

January, 2025

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FROM THE PASTOR

The Value of the New

As I've mentioned previously, each year I find myself choosing a kind of spiritual theme for the year to come, often based on Bible verses or devotional reading I've done early on in January. In 2024, the theme verse for the year of my devotional book was from Ezekiel 36:26: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." The pairing of the verse along with my realization that I had been granted a Sabbatical in February that would include new experiences, led me to focus on the concept of *newness* for the year. As I moved through the months, I was on a kind of *newness watch*, paying additional attention to new people, places, and experiences.

The year included more *newness* than I might have anticipated. There were definitely new experiences on my Sabbatical, including reading new scholarly books on Scripture; traveling through the Ozarks, a new experience for us; and spending time in St. Augustine, also a new destination. I purchased two new musical instruments through the year; a high end Mountain Dulcimer and Olivewood Treble Recorder. Becoming acquainted with these new instruments was engaging and joyful, and the new destinations were refreshing and engaging.

Additionally, as a 35th anniversary gift to ourselves, Phil and I bought new appliances for our kitchen, where the youngest appliance was well over 25 years old. The more efficient designs and shiny stainless-steel surfaces have continued to be a daily source of satisfaction. Our daughter and her husband bought a new house in Blaine in the spring and we now have both of our adult children and their spouses living 6 minutes away from each other and just over two hours away from us; this is a *newness* that has inspired and delighted us.

Moreover, we added new members to our community and church this past year, many of whom have become new friends; and a new choir, JOYFUL has begun, which has indeed been a joyful addition to our worship and congregation. There is much to be said about the value of the new!

All of this *newness* I've so far mentioned came in positive or inviting forms, but the idea of *newness* took on greater depth for me in the experience of my Father-in-law's death in February of 2024. I found myself pondering how our God is the God who makes all things new---even us. In deaths like my Father-in-law, or some of the others we experienced this year in our congregation, it was clear that the physical body of that beloved person just couldn't continue to sustain their soul. The only way forward was to be made new altogether, through the power of our Lord, who makes all things new, both in this life and in the next. The *newness* of us and those we love, in the that realm of resurrection, is cause for hope and wonder.

We enter now a New Year--2025. Whatever spiritual theme might become a focus for any of us, God is already there before us, in the New Year, leading the way into the future. Our God, who gifts us with the blessing of the new, as well as making all things new, is our Light as we encounter all that will be old and new to us in this next cycle around the sun. May we be blest in this New Year!

In Christ, Pastor Susan

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

This month finds us moving through the season of Epiphany, the season of light and revelation. Although our Advent wreath is gone from the chancel area, our beautiful candelabras will be lit each Sunday, emphasizing the theme of Christ's light amidst darkness.

Sunday, January 5-Epiphany Sunday. We will celebrate the Festival of Epiphany one day early, on the closest Sunday. JOYFUL will sing, and we will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar on this first Sunday of the New Year.

Sunday, January 12-A Sunday in Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction.

Sunday, January 19-A Sunday in Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction in service led by Sticks and Strings.

Sunday, January 26-A Sunday in Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction and include an opportunity for Healing and Anointing in our service.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting for our Knife River Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, February 9 following worship. As usual, this will be a potluck brunch, so be prepared to bring a brunch dish to share as we celebrate the ministry of the year past and look forward to 2025. Please note—**Annual reports are due to Melanie McMillion by January 26**, if they are to be included in the report packet.

