

**July, 2025**

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**COUNCIL BUZZ** - Submitted by Helene Hedlund, Council President

**Greetings to all**

**What's Happening**

- Draft and implement archiving process – ongoing
- Complete committee Structure processes – will require Bylaws change.
  - Endowment Committee has submitted Bylaw changes –
- Annual Review of Policies - ongoing
- Review Committees and identify committee liaisons - ongoing

**Pastor Transition comments:**

- The Worship Committee has arranged for pulpit supply and is working on July
- The Council has arranged for pastoral care for the month of July
- As questions arise, let the Council know.

**Administrative Support Hire**

- The congregation approved increasing the 2025 budget by \$6,000 to cover expenses of the Administrative Support hire at a special meeting on June 22, 2025.
- The position will be offered with a start date of July 7 (Melanie is not available until then to oversee training.) Steve Berger, Ed Lee and Helene Hedlund and Melanie McMillion made up the task force.
- Reminder that Melanie will be available during orientation and training for the Administrative Assistant.
- She will remain an active volunteer and resource for KRLC.

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

- The council is drafting a Congregation Survey to be distributed to gather input. Responses will be compiled and shared. Distribution date TBD
- The council is planning a “table talk” activity that will focus on determining critical skills the congregation is looking for in a new pastor. We will plan it to follow an upcoming worship service . . . exact date TBD
- Once we have an Interim Pastor in place, the council will work with the Interim to explore other activities to seek input regarding the direction for KRLC.
- Results of input will be shared with the Call Committee once formed

**Call Committee process**

- The Interim and the council will work collaboratively to form the committee
- Bylaws limit the call committee to 5 congregation members
- The council will be distributing a questionnaire for individuals interested in serving on the call committee.
- Call committee nominees will be presented to the congregation for a vote to move forward. Date TBD

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## **COUNCIL BUZZ – (continued)**

### **Memorial Garden Care**

- Steve Berger has volunteered to provide oversight for the care of the Memorial Garden. Thank you!! Contact him if you are interested in assisting with the garden.

**Next Council meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2025. Please note we will be conducting sit down meetings during the transition period.**

Thank you for your continued support of the 2025 Council.

### **PASTORAL CARE OR ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS?**

Until we have an Interim Pastor, the following members are prepared to assist you with pastoral care concerns:

Kay Bloom 218-340-0515; Randi Alreck 218-349-3788; Pastor Kris Garey 218-213-8599

For administrative concerns, please contact Melanie McMillion 218 834-6032 or

[Melanie.Mc1000000@gmail.com](mailto:Melanie.Mc1000000@gmail.com)

### **WORSHIP IN JULY**

We will be worshipping in the Memorial Garden during the month of July, weather permitting, followed by coffee fellowship. Children's time will occur during worship, as usual. Communion by intinction will occur each Sunday an ordained Pastor is present. Watch our website and Facebook page for more specific information as the worship committee completes the task of filling worship leader and preacher positions for each Sunday!

### **MEMBERSHIP STATUS FOR VOTING**

One of Pastor Susan's final tasks as the Pastor of this congregation was to update the membership list and leave it in good order for the next pastor. She was guided by our Congregational Constitutional definition of what constitutes membership. Specifically, the focus was on Voting Members, since some important votes lie ahead in our congregation's future in regard to calling a new pastor. 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 Helene, as they have copies of the updated membership list Pastor Susan left for our next pastor.

## JULY VOLUNTEERS

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
<u>Ushers</u>	S. Shelerud K. Pollard	R. Ojard N. Ojard	L. Bujold R. Alreck	J. Allert D. Allert
<u>Lector</u>	Shelerud/Pollard	N. Ojard	L. Bujold	D. Allert
<u>Communion Asst</u>	V. Gorman M. McMillion J. Swanson	A. Hubbartt S. Hubbartt M. McMillion	S. Berger P. Berger M. McMillion	N. Dent J. Swanson D. Swanson
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	Hannah Weishaar -----			
<u>Offering Counters</u>	L. Olson M. von Goertz	S. Jaspersen M. Garey	M. McMillion A. Jaspersen	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 Time</u>	D. Mattson -----			

**\*\*If YOU would like YOUR name added to any of the above volunteer groups, please notify Melanie!!**

## JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays:

1 Clayton Anderson  
Noel Walter  
2 Scott Jacob  
3 Gretta Ojard  
5 Dee Moris  
9 Trish Northey  
12 Dennis Ojard  
13 Karen Johnson  
14 Craig Whiting  
15 Pat Berger  
16 Gary Ojard  
17 Taylor Ross  
23 Mary von Goertz  
30 Steve Bjorum

### Anniversaries:

6 Beth & Tim Anderson  
10 Rich & Nancy Ojard  
23 Diane & Joe Friebe  
Patti & Peter Stoddard  
30 Kristen Pless & Dan Schutte

