

March, 2017

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FROM THE PASTOR—“I Love Thy Church, O God”

These days, Christians who attend church are cautioned against getting too attached to their building. This is, in part, because the Church is not a building, but rather the people of God. Whether gathered in a home, a bar, a hospital room, a food shelf, or a sacred space designed for worship, where God’s people gather and are active in love—there is the church!

It is also because of a problem faced by many congregations who built larger, grander, and more expensive structures in the relatively prosperous days of the past decades and now cannot afford to maintain them. In such cases, it is sometimes necessary for congregations to let go of their buildings and form a new parish with other congregations in similar situations. This is a difficult task, to be sure, and is certainly a cautionary tale about overbuilding or equating too absolutely the church building with the people of God in any particular place.

Nevertheless, for most of us, our church building is dear to us. It is both the present place of gathering and worship, as well as a repository of memories and history, both individual and corporate. As a child growing up in the Methodist church I sang this hymn: “I love thy church, O God! Her walls before thee stand. Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.” Many of us feel the same way about our present church building, which we have done a fine job of expanding and maintaining, without overburdening ourselves with debt. By enlarging our building, adding our elevator, creating the Memorial Garden, and soon, a columbarium, we have sought to be the *Heart of the Community* and serve our neighbors, as well as glorify God. We are in the happy situation now of paying off our mortgage early, and you will soon hear notice of the celebration for that event. Many thanks are due to those who engineered, encouraged, and supported the paying off of our mortgage!

But now---and I am not making this up---several people who were faithful in paying off the mortgage have asked me where they should funnel that money now. Such is the generous nature of this congregation! On our new offering envelopes, there is a category for mortgage and one for maintenance. Any money designated for mortgage will now be placed in the Maintenance Fund, as will any that is designated for Maintenance, of course. The Maintenance Fund is not for paying for heat or usual expenses; those are within the general operating fund. Instead, the Maintenance Fund is aimed towards larger expenses that are either current or loom in the future. Our first three priorities, as established by the congregation and the council are: (1) Create an effective ventilation system in the kitchen, (2) Finish off the back entrance deck area, (3) Repairs to the sub pump. Far in the future, a new roof will eventually be needed. Between the immediate needs and the roof replacement lie an assortment of items, probably including things like new kitchen appliances and whatever else we, as a congregation, lift up as needs. Your input is welcome! As is continued support of this beloved building through gifts to the Maintenance Fund, now that the mortgage is paid off. If you are a newer member, who didn’t get in on paying off the mortgage, we still welcome you to contribute toward the Maintenance Fund as one vehicle for your support of our congregation. In this way we continue to be the *heart of the community*.

In Christ,

Pastor Susan

WORSHIP IN MARCH

We will be observing the season of Lent throughout this month, beginning with the very first day. Lent is a time of reflection on our need for God and God's forgiveness, and often a season when we might undertake a particular spiritual discipline; either adding something to our faith walk, or giving up something in which we normally indulge. I encourage you to utilize one of the Lenten bookmarks we will be handing out in church, which include daily Bible readings. Lent is an excellent time to spend more time with Scripture.

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 PM. We will hold a solemn service to usher in the season of Lent. This will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at the altar. This is one of the few services of the year when we ponder our mortality and need for God's forgiveness with this degree of intentionality.

March 5 - 1st Sunday in Lent. We will worship in a traditional style, including Holy Communion at the altar.

March 12 - 2nd Sunday in Lent. We will commune by intinction with our Bread of Life Celebration Service.

March 19 - 3rd Sunday in Lent. We will use our traditional service order, with a time for healing prayer and communion by intinction

March 26 - 4th Sunday in Lent. We will worship with our We Are Called service, including communion by intinction.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

WORLD HUNGER LENTEN BOX

Take a Lenten Hunger offering box home with you and use it to make a donation to fight hunger throughout the 40 days of Lent. Some people put their spare change in at the end of each day or week; others simply write a check at the end of Lent to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. However you might use this, bring it back during Holy Week, and we will place it as a love offering beneath the cross in our sanctuary.

FOOD SHELF SUNDAY continues to be the first Sunday of every month, the same morning we receive Holy Communion gathered at the Lord's table. Gifts given to the Foodshelf during March are matched by Minnesota corporations.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Thanks to Julie Stewart for answering our call for a new altar flower coordinator, a job Susan Hubbartt did so beautifully for us for many years. This is a ministry that recognizes the importance of appreciating the beauty God puts around us in this world. There may be some small changes in the process for sponsoring flowers; if so, we will let everyone know!

"PACK THE PEWS" the Month of March

On March 12th we will be "Packing the Pews" at Knife River Church as part of the 2016 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. Bring your bagged items and place them on the pews in the sanctuary!

Items most needed are

- + Baby items - diapers, food...
- + Canned meats
- + Pasta
- + Hearty Soups
- + Boxed dinners
- + Health, beauty, and personal care products

The items listed above are only or mostly provided through donations. And monetary donations are always welcome. For every \$1 given 2.5 meals can be provided.

