



RESURRECTION EASTER

APOSTLES
 CALVARY
 CELEBRATION
 CHRIST
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 FAITH
 GETHSEMANE
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HOLY WEEK
 HOPE
 JESUS
 LAMB
 LOVE
 MESSIAH
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PONTIUS PILATE
 PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN

Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his death on the cross, providing salvation to any who will trust in Him. (Read John 19 and 20.)

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



Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish Newsletter

May 2026



We're in the midst of the Easter season and signs of renewal and rebirth are all around us. Green grass, new flowers, orioles are back, baby calves and soon there will be fawns in the fields. New life all around. These are the things we hope for as we move away from the cold spring and move towards the warmth of summertime.

New seeds are being planted all around. Our farmer neighbors who work the land are making great progress in getting the fields planted for the new season. We pray for their safety as they work long, hard hours when the weather is good. The old saying goes, ***"You gotta make hay when the sun shines!"*** That's true about planting season as well. You have to plant when you can, when the fertile soils is prepared and ready. When the weather is good our farmers are working hard. And for that we are thankful. We ask God to be with them and watch over them, day and night.

May is also the time when we remember mothers, the ultimate source of new human life. Mother's Day is May 10th this year. On Mother's Day, we remember all of those ladies who have had such an important impact on our lives. Mothers, wives, grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts, and down the line.

As Paul wrote to Timothy, ⁵ ***I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. (2 Timothy 1:5)*** In the Church, a mother's influence can extend far beyond her biological family. Paul says in Romans, ¹³ ***Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and greet his mother who has been a mother to me as well. (Romans 16:13)*** In some way, God used this unnamed woman to nurture, to mother, the great apostle Paul.

I have been fortunate to have some very special ladies who have been mother-figures to me, whom I look to when I need that motherly advice that only a mother can give. Let us all be grateful for the mother-figures in our lives — whether they're related to us by blood, or faith, or both. Let's celebrate mothers in worship on May 10.

On another note, I just want to call out and thank our regular Sunday worship service leaders. Pastor Cal, Norm Converse and Tom Epps. Thank you for your interest and the thoughtful, genuine, sincere efforts you put into each Sunday sermon. The Little Norway and Spirit Creek congregations are blessed. Thank you so much.

Peace to you all!

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM



Dear WELCA Friends:

It is one of those mornings where you feel like you could spend the entire day outdoors. It is good to have the dark days of winter behind us as we welcome the early morning daylight.

We have many trees in our yard so we have spent many days raking to get ready for mowing the lawn. I had a friend say to me he likes washing dishes as it made him grateful for the food on his table. After the time spent raking, I had those same thoughts, I should not be stressed about the leaves in my yard. I should be grateful that I have a house with a yard! It's can be difficult to reset our thinking!


On May 6th at 6:00 pm is our annual Ladies Spring Fling. Someone told me that that sounds like a dance. However, there will not be any dancing, only good food, music, and a program provided by Elaine Zeman on her horse therapy program. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Hope to see you there! There may even be some special prizes. We extend a special invite to the ladies at Spirit Creek as well!

On June 10th at 10 am will be our first Bible Study lesson from our new book, entitled "Living a Purposeful Life." Cathy Converse will lead the study and Vicky Emerson and Susan Wester will be our hostesses. At the June meeting we will we make a decision as to where to have our annual July luncheon. Be thinking about that over the next two months.

Here are the beautiful words from 1 Kings 8:57 asking God to never leave us or forsake us.

May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us.

May the Lord God give you his Peace.
Karen Foust, President
Little Norway WELCA



Little Norway welcomes into the Lord's Family through Baptism in April:

Madison Rae Kyser

&

Weston Dean Kyser

Children of
Nicholas and Andrea Kyser



You are a child of God — loved beyond measure, not because of what you do, but because of who God is.

The pancake breakfast was a HUGE success. Thank you to everyone who participated, The workers, the bakers, the donators, the buyers, and the participants of the pie in the face. And thank you to the members and the Community for supporting our event. And especially Thank you to Bonnie Harmes for coordinating these events for so many years. Job well done Bonnie!

We are now **LOOKING FOR A COORDINATOR** to do our next event which will be the Fall Festival. Please contact Joel Busse at 715-299-9229 if you are interested in being the coordinator.

