of the call committee for their use.

THANK YOU for your contribution to this important part of our transition process.

The KRLC Council

If you would like to be contacted or have questions about the pastoral transition, please let us know. You can complete this page and separate it from the questionnaire.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Who would you like to talk with? _____

Topic of discussion: _____

Knife River Lutheran Church Congregational Survey

This survey will help gather information to guide us through the transition process to a new pastor. One survey per member please. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THIS PORTION – IT IS ANONYMOUS. Thank you for participating!

Our Congregational Strengths

1. In a few words, what do you most appreciate about Knife River Lutheran Church?

Our Congregational Challenges

2. Is there anything about KRLC that you would like to see changed in the next couple of years?

Pastoral Strengths

3. What qualities do you think are most important in a Pastor?

Pastoral Challenges

4. What qualities or traits should we seek to avoid in our new Pastor?

Selection Concerns

5. Would you prefer the new pastor be... ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ It makes no difference

6. Is the sexual orientation of a candidate important to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ it makes no difference

7. Are there circumstances where a new pastor might worry about their safety in Knife River?

Please explain:

Food for thought

8. How would you define a part-time pastor? ☐ Hours worked ☐ number of preaching dates

Please explain:

9. How often do you attend Knife River Lutheran Church worship services (in person or online)?

- ☐ Almost every Sunday
- ☐ Once or twice a month
- ☐ A few times a year
- ☐ I usually do not attend services
- ☐ I prefer not to say

10. Thinking ahead to our plans for Christmas worship, would you prefer worshipping on:

- ☐ Christmas Eve
- ☐ Christmas Day
- ☐ Both

11. Which of these church groups, if any, have you participated in during the last year?

- ☐ Women of the ELCA (W/ELCA)
- ☐ Men's Group
- ☐ Lectio Divina / Dig Deeper
- ☐ Any music group (JOYFUL, Sticks and Strings, dulcimers, bells, etc.)
- ☐ Church Council or committees
- ☐ Other _____

12. Do you have suggestions for any additional groups? _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11 – 1 Quilters	2 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	3	4
5 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship Installation of Call Committee	6 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	7 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper	8 11 – 1 Quilters	9 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	10	11
12 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10:30 Stand Up Council Installation of Sunday School Teachers	13 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	14 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10:00am Worship Committee 6 pm W/ELCA	15 11 – 1 Quilters 6:30pm Confirmation	16 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	17	18
19 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship Congregation Survey Due Today!	20 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	21 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team	22 11 – 1 Quilters	23 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	24	25
26 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Tonight!	27 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	28 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper	29 11 – 1 Quilters	30 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner	31	Worship Comm? Other?? Council?

October 2025