

December, 2024

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

Advent has long been my favorite season of the church year. So much about Advent speaks to me: the beauty of the sanctuary decorated for the season, the beauty of the worship services and the music, and the beauty of the Scripture texts come together in a way that is rich and meaningful. Many of us find Advent to be a particularly *soulful* season, one that combines longing with hopefulness in a way that heals our souls.

Longing is one of the spiritual experiences of Advent, which makes it a realistic reflection of our experiences year-round in a broken world---a world that is oh, so, good, and yet is also oh, so, wounded. We long for peace, but war continues to rage not only in the Holy Land, but all over the world. We long for unity, but our nation remains polarized after a divisive election. We long for joy, but many of us are grieving after a year of many significant deaths in our church and community. We long for health, but many of us are experiencing illness or one kind or another. Advent allows us to express all of this longing, to honestly acknowledge the brokenness we see and experience, and to lament all that is less whole and more broken than we wish it were. Longing is part of the human condition, and it is given expression in the sometimes minor-keyed music, the candle lighting, and deep blue altar paraments of Advent....all a reflection of the darkness in nature as we approach the winter solstice.

Yet, *hope* is another primary experience of Advent. If longing acknowledges all we wish could be so but is not yet so, then hope acknowledges that God is good, and that our longing is not futile. So many of the hymns of Advent speak of hope, including our most ancient Advent song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, who mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.” Practicing hopefulness is a spiritual discipline, and it can be a challenge. The important thing to keep in mind, is that we can be hopeful, while we are still feeling longing and experiencing darkness. We don’t need to force false gaiety during this season; being hopeful is more an experience of the soul that trusts that God does come among us in Christ, uniquely incarnate in a Holy Child, in order to keep our hopes alive.

With the coming of Christmas, all of our longings and hopes come together as God takes on flesh in Jesus. It’s not that our longings disappear altogether or that our hopes are immediately fulfilled. But a light is given to us that shines in the darkness and that cannot be extinguished by all that is wrong or evil in the world. The Christ child brings gifts of peace and joy to us, even in a world that remains broken and blest, all at once.

This Advent, my prayer is that the beauty of this season---in worship, in nature, in our gathering with each other---will allow us to express our longings and hopes and to discover the love of God, made real in the birth of Christ. May this soulful season bring healing to our souls and our world.

In Christ,
Pastor Susan Berge

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

This is one of the most beautiful months of worship within the church year. Please make a point to take time out from holiday busy-ness to move through Advent into Christmas in worship. All services are at 9 AM, as usual, except for Christmas Day, which is at 9:30 AM.

- Sunday, December 1-The First Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar, as we experience rituals and music unique to this holy season. Seraphim will sing.
- Sunday, December 8-The Second Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction, and following worship, we will sponsor the Live Nativity at the Julebyen celebration.
- Sunday, December 15-The Third Sunday of Advent-We will celebrate Holy communion by intinction, and there will be an opportunity for healing prayer and anointing. Our bell choir will play.
- Sunday, December 22-The Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction, and our dulcimer group will provide music.
- Wednesday, December 25- Christmas Day-On this joyful day, our JOYFUL choir will be present to sing. Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction. This service is at **9:30 AM**, the one time in the year we get a little extra sleep!
- Sunday, December 29-The First Sunday of Christmas. A service of Lessons and Carols will guide us in reflection upon the blessings of Christmas.

UPCOMING FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

There will be a First Communion class, following worship, most likely on December 22, unless conflicts arise. Let Pastor know if you are interested in having your child attend.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 25	Dec 29
<u>Ushers</u>	S. Jasperson A. Jasperson	C. Skadberg A. Skadberg	R. Alreck K. Bloom	M. Dent N. Dent	P. Meyer B. Meyer	C Whiting S Carlson
<u>Lector</u>	K. Garey	A. Skadberg	K. Bloom	N. Dent	P. Meyer	No lector
<u>Communion Asst</u>	Nancy Dent	D. Grong	S. Hubbartt	T Northey	Ed Lee	No Communion
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	J Stewart	J Stewart	J Stewart	J Stewart	J Stewart	J Stewart
<u>Offering Counters</u>	M. McMillion L. Anderson	S. Jasperson M. Garey	M McMillion A Jasperson	Kay Struve Joanie Lee	S. Jasperson M. Garey	L. Olson M. von Goertz
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	Gild and Graze	NONE (Nativity)	J Swanson K. Garey	N Walter K Walter	NONE	Available
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team
<u>Childrens Church/ Kids Connect</u>	L. Burkhard A Hubbartt	Live Nativity Prep	J McCorison D Mattson	R Alreck G Skadberg	No Class	S Socha A Shaw

