

Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish

Newsletter

February 2026



As you receive this February newsletter, we are in the midst of the season of Epiphany. An epiphany refers to the moment when something becomes clear. It is often a sudden and profound realization or revelation of a fact or a truth. In the season of Epiphany, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as God's Son.

- Epiphany begins with the arrival of the wise men from the East, who recognized Jesus as King and God, bringing him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- Jesus' true identity was revealed at his baptism in the Jordan River. Jesus was baptized by John. Jesus rose out of the water, the heavens opened, God's Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him, and a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."
- Jesus' divine power was first revealed at the wedding in Cana where he turns water into wine. This was the first of his many miracles.

In Epiphany, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus' divine identity and mission. We are also challenged to recognize the ways that God is revealed in our world and in our lives. How is God working through you today? Are you being the light that shines in the darkness?

Epiphany ends and the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18. This year's Wednesday night Lenten services will carry the theme, **'By Faith'**. Hebrews 11:1 defines 'faith' this way, *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

The first four weeks of this Lenten series provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. Each week, we discuss one of those figures and how they maintained faith through unique challenges. The fifth week brings us to Jesus, "the perfecter of our faith," and his path to the cross. A sincere 'Thank You in Advance!' to Kurt Salveson and to Karen Foust who offered to lead weeks one and two, as I will be out of town for both of those services.

Peace to you all,

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM



Dear WELCA Friends:

The New Year, 2026, begins with an entirely clean slate. Have you kept your New Year's Resolutions or have they already been forgotten? I think of a new year as a time to clean closets, drawers, and organize tax information. It maybe also time to "tidy up" what's going on in our hearts. Somethings I'm going to work on are trying to be a better listener, be less critical of myself and others and be more grateful. What "tidying up" do you need to do?

February 4th, will be our first Bible Study of the year with Allen Johnson, S.A.M, leading our study entitled "Encouraging Epistles". Thanks so much Allen! Cathy Converse and Trina Johnson will be our hosts. We will also be packing shower kits for people in Jackson County who are in need. Thanks to Judy Dugan for making the pillow cases. We would love to have the ladies of Spirit Creek join us for the morning as well.

**Please note that our WELCA meeting date for April is incorrect in your books. It should read April 8th.
I am sorry for any inconvenience.**

I will close with a short prayer from Philippians 3:13-14. "Heavenly Father, help us leave the past behind as we look to 2026. Like Paul, help us 'forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is a head, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus'. Renew our minds and empower us to live for your glory. Amen.

Hope to see you on February 4th at 10:00 a.m. for our first Bible Study of the year.

Sending you God's peace.

**Karen Foust, President
Little Norway WELCA**



Spirit Creek Lutheran Church Minutes
January 11, 2026

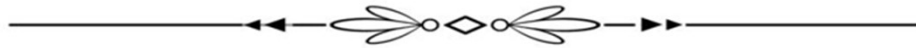
Those present included: Joel and Peggie Busse, Cal Burge, Kurt Salveson, Karla Engebretson, Mary Peterson, and Dena Stenulson.

A short council meeting was called to order after church services by President Joel Busse.

The council finalized the proposed budget for 2026.

Peggie Busse mentioned there was money leftover from the homebound care packages. After discussing various options, a motion was made by Mary to use the leftover money to purchase Easter gifts for the homebound members. Any leftover money at that point will be given to the food shelf that Dean and Bonnie work at. All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by church secretary, Karla Engebretson



Gifts Given

At Little Norway

Cemetery Fund:

In memory of Ray Gilbertson
from Susan Turney

Memorial Fund:

In memory of Merlin
Anderson from Bill and Karen
Foust

at Spirit Creek

Memorial Fund:

In memory of ...

Beverly Wakershauser

In memory of...

Andy & Mildred Olson and
Eldon Kelly from Kenneth
Olson

Remembering in our
Hearts and in our Prayers;
The family of:
Merlin Anderson who
passed away on
January 2, 2026





WALKING TOGETHER

Church Without Walls

March 21, 2026

8:00 – 4:00

\$25 Per Participant

Bethany Lutheran Church – Rice Lake, WI

Keynote Speaker: Natalia Terfa



Register and Details Here:

<https://nswi.org/walking-together-event>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Christian Valentine Word Search

S N I R S S E N D N I K B B X D S E S O R F R
 T O S J S M R L I K W Z D E O P V X Q L X D K
 Y U X M O S V N F R Z P T T R F A P Y Y E D S
 L Y H Y H H W O R L N U D A U E L E L V U Y W
 E G T E K E R I I J A A C L K B E K L K C R H
 T K W P B A S T E L W F W O K R N X B B L C X
 S J K C U R M C N O Y A I C O U T Y E A G A O
 E F O H A T O E D V E N L O F A I A L N M N B
 R K S R G S O F S E W V M H A R N H I U D D K
 A Z J I N C C F Q X Q R J C K Y E S E T A Y H
 E V P S I R H A F L O W E R S V C I V E C I T
 D L O T R O D E V O T I O N G U B R E D S Y X
 K A V I A C R A D Y Q J T B C Z A E S D U N G
 P C W A H U Y G D C E L L J M I Y H N Y F N F
 G I J N S S F T S U R T Y Q B R J C D Q O W Y
 E S A G M L G F G R U F P U O W L A I C E P S

Affection

Believes

Devotion

Kindness

Heart

Trust

Love

February

Friends

Candy

Dearest

Chocolate

Teddy

Valentine

Flowers

Smooch

Roses

Special

Crocus

Christian

Sharing

Cherish



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Communion 9:15 am Service @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN 11:45 am Worship Committee @ LN	2 	3 Little Norway Council TBD	4 10:00 am WELCA meets 6:00 -7:00pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN	5 	6	7
8 9:15 am Worship @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN	9	10 7:00 pm Spirit Creek Council meets	11 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir practice @ LN	12	13 	14 Valentine's Day
15 Susan B Anthony Day 9:15 am Worship @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 Worship @ LN	16 President's Day	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir practice @ LN	19	20	21 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
22 9:15 am Worship @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 Worship @ LN SS sings during service	23	24 	25 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir practice @ LN	26	27	28