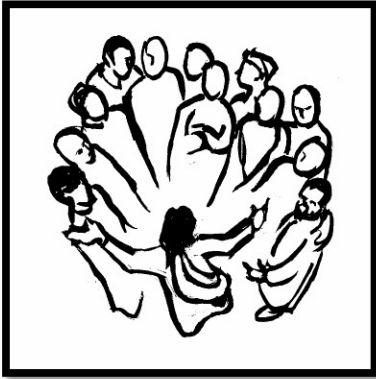


Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish Newsletter

June 2026



It has been said that farmers are eternal optimists. Each year, by faith, they plant the seeds of new growth in a new season. They spend a small fortune on seeds and fertilizer, fuel, oil and machinery, insurance, rent, interest on debt and property taxes. All in the hope that the new crop will be bountiful and that prices will yield them a profit. By faith.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Hope for a good crop. Hope for favorable weather. Following a spring of pretty good weather, the seeds are in the ground now. We hope for the best now and put our faith in God to see the crop through the rest of the growing season. Thank you farmers for your faith.

Our gospel readings in June come from Matthew, chapters 9 and 10. Jesus is well into his ministry in these chapters. ⁶ ***When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*** ³⁷ ***Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*** *Matthew 9:36-38*

Jesus called the twelve disciples to go out into the world as laborers into his harvest. He sent them to heal the sick and to spread the word of God. We too, are called as disciples to go into the world and do the same. To share the Good News of Jesus. To live in a way that will please God and in doing so, we will show others who God is. To plant the seeds of discipleship and hope that through faith, the seeds bear fruit.

When you meet people who are new to the area, invite them to worship. Invite them into our parish community. Plan the seeds of discipleship and see what can grow!

Father's Day is June 21. On that day, remember the fathers, grandfathers, stepdads, uncles and father figures who have shaped your life, those with us here on this earth and those with the Heavenly Father.

I am pleased to share with you that on May 9, I completed my second and final year in the Lay School of Ministry. The school meets once per month, September through May, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls on the second Saturday morning of the month and the Friday night before it. (Yup, that's how they schedule it!) The curriculum is covered over 2 years, focusing on instruction in the Bible, Lutheran theology, worship and faith formation.

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I did not enroll in Lay School to become a SAM, and the purpose of Lay School is not to develop SAMs. It is for anyone who wants to learn. I enrolled in Lay School to become more knowledgeable in the areas that the school covers in the hope that I could be a better servant of the church. I did learn! Lay School got me out of my comfort zone from time to time, but it was SO worth it! It was a great experience.

This is the class I spent my two years with. These are friends for life for me.



I definitely recommend the Lay School of Ministry at the NW Synod of Wisconsin. It is one of the best schools of its type in the country. If you want to hear more about my experience, just ask, I'm happy to share.

Keep an eye open for new member transfers into Little Norway in June as well as more baptisms in July.

Peace to you all,

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM

Dear WELCA Members:

We had a delightful time at our Spring Fling on May 6th. Elaine Zeman shared interesting information about the Horse Sanctuary that she owns and manages. She has so much compassion for the horses she has rescued as well as for the people who enjoy the companionship and watchful eye of a horse. Special thanks to Vicky Emerson for sharing her musical talents and leading us in the singing of "Lean On Me." Devery, Cathy and Trina, as always, did an outstanding job keeping our pot luck running smoothly. Thanks so much! The guys also helped with vacuuming and organizing the Gathering Room. The delicious desserts were made by Julie, Lisa and Sylvia. Special thanks to Cathy as well, even with her injured wrist, she was great assistance. You are all appreciated.

Due to a couple of scheduling conflicts, we will have our June Bible Study on June 17th Hope this doesn't confuse anyone. Cathy will lead the Bible Study from our new book.

May has been a busy time for our family with attending our grandchildren's sporting events, bacculaureate service and high school graduation ceremony for our oldest granddaughter. Graduation is such an exciting time for the graduates with their heads so full of dreams. It's also a time when parents and grandparents have a hard time letting go. As someone once told me, "it's time to let the little bird fly." Congratulations and best wishes to all graduates!

"May the bright sunshine of June fill your days with hope, energy, and renewed inspiration to chase your dream."

In Christ's Love,
Karen Foust, President
Little Norway WELCA



The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 pm. Bill Foust made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary



June Birthday's

Happy Birthday wishes to:

Cathy Hart
Brook Gunther



Reminder: Deadline for Signing up for the Ark Encounter is May 31. Call or text Peggie at 715-299-9229. Or email at lscsecretary@outlook.com.

Congratulations to our Confirmands!
Elise Stenulson
William Nehls
Rylan Quillman

Congratulations to all 2026 Graduates!
May God Bless you and guide you through your life's journey.

A huge **THANK YOU** to **Kurt Salvesson** for teaching Sunday School again this year. If anyone is interested in teaching next year, please let a council member know.

Thank you to **Lisa Johnson** for teaching, Spirit Creek's students, confirmation the past few years.



Spirit Creek is looking for an Event Coordinator. If you are interested, please let a council member know.

