



2026 FIREWORKS CELEBRATIONS!

★ ★ AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY ★ ★

6/27 - Neillsville

Freedom Celebration

7/3 - Millston

Millston Family Fun Day
Fireworks Over Lake Lee

7/3 - Warrens

Birkholz Field

7/4 - Hatfield

Fireworks over Lake Arbutus

7/4 - Neillsville

Clark Co Fairgrounds

7/4 - Sparta

Bicycle Parade & Fireworks
in Memorial Park

7/4 - Tomah

4th of July Celebration

Downtown Tomah

Fireworks at Recreation Park

7/4 - Melrose

Melrose 4th of July

Parade & Celebration

Melrose Recreation Park

7/10 - Hixton

9th Annual Dinner, Dance & Cornhole

Tournament

7/11- Black River Falls

Festival in the Park

7/18- Humbird

Big Bang Celebration

Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish Newsletter

July – August 2026

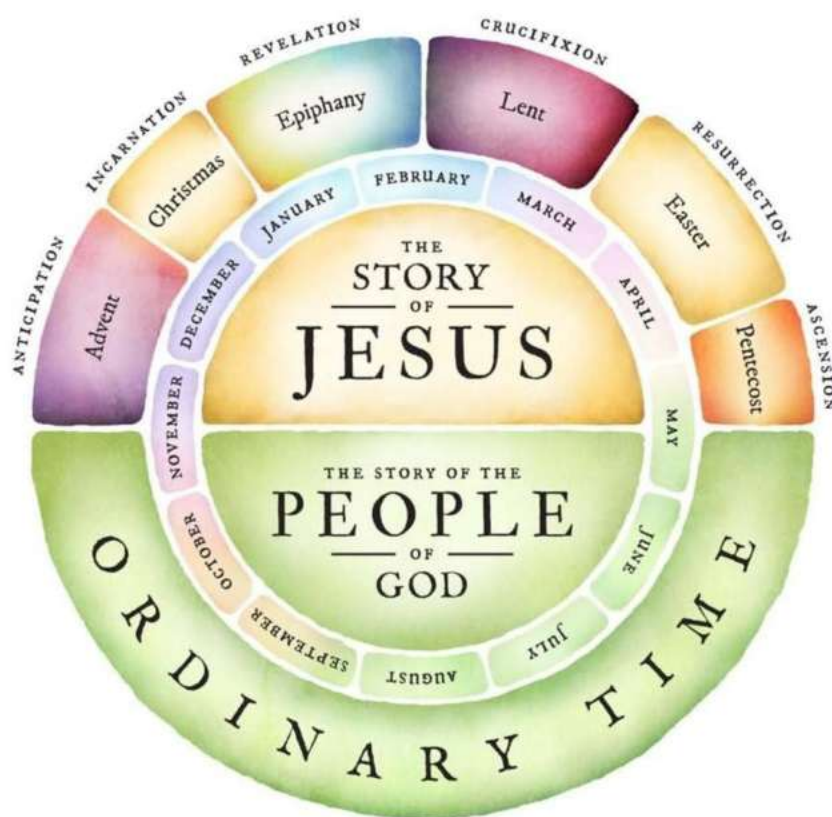
When I think of July and August, I'm reminded that we are entering the period of time when we experience the hottest days of summer. Crops are growing, grass is growing, wildlife is flourishing on the fresh fruits of God's provision. Strawberry season is just past. Fresh red raspberries and blackberries will soon be ready for picking. Sweet corn will soon be ready too. It's the time of year when we have the hottest and most humid days of the year. It can be the hottest and most uncomfortable part of the summer season. We call it the dog days of summer, right? It's right around the corner.

In the Merriam-Webster dictionary, one definition of 'dog days' is: **a period of stagnation or inactivity**. It's a time when it's hard to get motivated to do extra work because it's just plain uncomfortable to work hard. Even the dogs are lazy and lay in the shade.

Pastor Cal has reminded us that we are in a time of year called 'Ordinary Time'. This picture does a good job of showing the church year and how 'Ordinary Time' compares to the other seasons in the church calendar. July, August and the dog days of summer are right in the middle of Ordinary Time.

(continued)

The Church Year



Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish Newsletter

As disciples of Jesus, we are to respond to the needs of the people, to rely on God's provisions and go forth in the world to carry on the work of healing. We are disciples of Jesus in all times and in all places, not matter the weather, or the season or the date on the calendar.

