

April, 2025

158 Church Street, PO Box 218, Knife River, MN 55609

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FROM THE PASTOR

Why Easter Matters

As I turned 65 last month, I found myself taking stock, as one often does when celebrating birthdays that end with a “0” or a “5”. I found myself feeling hugely grateful for the abundance of ways God has blessed me through my life, including this past year. I also found myself recognizing how many losses we accumulate over our life time, and how we are shaped by both joy and grief through the years. Easter is a celebration that brings together both of these experiences; Easter acknowledges the reality of death and grief, while also pointing us towards abundance of joy. This is a truth I’ve come to appreciate more fully over time.

When I was younger, I understood faith primarily in terms of how we live in the present, and there’s nothing wrong with that. Living out our faith in lives of praise and service is certainly at the heart of Christian discipleship. But, in light of the many deaths that any of us experience in those around us, I have realized the importance of the empty tomb of Easter in a new way. Faith has not only a component relating to living in the present; it also points us to the new reality of life beyond death, of resurrected life. This is where the empty tomb makes all the difference. Christ’s resurrection points to the reality that good wins over evil, that love wins over hate, that life wins over death. This is the faith of Easter people as we face mortality, our own and others. It is a crucial element of our belief, and one that may become more important as we age and deal with death more often. The significance of Easter may be something that becomes more clear and powerful to us over time.

Pastor and theologian Gerhard Frost has written about how his understanding of Easter changed from early childhood to later adulthood. He wrote, “So with Easter. It was fun, as a child, to bound down the stairs to find seasonal sweet-treats under each plate, but again, with the passing of time, and the shadow of death over our broken family circle, I’ve seen Easter as highest necessity. If hope is to flourish, it had better be true.” Many of us can understand his words about how crucial the resurrection of Christ is. So crucial, in fact, that we approach Easter each year through the solemnity of the Lenten season, the intensity of Holy Week, and the surprise fear and joy of the empty tomb. It’s not enough to hear this story once; we need to ponder it, rediscover it, and find ourselves within it year after year after year. Like much of what we do in the church that involves regular ritual or repetition, it serves to remind us of what we need to be reminded---that Christ is raised. That Love wins. So much around us would say otherwise, that this annual festival of Easter is of great significance for the health of our souls.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to encourage you to worship through this Easter season and the Holy Week that ushers it in. Join us on Palm Sunday and wave a palm; grieve on Good Friday at the Tenebrae service; celebrate with joy on Easter morning. Easter changes everything, but if it is to change *us*, we need to have opportunity to experience the story.

In Christ,

Pastor Susan

WORSHIP IN APRIL

This month we experience [a heightening of drama](#) through the weeks, as we begin with the final Sunday of Lent, walk through Holy Week, and then celebrate resurrection on Easter Sunday. Don’t forget about the Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13, or about the meaningful service on Good Friday, April 18, at 7 PM.

Sunday, April 6-The 5th Sunday in Lent. We will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar during our traditional worship service. We will also celebrate Holy Baptisms for Kaden and Makenna Lemke.

Sunday, April 13-Palm Sunday. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction. Both JOYFUL and our Sweet Chaos dulcimers will provide music for this worship, which will include a Holy Baptism for Oscar Smith. We will wave palm branches and enjoy a pancake breakfast following worship. An opportunity for healing prayer will be included also.

Friday, April 18-Good Friday. We will observe the solemn service of Tenebrae on Friday evening at 7 PM. Seraphim will sing.

Sunday, April 20-Easter Sunday. This festive service will include music from JOYFUL and the Knife River Ringers, as we celebrate Holy Communion by intinction.

Sunday, April 27-The first Sunday of Easter. Sticks and Strings will lead us in upbeat Bluegrass/Gospel style service that will include Holy Communion by intinction.

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
<u>Ushers</u>	C. Whiting S. Carlson	S. Shelerud K. Pollard	J. Emery J. McCorison	M. McMillion D. Jackson
<u>Lector</u>	M. McMillion	S. Pollard	C. Beardsley	L. Bujold
<u>Communion Asst</u>	V. Gorman	A. Hubbart	A. Hovis	E. Lee
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	A. Jasperson	M. von Goertz	R. Alreck	M. von Goertz
<u>Offering Counters</u>	M. McMillion L. Anderson	L. Olson M. von Goertz	K. Struve J. Lee	M. McMillion 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 G. Skadberg	C. Smith O. Smith	R. Alreck A. Hubbart	A. Jasperson G. Ojard

GIFTS RECEIVED:

A gift to the memorial fund in memory of Paul Struve was received from Scott & Anne Jasperson.