Gifts Given at Little Norway Memorial Fund:
In memory of Lois Hoagenson Becker, who was baptized, confirmed and married at Little Norway. She also played the organ for many years.
Gift given from David Emerson
Gift from John and Charlotte Overlien

Little Norway Lutheran Church
Tuesday May 5, 2026

Little Norway Church Council meeting was called to order by President Mark Hansen at 7:00 pm. Council members present were Karen and Bill Foust, Cindy Hansen, Paul and Trina Johnson, Allen Johnson, and Chris Gerdes. Allen opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer.

Cindy Hansen made a motion to accept the Secretary's report for April and Bill Foust seconded. Motion carried.

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

Balance on Hand April 1, 2026	\$ 4,830.85
Receipts	<u>9,447.00</u>
Total	\$14,277.85
Disbursements	(3,721.96)
Transferred to General Savings	<u>(6,000.00)</u>
Balance on Hand March 31, 2026	\$ 4,555.89

Karen Foust made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Trina Johnson. Motion carried.

Old Business: As of May's meeting, most of the reroofing is completed on the church. Simmons Roofing just needs to finish the steeple and the two entryway roofs. While reroofing, they found dry rotted wood on the steeple. Plywood sheathing had to be installed to make it more stable. Due to this, an additional cost will be added to the balance of our bill. Mark brought up that we should also get shingles to redo the shed roof and cemetery sign as well.

In looking at different insurance companies for the church and the parsonage, many had lengthy applications. Some required that there would be no overnight stays or playground equipment. There were also additional questions due to the fact that the building was over seventy-five years old.

Our current insurance, Acuity, did end up renewing our policy since the roof was redone. The cost to renew came to approximately \$ 11,000, which includes both the church and parsonage. Mark was going to ask what the cost difference would be if the deductible was raised from \$ 1,000 to \$ 5,000. Bill Foust made a motion to renew the insurance policy with Acuity and Paul Johnson seconded.

SAM update: Allen brought up the Outdoor Service on August 9th. Breaking Chains has us on the schedule that date at Lunda Park. He will be talking with one of the members to go over the service. A potluck dinner will be served afterwards; everyone should bring a dish to pass.

This coming weekend will be the end of Allen's second year of Lay School. He will be going for continuing education classes in the future.

His last item mentioned is that we may want to change the language in our constitution so that there is not a specific number designated for a quorum. Right now, it states that we would need twenty-five church members to form a quorum.

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church
Tuesday May 12, 2026

Spirit Creek Church Council meeting was called to order by President Joel Busse at 7:01 pm. Council members present were Joel & Peggie Busse, Cindy Dressler, Mary Peterson, Kurt Salveson, & Dena Stenulson. Joel opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer.

The Secretary's report, for April, was read by Joel Busse. Peggie made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mary, motion passed.

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

Balance on Hand April 1, 2026	\$13,014.88
Receipts	<u>5,950.71</u>
	\$18,965.59
Disbursements	(4,017.78)
Transferred to General Savings	<u>(11,307.75)</u>
Balance on Hand March 31, 2026	\$ 3,640.06

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report as is with the addition of "Joel's suggestion that a note in the treasurer's report should state that \$906.00 was transferred to the Kyser family's account." Motion carried.

Old Business:

The pancake breakfast was a huge success.

New Business:

The amount of money in the checking was questioned. It was suggested to leave only a month and a half's worth of money in the checking and put the rest in savings. Mary made a motion, seconded by Peggie, to transfer money to the savings. Motion carried.

We were reminded of the Ark Encounter Trip.

Joel suggested giving a gift to Lisa Johnson for teaching Spirit Creek's confirmand's the past couple years. Council agreed to get Lisa a gift certificate for Castle Hill. Council also wanted to give a gift to Kurt Salveson for his years of teaching, However, he declined. So, we would like to give a big THANK YOU to you Kurt! We Truly appreciate you and everything you have done for our young people.

Peggie gave each council member a Spirit Creek membership list, per Mary Peterson's request. This list is going to be reviewed and updated.

Kurt questioned if we should continue the radio transmission. It was decided to discontinue using it for now, with hopes to never having to use it again. But if we do, we will keep it on hand.

A motion was made by Peggie, seconded by Cindy to adjourn at 7:59. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Dena Stenulson sitting in for Karla Engebretson

New Testament



Across

4. Letter name and Paul's representative, in two parts
7. Letter name for the Rock
8. Letter name and Paul's other associate
10. Letter to a church in a city destroyed in an earthquake in 60s CE
12. Beatles' song 13. Letter name and Jesus' brother
15. "Love is patient." 16. Acts of the -----
18. There is no "s" 19. Comes after Acts

Down

1. Original language of the Old Testament, with an 's'
2. Particularly friendly letter
3. Often used as scriptural support for slavery and wifely obedience
5. Among the earliest letters, in 2 parts
6. Letter to free a slave
9. Fourth gospel
11. Starts with a genealogy
14. Fast-paced gospel
17. Thought to have been written by the author of Acts

Little Norway **JUNE 2026** Spirit Creek

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 7:00 pm Little Norway Council meets	3	4	5	6	
Holy Communion 9:15 am Worship @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN 11:45 am Worship Committee @ LN	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:15 am Worship @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN	15	16	17 10:00 am WELCA Ladies Meet	18 Newsletter Deadline 	19	20	
					Juneteenth		
21 9:15 am Worship @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28 9:15 am Worship @ SC 10:45 am Worship @ LN	29	30					