



# KLC NEWS

## JANUARY 2025



### A River Runs Through It



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I wrote this article this fall for the Eco-Faith magazine; however I also believe that we can hear the echoes of this Advent season with the call to see that in the invitation to await expectantly for the Messiah there is a yearning in our hearts to also await the day when all the world is changed by his arrival.

My wife (Joan) and I were invited to our nephew's wedding this fall. It was a destination wedding to Glacier National Park. Our nephew and his wife met at work but had spent their vacations traveling to national parks throughout the country. It was right at the end of the park season and we actually anticipated traveling through some snow. Already early on we had determined not to fly out to Montana but to enjoy the drive through

North Dakota and all the way to Glacier. I suppose that for some that sounds boring, but we wanted to just take in all that scenery of the central plains.

The route we chose was the northern route, going through Fargo and then taking highway 2 pretty much all the way to Glacier. There is another route, going south and taking the freeway through Bismarck ND, however then all one sees is traffic and endless pavement. What both Joan and I appreciated was that HWY 2 follows the terrain of the rolling plains. You can not travel at the speed of "not seeing anything" but you do see the creatures and native topography of these rolling hills. As you got closer to Glacier, you began to see the Rockies and the mounds of rocks jutting out of the plains.

As I recall our trip, what matters the most is the realization that what made the trip memorable was both the joy of the wedding and the nature and natural world we encountered. Let me elaborate! Sometimes no matter how observant one tried to be, you just can't guarantee that the weather or wildlife are going to cooperate. So, the first day we drive up Glacier to Logan's Pass. The road is very narrow and the air is so very thin. Still when we arrived, we decided to climb to a mountain lake that is about a three mile hike up this steep hill. About one and a half miles into the climb the thin air was getting the best of us. Darn aging! So, we determined that one and a half miles was absolutely OK with us and we started down the path again. We had just stopped to rest when someone yelled "BEAR"! We turned around and sauntering up behind us was a grizzly bear. We froze, until Joan realized our bear spray was in my backpack. Joan quickly dug into the backpack while I took my cell phone out and started taking pictures of the bear, who wasn't hungry for Lutheran that day, and just kept on crossing the path and on toward other more edible food.

I have the pics, and I won't forget that experience. I keep thinking of all the beauty we saw on this trip: buffalo, antelope, moose, wild mustangs, so... many prairie dogs and one lone coyote who was also keeping an eye on the prairie dog village. This is a great country and our world can be a place of beauty and wonder and can still boggle the mind.

Our trip back home was also very meaningful. We kept taking the roads less taken, which brought us to a roadside parking lot for a needed stretch of the legs and some time to move around. Joan and I parked the car and walked down to the river which the road seemed to be following. The river was very low and water only slowly moving along. The shore line exposed the river bottom where rocks with dried up moss and mud caked stones once shined when the water had covered them. We walked closer to the running water and realized we were not alone. A gentleman came following behind us taking a rest from what we came to find out was a long trip from Bismarck. We talked for a bit sharing our mutual appreciation for the river and a beauty of the nature unfolding in front of us. That led to other disclosures about where we were from and the joy of having been at a wedding for our nephew. In turn he shared why he was there. He and his wife were coming home from a doctor's appointment. He shared that his wife has cancer and things did not look good, but they always stopped at the river on their way home to celebrate the goodness of God and beauty of God's good creation. He then told me that this river was actually very special because it was the river and location of the movie, "A River Runs Through It". The movie stars Brad Pitt, and was directed by Robert Redford. What I think of however is how nature in all of its glory can bring peace and wholeness when life gets crazy and when we are tested beyond our human endurance. Nature is our healing. Nature is God's way of putting things into perspective and keeps us from losing hope. Nature's resilience gives God's grace a means to visibly show us how God is disposed to us. Holding us and giving us a place to renew our spirits. I believe this is God's true testament to us, and I believe how we treat nature is our true testament that we can trust God to be there for us no matter what. Enjoy your day, enjoy life and give thanks to God for God's goodness endures forever.

