

March, 2024

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

www.kniferiverlutheran.church

Pastor Susan Berge, 218-834-5172 (church), 218-464-1951 (home)

kniferiverchurch@gmail.com

FROM THE PASTOR “God in Creation”

Our Women’s Study for this winter is focusing on how God speaks to us not only through Scripture, but through nature. Scripture itself identifies this, in Psalms like Psalm 19, where we read, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; the wonder of God’s works are declared by the firmament.” In the Gospels, Jesus teaches that the glory of God is seen in something as commonplace as the “lilies of the field” and that God’s care extends even to ordinary sparrows. Certainly as those who live along the North Shore of Lake Superior, we are aware of the majesty of God revealed in crashing waves, rocky cliffs, and an abundance of flora and fauna. We recognize that God’s witness comes to us through all that God has made!

One of the study sessions focused in particularly on animals as conveyers of God’s goodness. Biblical animals like the ravens that fed Elijah in the wilderness, or the whale in the story of Jonah, or the pairs of animals that inhabited Noah’s ark were mentioned. The story of Holy Week, beginning this month on March 24th, eeee includes animals, too. On Palm Sunday, Christ rides a donkey into Jerusalem. Early in the week, He drives out the animals being sold in the Temple, overturning the tables of the money changers. On Maundy Thursday, following the Last Supper, Jesus is arrested, while His disciples either scatter or hide nearby, to see what is happening. During this time, Peter denies knowing Jesus three times, and then is brought to remorse by hearing the crowing a cock. Tradition suggests that no birds sang during the crucifixion on Good Friday, and two creaturely images are associated with Easter: the Easter egg, wherein the hatching of a chick symbolizes Christ breaking forth from the tomb; and the caterpillar/butterfly, which emerges from the “death” of the caterpillars’ cocoon to the “resurrection” of life as a butterfly. It’s fair to say that animals were very much a part of Jesus’ life and were featured in his teaching. Studying either Scripture or nature, we can perceive that God loves animals.

The Women’s Study asked this question—“Is there a critter in your life that has taught you about God?” Who could answer that in the negative? This congregation and community seem especially tuned in to wildlife and to caring for pets. Our annual Blessing of the Animals, for example, is always a popular event. Speaking personally, I marvel at the ways our two cats and one dog have been blessings in our lives, providing playfulness, humor, affection, and coziness. We are enthusiastic birders and wildlife watchers, and the extraordinary artistry of our Creator is so very evident in the diversity and careful attention to detail in so many creatures. Paying attention to animals---and to nature in general—is one of the ways we attune ourselves to God’s presence among us. Caring for animals, whether domestic or in the wild, is one of the ways we honor our responsibility as good stewards of nature.

As we move through this month from Lent into Holy Week into Easter, may we be receptive to all the ways God speaks to us in the wonders of Creation that surround us.

In Christ, Pastor Susan Berge

WORSHIP IN MARCH

During March, we will be walking towards the cross with Jesus through the season of Lent. The final week of the month is Holy Week, when we move from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally arrive at the joy of Easter Sunday resurrection. Pastor Susan will be gone on Sabbatical through March 19th, so we will be blest to hear other preachers the first three Sundays of the month.

Sunday, March 3-the Third Sunday in Lent. We will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar. Tim Anderson will share a message.

Sunday, March 10- the Fourth Sunday in Lent. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction. Our special guest preacher/presider will be Bishop Amy Odgren. We are so blest that she can be with us!

Sunday, March 17-the Fifth Sunday in Lent. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction. Pastor Kris Garey will be our preacher.

Sunday, March 24th-Palm Sunday. Pastor Susan will be back with us. Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction, there will be a time for Healing Prayer, and we will have special music from two trumpeters and our Sweet Chaos dulcimers. Pancakes will follow!

Friday, March 29th-Good Friday. We will have a Tenebrae Service at 7 PM. This solemn Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ from the cross is a deeply moving experience. Seraphim will sing.

Sunday, March 31st-Easter Sunday. This festive service will include special music from our Knife River Ringers, as well as the celebration of Holy Communion by intinction.