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
<u>Ushers</u>	P. von Goertz M. von Goertz	E. Lee J. Lee	B. Berg R. Alreck	B. Anderson T. Anderson
<u>Lector</u>	A. Hubbartt	D. Jackson	R. Alreck	C. Whiting
<u>Communion Asst</u>	A. Hovis	K. Bloom	A. Hubbartt	Conf. Student
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	D Jackson and Jan Swanson -----			
<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>	C. Smith O. Smith	A. Jasperson G. Ojard	L. Burkhard A. Hubbartt	R. Alreck D. Mattson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS		JANUARY BIRTHDAYS		JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
4	Jim Bujold	24	Kyle Beardsley	2	Don & LeeAnn Olson
4	Chris Cuypers	26	Mike Garey		
5	Bill Gorman	28	Courtney Anderson		
5	Anne Davies	31	Rich Ojard		
8	Peter Stoddard	31	Laurie Peck		
8	Karin Harris				
14	Chris Cuypers				
16	Sydney Pollard				

2024 Christmas Gifts Received

Poinsettias to decorate our Christmas Altar area:

- ❖ A poinsettia in honor of the hard-working church family was given by Dick & Sue Sigel.
- ❖ Two poinsettias in memory of Jim Berger and Bob Jackson were given by Pat & Steve Berger.
- ❖ A poinsettia in memory of Paul Struve was given by Ed & Joanie Lee.
- ❖ A poinsettia in memory of Bertil & Audrey Carlson was given by their family.
- ❖ A poinsettia in memory of Terry Berg was given by Bill Berg.
- ❖ A poinsettia in memory of Lyle, Diana & David were given by Trish Northey.
- ❖ A poinsettia in honor of KRLC Confirmants was given by Helene Hedlund.
- ❖ A poinsettia in honor of Jim & Pat Hanson and George & Marge Krog was given by Eric & Vi Hanson & family.
- ❖ A poinsettia in honor of Dick Williams (Susan's father) and in memory of their mothers and Phil's father was given by Phil & Susan Berge.

The gorgeous new altar arch garland was given and placed by Julie Stewart in memory of her mother, Audrey Carlson.

Sparkly blue poinsettias placed on the altar each Sunday during Advent were given by Delores Jackson in memory of Ron Jackson & Helen Olson.

The beautiful arrangement on the credenza in the Narthex during Advent & Christmas is in memory of Evelyn Ojard from Steve & Carol Carlson.

Gifts to God's Barnyard (Through December 15):

- ❖ An undesignated gift to God's Barnyard in honor of Lawrence Burkhard was given by Mike & Kris Garey.
- ❖ An undesignated gift to God's Barnyard in memory of Helen Richter was given by Bill & Pat Meyer.
- ❖ An undesignated gift to God's Barnyard in memory of Paul Struve was given by Mike & Kris Garey.
- ❖ One Fruit Tree Farm in memory of Paul Struve was given by Ed & Joanie Lee.
- ❖ Food for vulnerable kids for two months, seed and garden tools, vaccinations for 3 children, 10 warm blankets, and one set of chicks was given in memory of Terry Berg by Bill Berg.
- ❖ One goat was given in memory of James Hanson from Pat Hanson.
- ❖ Three goats were given in memory of Paul Struve by Kay Struve.
- ❖ Two goats were given in honor of all "old goats" by Dick & Sue Sigel.

Ministerium Elder Gifts:

A special thank you to the following who donated gifts for the Two Harbors Ministerium's efforts to provide a Christmas gift for local elderly residing in assisted living or nursing homes! Ed & Joanie Lee, Alison Shaw, Steve & Lisa Horner, Randi Alreck & Lawrence Burkhard, Del & Sue Hubbartt, Kay Struve, Melanie McMillion, Delores Jackson, Susan Southard, Hannah Weishaar, Michael & Nancy Dent, Bud & Vicky Gorman, David & Linda Grong, Noel & Karen Walter, Dee Moris & David Coolidge, Dick & Sue Sigel, Janet Emery, Carmen & David Smith and one anonymous donor who didn't sign the gift tag "sign-out" sheet!

Salvation Army Red Kettle Ringers:

Thank you to those who manned the red kettle on December 16 at Super One to cover our church's shift! Kris & Mike Garey, Pat & Steve Berger, Mary von Goertz & Trish Northey, Norbert Norman, Bill & Pat Meyer, Tim Anderson & Ed Lee. What a wonderful cause! All donations received are used LOCALLY!

