

The Knife River Current

January, 2024

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FROM THE PASTOR BEGINNING A NEW YEAR

As we enter this New Year of 2024, we likely do so with a rich mixture of hopes, fears, and emotions. Ongoing violence in the Holy Land and Ukraine make the world seem darker, as does the reality of an upcoming Presidential election within this year, which will likely be as horrendously polarizing and divisive as that of four years ago. When things are troubling at such a broad level, it can leave us feeling helpless and overwhelmed. I found some inspiration in these words from John Roedel, a comic and author of books on faith and mental health. He wrote:

Whenever I feel helpless in this overwhelming world, I become a helper.

Oh, oh, my love, on the days when it feels like I have no power, I serve others.

You see, whenever I wash the world's feet, My hands immediately stop shaking.

This reference to Christ washing his disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday is one which always moves me. That God in Christ stoops to perform so humble and helpful an action for us is revealing and energizing in the midst of a loud and chaotic world. And discovering within ourselves the capacity to move from anxiety to constructive action is surely a move that requires moral courage and spiritual muscle—in short, it requires faith.

Beginning anything new is actually an act of faith, isn't it? Whether we begin a construction project or a quilt or a study endeavor or a trip or a friendship.....any such new beginning requires the faith to take that first step. Certainly the same is true of our entrance into this new year. We need to have faith that God is with us; that God is already in the future going before us; and that we can make a difference---even in the face of factors that seem overwhelming and leave us feeling helpless.

Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers said that when he was fighting despair or fear, he would look for the helpers. We can also look for the helpers, because they are always there, sent by God, making a difference. But perhaps we can also look to *be* the helpers, the ones who may make a difference for others. Simply by refusing to give in to feelings of helplessness or overwhelmment, but instead trusting in God that our small acts of help and kindness matter.

May God bless us as we enter this New Year, with servant hearts and kind hands.

Pastor Susan Berge

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

This month begins with the completion of the 12-day long season of Christmas, as we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 7 (one day off from the actual festival on January 6). We will then continue on through the season of Epiphany, the season of light and revelation.

Sunday, January 7-The Festival of Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion at the altar.

Sunday, January 14-A Sunday after Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction.

Sunday, January 21-A Sunday after Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction. Sticks and Strings will lead our worship.

Sunday, January 28-A Sunday after Epiphany. We will celebrate Holy Communion by intinction, and there will be an opportunity for Healing Prayer and Anointing.

January VOLUNTEERS

	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28
<u>Ushers</u>	Paul von Goertz Mary von Goertz	Ed Lee Joanie Lee	Bill Berg M. McMillion	Chris Skadberg Anne Skadberg
<u>Lector</u>	Mary von Goertz	Delores Jackson	M. McMillion	Craig Whiting
<u>Communion Asst</u>	David Grong	M. McMillion	Trish Northey	Jan Swanson
<u>Altar Preparation</u>	D Jackson/J Swanson month of January			
<u>Offering Counters</u>	Kay Struve Joanie Lee	M. McMillion Lisa Anderson	Scott Jaspersen Mike Garey	LeeAnn Olson M von Goertz
<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	Available	Available	Available	Available
<u>Live Streaming</u>	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team	Tech Team
<u>Childrens Church/ Kids Connect</u>	Randi Alreck Dani Mattson	Randi Alreck Anthony Hubbart	Randi Alreck Gretta Ojard	Randi Alreck Dani Mattson

GIFTS RECEIVED THIS CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias to decorate our Christmas Altar:

In honor of Laetitia & Henk Basson from Steve & Anne-Lu Hovis.
 In honor of Terry & Beverly Hovis from Steve & Anne-Lu Hovis.
 In memory of Lyle Northey from Trish Northey.
 In memory of their moms, Patricia Williams and Virginia Berge, from Phil & Pastor Susan Berge.
 In memory of Helen Swanson and Ron Jackson from Delores, Jill and Leigh.
 In memory of Lois Jansen from Michael & Nancy Dent.
 In honor of our Pastor, from Craig Whiting.
 In honor of Cora Swendsen's 2nd birthday from Randi Alreck and Lawrence Burkhard.
 In memory of Bradley Jackson and Valerie Jackson from Lyle & Ella Jackson.
 In memory of Shawn Norman from Norbert Norman.
 In memory of Norman Lind from Joanne Lind.
 In memory of Sig & Emily Erickson from Joanne Lind.
 In memory of Kelsey Granowski from The Socha Family.
 In honor of confirmands from Helene Hedlund.
 In honor of Papa & Mimi von Goertz with love from Ryan, Sonja, SoLace & Cedar. "We love you so much and always wish to be with you today and every day."
 2 poinsettias from Bill Berg, one in memory of Terry Berg.
 In memory of Ethel Wieme & Jeanine Patterson from Paul & Kay Struve.
 In memory of Sarah Marie Friebe from her family.

