

February, 2017

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FROM THE PASTOR: ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Yesterday, January 22, we held our congregational annual meeting/potluck brunch. Typically, it was fun, celebrative, and well attended, as well as relatively brief and efficient. In fact, it was altogether an illuminating contrast with our national political scene, where so much division and unhappiness continue to play out. As happened nationally on January 20, we also, at our meeting, witnessed the “peaceful transfer of power” from one President to the next: in this case, from Lyle Northey to Bjorn Ojard. Although our meeting lacked the pomp and circumstance of the national inauguration, it also---thankfully---lacked the protests and discontent! In fact, in my annual report I highlighted one of the leading characteristics of our congregation: good will. When Christ was born, the angels sang about “on earth, peace, good will towards all”. One of the places that good will is evident is in our congregation and community, where people are so ready to be gracious, kind, giving, and forgiving. How blest we are! And how blest we were to have Lyle Northey as our outgoing congregational president; he has done a fine job, and has been especially mindful of areas like finance and building maintenance. That was on top of all he does for us in terms of leading worship, preaching, finding lectors and greeters, and leading Bible studies. He leaves and continues to build a lasting legacy that will bless us for years to come! We are also delighted to welcome Bjorn Ojard to this important role in our congregation. His faith and commitment to our congregation have already been manifest in his service as a Children’s Church teacher, our Council Vice President, and our website coordinator; now he adds President to that impressive resume. We look forward to these coming years of ministry together!

If you missed our meeting, you missed a wonderful brunch; not much can be done about that! But, you also missed some matters of business, which I will briefly note.

*We again surpassed our anticipated budgeted income, while double tithing to the Synod and other charitable organizations and needs.

*We voted to pay off our remaining mortgage with some of the carryover funds, and we will hold a mortgage burning ceremony sometime soon. This is great news!

*We dedicated our fishcake dinner monies to the ongoing building maintenance fund; in particular, we hope to use these dollars to create greatly improved ventilation in our kitchen for events like the fishcake dinner and funerals---a much needed relief!

*We learned more about the progress on our Columbarium, for which additional publicity will be coming out in the next months. We hope to break ground by this summer, providing the first place within our community for cremains and memorial plaques to be placed.

*I have been granted a month long “mini-sabbatical” time for study and renewal, likely to occur from June 9-July 9. If you have thoughts on topics or housing possibilities for this time, or would like to help fill in during my absence, let me know!

May God continue to bless us with good will in Christ’s service!

In Christ,
Pastor Susan

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Very often, the season of Lent begins in February, but this year, Easter is later (April 16), so Lent doesn't begin until March 1st with Ash Wednesday. That means we have a longer season of Epiphany, extending all the way through the Sundays of February and ending with Transfiguration Sunday on the 26th. Epiphany is the season of light and revelation, and already we are beginning to experience longer daylight in nature. Join us in worship as revelations about who Jesus is continue to be discovered in our Gospel lessons.

February 5 - A Sunday in Epiphany. This is also "Soup-er Bowl" Sunday. Our traditional service will include the celebration of Holy Communion at the altar. We will receive a special offering for hunger, in conjunction with the Super Bowl.

February 12 - A Sunday in Epiphany. We will commune by intinction with our Bread of Life Celebration Service.

February 19 - A Sunday in Epiphany. We will use our traditional service order, with a time for healing prayer and communion by intinction.

February 26 - Transfiguration Sunday. We will worship with our We Are Called service, including communion by intinction.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING OR SERVICE:

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY - February 5

On February 5, the Super Bowl will be played. We all know how much money is involved in this sports/entertainment event! As a way of keeping our priorities in balance, the Church around our country takes an offering for hunger on this day, a different kind of Soup-er Bowl! Some suggestions for what you might give include the equivalent of the cost of your Super Bowl snacks or even your Super Bowl wagers, if you make them! This offering will be divided evenly between our local food shelf and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, except for offerings designated specifically for one or the other. They, of course, will go to the designated recipient. This special offering gives us a chance to tackle hunger on both a local and global level!

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.