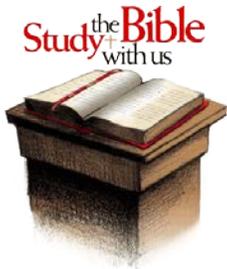
In 2015 the Two Harbors Food Shelf distributed 121,608 lbs of food, reaching 5,157 people with the help of nearly 4,000 volunteer hours. For more info on how to donate goods, different ways to volunteer your time or receive services, go to www.thfoodshelf.org or 218-391-8191.

Spiritual Formation - Wednesday evenings from 6:05 – 7:05 p.m. on March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 & 12 at Knife River Lutheran Church.

Using the spiritual reflections in the Nooma *Old Fifty Gold* DVD series (2016) by **Rob Bell** (nooma.com), we will look to find personal ways to live the abundant life that Jesus demonstrated and promised to all.

The video presentations vary in length from 10 to 15 minutes. Reactions to the video content can be shared but not required. We will conclude with a time to practice 'letting go' by inviting God for silent heart centered prayer. Light snacks and warm beverages will be ready for you at 5:50 pm.

Questions? : Call /text me at 218 -349 – 3788. **Randi Alreck**



“From Abraham to Pilate” is a three-part Bible study offered at the Knife River Lutheran Church at 10 AM on Tuesdays, beginning March 7th and concluding on March 21st. During our one hour studies we will travel with the first century Jews through the fulfillment of prophecies as found in the Gospel of Matthew. Study notes and Bibles will be provided. There is no registration fee.

These Bible studies are presented in the early weeks of Lent and have replaced the evening Lenten services, which are available in several churches in our area for those who wish to include them as part of their Lenten walk.

FROM YOUR CREATION CARE TEAM

A Creation Care Summit: A Watershed Moment: Reformation for the Next 500 Years
March 25, 2017 9:30 am-2:30 pm, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids
Hosted by Leadership Team of the N.E. MN Synod EcoFaith Network.



A "**watershed moment**" is defined as a critical turning point in time that marks an important, often historical change. A moment in time when nothing after it will ever be the same! The phrase is derived from the hydrologic term "**watershed**," which is a boundary—or turning point—that causes waters to flow in different directions; a crucial divide.

As a society we are at a critical turning point—a watershed moment—to protect the water on which all aspects of our lives depend. As Christians we have a stewardship responsibility to protect and improve our waters. The waters within the Northeast Synod/ELCA are generally of high quality. How can we as Christian stewards protect the future quality of our waters?

Come and learn more about the state of our waters and how Lutheran congregations can be effective watershed disciples. If interested in attending, contact Lawrence Burkhard. For more information contact ecofaith@nemnsynod.org or call Paula West at 218-838-5010

As noted in the Annual Congregational Meeting packet, the team is looking into LED lighting for the Church. A 60 watt incandescent bulb when replaced by a LED equivalent bulb (same lumens output) draws 9 watts; a 6 2/3 fold reduction in power usage. Those interested in helping in this effort contact Lawrence Burkhard (Team Chair) or Pastor Susan.

For those interested in buying food from local or nearby farmers, you might want to order a *Minnesota Grown Directory*. The 2016-17 Minnesota Grown Directory is filled with 1,028 places to buy direct from the producer, family-friendly activities, regional local foods restaurant suggestions and recipes for your family to enjoy. Whether you are looking for a farmers market, winery, meat producer, berry farm, garden center, CSA farm, Christmas tree farm or a specific Minnesota Grown vegetable or fruit – Minnesota probably has a farmer who grows it and who will sell it to you directly. The Minnesota Grown Directory is printed annually (each April), so the information is always current and it's FREE!. To order, consult the following website: <http://minnesotagrown.com/order-minnesota-grown-directory/>

TREASURER'S REPORT (YTD thru January 31, 2017)

<u>Actual vs Budget Summary</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	8,341.36	9,160.12	-818.76
Expenses	8,771.72	9,243.34	-471.62
Mortgage Principal Paid	6,398.56	825.25	5,573.31
Net Income	-6,828.92	-908.48	-5,920.44

<u>Fund Balances and Activity</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Out</u>
General Operations Fund	5,764.38	7,161.36	12,344.33	
Capital Improvement Fund	11,660.83	480.00	0.00	
Mortgage Fund	0.00	485.00	2,781.70	
Memorial Restricted Fund	2,275.28	0.00	0.00	
Memorial Unrestricted Fund	2,971.49	215.00	0.00	
Reserve Fund	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	
Totals	27,671.98	8,341.36	15,126.03	

