**The Knife River Current**

## May, 2016

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**FROM THE PASTOR “*Consider the birds of the air….”***

 One of the things that Phil and I most enjoy about spring—even a spring long in coming, like this one---is the return of the birds to our backyard. We do have some regulars who stick around throughout the winter, doing some feeding at our feeder and utilizing the water in our heated bird bath, for which I’m grateful. I admire the cheerful hardiness of chickadees and nuthatches that stay with us all year. But, this spring season has brought back robins, redpolls, purple finches, waxwings, an assortment of sparrows, the occasional blue jay, and several cardinals. I rejoice in each return, and we spend time looking out eagerly through our binoculars to determine if we are seeing a cedar waxwing or a bohemian waxwing, or trying to locate exactly where the call of that cardinal is coming from. If past years are a good model for this year, we will soon see hummingbirds and goldfinches as well. We can hardly wait!

 We have grown in our appreciation for birds, to be sure. Our home in Two Harbors didn’t seem conducive to bird life, but our wooded yard in Duluth is apparently an inviting haven. We started out with one bird feeder and have expanded to ten or so, along with two bird baths. It requires some effort to keep all these feeders full and the bird baths reasonably clean, but we find it well worth it. We’re not the only ones who enjoy the show, either---our cat, Reginald, is completely entranced these days, staring intently out the windows at the birds.

 Not everyone loves birds. A childhood friend of mine associates them forever with the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, “The Birds” and finds them more alarming then lovely. Others consider them noisy or messy, and this is potentially true. But, I have to believe that God, as Creator, loved birds; so much time and effort was put into the details of design, color, and song. Truly, we see that God is in the details as we marvel at the distinctive facets of each species.

 There are images of God in Scripture that depend upon birds. We can read in the Psalms that God will raise us up on wings as of an eagle. Or, the Gospels, that God wants to gather us up like a mother hen gathers her chicks. Or that God’s Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove when He was baptized.

 Jesus also makes references to birds several times in the Gospels. He suggests that although they don’t work hard for a living, God still cherishes them and cares for their fate. He uses this saying within the context of urging us not to worry so much, but to trust in God’s provision, as the birds do. He also warns us not to see our lives as being only about work and effort. Sometimes, you just need to find the right breeze, soar a bit, and find joy in the created world, provided for us by a loving Lord.

May we all find many such opportunities to do just that as this spring unfolds!

In Christ,

Pastor Susan

**WORSHIP IN MAY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

During this month, we complete our celebration of the 50 day season of Easter, which ends on May 15th, when we celebrate the day of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. The new season of Pentecost will last throughout the summer and into November.

***May 1 -6th Sunday of Easter*.** We will worship using our traditional service order. Lyle Northey will lead worship

and preach, as the Pastor and our voting members will be attending Synod Assembly.

***May 8 - 7th Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day*.** We will use our Bread of Life Celebration Service order on this morning,

 including communion by intinction. Our choir will sing and our bells will ring! All women will receive a small

gift on this morning.

***May 15 - Pentecost Sunday! Wear red to honor the Holy Spirit!***We will worship with a traditional service order,

 including Holy Communion by intinction. There will be red balloons and flowers as we celebrate God’s Spirit

 among us. There will be a time for healing and anointing prayer. Our choir will provide musical inspiration.

***May 22 - Holy Trinity Sunday*.** We will worship with a traditional service, including Holy Communion by intinction.

Lyle Northey will fill in for Pastor Susan, on vacation.

***May 29 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost.***We will use our We Are Called service order, and will receive Holy Communion

by intinction.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES MAY 1ST**

Our Northeastern Minnesota Synod held its Annual Assembly Meeting in Breezy Point April 29-May 1. Our voting members were Pastor Susan Berge, and Anne and Chris Skadberg. Our quilters provided a beautiful quilt for the silent quilt auction, which is held every Assembly, with proceeds donated to fight world hunger. The business of our Synod was conducted at this time, along with educational and inspirational workshops, speakers, and special worship services. As always, the voting members were made up of 66% lay members and 33% clergy.

**W/ELCA POTLUCK**

Our closing W/ELCA meeting for the spring will be held on Tuesday, May 10, at 6 PM. This is our traditional potluck, and is always a great time for study, conversation, and delicious food. We will also be discussing future meeting times and choosing leaders, so please be there if you can!

**AN INVITATION FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Center for Changing Lives Groundbreaking Ceremony

Thursday, May 05, 2016 - 2:00 pm

Location: 1422 E. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55805

Join us as we hold our groundbreaking ceremony for the new Center for Changing Lives Duluth. As we celebrate 100 years of serving youth in our community, we will break ground on the new center that will house many LSS services for homeless and at-risk youth. The Center’s unique design sup ports youth by providing the following services under one roof: emergency and transitional housing, truancy prevention, street outreach, a teen clinic and support groups for youth. Pre-registration is not required.