Gifts Received Gifts to the memorial fund in memory of Paul Struve were received from David & JoAnn Rossetter, Lawrence Burkhard & Randi Alreck, Lisa Anderson, Kay Bloom, Steve & Carol Carlson, Delores Jackson, Ed & Joanie Lee, Melanie McMillion, Bill & Pat Meyer, Gail Safstrom, Scott & Sharon Shelerud, Kay Struve, Jan & Dennis Swanson, David & Linda Grong, David & Ann Schlomann, Randy Ellestad, Noel & Karen Walter, David & Carmen Smith, Dick & Sue Sigel, Trish Northey, Bill Berg, Debbie Anderson & Amanda Zimmer, Steve & Cindy Betzler, Lyle & Ella Jackson, Nancy Hong, Joanne Lind, Jim & Lee Bujold, Bud & Vicky Gorman. A gift in memory of Paul Struve designated to the general fund was received from Rich & Nancy Ojard. A gift to the memorial garden in memory of Paul Struve was received from Del & Susan Hubbartt. A gift to the memorial garden in memory of Audrey Carlson was received from Del & Susan Hubbartt. Gifts in memory of Audrey Carlson designated toward a new Pascal Candle & Stand were received from David & JoAnn Rossetter, Cindy & Steve Betzler, Gary & Vicky Ojard, Lisa & Bart Anderson, Gail Safstrom, Kay Struve, Dennis & Jan Swanson, Noel & Karen Walter, Deb & Jim Allert, Harlan and Pat Olson, Ann Jackson, Kathleen Saamanen, David & Marcella Stewart and other anonymous cash donors. Gifts to the memorial fund in memory of Audrey Carlson were received from Bud & Vicky Gorman and Kay Bloom. A gift to the music fund in memory of Audrey Carlson was received from Lawrence Burkhard and Randi Alreck. Gifts to the memorial fund in memory of Kay Hong were received from Jim & Lee Bujold. A gift to the memorial fund in memory of George Krog was received from Jim & Lee Bujold and Kay Bloom. A gift to the music fund in memory of Audrey Carlson was received from Lawrence Burkhard and Randi Alreck.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
1 Elise Rigney	19 Michael Dent	7 Mike & Kris Garey
6 Nancy Ojard	20 Jillian McCorison	9 Terri & Brian Stuberud
8 Geri Stout	21 Sadie Pollard	27 Bill & Pat Meyer
8 Dian Saari	23 Ross Magnuson	29 Scott & Anne Jasperson
14 Kathleen Mattson	25 Stephen Carlson	
14 Joanie Lee	27 Hudson Schutte	
15 Laura Miller	29 Paul Von Goertz	
16 Deanna Ellestad		

Council Buzz – November 2024 By Helene Hedlund, Council President

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
- Budgeting for 2025 is nearly complete.
- Review Committee Structure processes – will require Bylaws change. nearing completion
- **REMINDER in the event of inclement weather, decisions to cancel for Sunday Services will be made by 7:00 a.m. Decisions to cancel for weekday and/or evening activities will be made 2 hours prior to the scheduled event. Methods of communication will include notice on WEB, Facebook and mass email**
- The annual meeting has been rescheduled for **February 9, 2024** rather than February 2, 2024. The Council Stand Up meeting for February will be canceled. In the event issues arise between the January and March face to face meetings, the Council will use email and/or call a special meeting.
- 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.
- Nancy Dent has managed our WEBSITE marvelously for the past several years. As such, she needs a break. We are seeking an interested volunteer to serve in that capacity. 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 manage our WEB. Thank you Nancy . . . your work is instrumental in the communication associated with KRLC.

Thank you for your support of the 2024 Council

Outreach idea for the month: by Ed Lee

It's hard for me to believe but the end of 2024 is right around the corner. So, it's time to make decisions on your final Outreach giving for this year. As a Church community we are on pace with last year's giving, but our largest months are Nov. and Dec. and they are not included for either year. If you are wondering where your donations should go, I'm going to suggest making your life simpler by just listing Local Outreach and/or World Outreach. It's much easier for you and that allows the Stewardship Committee to fill in amounts for charities that are not getting adequately funded. Thank you so much for your support for all of the various charities and mission projects that we support.

CHURCH MOUSE by Lee Bujold, et.al.

TRICKS

It's transition time for THE CHURCH MOUSE. Trickster Lee Bujold thought that it might take more than one mouse to keep up on the news of KRLC. Until Lee's return in Spring 2025, Anne Jasperson and Randi Alreck will be helping out. If there is information you wish to share in the Church newsletter, please send it to both 'mice' at:

annejasperson@hotmail.com

randi.alreck@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Norbert Norman was elected to the school board for Lake Superior School District #381. Thank you, Norbert, for serving the community and families in the school district.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH/KIDS' CONNECT

On November 10, Jan Swanson brought music fun by leading bell practice. Each child rang one or more of the colorful child-size bells to play "God Is So Good." The next practice is December 15 during Children's Church/Kids' Connect.