So, in these dog days of summer, don't get complacent. Go and do. Act as disciples! Look around the community and see where the needs are. People are hungry every day in our community. Bring non-perishables food items to church and drop them off. A little or a lot, it doesn't matter. It all adds up. We'll be sure to get it all to the food shelf. Look for the lonely. Pick up the phone and call on someone you haven't heard from or seen in a long while. It will make their day, and it will be good for you too!

Make this Ordinary Time extraordinary!

Remember the time switch on July 12. Little Norway will start at 9:15 and Spirit Creek at 10:45. Also on July 12 there will be multiple baptisms at Little Norway!

Come and be a part of the celebration!

Get ready for a memorable joint outdoor worship service on August 9 at 10:30 at the Upper Lunda Park shelter. The service will be led by 'Breaking Chains', a contemporary Christian band composed of members from Black River Falls, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and northwestern Wisconsin. Please come and feel the energy and passion that 'Breaking Chains' brings and their message of hope.

Connect with God in a powerful way!

People of God, go and do!

Peace to you all.

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM

Dear Women of the ELCA:

Summer Solstice happens on June 21st. This day has the longest daylight period and the shortest night. It is the start of summer. It makes me a little sad as I feel summer is going by a little too quickly and astrologically, it hasn't even begun yet! It's hard to put your head around this. One of the delights of summer has been enjoying strawberries. There was just the right amount of sunshine and rain to grow beautiful berries.

On June 17th, Cathy did an excellent job in leading our first Bible Study from "Living a Purposeful Life." After much discussion, we all had a lot to think about regarding our relationship with God. Thanks to Sue for serving lunch. We were glad to have you join us.

At our June meeting we talked about where to have our annual summer luncheon. It was suggested we go to the Skyline Golf Course this year. I checked with a few folks and they thought that would be a good place to gather. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. on July 1st. If someone needs a ride, please call me. We cordially invite our sisters from Spirit Creek to join us as well.

The South Beaver Creek Lutheran Church shared this on Facebook.

**Every day you are planting
something in your mind.**

**You can water your worries,
or you can water your faith.**

**Only one will produce
*peace.***

So true! I have to be reminded of this frequently.

God's Peace and Happy 4th of July!

Karen Foust, President
Little Norway WELCA President



July Birthdays:

Mary Peterson
Bonnie Harmes
Ron Ernst

August Birthdays:

Cindy Dressler
Eloise Olson
Max Hart



If you would like your name on the birthday list, please email me at:
Inscsecretary@outlook.com

Squaw Creek Cemetery
Association will be meeting
on July 14 @ 6:30 at Spirit
Creek Church



Gifts at Little Norway



Memorial Fund

In memory of Mark Gilbertson
Given by: Gene Hart
Doyle and Debra Gilbertson
Becky Ilhe
Judy Gilbertson
Alice and Everett Larkin & Friends.

We Extend our thoughts and prayers to
the family of Weston Dean Kyser who
passed away on
June 12, 2026.

Basic
Information
Before
Leaving
Earth

Confirmation News

There will be a confirmation meeting for parents and students on Wednesday, August 26th, 6:00pm, at Little Norway. This is for first year and second year students. If you are going into 7th grade and are planning on reaffirming your baptism through confirmation classes, please contact Lisa Johnson as soon as possible.

715-896-0366 or ajljajcj@gmail.com

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex at Spirit Creek for Altar Guild and Janitorial Services. If you would like to volunteer for either one or both, please sign up.

**You are
Awesome!**

Thank you
Dena
Stenulson
for the hard
work done
on the flower
garden. It
looks great.

Remember to visit
our website. It's
updated regularly.
lnsclutheran.org

Spirit Creek
and Little
Norway are
both
collecting
items for the
Food Shelf.
There are
boxes in the
Narthex for
your donation.

Did you know,
donations can be
made through our
website?
lnsclutheran.org

Spirit Creek is
looking for
Sunday School
Teachers. If you
are interested,
please let a
council member
know.

**Jesus
Loves you!**



Spirit Creek's
noisy offering
for July and
August will go
to the Food
Shelf.

Little Norway Lutheran Church

Tuesday June 2, 2026

Little Norway Church Council meeting was called to order by President Mark Hansen at 7:03 pm. Council members present were Cindy Hansen, Betzey Messelt, Mark Emerson, Barry Murray, 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 Barry Murray seconded. Motion carried.