ALTAR FLOWER COORDINATOR

Many thanks to Susan Hubbartt, who has coordinated and purchased our altar flowers for many years! She is stepping down, and so we could use a new coordinator. If you might be interested, talk to the Pastor.

NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY IN THE WORKS

Are you interested in joining Knife River Lutheran Church? We are very informal, and generally just find a Sunday when we can welcome those who are interested. The Pastor would like to find a Sunday in February or March, please let her know if you would like to join!

FROM YOUR CREATION CARE TEAM –

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.

A few NE MN Synod Creation Care Team Green Tips:

- Bottled water is much more expensive than filtered tap water. At \$2 for a 20-ounce container, bottled water costs thousands of times more than tap water. Americans spend \$11 billion on bottled water, thinking it is somehow safer. But it is often nothing more than filtered (or even unfiltered) tap water. The average American can filter their own water at home and get as good or better results for a fraction of the cost.

- Did you know that Minnesota has a solar resource similar to many southern states, yet we import the sources of 85% of our electricity? Thanks to the work of groups like Minnesota-based Fresh Energy (fresh-energy.org), Minnesota passed a new solar energy standard that will cause a 30-fold increase in solar energy generation over the next six years. This will enable both individual and community solar projects to proceed with far fewer hoops to jump through.

TREASURER'S REPORT (YTD thru January 21, 2017)

<u>Actual vs Budget Summary</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	4,856.00	6,205.24	-1,349.24
Expenses	2,486.94	6,261.62	-3,774.68
Mortgage Principal Paid	830.07	559.04	271.03
Net Income	1,538.99	-615.42	2,154.41

<u>Fund Balances and Activity</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Out</u>
General Operations Fund	12,487.72	4,016.00		2,486.94
Capital Improvement Fund	11,315.83	135.00		0.00
Mortgage Fund	1,878.39	485.00		892.00
Memorial Restricted Fund	2,305.28	30.00		0.00
Memorial Unrestricted Fund	2,946.49	190.00		0.00
Reserve Fund	5,000.00	0.00		0.00
Totals	35,933.71	4,856.00		3,378.94

Thrivent Mortgage Balance 5,588.65 Payoff in 7 Months

The mortgage payoff has been approved by the congregation and that the payoff process has been initiated with completion expected by the end of this month.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Brian Stuberud
- 6 Ronald Hubbartt
- 13 Ella Jackson
Christian vonGoertz
- 15 Roy Mattson
- 17 Scott Jasperson
- 18 Audrey Carlson
- 19 John Safstrom
- 20 Dani Mattson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Chris & Anne Skadberg
- 23 Lisa & Bart Anderson

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY

GREETERS/USHERS

LECTOR

OFFERING COUNTERS

Feb. 2	Carmen & Kyle Beardsley	Tammy Magnuson	Kay & Paul Struve
Feb. 12	Carmen & Kyle Beardsley	Tammy Magnuson	Anne & Scott Jasperson
Feb. 19	Anne & Scott Jasperson	Steve Carlson	Tami Magnuson & Lisa Anderson
Feb. 26	Anne & Scott Jasperson	Steve Carlson	Sharon & Scott Shelerud

COMMUNION ASSISTANT FOR FEBRUARY – Lyle Northey

ALTAR GUILD - Mary von Goertz

SUNDAY

FLOWERS

COFFEE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Feb. 5	Gunny & Tor Skadberg		Mary von Goertz & Bobbi Mattson
Feb. 12	Kay & Paul Struve		Anne Jasperson & Carmen Beardsley
Feb. 19	Delores Jackson	Carol Carlson	Sharon Shelerud & Shari Gray
Feb. 26			Nikki & Bjorn Ojard

FROM LYLE'S DESK

With the annual meeting behind us, I write to you this month as your past president. I once again thank you for the opportunity to have served you this past two years. With the same support our new council will continue to build His Church as the core of the community in Knife River and the surrounding area.