A Special Thank you to **Mike Kutcher** for his help and hard work in rebuilding the window boxes.

2026 is the Year of Getting to know YOU



We would like to update your address and phone number and would even like to get your date of birth so we can wish you a happy birthday right here in the NEWSLETTER!!

Just fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate, or you can mail them to me at Parish Secretary 615 Rose St Black River Falls, WI 54615 or sent me an email at lnscsecretary@outlook.com
More space on the back of this form

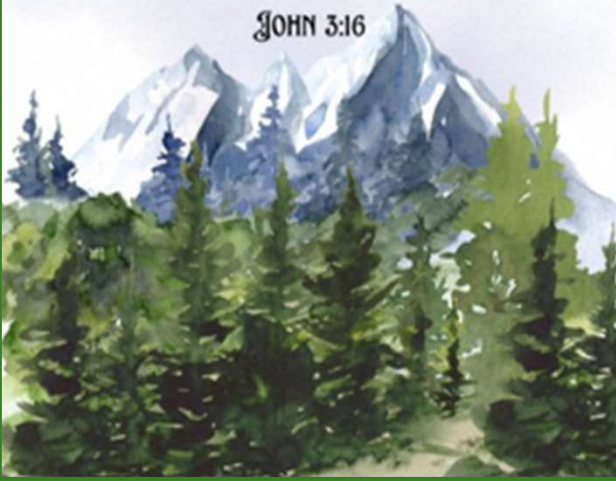
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Birthdate _____

The Pie in the Face event raised more than \$900.00. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to baby Weston's cause.



FOR GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH
IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



Spirit Creek's noisy offering for May and June is going to the Methodist Church Dinner Church. Black River Falls United Methodist Church hosts Dinner Church every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Many guests arrive around 5 PM to enjoy visiting with friends and having a small snack. A welcome and a short devotion are first on the schedule. Then guests are invited to the serving line a few at a time. Our meal plans are dietician approved. We are serving around 200 meals each week. Guests may eat in or may choose to take meals out.

The church pays our cook, but volunteers help with food prep, table setting, dessert baking, serving, doing dishes and cleaning up. Dinner Church is supported by monetary donations, donations of food and grants.

There were 3 students confirmed on April 26, 2026, with services led by SAM Allen Johnson.

Confirmed at Spirit Creek were:

Elise Lucy Stenulson

Elise is the daughter of Greg Stenulson and Melissa Lebakken. Her sponsors are April Swennes and Ian Littlejohn.



William James Nehls

William is the son of Ellen Dressler. His sponsors are Stacy Burgau, Kathy Bauman, and Matt Dressler.

Confirmed at Little Norway was:

Rylan John Quillman

Rylan is the son of Bandon Quillman (StacyMae Hart) and Amanda Stone. His sponsors are Nathan and Becca Stetzer.

May the Holy Spirit guide you,
May faith light your path,
And may you always remember
that you are a beloved child of God.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Have you seen what everyone's talking about?



Yes, it's the new website that was created for Little Norway and Spirit Creek. If you haven't seen it yet, Please go to lnslutheran.org to check it out. Tell your family and your friends. The website is updated regularly.

PURPOSE OF A WEBSITE:

A church website serves several purposes in this digital age -- as a central information hub for current church members and as the primary "front door" for newcomers.

This helps the church achieve its mission by extending its reach beyond the physical building and providing resources for both current and prospective members. An example would be someone new to the area who searches the web for ELCA churches they might want to check out. We need to show them "who we are" and "what we do." We do a lot more than we think and can include much more on our website.

For Outreach and New Visitors:

- Most people search online to find local churches. We want to be discoverable and show up in search results for people in the community looking for a place to worship.
- The website is often the first interaction a potential visitor has with our church. This should show the church is active and vibrant, with up-to-date information.
- Other suggestions to include in write-ups might be dress code, parking, basically what to expect when you come to worship with us. It can also share the church's mission and values to help visitors determine if it's a good fit for them.

For Members and Community Engagement:

- The website should be a fairly complete and reliable source of information for members, including event calendars, announcements, etc.
- Offering secure online donation options makes giving convenient for members, which is increasingly important as fewer people carry cash or write checks.
- The site can highlight outreach programs and partnerships with local charities, all of which can help build community relations and inspire volunteerism.

