

Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish Newsletter



October 2026

October is presenting the parish of Little Norway – Spirit Creek with an important decision. What to do with the parsonage. Should it be kept or should it be sold? Should it be kept in the hope that it will be used again someday as a possible home for a new pastor? Is it time to let it go so that it can be put to use by a new owner. There are many serious thoughts and questions to consider when addressing these questions. Both Spirit Creek and Little Norway will be holding congregational meetings following Sunday worship services on October 11. Please plan to attend the congregational meetings planned. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss the situation with the parsonage and ultimately vote on the decision to sell or not to sell. It's very important that voting members be present and participate.

Many of you who are reading this letter knew my mother and knew her well. I remember her commenting to me many times over the years how she enjoyed going to church on Sunday. She would say, "It just makes me feel better." I cherish that memory and agree with that line of thinking because I feel that way as well. Whether it's at Spirit Creek or at Little Norway, just getting together with my brothers and sisters in Christ, neighbors, strangers and friends alike, that sense of community is encouraging. The conversations that we all have while catching up with everyone on a regular basis are uplifting. There is joy in that fellowship!

Beyond that, however, we gather so that we can be sent. Attending Sunday worship services equips us as followers of Jesus to boldly GO into our community and live out our calling as disciples of Jesus. In baptism, we are to:

- live among God's faithful people and
- hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.

That is how we are equipped and should live, but then we are sent. We are to:

- proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
- strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

That is how we make this world a better place. By following Jesus' lead and loving our neighbors as ourselves, whoever and wherever they may be.

If you haven't been to Sunday worship services lately, I would invite you to come again. Be nourished by hearing the Word of the Gospel and be inspired to go and do. If you need help with transportation, just reach out, we have folks who would love to help you.

Peace to you.

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM

Dear WELCA Friends:

All of sudden the days are shorter and the temperatures are getting cooler. Hopefully, we have a long fall.

Fall weather brings on the thoughts of fall sports, for some of us football. We have all heard about the young man from Alma Center who tragically lost his life because of injuries sustained at his first football game of the season. Our grandson, Sawyer, the quarterback for GET High School, tore his ACL at his first football game. No more football or basketball. He will have knee surgery on September 22nd. This has been hard on the hearts of his parents and grandparents. We place so much emphasis on high school sports. My grandson said, "Grandma, I feel blessed that my injuries weren't worse," thinking about his fellow football player from Alma Center. How do we rise above our adversities? It's through God sending love, prayers and support to share through our friends, teammates and our families. When we face life's challenges, there is only one source that can give us strength through the difficult days. That source of strength is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dig deep when your days are difficult, God is there in our midst. Are you a member of God's team?

Did you smell the delicious lefse made by Jackie on September 2nd? Wow, you folks missed a most delicious morning. Jackie was such an excellent teacher. I think we all learned something about lefse making. She is willing to have another demonstration closer to the holidays. Don't miss it! I'll keep you posted. Men are invited to attend this fun day as well.

October 7th will be our Bible Study entitled, "Are God's Purposes So Mysterious?" All members are asked to contribute to the study. Charlotte Overlien and I will be in charge of the lunch. Please plan to attend on October 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room. This is a quote from our October Bible Study, written by Patsy Clairmont. "If we're not intimately familiar with His manual (the Bible), what are the chances we'll understand His ways?"

**Sending God's Peace to you Today.
Karen Foust, Little Norway WELCA**

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On **10/11/26**, there will be a special congregational meeting after each service to vote on whether to keep or sell the Parsonage. Please attend and vote! If you would like more information, see Mark Hansen or Joel Busse or any council member.

Confirmation News

In September, we learned about the Canonization of the Bible, and studied the books of Genesis and Exodus. In October, we will continue to learn about the Books of Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), Judges, Ruth and Kings.

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

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?

Insclutheran.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.
Insclutheran.org

October Leaders:
October 4
Pastor Cal Thoreson
October 11
SAM Allen Johnson
October 18
Pastor Cal Thoreson
October 25
Norm Converse



Spirit Creek's noisy offering for September and October will go to the **Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund**.