The Bible lesson led by Sara Soucha was "Samuel Anoints David as Future King" – 1st Samuel chapter 16. The scripture and craft project emphasized that God doesn't look at things the way humans do when selecting a king. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes. God sees into the heart. David had the heart of a leader.

KEY VERSE

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature...; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

God’s Global Barnyard & Good Gifts: Gift Giving During the Holiday Season

Like past years, in the Narthex during the Advent season, there will be a tree decorated with ornaments representing different items in the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Ornaments include Good Gifts of chicks, piglets, goats, honeybees, Bibles, microloan for a woman, school fees & uniform for a girl, and many more items. Next to the tree, there are a few gift cards for those wanting this option instead of using the ornaments. For those wanting to participate but not interested in purchasing a Good Gift item, donations will be accepted. These gifts grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives.

For those wishing to give Barnyard animals and/or Good Gift items as gifts for the holidays, you must include the form below with your donation so that proper tracking of all Good Gifts purchased by the congregation can be done. There will be multiple copies of the form besides the Good Gifts tree. Thanks.

ELCA Good Gifts – God’s Global Barnyard donation			
FROM: _____			
IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF: _____			
Good Gift Item(s)	Price	Qty	Total

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Attention Care Givers!

How North Shore Area Partners Can Help.

NSAP has funding available that enables us to offer 4 hours of FREE respite care a month through 6/30/2025 to older adults who are currently receiving respite care from family and friends. Those who are on a waiver to have their care paid for are not eligible for this opportunity.

We provide respite services to Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Finland, Isabella, Little Marais communities as well as up the shore to Lutsen and down the shore to Knife River.

Contact Ericka Blanchard, LSW, Caregiver Consultant at 218-353-1464 or email ericka@nsapartners.org for more details.

KRLC Treasurer's Report

10/31/2024

General Operations Summary	2024	2023
Income from donations	\$ 111,472.92	\$ 103,491.84
Expenses	\$ 117,742.37	\$ 108,403.51
Donations vs expenses	\$ (6,269.45)	\$ (4,911.67)

Under budget
Under budget



Budget
\$ 121,862.53
\$ 121,862.53

Designated Account Summary	2024	2023
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 40,371.83	\$ 31,631.04
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 27,115.51	\$ 35,858.18
Donations vs expenses	\$ 13,256.32	\$ (4,227.14)

The Bottom Line	2024	2023
Total Income	\$ 151,844.75	\$ 135,122.88
Total expenses	\$ 144,857.88	\$ 144,261.69
Fund Balance change	\$ 6,986.87	\$ (9,138.81)



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 3,730.55
Outreach	\$ (481.22)
Building and property fund	\$ 6,417.21
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 71,004.87
Memorial	\$ 9,250.38
Memorial- Money Market	\$ 14,176.74
Passthru	\$ 955.69
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 110,054.22



Total of all cash assets	\$ 206,117.68
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -



Other Fund Balances	Amount
Columbarium fund	\$ 22,274.20
Reserve required by State Law	\$ 4,500.00
Available after required reserve	\$ 17,774.20
Columbarium debt is fully paid	\$ -

Endowment fund	\$ 73,789.26
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

Color Key

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

October Highlights

October was a good month for donations and we want to say; "thank you so much"! We are still running in the red for the year when comparing donations/expenses. We could use everyone's help to balance the books by the end of the year. Thank you. It's also time to finish your Outreach giving if you want it counted for 2024. Please refer to the Outreach suggestions elsewhere in this newsletter. The end of the year is also a challenging time for our amazing Bookkeeper, Michael. The sooner you can get your donations into the plate the simpler his life will be. Thank you to everyone involved in the financial giving at KRLC! We appreciate your effort

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am GILD & GRAZE ADVENT BEGINS	2 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	3 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6:30 PM JOYFUL	4 1-3 pm Quilters	5 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Ducimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	6 JULEBYEN SET-UP	7 JULEBYEN 12:30 Knife River Ringers in the Tent
8 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect JULEBYEN 10:30 am LIVE NATMITY	9 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 2 pm KR Ringers (Bells)	10 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 6:30 PM JOYFUL	11 1-3 pm Quilters	12 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Ducimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	13	14
15 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Stand Up Council 2 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9 am Bone Strengthening Class 9 am - 7 pm KRLC volunteers ring bells at Super One Red Kettle.	17 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm. 6:30 PM JOYFUL	18 1-3 pm Quilters 6:30 pm Confirmation	19 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Ducimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	20	21
22 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am First Communion Class	23 9 am Bone Strengthening Class	24	25 9:30 am Christmas Worship CHRISTMAS DAY	26 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Sweet Chaos Ducimers 5 pm Pop-Up Dinner at Earthwood Inn	27	28
29 9 am Worship Children's Church & Kid's Connect 10 am Coffee fellowship	30 9 am Bone Strengthening Class	31 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper NEW YEAR'S EVE				

KRLC December 2024