In short, a website is a cost-effective, essential tool that helps a church connect with people, foster community, and fulfill its mission in a world that has an increasingly online presence.

The Ark Encounter

Please let me know if you or anyone in your family would be interested by calling or texting me at 715-299-9229, or you can email me at lncsecretary@outlook.com. I need to know by the end of May if we will have a bus load or not. If we do, then we can lock in the price below. I hope everyone will consider going. **Make sure to call me to sign up before June 1, 2026.**

TAMMY'S TOURS AND TRAVEL LLC PRESENTS

The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum



INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- ◆ Motorcoach transportation
- ◆ 5 nights lodging including 3 consecutive nights in the Cincinnati area
- ◆ 8 meals: 5 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- ◆ Admission to the Stunning – ARK ENCOUNTER!
- ◆ Admission to the Famous CREATION MUSEUM
- ◆ Admission to the NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

For more pictures, video, and information visit:
www.GroupTrips.com/tammystoursandtravel

\$870*

6 Days 5 Nights

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Mon - Sat)

Jun 7 - 12

2027

**Departure: Jackson County Fair Park,
388 Melrose St, Black River Falls, WI @ 8 am**

Day 1: Depart your group's location in a spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off on your exciting trip! Tonight, settle into a comfortable en route hotel for a good night's rest.

Day 2: Today after a Continental Breakfast, you'll arrive in your destination. Later that day, enjoy a relaxing Dinner and check into your accommodations in the Cincinnati area for a three-night stay.

Day 3: Start the day with a Continental Breakfast before the big event you've been waiting for: THE ARK ENCOUNTER! Bigger than imagination, this life-sized Noah's Ark Experience will amaze you. The Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. From the moment you turn the corner and the towering Ark comes into view, to the friendly animals in the zoo, or the jaw-dropping exhibits inside the Ark, you'll experience the pages of the Bible like never before. This evening, enjoy Dinner before heading back to your hotel.

Day 4: Start the day with a Continental Breakfast before you head to The Ark Encounter's sister attraction: THE CREATION MUSEUM. Prepare to believe as you explore 75,000 square feet of state-of-the-art exhibits, full-size Allosaurus skeleton, stunning botanical gardens, petting zoo, and more. The state-of-the-art Creation Museum allows you to venture through biblical history. Tonight, enjoy a Dinner Party with Entertainment!

Day 5: Start the day with a Continental Breakfast before heading to the NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER, a museum dedicated to preserving the history of the Underground Railroad. Discover the remarkable stories of freedom's heroes. This evening, relax at your en route hotel.

Day 6: Today, after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great sights you've seen and where your next group trip will take you!

\$75 Due Upon Signing. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$229 for single occupancy.
Final Payment Due: 3/31/2027



View from Inside the Ark Encounter



Visit to the Amazing Creation Museum!



National Underground Railroad Freedom Center



Enjoy a visit to the Famous Ark Encounter!

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Tammy Steig @ (715) 579-4231

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Puzzle 1

'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.'

Genesis 1:1

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

BEGINNING
DIVIDED
FIRMAMENT
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NIGHT
SEVENTH
VERY GOOD

CREATED
EARTH
FIRST DAY
HEAVEN
LIVING
RULE THE DAY
SPIRIT
VOID

DARKNESS
EVENING
GATHERED
IT WAS SO
MORNING
SEASONS
STARS
WATERS

Little Norway Lutheran Church
Tuesday April 14, 2026

Little Norway Church Council meeting was called to order by President Mark Hansen at 6:30 pm. Council members present were Karen and Bill Foust, Cindy Hansen, Mark Emerson, Paul and Trina Johnson, Betzy Messelt, Bruce Johnson, Barry Murray, and Chris Gerdes.

Mark Emerson made a motion to accept the Secretary's report for March and Bruce seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report for March was given by Cindy Hansen.

Balance on Hand March 1, 2026	\$ 6,897.65
Receipts	<u>6,760.37</u>
Total	\$13,658.02
Disbursements	(4,327.17)
Transferred to General Savings	<u>(4,500.00)</u>
Balance on Hand March 31, 2026	\$ 4,830.85

Mark Emerson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Bill. Motion carried.

Education Committee updates: Trina reminded us that Vacation Bible School will be held June 8th through the 11th. There will be a lock-in held on the evening of June 7th. They are looking for volunteers to help.