2025 EASTER PLANTS – Early deadline this year!! April 6 . . . no kidding!!

Easter lilies and other spring plants will be used to decorate our altar at Easter. If you would like a plant “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” someone, please provide the info below and return it by Sunday, April 6, along with type plant selected and payment. You may take the plant home following the 9 AM service on Easter Sunday. All gifts will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. *All plants cost \$18 each.

Plants available: Easter Lily, Tulips, Begonia, Hyacinth, Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Mixed-bulb garden.

() In memory of

() In honor of

Name _____

Given By _____

(Checks should be made payable to Knife River Lutheran Church - Place completed form with payment in the offering plate no later than Sunday, April 6! -or- email info to Melanie.Mc1000000@gmail.com by April 6. Order forms will also be inserted in weekly bulletin on March 30 and April 6.)

Council Buzz – March 2025 by Helene Hedlund, Council President

What’s Happening

- Established Major Outcomes will continue for 2025
- 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
 - Anne Jaspersen and Jan Swanson – Christian Ed

Kitchen Serving Training - REMINDER

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 too 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:

- As recommended by the Synod, the Worship Committee is arranging for pulpit supply for the month of June.
- A continuing reminder that once an Interim has been identified, the church will identify a call team. In the meantime, as tempting as it may be, please do not reach out to individuals that you think could serve as either Interim or Pastor, but rather rely on the process to do this work. Thank you.
- The council has established an Administrative Support task force. Steve Berger, Ed Lee and Helene Hedlund make up the task force, in consultation with Melanie McMillion. Tasks include
 - We have determined it is time for this to be salaried position
 - Determine number of hours and salary
 - Property group will be reviewing space for suitable work station
 - Draft job description
 - Post description

- Conduct interviews
- Other as determined
- Melanie plans to be available during orientation and training for the Administrative Assistant. She will remain an active volunteer and resource for KRLC. Thank you for that.
- Plans for Pastor Susan's final service and celebration are well underway. Thanks to all involved.
- As questions arise, let the Council know. What we can answer we will and what we can't, we'll find out.

Thank you for your continued support of the 2025 Council.

2025 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest: *Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation*

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 9:30am - 5:00pm at First Lutheran Church in Duluth and Online (*Free Childcare Provided*)

The ever-increasing cries of creation in crisis could easily overwhelm us. Instead let them serve as a clarion call to help bring life out of potential death, to give birth to moral-spiritual power for the healing of God's Creation.

The day includes impactful speakers Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, action-oriented engagement sessions, vibrant worship, inspiring art, table exhibits, and networking time to equip disciples in congregations, camps, campuses and communities to respond to God's call in the cries of Creation.

Join in becoming midwives of hope and healing. Like Shiphrah and Puah in the beginning of the Exodus story, who defied Pharaoh and brought forth life in the midst of slavery and death, we know that every child, all life, all of creation is worthy of saving through defiance and courage. Their story births something in us. These midwives become our models. They call and sing to us from the pages of Scripture – 'Do likewise, O people, help bring forth life that staves off death.'

Presented by: The Northeastern Minnesota Synod EcoFaith Network, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, and Saint Paul Area Synod along with partner organizations, synods, camps, colleges, and seminaries.

Tickets cost \$30 per person (lunch included), \$25 per person Carpool discount if you come with 3 or more people. Young Adults under the age of 30 and online viewers register free.

For more information and to register: <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025> . **In-person registration deadline is March 30, 2025.** On-line registration deadline is April 5, 2025.

Contact Lawrence Burkhard for further information.

JOYFUL IN THE COMMUNITY

Our choir director, Patti, has set the following dates to rehearse for our farewell piece of music for Pastor Susan's retirement program:

The dates are May 6, May 13 and May 20. Practice for this final number will be at the end of regular choir practice to start at 7:15pm. Anyone wishing to sing is welcome. We know not everyone can be there, but please come to the ones you can. If you need the music let Patti or Joanie or Ed know. This will be such a lovely tribute.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm. 6:30 PM JOYFUL	2 12-3 pm Quilters	3 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	4	5
6 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Sit Down Council	7 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	8 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:00 WELCA 5:00 PM JOYFUL	9 12-3 pm Quilters	10 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	11	12
13 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Pancake Breakfast 11 am Sticks & Strings Practice PALM SUNDAY	14 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	15 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 6:30 PM JOYFUL	16 12-3 pm Quilters 6:30 PM Confirmation	17 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	18 7 pm TENNEBRAE GOOD FRIDAY	19
20 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE EASTER SUNDAY	21 9 am Bone Strengthening Class OFFICE CLOSED	22 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	23 12-3 pm Quilters 5:30 Sticks & Strings practice	24 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Dulcimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	25	26
27 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship	28 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	29 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm. 6:30 PM JOYFUL	30 12-3 pm Quilters			

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