**ATTENTION: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMING! TEACHER NEEDED!**

We will need a teacher for our Vacation Bible School this summer. There is a stipend for this position, and usually lots of willing volunteers to help the paid teacher. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Susan or Lawrence Burkhard. VBS is typically held evenings in July or August for 4 or 5 days, the dates are yet to be determined. There is no charge, and all children are welcome. Watch for more information in coming newsletters.

**CREATION CARE TEAM**

Our church received a letter from the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District inquiring if we might be interested in their looking at our property to improve drainage, or to plant some trees, shrubs, or "pollinator" plants. The Creation Care Team invites your thoughts.  Please respond to Bill Berg and/or Lawrence Burkhard.

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**CELEBRATING PASTOR SUSAN**

You are invited!

On Sunday June 12, 2016 our congregation will be celebrating Pastor Susan and her 30 years of service to God as an ordained minister in the ELCA. A celebratory service is planned with music and special guests followed by a delicious brunch featuring a selection of her favorite foods! If you would like to be involved please contact Melanie.

We have been blessed beyond measure to have Pastor Susan in our midst. Please come to worship, rejoice, feast and give thanks!

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**MAY BIRTHDAYS MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

1 - Jane Grubb    13 - Earl & Julie Stewart

4 - Byron (Bud) Gorman   17 - David & Kathryn Hubbartt

 Elizabeth Berge 18 - Pastor & Mrs. Reppe

17 - Pastor John Reppe     23 - John & Robin Whaley

20 - Laura Stone 25 - Lyle & Trish Northey

29 - Richard Mattson

**MAY VOLUNTEERS**

**SUNDAY GREETERS/USHERS LECTOR OFFERING COUNTERS**

May 1 Scott & Sharon Shelerud Scott Shelerud Scott & Anne Jasperson

May 8 Scott & Sharon Shelerud Sharon Shelerud Melanie McMillion & Tami Magnuson

May 15 Mike & Darci Stiff Tammy Magnuson Carmen Smith & Darci Stiff

May 22 Mike & Darci Stiff Sue Sigel Kay & Paul Struve

May 29 Anne & Emmy McPherson Carmen Beardsley Lisa Anderson & Melanie McMillion

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT FOR MAY**: Jim Allert

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Hubbart

**SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS COFFEE CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

May 1 Terry & Bill & Berg Dawn Bendiske/Dale Davidson Mary von Goertz & Lee Bujold

May 8 Anne-Lu & Steven Hovis Shellene & Rich Rue Nikki Ojard & Bjorn Ojard

May 15 Kay & Paul Struve Lawrence Burkhard & Sheri Gray

May 22 Sharon Shelerud & Carmen Beardsley

May 29 Mary von Goertz & Lee Bujold

**TREASURER’S REPORT (**YTD thru April 17, 2016)

Actual vs Budget Summary Actual Budget Difference

Income 32,641.32 30,041.70 2,599.62

Expenses 29,136.12 31,168.80 -2,032.68

Net Income 3,505.20 -1,127.10 4,632.30

Fund Balances and Activity Balance In Activity Out

General Operations Fund 8,408.66 27,419.32 28,897.63

Capital Improvement Fund 6,671.67 30.00 0.00

Mortgage Fund 3,926.39 4,742.00 9,568.00

Memorial Restricted Fund 2,673.53 300.00 240.00

Memorial Unrestricted Fund 1,941.49 150.00 0.00

Reserve Fund 5,000.00 0.00 0.00

TOTALS 28,621.74 32,641.32 38,705.63

Thrivent Mortgage Balance 22,933.75

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**WANTED**

 A SEEDY KRLC MEMORIAL GARDEN COORDINATOR

QUALIFICATIONS: 1. Someone who doesn’t mind getting dirt on their hands.

 2. Willing to make a weekly sign-up sheet recruiting volunteers for

 watering, planting and weeding.

 Sign up Benefits include a nice summer tan and increased flexibility

 from yoga moves.

 3. Has a “THIS CAR BREAKS FOR ALL GREEN HOUSES” sign.

OPPORTUNITIES: ENDLESS

 1. Seriously, wouldn’t it be fun to establish a Youth Garden Project

 to teach children about growing flowers and vegetables?

 The kids could pick out plants for their section, especially plants,

 that attract butterflies and pollinators.

 They would do the planting themselves and watch the flowers bloom

and vegetables ripen over the summer.

 This is my own personal example of an endless fun opportunity.

 As Coordinator, YOU CAN keep it as simple or complex as you

 like!

SOUND LIKE FUN? Exactly!! As Coordinator, you would have excited garden volunteers

 wanting to keep our Garden looking beautiful!