Peace, Jeff



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the  
President's  
Message

Hi all,

Hope you are all safe, warm, and dry. What an unusual winter so far! Kenwood has been a very busy place this past month. Here are some of the highlights:

- You have all come through for Kenwood in the last year – we were able to pay off the \$73,000.00+ mortgage the end of November. What an amazing family Kenwood has!! I appreciate each one of you.
- Roof repairs have completed!! We now have a roof with beams that are the correct span apart and load bearing capacity in Theresa's office and the center office. There is new spray foam insulation and ceiling tiles there as well. The insurance company covered the cost of the repairs. My thanks to the Asset Management folks for all their hard work in finding a contractor and getting things going with the project. You can't even tell that there was a hole in the Sanctuary wall.
- The Advent season has begun, and with it a change of scenery in the Sanctuary, thanks to the Worship Team. Please come to church and check out the weekly changes, try to find the little critters that have been hidden.

Future notes:

- The Annual Meeting will be the last Sunday in January, immediately following the worship service. There will be some important decisions made, so please plan on attending.
- One person has stepped forward to assist with the Food Truck Festival. She has requested that she not be the only person, so please prayerfully consider helping her out. Planning entails:
  - contacting the various food truck vendors to check their availability (most of them have a website or Facebook page)
  - contacting the sign vendor to get yard signs made
  - contacting bounce-house vendors for pricing
  - advertising on various social media platforms: NextDoor, Perfect Duluth Day, Facebook, etc, at periodic intervals prior to the event
  - coordinating set up times with all vendors
  - putting out yard signs 2 – 3 weeks ahead of time
  - purchasing table decorations.
  - The day of activities are as follows:
    - get to the church 2 – 3 hours before the event to coordinate set up of trucks, bounce house, yard games
    - set up tables / chairs in parking lot and decorate tables.

**The sooner this planning starts, the more likelihood we will be able to have a larger variety of food trucks and better attendance.**

Did you know that we at Kenwood are legally required to track our attendance in order to maintain our non-profit status? It's true! That's one of the reasons we ask that you fill out the pew pads each Sunday, and that the Ushers pick them up at the end of the service. Filling out the pew pads serves a couple other functions as well: if someone attends but doesn't participate in Holy Communion, maybe Pastor should be reaching out to them; it also serves as a way for people to let the Office know that they are looking for a church home or they want Pastor to call on them.

That's all for now. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Lori

# Community Ministry

In January donations of supplies will be collected for the warming center. Items especially needed:

Gloves / Mittens

Socks

Paper Bowls

Ramen Noodles

Creamer, powdered (in a shaker)

Sugar (bulk)

Hot Chocolate Packets



Thank you to bell ringers from KLC for Salvation Army red kettle on November 22<sup>nd</sup>; \$390 was collected.

Thank you for generous donations of toys for the Salvation Army's Toyland Express.

Kenwood Lutheran donated cookies from the bazaar/cookie sale to the St Louis County jail for their Christmas parties.

The coin offering in November for LSS Center for Changing Lives was \$71.54; \$662.51 for the year.



**Christmas  
Bazaar  
2024**



Our Christmas Bazaar was a fun time once again! Thank you to all involved, whether you were a volunteer, a vendor, donated something, or attended! We appreciate you!

Our Christmas Bazaar is held the first Saturday in December each year.

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

## January

4 - Harry Podgorski  
Nancy Koss  
8 - Alanna Stokes  
9 - Janice Podgorski  
12-Cindy Peterson  
16-Kristin Randall  
18-Sonya Skar  
20-Carol Kolari  
23-Sandy Burgstahler  
Celeste Reich  
24-Nancy Andrews  
27-Brad Kamphenkel  
28-Anssi Rannikko  
30-June Randall  
31-Eric Saksa  
Michael Rasch



**Senior Luncheon**-Wednesday, January 8, 11:30 a.m. at Do North Pizza in Hermantown. A sign-up is provided in the Messiah Room.

**Christmas Eve Worship**-will be at 4:00 p.m. for Kenwood Lutheran Church.

**Christmas Eve Worship Helpers**-A sign-up sheet is in the Messiah Room to sign up for ushering, reading scripture, etc.

