

Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish Newsletter



September 2026

Oh, boy, Labor Day weekend is here! We are approaching late summer and that time of year when we start looking to settle into the routine of the Autumn season. Our gardens are ripe for the picking. Public schools are back in session now. Sunday School is starting up on September 13, and we are all looking forward to a fresh, new start to the Sunday School year. Confirmation classes will be starting with Lisa on September 9. Look for an announcement about confirmation further back in this newsletter.

Lisa and I are both enrolled again in the Lay School of Ministry which starts up on September 11 and 12. There is a movie night scheduled for October 17 at Little Norway in the Gathering Room. More details to come concerning this in the October newsletter.

Our worship service Gospel lessons for September continue to come from the Book of Matthew, as they have throughout the entire summer. In these four Sundays, we will hear what Jesus has to say about conflict resolution, forgiveness, justice, fairness and doing God's will. Conflict is a part of all relationships and life in community and modern society. These Gospel lessons can give us all good guidance and direction as, every day, we face a divisive, conflicted world that needs more patience, compassion and forgiveness. The words and parables of Jesus are just what we need to help us navigate the world and direct our relationships in these times.

You may have read in minutes of the June Spirit Creek council meeting in the July/August newsletter that Peggie Busse, has decided to step down as the parish secretary. On behalf of the Spirit Creek and Little Norway congregations and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Peggie for all that she has done for us all in her time of service to the parish. She embraced the role completely and has done a wonderful job. Personally, she has been invaluable in keeping me informed of issues that I may not have been aware of and in helping to keep me on schedule. and when I get behind, she's always given me the gentle nudge or poke that I needed to keep myself up to speed. Peggie has become a trusted confidant and friend and for that, I am grateful.

The Little Norway and Spirit Creek councils have voted to approve the hiring of Lisa Johnson as the parish secretary beginning on September 1. We wish Lisa all the best as she now steps up into a new role.

Again, Peggie, thank you for everything!

Peace to you all,

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM

Hello to All,

I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your patience, kindness, encouragement, and support throughout my time as Parish Secretary. I have truly loved this position and feel very blessed and honored to have been given the opportunity to serve our churches in this way.

A special thank you to Pastor Augie, my daughter Mindy, SAM Allen Johnson, Carolyn Burge, and everyone else who offered their help and guidance when I first stepped into this position. Your support meant more to me than you may ever know, and I will always be grateful for the kindness you showed me along the way.

Leaving this position is bittersweet. I truly love what I do, but unfortunately, my body is telling me that it is time to slow down and pass the torch to someone new. While this is not an easy decision, I know it is the right one.

Lisa Johnson will be taking over as Parish Secretary, and I am confident that she will bring her own talents, ideas, and enthusiasm to the position. I wish Lisa nothing but the very best as she begins this new chapter, and I look forward to seeing all the wonderful things she will bring to our churches.

Thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Parish Secretary. It has been an honor, a blessing, and a chapter of my life that I will always hold close to my heart.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Peggie Busse

Dear WELCA Ladies:

Today, August 14th, I watered, trimmed and fertilized my flowers. They have been through a wet and cold spring and now a hot dry July and August. However, they have survived and thrived through it all. I believe this is like the love that our Lord has for us. He stays with us through our challenges, and ups and downs. His love and support is always there surrounding us.

On July 8th, nineteen women enjoyed lunch at the Skyline Golf Course. We had a delicious lunch accompanied by laughter and fellowship.

On August 5th, Bible Study was held at the Pine View Terrace. Two of our Little Norway Ladies are now residing at the Terrace, Joanne Capper and Karen Hanson. We had an interesting Bible Study followed by refreshments and visiting.

On September 2nd at 10:00, Jackie Langren will demonstrate on how to make lefse. Our opening devotional will be provided by Lois Bahnub and our hostesses will be Margaret Peterson and Ann Rice. It sounds like a delicious, Norwegian morning! We will also be having a business meeting.

Enjoy the last days of summer as they are going fast. I have included a poem by Lenore Hetrick.

August Days

The last of summer and the first of fall-
Together they stand in August Days.
The garden is bright with summer bloom,
And yet there creeps up that autumn haze.
You can look forward or look backwards
To a lovely summer you would recall,
But the changing of the season has come-
The last of summer and the first of fall.

In God's Peace,
Karen Foust
Little Norway WELCA



Confirmation News

We will start Confirmation classes on September 9, 2026, at 6:00pm at Little Norway Lutheran Church. Please remember to bring your materials and bible.