CONTACT: 1. Ms. Benchy Tap me on the shoulder during the Postlude.

 2. Call me at 834-5950

 3. Email: carolojardcarlson@gmail.com

**GIFT: *A contribution was made to Knife River Lutheran in honor of Deb and Jim Allert "with thanks for giving loving care to our community members".***

**FROM LYLE’S DESK**

I write to you this month from the Ozarks --- a region that has captivated Trish and me for over 20 years.  As I reflect on the glory of God’s creation that surrounds me here --- and what awaits us when we return to the Shore, I realize t that the preoccupation with myself, the conversations I have, the meetings attended have left me immune to the glory of creation.

            Our world is saturated with His presence in the world around us, but too often we miss so much of what He intended us to discover. In our time, we are amazed at what is new. Till tomorrow, till the new becomes old, till yesterday’s wonder is discarded or taken for granted.  Small wonder Rabbi Heschel concluded, “As civilization advances, the sense of wonder declines.”

              So, we take time here to enjoy --- to reflect --- to appreciate and accept the wonders of Creation.  And to live in the presence of a living God.

              The papers here, as back home, are filled with the news of sin and war, disease and disaster.  They are all real, but “God’s loving presence and power in or midst are even more real.” (Manning)

              Leads me to spend a little more time with our Creation Care team.  See you in church.

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**CHURCH MOUSE**

**THANK YOU!**

From Courtney Anderson: Thank you so much for the $300 scholarship for Spring semester. The money is very helpful in paying for school. I really appreciate all the kindness extended towards me in support of my college career.

From ELCA World Hunger & Disaster Appeal/Rev. Daniel Rift-Director: We have long appreciated you and your (KRLC’s) gift; the line item in your budget, the creative activities and events you plan, and the offering you collect and send to ELCA World hunger through your synod office. KRLC’s gifts from November 2105 - January 2106 include God’s Global Barnyard: $50 each to chicks and goats, $45 for roosters, $125 for sheep, $20 for honeybees, $60 for pigs, $500 for Lutheran World Relief-Synod, $500 for World Hunger Appeal-Synod, $119 for God’s Global Barnyard-Synod, and $150 for Project Comfort/Freight for Quilts LWR-Synod. KRLC’s Lenten Coin boxes also provided $337 for World Hunger.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

Spring has sprung! Several opportunities to serve your congregation have also sprouted! As you read through these options, consider how you might serve your church family!

**+Church Library:** Pat Hanson is looking for a volunteer to manage our growing library. See Pat for details!

**+Church Mouse:**Nibble at the opportunity to write this monthly column! You will learn a lot about the workings of our church and the many ways we live our faith as a congregation. See Pastor Susan or Lee Bujold for more information!

**+Flowers & Coffee Hour:** There are numerous dates available to sponsor flowers on Sunday and provide treats after the church service. Sign up on the bulletin board for both. Commemorate a special event or honor special people in your life!

**+Connect with our Homebound Members:** See Pastor Susan for more information.

**+Ongoing Opportunities:**

**-**Two Harbors Food Shelf: Donations of Cash and non-perishable food items are always welcome. Food items may be placed in the collection box in the Narthex. Volunteers at the Food Shelf are always welcome. It is fun, fast paced and rewarding. See Kay Struve for details.

**UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:**

**"Musical Stories by Sparke"**

Sat, Jun 4 @ 7:30 PM First Lutheran Church, 1100 E Superior St, Duluth, MN
*World Premier of Philip Sparke's newest composition for Euphonium and Band*
Featuring Richard Carlson with guest appearance by Robert Kase.

\*KRLC’S own Lawrence Burkhard is also performing!\*
Adults - $13 Seniors (60+) - $10 Students - $5 Children 12 and under - Free

The title of the new composition is “Spirit Lake”.  Richard Carlson is playing euphonium and the composition was commissioned by the Orchestra in his honor.  Philip Sparke is a renowned composer for wind bands/orchestras and the orchestra will be playing a number of his compositions.

We will dine at Bellissio’s or VaBene Cafe prior to the performance!  Mark your calendars; a signup sheet will be posted closer to the event! (Thank you to Lawrence Burkhard for suggesting this fellowship event and for providing details)!

Orchestra Website
<http://www.twinportswindorchestra.org/concerts>

**LOON TIME ONCE AGAIN!**

For the uninitiated, that's *LYRIC OPERA OF THE NORTH!*

Thursday, June 23, Lincoln Park Middle School

“LES UNCOMFORTABLES” - in collaboration with Colder By The Lake. This comedic opera broke new ground (and a few portages) in the regional opera scene! Note: William Bastian as Daniel Greysolon Sieur du Luth and Sarah Lawrence as Malbec! $30-$40 ticket prices. See Lee Bujold if you are interested in attending this opera!

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