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

Balance on Hand May 1, 2026	\$ 4,555.89
Receipts	<u>6,711.00</u>
Total	\$11,266.89
Disbursements	<u>(8,909.97)</u>
Balance on Hand May 31, 2026	\$ 2,356.92

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

Old Business: After Mark Hansen checked into the cost difference on the property insurance if increased to \$ 5,000 from \$ 1,000, he found it would only decrease the payment by approximately \$ 300.00. It will be left as is for now. After checking with other insurance companies, they either would not cover the parsonage since no one is living there, or it would be very expensive to insure the church's stained-glass windows.

Mark also brought up replacing the worn carpet on the front entry steps. Betzey made a motion to replace this carpet and Trina Johnson seconded. Cindy will look into a couple of businesses to get estimates for the carpet.

A special thank you to Ron Danielson for helping to fill in holes and to clean the cemetery this spring.

Reminder: please remove well faded and outdated decorations from the graves this spring.

SAM update: Allen stated that Lois Ferris and Scott and Jackie Ramgren will be welcomed as new members on June 14th. For the June services, the first and third Sunday will be led by Pastor Cal Thorseson, second Sunday will be Allen, and the fourth Sunday will be led by Norm Converse.

Education update: Next week the Road Trip Vacation Bible School will be held. Fifteen to seventeen students are expected to participate this year. On Tuesday, the children will be taken to Just a Horse Sanctuary. A donation of \$ 800.00 will be given to the Sanctuary.

New Business: Allen mentioned the idea of having a Game Night during the summer, along with tentatively setting the date for the next Movie Night as October 17th.

As there is no council meeting next month, the next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4th at 7:00 pm. Mark Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 9, 2026

President, Joel Busse, opened the meeting at 6:59 with prayer. Those present included: Peggie and Joel Busse, Lori Roseth, Cindy Dressler, Allen Johnson, Cal Burge, Kurt Salveson, Mary Peterson, and Karla Engebretson.

The secretary's report was read. There was an error in Cindy's name. With that correction a motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Cal to approve the minutes. All in favor; motion passed.

The treasurer's report was presented by Cindy. A motion was made by Peggie; seconded by Karla to approve the report. All in favor; motion passed and report put on file.

Balance on Hand May 1, 2026	\$3,640.08
Total Contributions	\$3,117.58
Total Disbursements	\$1,696.96
Balance on Hand May 31, 2026	\$5,060.68
Noisy Offerings for March and April	\$246.33

Old Business:

- Ark Encounter trip. Peggie said there were about 15 people signed up.
- Kurt, Mary, and Karla will work on updating the membership list.

New Business:

- Kurt mentioned that the furnace needs to be serviced this year for the warranty.
- July/August noisy offerings will go to the food shelf.
- Peggie asked about having cookies and coffee after the joint service on July 5.
- Cindy received the bill from the insurance company. She will pay for the year to save money.
- The service on July 12 will be accompanied by Gene Johnson on the guitar as there will not be any organists.
- July 19 we will be switching service times for the next year. We will start at 10:45.
- August 9 joint outdoor service will be at 10:30.
- Peggie let the council know that she will no longer be able to continue as parish secretary. She will continue through 2026 if needed.
- Kurt mentioned that the siding on the side of the church needs attention.

A motion was made by Cal; and seconded by Cindy to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm. All in favor; motion passed. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by church secretary, Karla Engebretson

Little Norway

JULY 2026

Spirit Creek

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1 11:30 am WELCA Ladies Meet @ Skyline	2	3	4 Independence Day Celebrating 250 Years
Holy Communion 10:00 am Joint Service @ Little Norway	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship Time 12 Change 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 Worship @ SC	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	27	28	29	30	31	1

Little Norway AUGUST 2026 Spirit Creek

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Jackson County Fair
Holy Communion 2 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC 11:45 am Worship Committee @ SC	3 7:00 pm Little Norway Council meets	4 10:00 am WELCA Ladies Meet	5	6	7	8
9 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 Worship @ SC	10 7:00 pm Spirit Creek Council meets	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	17 Newsletter Deadline 	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	24	25 6:00 pm Confirmation Meeting for Students and Parents @ LN	26	27	28	29
30 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	31	1	2	3	4	5