Shawn Callisto
Is Spirit Creek's
new Event's
Coordinator.
When you see
Shawn, please be
sure to Thank her
for doing this
important role for
us. 😊

**You are
Awesome!**

There are sign-up
sheets in the Narthex
at Spirit Creek for
Altar Guild, Janitorial
Services, and
upcoming snow
shoveling.
If you would like to
volunteer for any of
these services,
please sign up in the
Narthex.

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

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

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



September Birthdays

Nancy Mason

Larry McDonald

Lisa Johnson



If you would like your name on the birthday list, to show up here on the month of your birthday. please email me at:

Inscsecretary@outlook.com

Gifts at Spirit Creek

Memorial Fund:

In memory of **Sue Henthorn**
from Karen and Bill Foust &
from Clarice Franke

In memory of **Fred Stein**
From Lori and Monte Roseth

Gifts to Little Norway Cemetery

A gift to the Little Norway
Cemetery Fund was given in
memory of:

Mark Gilbertson

From Cleo Faldet Scharlau and
family; Scot Faldet, Brenda
Gilbertson, Karen Petkour and
Ann Moen.

**We Extend our thoughts
and prayers to the family
Sue Henthorn who
passed away on June 25,
And Fred Stein who
passed away on August 1.
Blessed be their memory.**

First Communion Class will
be held on September 19,
2026, beginning at 9:00 am
and ending at 3:00 pm. All
students fifth grade and
above are welcome to
attend. Please call Cathy
Converse at 715-299-9230 if
you haven't already heard
from her. Parents are not
required to attend but are
certainly welcome. Food and
beverage will be provided.

Spirit Creek's

Annual

Fall Festival

October 17, 2026
10:00 am-1:00 pm

- **Lunch will be served
for Freewill offering**
- **Bake sale items**
- **Silent auction items**
- **Walk around raffles**



Little Norway Lutheran Church

Tuesday August 4, 2026

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

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

The Treasurer's report for June and July was given by Cindy Hansen.

Balance on Hand May 31, 2026	\$ 2,356.92
Receipts	<u>11,642.18</u>
Total	\$ 13,999.10
Disbursements	<u>(7,901.66)</u>
Balance on Hand July 31, 2026	\$ 6,097.44

Bruce made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Allen Johnson. Motion carried.

Old Business: The new carpet has been installed on the front entry steps. A special thank you to Roger and Mary Heineck for paying for the carpet replacement.

New Business: Mark Hansen brought up that Cindy's computer is outdated and needs to be replaced.

Mark Emerson made a motion to buy a new computer, and Lisa Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was then discussed that Peggy Busse would like to step down as the Parish Secretary. Lisa Johnson has expressed interest in this position. It will be discussed during next week's meeting at Spirit Creek.

Some maintenance items were discussed. Gaier Construction will be replacing the Plexi-glass in steeple with glass. Right now, it has a yellow hue to it due to the Plexi-glass. Mark H. will be getting new weather strip for the front door and installing it. After having issues with the air conditioner in back not cooling, it was noticed that it still had the cover on. Going forward, the cover will be kept off the A/C unit.

Mark H. met with the insurance company as they needed to go through the church. They looked at the furnaces, lift, fire extinguishers, etc. to make sure they were in working order. One area that needs attention would be in the basement where the Sunday School meets; area needs to be cleaned up. Trina said that they are getting more storage to help alleviate this problem.

Cont...

The Trustees will need to meet to renew Allen's contract in September.

SAM update: Allen talked about church security and items to purchase such as an AED defibrillator. During church service, it may be a good idea to have side door and back door locked during church services as a safety precaution.

The minister site profile on the Synod's website needs to be updated in November. It will be discussed with both parishes how to answer these questions this year.

The last item he talked about was 1st Communion. The class is tentatively going to be September 19th ; September 20th will tentatively be the church service in which the communion will take place for three students from Little Norway and two students from Spirit Creek.

Education update: Lisa Johnson went through some Confirmation questions regarding the quantity of sermon notes required and Sunday School Attendance. She will be asking Spirit Creek's input as well. She will begin her second year of Lay School in September, while Allen will be going for continuing education. Bruce made a motion to pay towards tuition for both Lisa and Allen, Mark Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm with a joint council meeting starting at 7:00 pm at Little Norway. Mark Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary



Gifts to Little Norway

Thank you to Roger and Mary Heineck for the gift of the front step carpet.

Memorial Fund

In memory of Duane Johnson from his wife Fran

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 11, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by Joel Busse. Allen opened the meeting with prayer. Those in attendance were Joel and Peggie Busse, Cindy Dressler, Cal Burge, Mary Peterson, Allen Johnson, Kurt Salveson, Dena Stenulson, and Lori Roseth. Also we had guest attendees, Lisa Johnson and Mark Hansen.

