



# KLC NEWS

## DECEMBER 2022



Pastor Jeffrey Holter

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### Christmas Relative

First, let me say, **“Merry Christmas” to All!** Sometimes it is almost impossible to not become nostalgic when it comes to Christmas. It’s one of those times when memories get attached to family gatherings, presents and good food. That’s a very dynamic combination. Right? Still, even when we remember things with nostalgic delight we cannot help ourselves from drawing the past into the future and living those good memories once more.

As I look back, I remember going to my grandparent’s farm in South Dakota both at Thanksgiving time and also again at Christmas. It was a long trip from Minneapolis to the farm. When we got to the farm, my grandma and grandpa were always waiting up for us. Their house was rather small, so we would all sleep up in the attic, my parents in one room and my three sisters and I in another. Not the most comfortable accommodations. It was cold as ice up there in the winter time and hot as, well, ...he\_\_ in the summer time. Still we were received with hugs and kisses and the taste of lemon drops from grandpa’s candy dish.

The other thing I distinctly remember was the smells from their home. First was the smell of lambs, because often grandpa nursed orphaned lambs in the enclosed porch at the entrance to their farm house. Then there was the smell of grandpa’s pipe. He always smoked a pipe with Prince Albert tobacco. As offensive as the smoke was the smell of the pipe tobacco was something I always associated with my grandfather. However, the most powerful memory trigger for me was the smell of yeast raised oven baked bread. My grandma baked homemade bread almost every day; it was the only bread they ate. Along with grandma’s caramel rolls and fresh baked pies, a child could feel and taste the love.

The Christmas story is and still remains one of my favorite stories in the bible. I especially like Luke’s gospel. But ...there is something that never quite felt right. Luke 2: 2ff “This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem because he was descended from the house and family of David.....and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

The strange part of that story has always been, the lack of a place for Mary and Joseph and of course the child to be born. How could that be? How could there not be a place for them with one of their family? Where were the relatives in this story? I think it is this lack of Christmas relatives that is “Christmas relative.” Where were they? How is it possible to not have a place for one’s loved ones?

If you happen to take a drive into Proctor someday, take notice of the city sign. It’s right there for all to see. “You have a place in Proctor.” Well, at least the intentions are honorable. Putting that sentiment into practice is not so easily done however. Throughout the new testament the early church was trying to figure out what it means to follow Jesus. There are many texts dealing with this subject, and all of them give good advice. Jesus, however, gives us these words to ponder in the gospel of John. John 15: 12ff “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the father will give whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commandments so that you may love one another.”

What is relative in this Christmas story and continues to be relative is that our connection to each other and to Jesus is a deep friendship relationship. The bond of friendship so deep and a love so strong that not even death can separate us one from the other. That was the missing link in the Christmas story but one that is picked up and lived out in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is that missing Christmas link that we are called to have for each other. Bonds of love that continue to make a place for each other in our hearts but also in our lives. Let me repeat something that has become important to me from the first time heard it. Thank you, Pastor Craig for sharing this with all of us. “You are important to God, you are important to Kenwood.” Let me say it more personally; “You are important to me.”

There is a place for you at Kenwood, because there is a place for all of us at God’s table, in God house, in God’s kingdom. There is place for forgiveness, and a place for love. There is grace enough in Christ to declare that the grace of God is sufficient for all. This is a story I have come to embrace in Christ, this is my Christmas story and I know it can speak to all of us. Glory to God, in the highest heaven and peace to his people on Earth.

**Merry Christmas to All, and to All a good night!**

Blessings, Pastor Jeff



For unto us,  
*a Child is born....*  
Isaiah 9:6



O COME LET US  
*Adore*  
HIM

Hello all,

President:  
Lori Robison  
Email:  
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Cell:  
218-269-2927

Hopefully you all had a safe, healthy, and Happy Thanksgiving. November was another BUSY month at Kenwood. We collected used cell phones for Safe Haven Shelter, Turkey Bingo was a success, and the Stewardship Committee had their first meeting, to name a few things. We will be collecting Toys for Toyland Express in December, and the Silent Auction is going on. Please read other sections of the Newsletter for a complete list of goings-on.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the results of the Vitality Planning sessions were shared with the congregation. The top 3 items were: 1) Have a variety of activities, using the buddy system for activity leadership; 2) Keep doing what we are doing, playing to our strengths, but add new activities with input from the congregation; 3) Allow more community events (recitals, concerts, etc.) at church. The results were written on separate sheets of flip-chart paper and taped up in the church. The congregation was then asked to vote on what they felt was most important by placing sticky-notes on the appropriate poster. These posters will remain up through December 7. If you weren't able to attend or vote, please feel free to stop by the church during regular business hours and put a sticky note or write an "X" on the outcome that speaks the most to you. The posters are currently in the Sanctuary on the walls common with the Messiah Room, Fireside Room, and the hallway between the offices. To all those that have voted already, THANK YOU!! If you need clarification on any of the items being voted on, please call me or any other council member.