Other Gifts (Through Dec. 15):

- ❖ A Christmas donation to Two Harbors Food Shelf in honor of Pastor Susan and Kay's siblings, from Kay Bloom.
- ❖ Gifts to the memorial fund in memory of Paul Struve were received from Paul & Mary von Goertz and Dennis & Georgia Ojard.
- ❖ A gift to the memorial fund in memory of Kay Hong was received from Kay Bloom.

Council Buzz – December 2024 By Helene Hedlund

The Council has identified the following 3 major outcomes for 2024

- Identify KRLC as “The Heart of The Community”
- Improve/expand communication
- Assess decisions to be certain they are accomplishing what was intended

What’s Happening

- Draft and implement archiving process – ongoing
- Proposed Budget approved and will be presented to congregation at annual meeting for comment and approval.
- Review Committee Structure processes – will require Bylaws change. nearing completion
- The annual meeting has been rescheduled for **February 9**,
- Discussion continues whether we will have a January indoor picnic. More to follow in the December Newsletter.
- There are currently no plans for a New Years’ Eve game night.
- VP David Grong will bring the nominating committee together to fill open Council positions. Randi Alreck and Craig Whiting have completed their terms. A hearty thank you to both Randi and Craig for your commitment to KRLC and its Council.
- We have not had a volunteer step forward yet to take on management of our WEBSITE. Please consider serving KRLC in this manner. Our WEBmaster oversees the posting of live streamed services, printed materials such as Newsletter, Sermons, Confirmation materials, Council minutes and other church related documents. Please let either me or the church office know if you are interested to managing our WEB.

Thank you for your support of the 2024 Council

CHURCH MOUSE

Two Very Joyful Days

Each year, many of our church mice participate in our community’s Julebyen as characters, crafters, bakers, helpers and train narrators. Did you see our Troll Todd Monger dance a joyful jig with GB Leighton, a Minnesota singing legend?

As always, a Julebyen favorite is our Sunday morning Living Nativity - a tenderhearted and gentle reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. The KRLC community acted, sang, prayed and walked to Bethlehem together. What a glorious musical procession!

There was the special moment when Shepherd Jasper and his little sister, Iris the Angel, joined us for Sunday School for the first time. And then, watching them jump for joy when they saw their school friends Hudson and Julia walk in the room made the rest of us jump for joy, too!

This energy continued when the four friends encouraged their moms to be angels and join in with them and Mary (Ally), Joseph (Anthony), Angel Audrey Carlson’s precious Baby Doll Jesus, Kings Gunny, Tor and Craig, Angels Natalie and Alaina, Donkey Linda, Shepherd Trygg and Shepherd-Narrator Tim.

Our Joyful Choir led by Angel Patti caused the goats, camels and donkey to sway and swoosh their tails in time to the music while the watchful audience sang along and became joyfully teary eyed. It was a sight to behold!

“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Luke 2:10

Remember these joy-filled moments and keep them close.

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

On behalf of the Julebyen 2024 planning team, we extend a hearty thank you to KRLC for its involvement this year. The church organized the ever popular Live Nativity and we were able to utilize the church lower level to assemble food offerings and beverages to be sold in the JB Bakeri.

JB relies on 100s of volunteers to organize this event. KRLC membership is always there willing to help in numerous ways to help make this community festival successful. Some are involved in long-term planning . . . others spend numerous hours preparing and dismantling the grounds. And then there are what I refer to as the weekend warriors. Baking, crafting, managing the grounds, singing, selling product and managing traffic and other safety issues are all part of a successful Julebyen experience. 2024 was a great event thanks to these volunteers. KRLC is and remains the Heart of the Community. Clearly, a job well done.

Merry Christmas
Helene Hedlund, Event Chair

WINTER PICNIC

January 22, 2025, 5pm to 6:30

It's FREE so BRING A Friend
(donations are welcomed)

Monthly Picnics are a part of our 'Heart of the Community' Outreach. This month we are trying something new by highlighting: “TOGETHER HERE” ministry which is an ELCA Native American outreach and whose purpose is learning, listening, and relationship building grounded in truth telling and the reconciling love of Christ so that transformational healing can occur.