March VOLUNTEERS

	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
<u>Ushers</u>	B. Berg S. Carlson	D. Grong L. Grong	R. Alreck C. Beardsley	T. Northey K. Bloom	S. Hubbartt V. Gorman
<u>Lector</u>	K. Bloom	D. Grong	R. Alreck	T. Northey	S. Hubbartt
<u>Communion Asst</u>	J. Swanson	T. Northey	K. Bloom	C. Whiting	A. Hovis
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	A. Jasperson -----				
<u>Offering Counters</u>	M. McMillion A. Jasperson	K. Struve J. Lee	L. Olson M. von Goertz	S. Jasperson M. Garey	K. Pollard M. Dent
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team
<u>Childrens Church/ Kids Connect</u>	A. Jasperson G. Ojard	S. Socha J. McCorison	J. Swanson D. Swanson	R. Alreck D. Mattson	No Class

GIFTS RECEIVED:

A gift to the memorial fund in memory of Joyce Friebe was received from John Anderson.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Vicky Ojard | 21 Susan Berge |
| 4 Del Hubbartt | 23 Beth Anderson |
| 9 Paul Struve | 26 Robin Whaley |
| 10 Jerri Swardstrom | 27 Debbie Anderson |
| 11 Kay Struve | 28 Curtis Mattson |
| 13 Nicole Ojard | 29 Lyle Northey |
| 14 Diane Friebe | 30 Helene Hedlund |
| 17 DanSchutte | 31 Jim Allert |
| 18 Marv Holt | David Hubbartt |
| 19 Andi Magnuson | |
| Sara Cuypers | |
| 20 Georgia Ojard | |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mary & Paul vonGoertz
- 28 Kay & Paul Struve
- 31 Marge & Norton Johnson

COUNCIL BUZZ By Helene Hedlund, Council President

Reminder: The council has identified 3 major outcomes for their work during 2023. Will be revisited for 2024 at the first in person meeting.

- 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

- Thank you to Bill Meyer for his service to the council
- It is noted that Jan Swanson has been voted in as a member at large and that Kay Bloom has been elected as secretary of the council
- Welcome to the council LeAllan Estrem, member at-large
- Draft and implement archiving process - ongoing
- Review and update of Constitution and Bylaws. Making progress but ongoing
- Review Committee Structure processes - ongoing
- The next face to face meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2024 immediately following service.
- The next stand up meeting is scheduled for April 7 for routine business and a special topic specific face to face meeting to immediately follow.

Thank you for your support of the 2024 Council

STEWARDSHIP By Ed Lee

The Two Harbors Area Food Shelf has been serving Two Harbors and surrounding areas since 1982 with the mission to "Reduce hunger and improve the health of those in need by providing food and other resources at no cost". One out of ten of your neighbors in NE Minnesota are affected by hunger. Please plan to donate this month to help your neighbor in need and KRLC will make sure to maximize your dollar by donating during the matching funds campaign. Thank you!

EASTER PLANTS – NOTE EARLY ORDERING DEADLINE!

Again this Easter, we will be decorating our altar area with a variety of Easter plants. Watch your Sunday bulletins the next couple weeks for the 2024 Easter Plant insert (or check your email if you receive the weekly bulletin online). If you would like to purchase a plant “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” someone, complete the form and return it with payment of \$18 per plant by **Sunday, March 17**. Place in offering plate at church or hand it to Melanie. That’s early this year, but is a **firm deadline** due to vacations. All gifts will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

CHURCH MOUSE by Jan Swanson

This month I interviewed Randi Alreck because she was instrumental in starting Lectio several years ago. Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church. It's a way of using scripture that leads us deeper into God's Word. We use Sunday's Gospel lesson and Pastor Susan leads us into a discussion to "Dig Deeper" by Reading & Listening & Sharing. Our motto is "What's shared here-stays here". ALL (Men & Women) ARE WELCOME to try this *Spiritual Practice* during this Lenten Season.

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU!!!