**\*\*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?? Did we publish an incorrect date?? Have you seen your name on the above listing at any time and prefer it not be?? Let us know! [Melanie.Mc1000000@gmail.com](mailto:Melanie.Mc1000000@gmail.com)**

**THANK YOU, AGAIN!**

“In last month's newsletter I thanked all those who put on such an amazing Celebration of Ministry event for me upon my retirement. This month, I want to be sure to thank all those who gave me gifts of one kind or another: the congregational gift of the stunning prayer table, made by Dale Burton; the beautiful seasonal table runners made by the quilters; the humorous gifts from "Mayor" Randy; the extraordinary congregational memory book put together by Jim Allert; the card and cash gift from W/ELCA; and all the cards, cash, and gifts given by individuals as well. Each gift is a blessing and means the world to me! May God bless all of you as generously as you have blessed me. Thank you! Pastor Susan Berge”

**THANKS FOR “DIGGING IN”!**

A few years ago, Master Gardener Linda Grong started making inquiries about our Memorial Garden .... specifically about a pile of dirt left untouched and invisible to everyone else too accustomed to looking past it, along with a pile of slate that was, well, a pile of slate. Given the nod to come up with a “plan”, Linda took charge. The Memorial Garden shaped up instantly with a Phase 1, 2 and 3 Plan! The garden had a weeding and watering schedule per a signup sheet. Linda added perennials each year and created a more beautiful worship space and community gathering spot for things like our monthly picnics. Thank you, Linda and thank you Steve Berger who’s stepped up to dig in as Linda steps down. Steve is quickly finding out the work involved in following Linda Grong’s lead! Our congregation loves this sacred space and we thank you for tending God’s garden!

**“I JUST LIKE TO HELP PEOPLE”**

....so says KRLC member Bill Berg. Also known as “Naaayber Bill”, he was recently honored by Community Partners for 400+ hours of volunteering. Bill drives people to appointments (he’s logged in a few thousand donated miles), checks for mail, occasionally picks up groceries for people and is always willing to “shoot the breeze”. Thank you for being God’s hands, Bill.....and God’s UBER driver! Community Partners helps people 55+ to live independently through a variety of services. If you find yourself needing a helping hand, call Community Partners at 218-834-8024.

**MEANWHILE AT KRLC....**

People frequently ask “what’s going on at the church with all the cars?” We can see how busy the calendar is but behind the scenes, *this* month we want to thank the Worship Committee chaired by Pat Meyer for their work in filling our pulpit with great worship leaders and visiting pastors through July! The Tech Team also takes on extra duty when arranging for live streaming our services from the Memorial Garden and pivoting when weather moves worship inside. Thanks for your efforts to ensure continuing meaningful worship in this time of transition!

**SPEAKING OF THE TECH TEAM...**

A special thank you to tech team leader Scott Shelerud for the incredible number of hours of research and hands on WORK he put in installing a new sound system for the church! Scott’s noggin was more than ready for a grand adventure when he left on this magnificent, well-deserved vacation with Ruth! He and his team went above and beyond in figuring out this beautiful gift for so many. Our live streams of worship and other events are now so easy for those at home to listen to and understand – it’s like being there! We’ve had so much positive feedback!

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## **CHURCH MOUSE (continued from page 4)**

### **JAMMIE PARTY!**

Thank you Rev. Amanda Simons, LSS Director of Church Partnerships and Volunteerism for your message at KRLC on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. We learned that LSS/Bethany Crisis Shelter has a “jammie crisis” due to the number of children served at Bethany. Your LSS Ambassadors jumped on the idea of a “Jammie Party” at each Pop-Up Picnic this summer....so it’s a “go”. Here’s how you can help: On Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> bring a set of pajamas for boys or girls from infant to adult size or donate cash! Your LSS Ambassadors (Randi, Annie, Lee) will shop for you! We are also grateful for the \$160 in cash donated at the June 18<sup>th</sup> picnic 9-thank you Mary von Goertz for the idea! To date, about 20 pairs of jammies have been delivered to LSS Bethany Crisis Center. More updates to come! Thanks for being “jammie generous”!

### **OHHHH MAN!!!**

I should say “Ohhhh Men’s Group! They have been very busy. Check out the Pastor’s Office and workroom area-clean, painted, rearranged and ready for a new occupant! They hosted, cooked and cleaned up for the June picnic and have exciting plans for the rest of the summer’s picnic fare. Steve Berger also has them weeding the Memorial Garden. Thank you! Thank you! The Men’s Group meets for coffee and treats on Thursday mornings at 8:30 am. for fellowship! Join in! All are welcome!

### **VBS NEWS**

The dates have been set for this summer’s VBS experience! The theme is “Bible Treasure Hunt” and the dates are Monday, August 4 – Wednesday, August 6. Children are welcome to us those days from 4:30 – 6 pm (dinner included). All are welcome! Please reach out to Jillian McCorison if you would like to sign up, or if you would like to volunteer as a helper or meal provider! [mccorisonjillian@gmail.com](mailto:mccorisonjillian@gmail.com) Thank you!