Wild Rice Soup, hotdish, bread & dessert will be served

(This month ONLY...donations will go to 'Together Here" Ministry Outreach)

"GOD'S GOODNESS IS IN THE DETAILS." By Paul Von Goertz

I wrote the following for the KRHCC newsletter sometime around 2010, but feel the need to retell it for our newer members.

Mary and I try to take in a choral concert every Christmas. Around this time we took in the Arrowhead Chorale's concert in a beautiful Roman Catholic gothic cathedral in south Superior. We chose that concert because Pastor Susan was singing in it.


We were late to the concert because I got lost ("Never ask for directions.") I dropped Mary off and parked blocks away. I knew I would be late and was not happy about that.

As I neared the church, I saw a strange site. There was a woman trying to push a hospital gurney up and over a curb. As I got closer I could see she was struggling frantically and in tears. She appeared to be in her forties. I asked if I could help. The man on the gurney (her husband?) laid motionless and expressionless. He appeared very frail and pale, wearing an oxygen mask, and covered with a thick quilt.

I have no idea how the two of them got into this predicament. I was struck by their love for each other and determination to take in the concert together. Was this concert the prelude for him to see the face of Christ? I offered to help the couple into the church, but she thanked me and said she could "take it from here."

It was God's Goodness that made me late and placed me where I could help this poor couple. It was cold and there was no one else to help them hear the reassuring and comforting words and music that foretells the Savior's birth - and the promise of everlasting life.

KRLC Treasurer's Report 11/30/2024

General Operations Summary	2024	2023		Budget
Income from donations	\$ 121,399.72	\$ 120,133.00	Under budget	\$ 134,048.75
Expenses	\$ 128,382.73	\$ 120,375.01	Under budget	\$ 134,048.75
Donations vs expenses	\$ (6,983.01)	\$ (242.01)		

Designated Account Summary	2024	2023
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 42,721.83	\$ 35,791.26
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 34,004.75	\$ 40,989.42
Donations vs expenses	\$ 8,717.08	\$ (5,198.16)

The Bottom Line	2024	2023
Total income	\$ 164,121.55	\$ 155,924.26
Total expenses	\$ 162,387.48	\$ 161,364.43
Fund Balance change	\$ 1,734.07	\$ (5,440.17)



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 3,016.99
Outreach	\$ (517.78)
Building and property fund	\$ 5,311.05
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 86,014.46
Memorial	\$ 4,470.91
Passthru	\$ 2,338.64
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 105,634.27



Total of all cash assets	\$ 203,436.16
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -



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	\$ 75,329.69
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

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

November Highlights

Donations for the month of November were down by a fair amount from previous years.

We are still running in the red by almost \$7,000 accumulatively for 2024.

We could use everyone's help to balance the books by the end of the year. Thank you.

The sooner you can get your donations into the plate the better it is for everyone.

It's also time to finish your Outreach giving if you want it counted for 2024.

Thank you to everyone involved in the financial giving at KRLC! We appreciate your effort

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9 am Epiphany Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10:10 Council Budget Meeting	6 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	7 9 am Ludio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	1 OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	2 8:30 Men Meet 10 am Stewardship Committee 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	3	4
12 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Sit Down Council 10:10 Sticks & Strings Practice	13 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	14 9 am Ludio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 6:00 PM WELCA While Elephant Potluck at Jackson home 6:30 PM JOYFUL	8 1-3 pm Quilters	9 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	10	11
19 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 2 pm NEWSLETTER	20 OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	21 9 am Ludio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm. 6:30 PM JOYFUL	15 1-3 pm Quilters 5:30 Sticks & Strings 6:30 CONFIRMATION	16 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	17	18
26 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 2 pm ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	27 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	28 9 am Ludio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	22 1-3 pm Quilters 5 pm Church/Community Winter Picnic	23 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	24	25
			29 1-3 pm Quilters	30 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	31	UPCOMING: Sun., Feb 9 10:15 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 2025