There were so many thank you cards this month that I decided to just highlight them here and then post them so you can read them and '*Be Blessed for being a Blessing!*' from:

- Kaia Anderson for the generous scholarship
- Karen Johnson for the 'surprise' Christmas/New Year gift
- Center for Changing Lives on behalf of Kids & Staff
- Chums for two gifts to provide food, shelter, advocacy and a caring community for vulnerable residents
- Two Harbors Area Food Shelf
- Lake County DAC for helping them near their goal of purchasing a new accessible van
- ELCA World Hunger people all over the world including the US, are receiving food, water, healthcare, livestock, peace and justice. Gifts were designated for mosquito nets, roosters, honey bees, piglets, goats, chicks, feeding 50 people at a soup kitchen... and the list goes on. 'Holy Cow' what a difference we're making.
- Lutheran Social Service from adoption and foster care to shelter and safety for youth experiencing homelessness to support for people with disabilities to nutritious, home delivered meals for older adults.
- Again, another from LSS. Neighbors helping neighbors. Did you know LSS impacts 1 in every 65 Minnesotans.

Remember to sign up for Coffee... If you need 'the church mouse' to start the coffee in the morning during the month of MARCH just let me (Jan) know.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

The DAC (Developmental Achievement Center), in Two Harbors is shredding papers. Bring in Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm. They are charging .39 per pound. They are located 626 2nd Ave. 218-834-5767.

Thanks,

Trish Northey

KRLC Treasurer's Report 1/31/2024

General Operations Summary	2024	2023
Income from donations	\$ 8,772.03	\$ 7,292.57
Expenses	\$ 12,084.39	\$ 13,191.46
Donations vs expenses	\$ (3,312.36)	\$ (5,898.89)

	Budget
Under budget	\$ 12,186.25
Very close	\$ 12,186.25



Designated Account Summary	2024	2023
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 1,124.92	\$ 670.00
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 1,149.66	\$ 646.63
Donations vs expenses	\$ (24.74)	\$ 23.37

The Bottom Line	2024	2023
Total Income	\$ 9,896.95	\$ 7,962.57
Total expenses	\$ 13,234.05	\$ 13,838.09
Fund Balance change	\$ (3,337.10)	\$ (5,875.52)



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 6,687.64
Building and property fund	\$ 70,729.53
Memorial	\$ 14,076.74
Passthru	\$ (214.74)
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 96,279.17



Other Fund Balances	Amount
Columbarium fund	\$ 19,889.20
Reserve required by State Law	\$ 4,500.00
Available after required reserve	\$ 15,389.20
Columbarium debt is fully paid	\$ -

Endowment fund	\$ 67,440.69
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

Total of all cash assets	\$ 183,609.06
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -



Color Key

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

January Highlights

Thank you very much for a successful financial year at KRLC for 2023! Your donations to our Church and to others in need, continues to be an inspiration. The budget for 2024, that will be presented at the Annual Meeting, requires \$12,186.25 per month in donations. This is an increase of \$281.25 per month. In January we collected \$8,772.03 but we have reserves to cover this shortfall. Please remember to designate your donations to Outreach during 2024. In 2023 we set an all time record for our donations to "Others in Need". Based on this success, the Church Council decided that we will continue forward with this same process. Thank you for your generosity!

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9 am Worship Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Coffee 10 St Down Council	4 1 pm Bells	5 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper	6 1 pm Quilters Meet 6-7:25 pm Lenten Book Study w/Soup Supper	7 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	8	9 Set clocks forward 1 hour at bedtime. DST begins tomorrow!
10 9 am Worship with Bishop Amy Odgren Child Chi/Kids Connect 10 Coffee DST Begins!	11 1 pm Bells	12 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Team 1 pm WELCA	13 1 pm Quilters Meet 6-7:25 pm Lenten Book Study w/Soup Supper	14 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	15	16
17 9 am Worship Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Coffee Easter Flower orders due! Newsletter Deadline St. Patrick's Day	18 1 pm Bells	19 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Comm.	20 1 pm Quilters Meet 6-7:25 pm Lenten Book Study w/Soup Supper 6:30 Confirmation	21 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	22	23
24 9 am Palm Sunday Worship Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Pancake Breakfast by Church Men	25 1 pm Bells	26 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper	27 1 pm Quilters Meet	28 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	29 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service GOOD FRIDAY	30
31 9 am Easter Worship NO Childrens Church/ Kids Connect 10 Coffee EASTER SUNDAY						