October Birthdays

Allen Johnson
Cheryl McDonald
Joanne Capper
Allen Thompson
Joel Busse
Jackie Ramgren
Michelle Sheppard-Jerome

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

lnscsecretary@outlook.com



Gifts at Spirit Creek

Bulletin sponsor on 9/6/26 by **Karla Engebretson** in honor of her niece/goddaughter Keoni Dobson, who was married of 9/5/26.

Bulletin sponsor on 10/4/26 by **Cal and Carolyn Burge** in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 2.

In memory of Fred Stein from David Emerson

Gifts to Spirit Creek Cemetery

A gift to the Spirit Creek Cemetery Fund was given in memory of:

Fred Stein

from Nyla Musser

From Manfred and Cheri Peterson

Congratulations to Linken Stenulson, Franklin Stenulson, Holly Messelt, Tristyn Murphy and Oliver Smith on receiving their First Communion on 9/20/26.



We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of **Judy Danielson** who passed away on **August 18, 2026**

We joyfully welcome and congratulate

Victoria Marie Capper

Jordan Lee Rose

Lana Lee Johnson

(daughter of Julia and Nathan Johnson) on their Baptism on 7/19/26.



TWO GREAT EVENTS

October 17, 2026

Spirit Creek's

Annual

Fall Festival

10:00 am-1:00 pm

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

Contact Shawn Callisto to volunteer to work the event! Also donations of baked goods, items for walk around raffle and silent auction needed. Sign up sheets are at Spirit Creek or call Shawn at 715-299-9066 or privately message on messenger.



MOVIE NIGHT at Little Norway

Bring a dish to pass. Meal beginning at 5:00pm
with movie to follow



Based on a remarkable true story, *Unsung Hero* follows David Smallbone as he moves his family from Down Under to the States, searching for a brighter future with nothing more than their seven children, suitcases, and their love of music.

Little Norway Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 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, Cathy Converse, Cindy Hansen, Lisa Johnson, Betzy Messelt, Paul and Trina Johnson, Bruce Johnson, Barry Murray and Chris Gerdes.

Bill made a motion to accept the Secretary's report for August and Cathy seconded. Motion carried.

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

Balance on Hand August 1, 2026	\$ 6,097.44
Receipts	<u>6,426.25</u>
Total	\$12,523.69
Disbursements	<u>5,218.29</u>
Balance on Hand August 21, 2026	\$7,305.40

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

Education Committee updates: Sunday School will start on September 13th. First Communion class will be held on 9/19/26; there will be six students participating: four from Little Norway and two from Spirit Creek. Confirmation class will begin on September 9th.

Old Business: Cathy mentioned the discussion of locking the side and back doors during the church service as a safety precaution. At this time, still deciding on how to proceed.

New Business: Cathy made a motion to move forward with Gaier Construction replacing the plexiglass in front of the three steeple windows with clear glass. Their quote was around \$ 2,500.00. Bruce Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Hansen ordered the weatherstripping from Scholze and it will be installed on the front entry door.

Vicky Emerson has proposed that cubby holes be installed on the back wall downstairs, however, our insurance wants doors on all cabinets. It was proposed to have storage with sliding doors or hinged doors. Betzy made a motion to have the Sunday School storage built with the design to follow. Trina seconded. Motion carried.

The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm . Meeting was adjourned and we then went into a joint session with Spirit Creek.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church Council minutes
September 8, 2026

President Joel Busse opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. Those present included: Joel Busse, Cindy Dressler, Mary Peterson, Dena Stenulson , Cal Burge, Kurt Salveson.

The secretary's report was read. There were no corrections made. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Dena and seconded by Cal. All in favor: Motion passed

The Treasurer's report was presented by Cindy. A motion was made by Cal and seconded by Mary to approve the report. Motion passed. Report accepted as is.