We opened our annual meeting with this prayer: "Almighty God, you have called us to labor in your vineyard, and without you we can do nothing. Grant us your gracious presence at this meeting, that what we do will build up your whole Church. Let your Holy Spirit govern and direct us that we may consult together peacefully, pleasing you with all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Let us continue to keep our pastor and council in prayer and look for the opportunities --- none of which are too small --- to serve and build our church. I leave you with a piece that was written over 20 years ago, when I was asked by Father Popesh to speak at a dedication event at the Holy Spirit Church in Two Harbors:

"Where He Is Found"

They worked from dawn until the sunset,
Mixing brick and mortar with the wood.
They used glass and precious linen cloth.
To build the church they thought they should.

They pledged talents and their money,
To see that all the costs were met.
They added and exchanged ideas ---
Some are coming even yet!

They adorned the pleasant structure,
Attaching crosses with special screws;
They installed the pipes and organ,
Taking pride in the hand-made pews.

They sought and found a pastor,
To lead this pious flock.
At the end they built a belfry,
To house their bell and clock.

They announced to all within the town,
That the work they held so dear,
Had been completed, as was promised,
And Christ could be found right here!

Then in a very quiet moment,
Some heard Jesus' fervent call:
"If only here you find me,
You have found me not at all."

lwn/1985

In this church year, we hear the words written by Matthew. He concludes with the Great Commission --- a commandment, if you will, that is given to each of us as his disciples:

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

CHURCH MOUSE

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$150 to *North Shore Horizons*. We greatly appreciate your continued support to provide life-changing services for adults and children affected by domestic and sexual violence right here in Lake County Minnesota. *Steph Coffey, Interim Director, North Shore Horizons*

It was such an act of kindness that you showed for my husband at Ecumen with the gift of slippers. We thank you so very much. May God bless you as you bless others, for my husband. *Jerrel Moore*

Thank you to the KRLC congregation for your Christmas gift. I'm touched by your thoughtfulness and kindness. It's a blessing to be a member of this congregation. Thanks again. *Lawrence*

A hearty thank you to this amazing congregation for your gift of money at Christmas. I appreciate your continued enthusiasm and support throughout the entire year with our music ministry. Thank you also to all of the volunteers making our Candlelight Celebration of Music and Scandinavian Cake reception a wonderful event. *Carol*

Your \$1000 gift makes big things possible for local adults with developmental disabilities. Your donation helps our program participants experience success and independence through services offered in a quality setting at Lake County DAC. That's important! *Michelle McDonald & Cheryl Hedine, Co-Directors, DAC*

Thank you so much for your check of \$2500 designated for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Thank you for your generous partnership in ministry! Together, we truly change lives! *Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede*

McCabe Renewal Center Offerings

If winter is getting a little long and you yearn for renewal, consider taking part in these offerings at McCabe Renewal Center in Duluth! **Saturday, February 18, 2017 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm)**

Centering Prayer: A beginning session (or refresher for any who wish) to use the gift of contemplative prayer as a grounding force in a chaotic world. In this ancient Christian form of prayer, participants practice its transformative power, learning to open themselves to God's extraordinary love in ordinary, daily life.

Facilitators: **Sandy Leake** is a long-term centering prayer practitioner and commissioned centering prayer instructor. **Lezlie Oachs** is a practitioner of centering prayer since 1996 and retired St. Scholastica faculty member. **\$45** (bring your own lunch, snacks and beverages provided)

Spiritual Boot Camp: Saturday, February 25, 2017 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and Sunday, February 26, 2017 (9:00 a.m. to Noon)

Attention! Discover ways to stop the chatter in your head. Be aware! Be open to developing your love of others and self. Forward march to respond to life rather than reacting.

Learn more at <http://www.duluthbenedictines.org/mccabe-center>

WELCA SERVING SCHEDULE: WELCA SERVING SCHEDULE for 2017: *February-Sandra Bjorum, March-Vicky Gorman, April-Laurie Jackson, May-Pot Luck at Delores Jackson's home.*

GIFTS RECEIVED:

Gifts in memory of Terry Berg were received from Anne & Scott Jasperson, John Gislason, Lynnette Anderson, Lorraine Ojard, Steve & Carol Carlson, Delores Jackson, John & Melanie McMillion, Lisa Anderson, Tami Anderson and Thomas Isley.

Gifts in memory of Ruby Higdon were received from Anne & Scott Jasperson and Delores Jackson.

A gift in memory of Mark Rubedor was received from Tami Magnuson.