Old Business: After the Easter church service, an emergency congregational meeting was held to discuss the church roof. We were notified that our insurance company would be dropping us due to the age of the church roof being over fifteen years. Mark Hansen requested quotes from two different roofing companies. Simmons Roofing came back with an estimate right away for \$ 36,200.00 plus \$ 240.00 for the warranty. It was decided unanimously to go with Simmons. Mark finally received Balts Construction's estimate, and it came in at \$ 44,896.00. Simmons Roofing has been sent a check for \$ 18,100 and the shingles have been ordered. They will schedule the roof replacement to be done before June.

Mark Hansen has been looking at other insurance companies for quotes and options. He also brought up that the parsonage roof may need to be replaced down the road if the 15-year rule applies. The policy will need to be reviewed regarding the parsonage, and it will need to be discussed again.

New Business: The WELCA Annual Spring Fling will be held at 6:00 pm on May 6th. Karen is looking for volunteers to help clean up afterwards.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm. We then met with Spirit Creek in a joint council meeting.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church April 14, 2026 Council Minutes

Those present included: Allen Johnson, Lori Roseth, Karla Engebretson, Peggie and Joel Busse, Mary Peterson, Cindy Dressler, Dena Stenulson, Cal Burge, and Kurt Salvesson. Joel opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:30pm

The March minutes were read by Karla. Peggy made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Cal. All in favor; Motion passed.

Cindy gave the treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report by Cal; seconded by Karla. All in favor; motion passed. A suggestion was made to move some money from checking to savings. It was decided to keep about \$4,000 in checking and move the rest to the savings account.

Balance on Hand 3/1/2026	\$11,438.49
Total Contributions	\$ 3,487.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 2,228.06
Balance on Hand 3/31/2026	\$13,014.88

January and February Noisy Offerings given to the JC Animal Shelter were \$152.08

Old Business:

1. The Pie in the Face part of the pancake breakfast proceeds are now going to the Kyser family to help them care for their baby Weston.
2. Allen suggested when we update the constitution that we should look at what number is needed to establish a quorum.

New Business:

1. Elise Stenulson and William Nehls from Spirit Creek will be confirmed on Sunday, April 26. Cindy will take care of ordering a cake from the congregation. Peggie will order corsages.
2. We received a thank you card from the JC Animal Shelter for our donation.
3. Peggie mentioned that she bought Easter gifts for three people. She mentioned one who was especially thankful.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm for the Joint Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Karla Engebretson, Secretary



Spirit Creek - Little Norway Joint Council Minutes for April 14, 2026

Allen opened the meeting at 7:20pm by reading Psalm 8 and then saying a prayer.

1. A discussion of the ministerial status of the church. Our call is still active in the ELCA. Allen mentioned that he has support from other SAMs, his mentor, and Pastor Thoreson. He said that he finds the SAM work fulfilling. The council members mentioned their appreciation for all he does.
2. Allen gave a brief presentation on the program Dementia Live. It is a program where we could invite trainers to our church to give us an idea of what it is like for a person with dementia through hands-on experiences.
3. Mark Hansen let us know that the parsonage insurance is tied to Little Norway's insurance. He is contacting various insurance companies. There is a question of whether we should insure the parsonage separately. This led to a discussion about the parsonage. For now we are just going to continue as is.
4. Peggy asked if the parish might be interested in going to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. If there is enough interest we could charter a bus.
5. More bulletins are needed for special services.
6. Breaking Chains band is booked to lead the outdoor service on August 9.

Bill Faust made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm; seconded by Joel Busse. All in favor; motion passed. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Spirit Creek Secretary, Karla Engebretson



Little Norway

MAY 2026

Spirit Creek

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1	2	
Holy Communion 9:15 am Worship @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN 11:45 am Worship Committee @ LN	3	4	7:00 pm Little Norway Council meets	5  6:00 pm Ladies Spring Fling	6	7	8	9
9:15 am Worship @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 Worship @ LN	10	11	7:00 pm Spirit Creek Council meets	12	13	14	15	16
Last day of SS 9:15 am Worship @ SC 9:15 am SS @ LN 10:15 am SS @ SC 10:45 am Worship at LN followed by potluck	17	18	Newsletter Deadline 	19	20	21	22	23
9:15 am Worship @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN	24	25	Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
9:15 am Worship @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN	31							