I have great news – there have been two more responses to our ads seeking pianist/organist help at the local colleges. Hallelujah! Time will tell if they will be a good fit and are willing to work with us. There are also 2 people that have volunteered to help Scott do slides/recording. Thanks to all the people that keep things going behind the scenes!

As I write this, it is the first Sunday in Advent, and we are preparing for Christmas at church. The Synod also has some things on their website that could help you prepare for Christmas. There is a Mental Health Lunch and Learn via Zoom on December 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1 p.m., the topic is Staying Spiritually Resilient at Christmas and Beyond. This event is free. There is also a free Advent Devotional available for download, which was put together by Luther Seminary. Check them out!

Interested in helping Kenwood Lutheran be a Church of the Week on our local Christian radio stations? Just go to [life973.com](http://life973.com), click on Church of the Week, click on Nominate, and tell why you think KLC should be featured as the Church of the Week. It's free advertising!!

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!!

Lori

*If your birthday is not listed, call or email the church with your birthdate including the year!*



- 2 - Shannon Borgeson
- 3 - Megan Adamek
- 4 - Marcia Lunde  
Gary Niemi
- 5 - Mike Benko
- 6 - Anthony Reich
- 8 - Jim Caesar
- 9 - Brad Butler  
Carly Senich
- 10-Kris Dirksen
- 11-Emily Klang  
Karen Mattson
- 13-Joy Michalicek
- 14-Paul Glaesemann
- 16-Martha Oswald
- 17-Erin Greenwalt
- 20-Craig Carlson
- 21-Samuel Michalicek
- 22-Sara Rheume  
Logan Carlson
- 25-Dalerie Lieberz
- 26-Sandra Musil
- 29-Carol Ziegler  
Jennifer LaBelle
- 31-John Glendenning



## Upcoming Events

**Senior Luncheon**-is Wednesday, December 7, 11:30 at Sammy's Pizza, central Ave. location. Sign up in the Messiah Room. If you sign up and then find you can't go, please call the church office.

**The Silent Auction**-continues with bidding online until 12:00 noon on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. See items and bid at <http://www.myminiauction.com/kenwoodlutheranchurch>

**Offering Envelopes**-for 2023 are available to be picked up in the middle office. If you're able to also take a friend or neighbor's envelopes for them, we appreciate that as it saves on postage should we need to mail any.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**-Monday, December 19, 12-6. Make an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code KLC.

**Christmas Eve Services**-will be at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed at both services to read scripture, assist with communion, and for ushering. Please use the sign-up in the Messiah Room. There will be no worship service on Sunday, December 25.

## Community Ministry

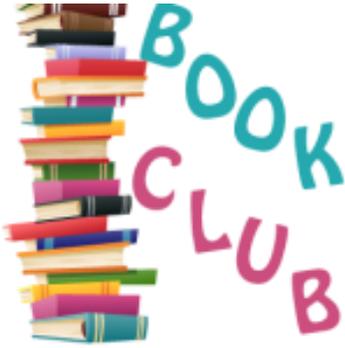
Salvation Army's Toyland Express – leave unwrapped toy donations by **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** in the specially marked box in the Messiah Room.

Damiano Center was grateful for donations of cold weather clothing in October.

LSS Center for Changing Lives coin offering in October was \$97.72; \$644.51 for the year.



## Church Book Club



The Kenwood Lutheran Church Book Club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month in the Fireside Room, immediately following worship. You're welcome to join at any time!

December 18<sup>th</sup>- "The Memory House" by Rachel Houck.

January 15<sup>th</sup>- "Love and Ruin" by Paula McLain.

February 19<sup>th</sup>- "Have a Little Faith; a True Story" by Mitch Albom.

Wed, Dec 21, 6 PM

First Lutheran Church  
1100 E Superior St, Duluth, MN

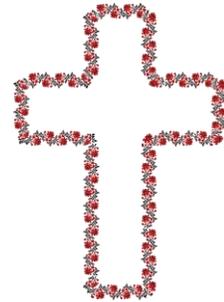
## Blue Christmas

A quiet, reflective candle-lit service giving space for the pain of loss and loneliness which can be overshadowed by holiday celebrations.