### **MEMORIAL GARDEN HELPERS!**

If you have any time to donate to upkeep in our memorial garden, please contact Steve Berger at [1910Berger@gmail.com](mailto:1910Berger@gmail.com) You’ll likely find him and whomever he can find to help out in the garden from 10 – noon on the next few Thursdays. (But email him to make sure!!) All are welcome – for 30 minutes or 2 hours! Many hands make the chore easier and the garden even MORE beautiful! Thanks!

**KRLC Community Picnic Wednesday, July 16, 2025  
5 PM Bring your company or bring a friend! All are welcome!**

**Purpose: To amend the 2025 budget in order to provide monies for hiring a part-time office administrator to perform assigned office duties.**

The 2025 KRLC constitution gives the congregational council the responsibility for the employment and supervision of salaried workers. The constitution also requires the approval by the congregation of any expenditure over \$5,000.

Melanie McMillion has expressed the desire to step down from her volunteer duties as the pastor's assistant. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING! We sincerely appreciate the many hours you have given over the past 18 years!

The council then authorized a small task force to proceed in creating a job description, advertise, interview and hire a new assistant. These tasks have been completed and a job has been offered and accepted with the understanding that the funding would need approval. The estimated cost for 2025 is \$6,030.

6/17/2025	Employee worksheet		Office Administrator	
Hours/wk	Pay per hr.	Yearly cost		
10	\$ 20.00	\$ 10,400.00		
		\$ 1,508.00	FICA , UI & Medicare	
		\$ 153.59	WC & Payroll fee	
		\$ 12,061.59	Yearly cost	
		\$ 1,005.13	Monthly cost	
		\$ 6,030.80	Projected cost for 2025	

Where will we find these dollars?

1. Our church was paying about \$7,000 per month for Pastor Susan's salary and benefits. Until the council approves an interim pastor we are only paying for pulpit supply (per Sunday service payment to ELCA ordained pastor to fill in). Once an Interim has been approved their salary and benefits will be determined. This should be somewhat lower because of Pastor Susan's long tenure.
2. Ultimately, everything comes down to all of our donations so it is important to keep them steady during this time. It will work if we do this.
3. If we have a shortfall we can always fall back on the money we have saved over the past five years. We would prefer not to spend this because we set it aside for the eventual replacement of the roof and a furnace.

I think we should be very thankful to Melanie for all of the time and energy she has given to KRLC! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

**This budget amendment was approved at the meeting.**

<b>KRLC Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>5/31/2025</b>
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General Operations Summary	2025	2024		Budget
Income from donations	\$ 53,489.90	\$ 52,234.99	Under budget	\$ 68,443.00
Expenses	\$ 62,269.83	\$ 61,326.79	Under budget	\$ 68,443.00
Donations vs expenses	\$ (8,779.93)	\$ (9,091.80)		



Designated Account Summary	2025	2024
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 17,175.61	\$ 24,255.63
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 16,508.99	\$ 11,414.52
Donations vs expenses	\$ 666.62	\$ 12,841.11



The Bottom Line	2025	2024
Total Income	\$ 70,665.51	\$ 76,490.62
Total expenses	\$ 78,778.82	\$ 72,741.31
Fund Balance change	\$ (8,113.31)	\$ 3,749.31



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 1,220.07
Outreach	\$ -
Building and property fund	\$ (2,804.03)
Building and property fund- Money Market	\$ 87,861.13
Memorial	\$ 9,527.58
Passthru	\$ (108.86)
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 100,695.89
Increase over last year	\$ (2,670.70)

Total of all cash assets	\$ 200,357.06
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -
Increase over last year	\$ 7,926.46



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	\$ 77,188.97
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

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

### MAY

Donations are averaging \$10,698 per month and expenses are averaging \$12,454. That means we are short about \$1,756 each month and \$8,780 accumulatively. Next month we will have to dip into our emergency fund if this trend continues. Both income and expenses were budgeted at \$13,688 per month. Please help if you can. Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper	2	3 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers	4 Independence Day	5
6 9 am Worship in The Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship	7 9 am Bone Strengthening Class  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	8 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper	9	10 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers	11	12
13 9 am Worship in The Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship 10 am Sit Down Council	14 9 am Bone Strengthening Class  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	15 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team	16  5 pm Community/ Church Picnic	17 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers	18	19
20 9 am Worship in The Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship  2 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 9 am Bone Strengthening Class  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	22 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm.	23	24 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers	25	26
27 9 am Worship in The Garden Children's Time 10 am Coffee fellowship	28 9 am Bone Strengthening Class  6:30 pm JOYFUL Practice	29 9 am Lectio/Dig Deeper	30	31 8:30 Men Meet 8:30 Dulcimers		
				5 pm Pop-Up Dinner		

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