2017 February 15 Mortgage Status Report

Our final check to Thrivent Financial for paying off our mortgage has cleared our bank account! At the end of February Thrivent expects to return to our Church a "Satisfaction of Mortgage" document along with the original mortgage papers. Next will be a visit to the Lake County offices to officially record the "Satisfaction of Mortgage" document. The final step will be a celebratory gathering to respectfully turn the mortgage papers into ash. Congratulations and thank you to all who have contributed so much to bring an end to this debt!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Vicky Ojard
- 4 Del Hubbartt
- 9 Paul Struve
- 10 Jerri Swardstrom
- 11 Kay Struve
- 14 Diane Friebe
- 18 Marv Holt
- 19 Andi Magnuson
Sara Cuypers

- 21 Susan Berge
- 23 Beth Anderson
- 26 Robin Whaley
- 27 Debbie Anderson
- 28 Curtis Mattson
- 29 Lyle Northey
- 31 Jim Allert
David Hubbartt

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY

- March 5
- March 12
- March 19
- March 26

GREETERS/USHERS

- Lyle & Trish Northey
- Lyle & Trish Northey
- Del & Sue Hubbartt
- Del & Sue Hubbartt

LECTOR

- Delores Jackson
- Delores Jackson
- Jim Allert
- Debbie Allert

OFFERING COUNTERS

- Paul & Kay Struve
- Scott & Anne Jasperson
- Carmen Smith & Tami Magnuson
- Darci Stiff & Melanie McMillion

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT FOR MARCH – Sharon Shelerud
ALTAR GUILD FOR MARCH - Darci Stiff & Carmen Beardsley**

SUNDAY

- March 5
- March 12
- March 19
- March 26

FLOWERS

- Paul & Mary von Goertz
- Paul & Kay Struve
- Diane Friebe
- Michael & Nancy Dent

COFFEE

- Vicky Gorman
- Maurine Rubedor
- Carol Carlson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- Bobbi Mattson & Sue Hubbartt
- Sharon Shelerud & Sheri Gray
- Lawrence Burkhard & Randi Alreck
- Mary von Goertz & Anne Jasperson

CHURCH MOUSE

Thank You!

I wish to thank each of you for your gift extended to me as I completed my term as your president. I also wish to once again share with you my appreciation that you thought enough of me to select me to serve. I have been rewarded in so many ways. Thank you. Lyle

McCabe Renewal Center/ Lenten Renewal Morning!

Saturday, March 25, 2017(9:00 a.m. to Noon) A Special Lenten Invitation: A Time to Reflect.

Can you drink the cup of life? Can you taste all the sorrows and joys? Can you live your life to the full whatever it will bring? (Matthew 20:21 – 28)

The morning will not provide answers, but you will have time to mull these questions over in your own mind and heart. The conversation is based on the writings of Fr. Henri Nouwen and Sr. Joyce Rupp. Please bring with you on Saturday a cup that is special to you. Facilitator: Sister Sarah O'Malley, OSB has authored 12 books on pastoral topics and has given many retreats both in Phoenix and Duluth on a wide variety of topics. \$35 (refreshments included)

WELCA Schedule!

WELCA SERVING SCHEDULE for 2017: **March-Vicky Gorman**, April-Laurie Jackson, May-Pot Luck at Delores Jackson's home. BRING YOUR "GATHER MAGAZINE" AND ENJOY THE COMRADERIE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH TIME! WELCA meets on the second Tuesday of the month, usually at church. Check the bulletin for winter/spring meeting times.

Altar Guild!

The Altar Guild welcomes new volunteers! (That is Lutheran-speak for "WE NEED YOU"!) Ideally, this is a month-long commitment so you might like to sign up with a friend. Responsibilities include weekly worship preparation; proper liturgical coverings for the altar and lectern, banners which coordinate with the liturgical calendar, and communion set-up. Additional information (and training) is available from Mary von Goertz mvongoertz@yahoo.com 834-5907 or Delores Jackson: dj271@live.com 834-2004. This is a wonderful way to gain a better understanding of the church year calendar!

Balance Classes!

A Matter of Balance Workshops Announced

(Two Harbors, MN) Community Partners is sponsoring the workshop, A Matter of Balance, Managing Concerns about Falls. Matter of Balance is an eight-session workshop designed for older adults to learn to manage falls, increase confidence and improve activity levels. Two trained coaches guide participants through learning and activities that emphasize strategies to reduce fear of falling, and exercises to increase strength and balance. Find joy and activate your lifestyle! Workshop locations & dates: Harbor Point: Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00am -11:00am beginning March 6 and ending March 29. A suggested contribution is \$10. Registration is limited to 10 participants. Pre-registration is required by March 2. To register or for more information, contact Community Partners, 834-8024 or commpartbh@frontier.com.

GIFTS: Gifts in memory of Terry Berg to the memorial fund were received from Dawn Bendiske & Dale Davidson, and gifts in memory of Terry Berg to God's Barnyard were received from Kay & Paul Struve, Lawrence Burkhard, and Dell & Sue Hubbart.