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

Gifts to God's Barnyard:

1 pair of goats, and 10 sets of School Supplies in memory of Terry Berg from Bill Berg.
2 Bibles, 2 chicks, & 1 rooster in memory of Ethel Wieme and Jeanine Patterson from Kay & Paul Struve.
1 goat in memory/honor of family from Kris & Mike Garey.
School fees, Uniform for Girls and Vaccinations in honor of grandchildren Sofia and Will from Steve & Carol Carlson.
2 goats in memory of Helen Richter from Bill & Pat Meyer.
A flock of chicks and school supplies in memory of their dads, Dick Williams & Burt Berge, from Pastor Susan and Phil Berge.

Other Gifts:

A Christmas donation to Lutheran Social Services in honor of Pastor Susan and Kay's siblings, from Kay Bloom.

THANK YOU!

To those who donated a total of 23 gifts for the Two Harbors Ministerium's efforts to provide a Christmas gift for local elderly residing in assisted living or nursing homes, and to those in short stay rehabilitation over the holiday season! David & Linda Grong, Randi Alreck & Lawrence Burkhard, LeAllen Estrem & Beth Alexander, Pat & Bill Meyer, Craig Whiting, Don & LeeAnn Olson, Dick & Sue Sigel, Melanie McMillion, Sharon & Scott Shelerud, Lisa & Bart Anderson, Viola & Eric Hanson, Kay & Paul Struve, Sandra & Steve Bjorum, Pat & Steve Berger, Kristy Pollard, and Vicky & Bud Gorman.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Ringers:

To those who volunteered to ring at the Red Kettle, representing Knife River Lutheran Church on December 18 in honor and memory of Lyle Northey! Paul & Kay Struve, Sue Hubbartt, Bill & Pat Meyer, Kris & Mike Garey, the Knife River Ringers (Karen Johnson, Heidi Selvog, Pastor Susan, Nancy Dent, Vicky Gorman & LeeAnn Olson), Trish Northey, Diane Friebe, Mary von Goertz, Lawrence Burkhard and Randi Alreck. What a wonderful cause, and what a wonderful way to remember Lyle!

NEW YEARS EVE GATHERING AT KRLC

This New Years Eve, our very own "Church Mouse" will be hosting a 5 – 8 pm gathering at church. ALL are invited and welcome! Please bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre to share and a game you love to play! The Church Mice will have something special up their sleeves (do mice wear shirts??) to make the celebration fun and special. Please contact Jan Swanson for more information, if desired!

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Jim Bujold
4 Chris Cuypers
5 Bill Gorman
5 Anne Davies
8 Karin Harris
16 Sydney Pollard
20 Sandy Holt
24 Kyle Beardsley
26 Mike Garey
28 Courtney Anderson
31 Richard Ojard
31 Laurie Peck

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Don and LeeAnn Olson

Council Buzz

By Helene Hedlund

Reminder: The council has identified 3 major outcomes for their work during 2023.

- 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
- Review and update of Constitution and Bylaws. Making progress but ongoing
- A nominating committee has been formed. VP David Grong will chair this committee and share more information.
- The Stewardship committee was updated . . . will be making recommendations to Council at their next meeting
- Several council members and other members of the congregation will be attending the county Water information meeting on Wednesday, December 20.
- The next face to face meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2024 immediately following service.

Thank you for your support of the 2023 Council

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee has been selected by the Church Council, the purpose of which is to seek candidates for various leadership positions within the church. These candidates will then be presented to the congregation and an election will be held during the Annual Meeting on February 11th. The committee will be seeking members of KRLC to fill the following open positions: Congregation Secretary (also secretary of the council), Endowment Committee, Synod Assembly representatives, and Audit Committee. If you are willing and able to serve please contact one of the Nominating Committee, David Grong, LeeAnn Olson, & Steve Carlson.

Outreach Spotlight for the month

NORTH SHORE HORIZONS: North Shore Horizons was formed in 1980 to serve individuals and families impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault in Lake County and the surrounding area. Today, the organization serves upwards of eight hundred individuals annually, providing community education, outreach, and trauma-informed services to those impacted by domestic and sexual violence. During the pandemic, they also served homeless women with children.

CHURCH MOUSE by Jan Swanson

Happy New Year!!! If you haven’t notice I like doing interviews and I thought it would be fun to talk to one of our behind the scene’s members. See if you can guess who it is. You may not have met her or even know what she looks like but you’ve seen her work every week for the past year. You might have seen her at WELCA or Lectio or Lenten Study or Children’s Church or Choir or Picnics or Special Events or even around TH as the Community Partners office assistant and support staff (5 days a week) or at the library as an aid (4 days a week) checking books in and out. Have you guessed who it is yet? Our Custodian Hannah Weishaar... THANK YOU HANNAH!!! What a BLESSING you are!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!! Jullian, Derek and Trygg McCorrison; and Pattie & Pete Stoddard.