Balance on hand September 1, 2026.	3730.85
Total Contributions	3415.39
Total Disbursements	2293.77
Balance on hand Sept 8, 2026	4852.47

Old Business:

- Allen suggested the church usage policies need to be reviewed and possibly updated. The usage policy will be discussed at the next council meeting
- A reminder to all that Sunday school will start Sept 13, 2026

New Business:

- A family is planning a baptism at Spirit Creek. We will need to check on supplies for handouts for the family
- Spirit Creek 's part of contributions for Allen Johnson's on-going education is shared with Little Norway

The next joint council meeting will be held at Spirit Creek Dec. 8 2026

A motion was made by Kurt and seconded by Cindy to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm All in favor; Motion approved. Allen and closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Dena Stenulson

Little Norway-Spirit Creek Joint Council Meeting

September 8, 2026

Little Norway and Spirit Creek met in joint session at 7:22 pm. Allen opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer.

New Business: Future of the parsonage was discussed. We have been in the call process for the last two years. A new minister's salary with benefits just out of Seminary School would cost approximately \$100,000/year with living at the parsonage; \$ 115,000/year without living at the parsonage. We would also be responsible for paying for the heat, electricity and phone charges in either scenario.

Insurance companies do not want to insure this property without anyone living in it. The homeless have tried to get into the parsonage through the basement windows. We believe they have also been using the electricity to charge their phones. Power has now been turned off; as well as new locks being installed on the garage and porch doors.

If keeping the parsonage, a new roof will need to be installed in 2029; this would be fifteen years after the last one was installed in 2014. We have, however, updated the wiring, replaced the windows and moved washer/dryer to the first floor.

After a discussion, Cathy Converse made a motion to move forward and have a congregational meeting to discuss the sale of the parsonage at church on October 11th. Trina seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

The Trustees had met to review the SAM contract. It was decided that Allen Johnson would continue as a SAM and to increase his salary to \$ 15,000/yr. The contract was signed by all parties after the meeting.

Our Ministry Site Profile on the Synod website will need to be updated by December. It was decided to keep our profile up to date marking that we would be interested in either a part-time or full-time minister.

Lisa Johnson accepted the parish secretary position. Her office hours will be Monday and Friday mornings. Her contact information is lnscsecretary@outlook.com and her phone number is 715 896-0366.

It was decided that the next joint council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm at Spirit Creek; the separate church councils will meet at 6:30 pm.

Cal Burge made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Betzy seconded. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary.



Church is Fun

Word Search

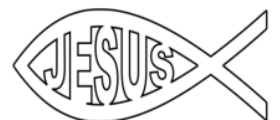
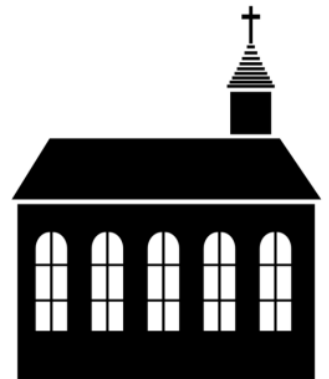
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Word list:

BELIEF
BLESSINGS
CHRIST
CHURCH
COMPASSION
COURAGE
ETERNAL
FAITH
FAITHFULNESS
FORGIVENESS

FRIENDSHIP
GIVING
GOD
GRACE
GUIDANCE
HEALING
HEAVEN
HOLY
HOPE
JESUS

JOY
LOVE
MERCY
OBEDIENCE
PATIENCE
PEACE
SALVATION
SPIRIT
TRUTH
WISDOM



OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Worship Committee meeting at LN 10:00am
Holy Communion 4 9:15 am Worship @LN 9:30 am SS @ SC 10:30 am SS @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	5	Little Norway Council Meeting 7:00pm 6	WELCA at LN 7 10:00 am 6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN	8	9	10
11 9:15 am Worship @LN 9:30 am SS @ SC 10:30 am SS @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	12	Spirit Creek Council Meeting 7:00pm 13	14 6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN	15	Don't Miss the DEADLINE! Newsletter items due 16	17 Spirit Creek Fall Festival 10:00am- 1:00pm Movie Night at LN 5:00pm
18 9:15 am Worship @LN 9:30 am SS @ SC 10:30 am SS @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	19	20	21 6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN	22	23	24
25 9:15 am Worship @LN 9:30 am SS @ SC 10:30 am SS @ LN 10:45 am Worship @ SC	26	27	28 6:00 pm Confirmation @ LN 7:00 pm Choir Practice @ LN	29	30	31