**Our Annual Meeting**-will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025. You are encouraged to be at the church for the meeting, but if you do need to join via Zoom, that information will be made available as the meeting is much closer.

**VLM Camps**-registration is open! There are several discounts available, including one that ends on March 1. Go to [vlmcamps.org](http://vlmcamps.org) for more info.

**Offering Envelopes for 2025**-are ready for pickup in the middle office. When picking up your envelopes, if you're able to also take a friend or neighbor's envelopes to them, that would be appreciated. It helps the church save on mailing costs.

## Church Book Club

Books for January-May 2025

Jan. 19-The Book of Names, by Jill Gregory

Feb. 16-The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead

Mar. 16-Pontius Pilate, by Paul Maier

Apr. 20-The Girl Who Wrote in Silk, by Kelli Estes

May 18-Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson



## 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.  
at Kenwood Lutheran Church.  
Presenter: Susan Muehlberger.

This is an educational opportunity for everyone, sponsored by The Alzheimer's Association.



Please remember these folks in your prayers this month...

Deb, Sid & Dan Jarvis  
Ian, Christina, Ben & Emily Johnson  
Pat Kleimola  
Jim & Nora Korkalo  
Amy Kranig and Lauren, Gillian & Sonya Skar  
Kim Loken  
Jim & Patti Lufholm  
Barb Lundstrom  
David Mattson  
Kevin, Joy, Ben & Sam Michalicek  
Mike, Heather, Sam, Kassidy, Alissa Michelizzi  
John, Jamie & Wyatt Moerke

Carol Johnson  
Brad & Lynn Kamphenkel  
Dennis & Carol Kolari  
Clayton & Nancy Koss  
Jennifer, Brennan & Maya LaBelle  
Barb Lucia  
Marcia Lunde  
Charlene Magariner  
Karen Mattson  
Kevin & Bonnie Mickelson  
Nadine Moeller  
Lisa Muehlberger



Sunday School Schedule for January 2025

January 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.

January 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.

January 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.

**COUNCIL MEETING - KENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**November 14, 2024, via Zoom and in person**

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

Guest(s): Theresa Williams

1. The meeting was called to order by President Lori Robison at 7:34 p.m. with devotions and prayer led by Cindy Peterson.
2. a) Minutes from the Council meeting held on October 10, 2024, were approved as submitted.  
b) Minutes from the Special Council meeting held on October 22, 2024, were approved as submitted.

c) November 4, 2024, e-mail business session (Approval to spend \$1,825 over the 2024 budgeted amount for capital improvement to spray insulate the areas of the roof that are being repaired.) – approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's report = \$828.87 balance in the checkbook at the end of October 2024. All bills paid and are current. Capital Improvement Fund = \$19,994.48; Long-Term Savings Account = \$22,060.58; Memorial Fund = \$19,965.14; Mortgage balance at the end of October = \$4,938.36. KLC has a \$15,000 Certificate of Deposit at the Bank which has earned approximately \$1,000 in interest this past year.

4. Action Items:

- **Church Service Time** - A **motion** was made by Scott Goutermont and **seconded** to present a change in church service times to the Parish Council. The request is to have Family of God's service begin at 8:45 a.m. with Kenwood Lutheran's service to begin at 10:00 a.m. contingent upon each church agreeing to a fifty-minute service. The announcements at KLC would be led by lay leaders. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**
- **Christmas Eve Service** - A **motion** was made by Susan Muehlberger and **seconded** that the Christmas Eve Service be held at 4:00 p.m. at KLC. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**
- **Annual Meeting** – A **motion** was made by Lynn Hegrenes and **seconded** to hold the KLC Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**

5. Discussion Items:

- **Financial Secretary** - Paul Glaesemann will continue to serve as the Financial Secretary for KLC in 2025.
- **2025 KLC Ballot** - A reminder that Officer, Board and Team positions need to be filled for 2025.