WELCA... If you have never attended and are curious to just see what **WELCA** is all about, I would suggest coming to the January meeting, you will not be disappointed.

All Women are Invited to WELCA
(Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of American's)
White Elephant Gift Exchange
And Pot Luck Dinner
Tue., Jan. 9th, 6pm
At Sandra Bjorum's Home

(If you need a ride meet at Knife River Lutheran Church by 5:45 to Carpool!)

JANUARY 'TACO FEED' SUPPER... Wed., Jan. 17th, 5 pm. Sponsored by the Church Council. EVERYONE is WELCOME! No need to bring anything just come and enjoy!

GREET, MEET & EAT Have you noticed a theme here... Remember the kick-off to the New Year Dec. 31, 5-8 pm Game/Trivia New Years Party... Also, sign-up for Coffee Fellowship each week following service.

CORRECTION... Time Change... The KRLC Quilters now meet Wednesday at 1:00 pm.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

STEVE BETZLER & CREW... Thanks for all your dedication and hard work to build our Knife River Hiking Trail. We are now noted as one of the 'Top Ten in Duluth'. Your hard work is done quietly and often without notice because that's the way you operate... you're in the woods!

KNIFE RIVER HULDREFOLK STORY TRAIL is open even without snow. Sponsored by the Knife River Recenter with special recognition to the Story 'Emily & her dog Scout' written by Lise Lunge-Larson; Driftwood Sculptures by Wilmer Roballo; Huldrefolk painted by Laura Stone, Kaia Anderson and Patricia Canelake... and many more to numerous to name.

KRLC Treasurer's Report

11/30/2023

General Operations Summary	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Income from donations	\$ 120,133.00	\$ 120,050.93
Expenses	\$ 122,730.39	\$ 124,033.33
Donations vs expenses	\$ (2,597.39)	\$ (3,982.40)

Under budget

Under budget



Budget
\$ 120,227.80
\$ 120,227.80

Designated Account Summary	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Designated Donations or revenue	\$ 35,791.26	\$ 28,694.02
Expenses from designated areas	\$ 40,989.42	\$ 16,937.70
Donations vs expenses	\$ (5,198.16)	\$ 11,756.32



The Bottom Line	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Total Income	\$ 155,924.26	\$ 155,763.47
Total expenses	\$ 163,719.81	\$ 147,989.55
Fund Balance change	\$ (7,795.55)	\$ 7,773.92



Fund Balances	Balance
General Operations fund	\$ 2,942.57
Building and property fund	\$ 70,502.38
Memorial restricted fund	\$ -
Memorial unrestricted fund	\$ 11,476.74
Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Primary account total	\$ 89,921.69



Other Fund Balances	Amount
Columbarium fund	\$ 17,689.20
Reserve required by State Law	\$ 4,500.00
Available after required reserve	\$ 13,189.20
Columbarium debt is fully paid	\$ -
Endowment fund	\$ 62,358.39
Principal amount	\$ 50,000.00

Total of all cash assets	\$ 169,969.28
Total of all debt/NO DEBT!	\$ -

Color Key



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

November Highlights

For the month of Nov. we had \$16,641 in income and \$14,327 in expenses for a small gain. For the year we are -\$2,597.39 when comparing income to expenses.

We have some work to do in Dec. if we expect to break even for the year.

So far this year we have donated \$18,981.67 to Local and World Outreach.

This is as if we gave 15.8% of our church budget, remembering that it is not part of the The Council will vote on the 2024 budget on Jan. 7th so please make your desires know

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed NEW YEARS DAY	2 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper	3 1 pm Quilters Meet	4 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	5	6
7 10 am Epiphany Worship/Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Coffee 10 Council Sit-Down	8 1 pm Bells Practice	9 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 6 PM WELCA White Elephant at Bjorum's	10 1 pm Quilters Meet	11 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	12	13
14 10 am Worship/Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Coffee	15 Office Closed MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY	16 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Planning Meeting	17 1 pm Quilters Meet 5 pm Taco Fees (All are Welcome!) 5:45 pm Sticks & Strings Practice 6:30 Confirmation	18 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	19	20
21 10 am Worship/Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Coffee 2 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 1 pm Bells Practice	23 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper 10 am Worship Committee	24 1 pm Quilters Meet	25 8:30 am Men Meet 8:30 am Dulcimers 5 Pop-up dinner at Earthwood.	26	27
28 10 am Worship Childrens Church/Kids Connect 10 Coffee 2 PM Annual Meeting Reports Due	29 1 pm Bells Practice	30 9 am Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper	31 1 pm Quilters Meet		UPCOMING: Sun., Feb 11 10:15 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation	

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