This time of year can be difficult for so many folks.

Follow the link below to be taken to the NE MN Synod's page with National Mental Health and Wellness links, NE MN Synod Mental Health and Wellness Resources, ELCA and Faith Resources, Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment Of Minors In Minnesota, and various 12 Step Programs.

<https://nemnsynod.org/mental-health/>



### **COUNCIL MEETING - KENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH October 13, 2022, via Zoom and in person**

Members Present: Lori Robison, Lynn Hegrenes, Martha Oswald, Pastor Jeff Holter, Barb Lucia, Susan Muehlberger, and Scott Goutermont

Guest(s): Theresa Williams, Pastor Craig Carlson

1. The meeting was called to order by President Lori Robison at 7:34 p.m. with devotions and prayer led by Pastor Holter.
2. Minutes from the Council meeting held on September 8, 2022, were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's report = \$2,159.80 balance in the checkbook at the end of September 2022. All bills paid and are current. Capital Improvement Fund = \$33,827.39; Long-Term Savings Account = \$20,601.78; and Memorial Fund = \$14,293.55. Funds in the amount of \$6,500 were borrowed from the Long-Term Savings Account to meet monthly obligations. Have only been able to replay the Capital-Improvement monies borrowed through April 2022.

4. Action Items:

- Stewardship Planning: A **motion** was made by Pastor Jeff Holter and **seconded** to invite Pastor Craig Carlson to lead a Stewardship Task Force made up of volunteers and at least one member of Church Council. The first stage will be a financial emphasis under the theme, "Bread of Life" to support the financial ministries of Kenwood Lutheran. The second phase will invite a more comprehensive stewardship emphasis guided by our Vitality report with the intention of involving more people in our ministry. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**
- Vitality Planning next steps: a Special Council meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. for further discussion on this topic.

5. Discussion Items:

a. Communication:

- Recording help update: plan to contact audio-visual clubs at local schools to see if there might be some interest in working with recording our service at KLC.
- Communication about KLC can be advertised on "Church of the Week" being offered by the local Christian Radio Station on LIFE 97.3 F.M. This program highlights churches in the Northland area. This is a free service, but the church must apply to be considered.

6. Boards, Ministry Teams, Standing Committees:

a. Asset Management Board

- The pre-school lease is in the process of being revised.
- Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Thursday, October 20, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the church.
- Turkey Bingo will be held in November.
- Fire alarms have passed inspection. Alarms are becoming outdated, and the Board will request replacement quotes.
- Ceiling insulation will be installed in the center office area on October 29.

b. Mutual Ministry Board

- The Board is working on improving communications to grow our church congregation. They are asking members to utilize at least three methods of communication when planning any kind of event.
- A newsletter article will be forthcoming about church membership and associate membership.
- Discussed advertising our church worship opportunities at the local colleges.

c. Stewardship Board

- Pastor Craig Carlson was invited to the Council meeting to offer ideas about Stewardship planning for the future at KLC. Several thoughts presented included: immediate need for a fund drive; need to think broadly and about what we have and the future of the church; remember skills of our church members; develop a theme with spiritually involved/scripture image, e.g. "Serving the Bread of Life,;" planning needs to be pushed out into the future with a potential for an April 1 deadline; use January, February, March timeframe to involve congregation participation in the process; plan for a Commitment Sunday towards the beginning of Lent; offer a banquet at the end of the Stewardship period; use temple talks to tell stories about how our church funds are being used to support ministry; appoint a Task