The Secretary's report was read. There was an error in the New Business. The time switch was on July 12 instead of July 19. A motion was made by Cindy to approve the minutes and seconded by Lori, motion passed.

The treasures report was read by Cindy for June and July. Motion was made by Cal and seconded by Dena to approve both reports as presented. Motion passed.

Balance on hand June 1, 2026	\$5,060.68	Balance on hand July 1, 2026	\$2,340.48
Total Contributions	\$2,779.47	Total Contributions	\$3,585.12
Total Disbursements	\$9,500.07	Total Disbursements	\$2,194.35
Balance on hand on June 30, 2026	\$2,340.08	Balance on hand July 31, 2026	\$3,730.85

OLD BUSINESS:

- Kurt gave an update, saying we are still on the list with Custom Heating, to be serviced as time allows.
- Cal fixed the siding issue that needed attention. Thank you, Cal. Your service is much appreciated.
- Lisa Johnson has agreed to be the new Parish Secretary. A motion was made by Cal, seconded by Peggie, motion passed. She will take over in September.
- Breaking Chains was a big hit. Allen asked about having them again next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mark Hansen was in attendance to speak about the Parsonage. There have been uninvited guests camping out and using electric causing the bill to go up. Also, the insurance company typically will not insure a vacant home, even if we used it as an office. Something to think about. Mark has also asked to have a joint council meeting next month to have further discussion. Next meeting will be September 8. Individual meetings at 6:30 at Little Norway and Joint council to follow at 7:00 pm.
- Allen's Sam Contract is coming up in September. Trustees will meet before at the parsonage on September 1 @ 6:00 pm.

Cont...

- Lisa Johnson was also in attendance to discuss confirmation classes and stressed the need for confirmation students to attend Sunday School.
- Peggie and Bonnie met with Shawn Callisto. Shawn has agreed to be the new Events Coordinator. The Fall Fest will be October 17 from 10am-1:00 pm
- Allen asked about policies and fees for Spirit Creek. Ex: Weddings, funerals for non-members , burials, etc.
- Kurt stated that Sunday School will start on September 13 @ 9:30am-10:30am. We are asking ALL members to invite the children they know to Sunday School this year. And if anyone is willing to be a teacher, we are looking for a teacher for the younger children.
- Kurt also stated he has enough material left over from last year to use for this year. Peggie, Mary, and Linda are the board of Education. Kurt is asking for help, to make some phone calls and to teach Sunday School if we don't find anyone else to teach.
- Allen stated that 1st Communion will be on September 20
- Noisy offering for September/October will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Peggie made a motion to adjourn to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Lori . All in favor, motion passed. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Joel Busse



Squaw Creek Cemetery Association Annual Meeting
July 14, 2026

Present: Karla Engebretson, Bonnie Harmes, Mary Peterson, Kurt Salvesson

The meeting was called to order by Karla at 6:35 PM.

Secretary's Report was read by Mary. Approved

Treasurer's Report was placed on file. Co-op Credit Union: Checking \$15,005.49
Savings \$ 470.81

Waumandee State Bank: CD \$9,453.09 CD \$11,719.44
Savings \$2,481.84

Discussion as to which account(s) is the Perpetual Care Fund. Bonnie will attempt to find out the answer to that question.

Karla will be working on putting up the cemetery "donation information mailbox."

Bonnie is working on the cemetery map/directory. Discussion on possibilities for the fence next to Highway P. Tom and Leonard are authorized to make improvements/changes as they see fit.

Possibilities for cemetery expansion were discussed. No action taken.

Working on name change was tabled.

Bonnie suggested that we meet again before next July.

Adjourned at 7:20 PM

Mary Peterson, Secretary

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			10:00 am WELCA Ladies Meet			
		1	2	3	4	5
Holy Communion 9:15 am Worship @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC 11:45 am Worship Committee @ SC		6:30 pm each council meets at LN 7:00 Joint council meets	6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:15 am Worship @ LN 9:30 am Sunday School @ SC 10:30 am Sunday School @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC			6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN		Newsletter Deadline 	First Communion Class 9:00 am-3:00 pm At Little Norway
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15 am Worship @ LN 9:30 am Sunday School @ SC 10:30 am Sunday School @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC			6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15 am Worship @ LN 9:30 am Sunday School @ SC 10:30 am Sunday School @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC			6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN			
27	28	29	30			