6. Boards, Ministry Teams, Standing Committees:

a. Asset Management Board

- An announcement will be made in two weeks regarding the status of our church mortgage.
- Mural on the wall in the sanctuary – does not come off the wall and will need to be carefully covered during the remodeling project.
- JM Construction will start ceiling repair on Monday, November 25 and continue through tentative completion on December 9 or 10. The insurance company is covering all repairs. The work area will be cleaned before each Sunday and before the church bazaar as well.
- Turkey Bingo - Thursday, November 21, 6:00–9:00 p.m.; volunteers needed beginning at 5:00 p.m.

b. Mutual Ministry Board

- Requested to be added to the coffee serving list. Information has been submitted to the Church Office.

c. Stewardship Board

- Time & Talent Surveys have not yet been tabulated and will be distributed to respective Boards and Teams. Twenty-five surveys were returned out of 114 mailed out.
  - Pledges are up from last year. General Fund and Capital Improvement is up from last year.
  - November 24 service – scheduled to serve coffee and are requesting assistance from the Council; a cake will be ordered for this event.
  - Requesting more Board members.
  - Summary of yearly activities will be prepared for the Annual Report.
- d. Personnel Support Board
- Need people to fill officer, board, and team positions for 2025. Information needs to be submitted to the Personnel Board by January 1. Pray for people in the church to volunteer for these important service roles.
- e. Christian Education Ministry Team
- Sunday School participants – showing the projects completed at Sunday School during kid time at services.
  - Daniel and the power of prayer – will be making baskets for shut-ins.
  - Wooden nativity sets will be painted in December during Sunday School to take home with them.
  - One to seven attend Sunday School at any one time.
- f. Community Ministry Team
- LSS Center for Changing Lives Coin Offering in October = \$74.38; YTD = \$590.97.
  - December: toy donations for Salvation Army Toyland Express through December 15.
  - November: a) Lutheran Disaster Response/Hurricane Response continues through November 17; b) Bell ringing for Salvation Army red kettles – Friday, November 22, two-hour shifts; 1:00-7:00 p.m.; three people per shift at Super One at Kenwood (inside).
  - October: a) Ruby’s Pantry, October 17, went well; will request the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in September 2025 for KLC; b) Cold weather clothing donations were delivered to the Damiano Center.
- g. Fellowship Ministry Team
- Discussed a “Mortgage Burning Party” with a Sunday Dinner (no charge) and a mortgage burning at the firepit.
  - Will assist with serving at Turkey Bingo.
  - Bazaar planning is coming along well; vendor booths are filled. Will meet the Friday before the event to set up; cookie sales in Fireside room; greeter(s) at each door; volunteers will wear name tags identifying themselves as workers at the event.
  - Thrivent funds for a total of \$750 have been secured. The following three events – silent auction, turkey bingo, and church bazaar each received \$250.
- h. Worship Ministry Team
- Thanksgiving service set – KLC to provide readers; Cindy Peterson volunteered to assist.
  - Checklist looking at space for advent.

- Preparing some advent wreaths. Not decorating all at once; letting the season develop; will be offering differing activities for the kids.
- December 15 – FOG will be conducting a Christmas program with scripture readings and songs; try to adapt a similar item at KLC. Theme = New Creation; Bells will be playing.
- Looking ahead for the Lenten season.
- Setting IV – need to do something else; looking at other ideas; waiting until the first of the new year for a possible change.
- Need to have lay communion assistants for shut-ins; six total people listed to date.
- Talked about the alternative worship. Send thoughts and ideas to Worship Ministry Team.

i. Youth Ministry Team

- Looking to get registered for Youth Gathering November 22-24.
- Cardio Deo Retreat for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and above – to be determined.
- Confirmation - has just gotten started and going well. Three out of seven have been attending. Acolyte schedule has been set.

7. Bridge of Faith Parish Council Updates:

- Christmas Eve Services – KLC at 4:00 p.m.; FOG at 2:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Eve service – Tuesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. at FOG with coffee and apple cider afterwards.
- Next meeting on January 13, 2025, at FOG - discuss Lenten Season and Easter service times.
- Parish Sharing Options for Pulpit Supply Discussion – Synod Guidelines are as follows:
  - a. 2024 guidelines: \$140 + \$40 per additional worship point
  - b. 2025 guidelines: \$175 + \$50 per additional worship point
 Pastor agrees to find his pulpit supply for both churches. Cost will be split between the parishes. If pulpit supply pastor is not available to do both services, FOG will find their own pulpit supply pastor.
- Sunday Service times – good discussion; FOG – shorter service (50 min) for FOG; KLC – take over announcements and prelude at their service. Focus on earlier time schedule for Sunday service at KLC, possibly 10:00 a.m.; voting at January meeting.