- Force to work on this process. Pastor Carlson has offered to work as a coordinator with such a Task Force. Discussion followed. See first Action Item.
- d. Personnel Support Board
- Pianist/Organist update: No new hire to date. Have made music plans to carry through Sundays until December 4. A local teacher of piano/organ, Dana Copiskey Grover will help us out for a couple of Sundays a month and we will fill in with Ups musicians and other volunteers.
- e. Christian Education Ministry Team
- Sunday School has begun, and congregation members are being invited to participate by sharing their stories and skills with the program. For example, Dennis Kolari demonstrated how to make unleavened bread to the children. Karen Mattson will share a lesson in November on healing. Advent lessons will be taught during November-December.
  - All parents with small children are invited to bring their children to Sunday School after service on Sundays.
  - A Christmas program will not be offered this year due to the small size of the class.
- f. Community Ministry Team
- LSS Center for Changing Lives Coin Offering for September = \$51.86; YTD = \$546.89.
  - November ministry opportunity: no longer used cell phones for Safe Haven Women's Shelter.
  - Salvation Army's Toyland Express mid-November.
  - Men's/women's socks and underwear donated during September were delivered to CHUM: socks: 26 men's, 29 women's; underwear: 11 men's, 21 women's.
  - October ministry project: cold weather clothing for Damiano Center.
- g. Fellowship Ministry Team
- Will be assisting with the Spaghetti Dinner.
- h. Worship Ministry Team
- Need a chair for this team; only three people on this team – need to recruit more members.
  - Preparing for advent season.
  - Peggy Simensen is coordinating the music (former Praise & Worship Band) for Confirmation Sunday, October 30, 2022.
  - Developing plans to communicate worship activities at KLC. Dana Copiskey Grover had worked with Christ the King Lutheran on offering a two-hour concert for the public. There is a possibility for hosting this type of concert at KLC. More to come.
  - Thinking about organizing a 'talent show' once again by members from the church.
  - Using spoken settings for liturgy while searching for a permanent organist/pianist.
- i. Youth Ministry Team
- Confirmation program is rotating between Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. due to schedules of participants.
  - A lock-in is being held on Friday evening, October 14, at the church. Mary Rasch will be assisting Pastor Holter with the youth. Youth will be preparing their banners and faith statements for Confirmation Sunday.
  - No registrants to date for the Synod retreat in November (sixth grade and above youth are invited to participate in this event).
7. Pastor's Report:
- Street Sign update – the city council person has responded that he has handed our request off to another individual that will oversee the matter.
  - Talked about the need for an updated church directory. Julie Raymond has volunteered her services to assist with this project.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with prayer and recitation of the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Holter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Hegrenes, Secretary

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - KENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**October 26, 2022, via Zoom**

Members Present: Lori Robison, Lynn Hegrenes, Martha Oswald, Pastor Jeff Holter, Barb Lucia, Susan Muehlberger, and Nadine Moeller

1. The Special Council meeting was called to order by President Lori Robison at 7:10 p.m. with devotions and prayer led by Lori Robison.

2. Action Item:

- The sole purpose of the meeting was to discuss KLC Vitality Planning and the next steps in the process. Discussion centered on the results from the church vitality session held after service on Sunday, September 18, 2022. This Special Council meeting focused on results from Questions 2, 3, and 4 of the September church session.

A **motion** was made by Martha Oswald and **seconded** to have the following items put on flip charts for congregational input:

- 1) Have a variety of activities, using the buddy system for activity leadership.
- 2) Keep doing what we are doing, playing to our strengths, but add new activities with input from the congregation.
- 3) Allow more community events (recitals, concerts, etc.) at church.

Discussion followed. **The motion carried.**

3. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with prayer and recitation of the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Holter.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Hegrenes, Secretary



**KLC SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sunday School kids made these 2 blankets in November.

They will be donating them to Lifehouse Duluth.

They also made Thanksgiving baskets for the homebound folks. The baskets were delivered, and were much appreciated!

# Memorial Gifts

## In memory of Elaine Greenfield:

David & Sally Anderson  
Jim & Bev Anderson  
Eddie & Eileen Bialon  
Ginger & Dennis Bukovich  
Bobbie Bushey  
Bob Braff  
Joan Christensen & Jim Stauber  
Lynne Conway  
Joan Coughlin  
Cynthia Cossin  
Carolyn Dahl  
Gary & Marcia Doty  
Dudley & Jackie Elliott  
Walt & Trecia Ellis  
Bill & Joan Emery  
Engelmeier Family  
Mary Evavold  
Steve Greenfield  
Elaine Hansen  
Mary Harper  
Bruce & Lynn Hegrenes  
Bob & Lois Heller  
Corrine Helmen  
Barbara & Robert Johnson  
Doug Johnson & Robin  
Diane Kettelhut  
Deb & Mike Klopp  
Knowles Family  
Cindy Kolquist & Rod Saline  
Cliff & Audrey Kolquist  
Lee & Anne Kolquist  
Pat Kolquist  
Jeanne Laine & Randy Nelson  
Skip Larsen

Karen & Carol Lilyquist  
Jim & Joanne Loukes  
Chrysta Luhrsen  
Ken & Nancy McKenna  
Dottie Morrison-Mullen  
Susan Nash & John Docter  
Doraine Newland  
Rod & Peggy O'Bey  
Charlene Paulson  
Karla Payne  
Margaret Peterson  
Susan Peterson  
Harvey Plasch  
Harry and Jan Podgorski  
Joyce Price  
Jerry Priley  
Rauzi Family  
Carolyn Riley  
Mike & Maria Robbins  
Marion Rukavina  
Kathleen Sallee  
Alvin Savela  
Eric and Tammy Saksa  
Anna Scroxton  
Doug & Peggy Simensen  
Liz Simonson  
Pat & Iris Sullivan  
Barb Teske  
Jim & Deb Thorstensen  
Julie Thorstensen  
Jim & Carol Threinen  
Karen Urban & Kristin Bergerson  
Melvin Voigt

## In memory of Kami Scott:

Tom & Susan Muehlberger  
Kari & Jon Carlson

## In memory of Lino Ravzi:

Tom & Susan Muehlberger



Please remember the following folks in your prayers this month.

Jon, Kari, Logan, Connor & Molly Carlson  
 Lynn Simensen & John Chalstrom  
 Kevin, Joy, Ben & Sam Michalicek  
 Doris Sodahl  
 Ian, Christina, Ben & Emily Johnson  
 Sandy Nervick  
 Lori Robison  
 Sandy Stephenson Nys  
 Barb Lundstrom  
 Lori & Jacob Reed  
 Justin, Jess, Fayth & Austin Stokes  
 Terry & Dawn Erickson  
 Eric & Tammy Saksa  
 Scott & Sherry Goutermont  
 John, Jamie & Wyatt Moerke  
 Kim Loken  
 Carol Ziegler  
 Crystal Dangers and Celeste, Savannah, Anthony & Brandon Reich  
 Wade, Laura & Connor Rasch, Lori Spilde and Ella & Erin Greenwalt  
 Mike, Heather, Cassidy, Sam & Alissa Michelizzi

Jennifer, Brennan & Maya LaBelle  
 Deb & Sid Jarvis  
 Debby & David Stokes  
 Milt & Jo Cox  
 Nadine Moeller  
 Troy, Mary, Michael & Natalie Rasch  
 Evelyn Schwanz  
 Paul & Marie Glaesemann  
 Art & Paula Rannikko  
 Chuck & Darlene Roebke  
 Kathy Erholtz  
 Elsa Hagen  
 John, Courtney, Ben, Carly & Ethan Senich  
 Stan Hammer  
 Al Savela



## December Worship Responsibilities at Kenwood Lutheran Church

	Altar Guild	Welcome Center Attendant	Communion Server	Hospitality	Acolyte	Scripture Reader	Ushers
4		Darlene Roebke	Cindy Peterson	Volunteers	Carly Senich	Cindy Peterson	Brad Kamphenkel & Pat Kleimola
11		Jo Cox	Nadine Moeller	Confirmation	John Sundberg	Barb Teske	Steve & Sue Teske
18		Deb Jarvis	Barb Lucia	Fellowship Team	Isabel Novak	Barb Lucia	Peggy Pruden & Lori Robison
25		No Worship Service	No Worship Service	No Worship Service		No Worship Service	No Worship Service

# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	2	3
4 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10:30am Hospitality 10:30am Sunday School 12:00pm Silent Auction Ends 1:00pm Confirmation	5 Church Office Closed 9:00am Tai Chi	6 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	7 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 11:30am Senior Lunch 5:30pm A.A.	8 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Boards and Teams 7:30pm Council Meeting	9	10
11 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10:30am Hospitality 10:30am Sunday School	12 9:00am Tai Chi	13 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	14 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30pm A.A. 5:30pm Confirmation Event?	15 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	16	17
18 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am Sanctuary Worship 10:30am Hospitality 10:30am Sunday School 1:00pm Confirmation	19 9:00am Tai Chi 12:00am Red Cross Blood Drive	20 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	21 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30pm A.A.	22 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	23	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
25 No Sanctuary Worship Today <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	26 9:00am Tai Chi	27 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	28 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30pm A.A.	29 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	30	31




**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Monday, December 19**  
 Fellowship Hall,  
**12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
 To make an appointment  
 Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
 Enter sponsor code: **KLC**

**VLM Summer Camp 2023**  
**Registration Open!**

Registration has been open as of  
 November 1<sup>st</sup> for summer of 2023! To  
 register, go to  
[www.vlmcamps.org/registration](http://www.vlmcamps.org/registration)  
 email [vlm@vlmcamps.org](mailto:vlm@vlmcamps.org) or call  
 The Duluth office at 218-481-9080.

SUMMER  
 CAMP