8. Pastor's Report:

- Lake Superior Conference meets on February 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
- April 3-4, 2025, for NE MN Synod Assembly.

9. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m. with prayer and recitation of the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Holter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Hegrenes, Secretary

## January Worship Responsibilities at Kenwood Lutheran Church

	Altar Guild	Welcome Center Attendant	Communion Server	Hospitality	Acolyte	Scripture Reader	Ushers
<b>5</b>	Susan Muehlberger	Barb Lucia	Barb Lucia	Council	John Sundberg	Barb Lucia	Tom & Susan Muehlberger
<b>12</b>	Susan Muehlberger	Lori Robison	Lori Robison	Fellowship Team	Isabel Novak	Lori Robison	Kenny & Charlene Harkins
<b>19</b>	Susan Muehlberger	Brad Kamphenkel	Peggy Pruden	Altar Guild	Lyvia Kamunen	Dennis Kolari	Dennis & Carol Kolari
<b>26</b>	Susan Muehlberger	Nadine Moeller	Nadine Moeller	Confirmation	Logan Carlson	Craig Carlson	Sherry Goutermont & Cindy Peterson

### CHURCH MORTGAGE UPDATE

We have a lot to be thankful for during this Christmas season! Asset Management would like to thank everyone who has donated to the mortgage reduction.

We started the year with a mortgage balance of \$71,311, and at our Annual Meeting, a challenge was given to pay the mortgage off by the end of 2024.

At the end of November, we sent in a check for a little over \$4,800 as our final payment on the mortgage. We no longer have a mortgage on this building!

Again, thank you all! This congregation never ceases to amaze!

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year from Asset Management.



# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30pm A.A.	<b>2</b> 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30am Hospitality 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sanctuary Worship	<b>6</b> 9:00am Tai Chi	<b>7</b> 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 7:00pm Harbormasters	<b>8</b> 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 11:30am Senior Lunch 1:30pm Alzheimer's Education 5:00pm Bell Choir 5:30pm A.A.	<b>9</b> 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Boards and Teams 7:30pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30am Hospitality 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sanctuary Worship	<b>13</b> 9:00am Tai Chi	<b>14</b> 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 7:00pm Harbormasters	<b>15</b> 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00pm Bell Choir 5:30pm A.A.	<b>16</b> 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Newsletter Deadline 9:30am Hospitality 10:30am Sanctuary Worship	<b>20</b> 9:00am Tai Chi	<b>21</b> 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 7:00pm Harbormasters	<b>22</b> 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00pm Bell Choir 5:30pm A.A.	<b>23</b> 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30am Hospitality 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sanctuary Worship 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Needle Art Guild	<b>28</b> 8:30am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 7:00pm Harbormasters	<b>29</b> 8:45am TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00pm Bell Choir 5:30pm A.A.	<b>30</b> 9:00am Tai Chi 10:00am Quilters	<b>31</b>	



## Kenwood Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**  
immediately following worship.  
Attend in-person or via Zoom.  
Zoom information will be available in the  
Messiah Room and also emailed later.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are  
available for pickup in the  
middle office.  
If you're able to take envelopes to  
a friend or neighbor, we thank  
you for that! It helps save on  
mailing costs.



## VLM Camps Registration is open!

Discounts available when registering:

- ❖ Sibling Discount
- ❖ Bring-A-Friend Discount
- ❖ and more!
- ❖ Financial assistance is also available

[vlmcamps.org/registration](http://vlmcamps.org/registration)



If you know of a  
member who is sick  
or in the hospital,  
please call the  
church office and  
let us know.

"I was  
**sick**  
and  
**you visited**  
**me . . .**"  
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV