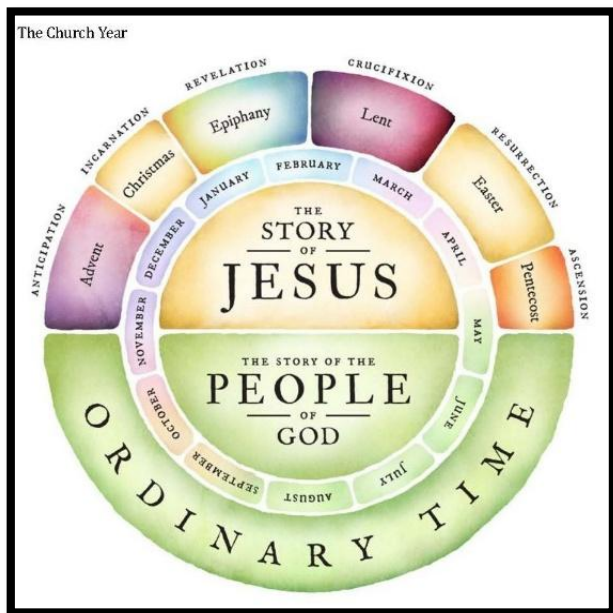


Little Norway and Spirit Creek Lutheran Parish

Newsletter

November 2026

The coming of the month of November marks another time of changing seasons. Even though the autumn season started back in September, the effect of the season is in full force now. The days are getting cooler and much, much shorter in terms of daylight. The coats of the deer in the surrounding area have turned from the rich red of summertime to a dull brown. And they are on the run! The fall harvest is nearing completion. At our house, Lisa and I have flipped the switch on the thermostat from the summer 'snowflake' of air conditioning to the winter 'flame' of the furnace.



The seasons are changing in the church as well. We have been in the 'Sundays after Pentecost', also known as 'Ordinary Time', as depicted in the image to the left, since the end of May. Before the month is over, a new church season will begin!

November 1 is All Saints Sunday. On that day, we remember the Saints, both those whose earthly life has ended in the past year and those who are newly baptized into Jesus Christ. While we mourn those whom we have lost this past year, we rejoice for those faithful ones who have won their reward. We can honor the saints by making the most of our time, living faithfully in the present and continuing in their legacy.

In November, we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving Day. Today, as in days of old, we offer praise to God for a safe and successful harvest as we have a strong, local agricultural presence. We are thankful to live in a free country with an abundance of resources and opportunities. We are thankful for our families, both at home and in our church. But while we have much to be thankful for, we must be mindful of our neighbors who are struggling to get by. One thing we can do is to share our bounties by contributing to our local food pantry. Spirit Creek and Little Norway maintain giving boxes at church where we can contribute non-perishable food items which will go to Friends Sharing Food. At this time of Thanksgiving, let's demonstrate our thanks to God by demonstrating generosity to those who are hungry right in our local community.

On Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00, we will give thanks to God in a special Thanksgiving Eve service with Holy Communion at Spirit Creek. I'm planning some new music and using new liturgy from a new book called 'All Creation Sings'. Come on out and be a part of it!

On November 29, we begin a new season in Advent and with that comes a fresh, new church year. Just hearing that word again, Advent, should get us excited for the anticipation of the events of Christmas Eve, right around the corner!

Peace to you.

Allen Harvey Johnson, SAM

Women of the **ELCA**

Dear WELCA Friends:

As I write this morning, it's looking like a gray day and by nine o'clock, a 100% chance of much needed rain. Hopefully, the farmers are doing well with their harvest and can take a break to work on other projects.

On October 7th, five ladies attended our Bible Study entitled "Are God's Purposes So Mysterious?" In summary, our guide for our lives is still the Bible. Since the Bible is the inspired Word of God, it is in no danger of becoming out-dated or antiquated. Rather, it remains living and powerful!

Please change the date in your program book for the November meeting. It should be Wednesday, **November 4th!** I sincerely apologize for that error. It will be the day after election.

I hope you plan to attend as we have many business items to cover. We will be deciding where to give our Christmas offerings and having a brief Thank offering program. Devery Hoagenson and Sylvia Peterson will be our hostesses. Last year at Christmas we packed twelve bundles for home bound or for those just needing a little Christmas cheer. During the month of November, donations received from the noisy offering will be used to purchase items for the bundles. There will also be an election of officers on November 4th. . If you would like to take a leadership position in WELCA, please let me know. We currently need a Vice President. We have a wonderful group of ladies to work with and your time is needed to help WELCA survive and thrive at Little Norway

We have not set a date as of yet, but our new member Jackie, is willing to demonstrate lefse making again. We encourage men to attend as well. It would be an afternoon of lefse making, fun and fellowship. Please let me know if you are interested.

May God's peace be with you.

Karen Foust, President
Little Norway WELCA



November Happenings

Growing in Faith Together

Check us out on



A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this
day for giving thanks, mindful of
your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the
abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a
reminder to be generous with others,
as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.

Spirit Creek Gifts

Gifted to the Cemetery Association in memory of Fred
Stein by Mary Peterson

Gifted to the Cemetery Association
from Shirley Joseph

In Memory of Shirley Joseph's parents,
Violet and Delos Campbell, from Shirley Joseph
In memory of Sue Henthorn from her family.

Noisy Offerings



November Birthdays

🍰 Carol Ernst – Nov 6

🍁 Cora Olson – Nov 20

🎈 Julie Leger – Nov 21

🦊 Peggie Busse – Nov 22

🌻 Joyce Arndt – Nov 24



Confirmation News

In November, we continue to work through The Old Testament. We will study the Babylonian Captivity, Prophets and the Books of Kings and Psalms.

Food Donations

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

Sunday School

Little Norway Sunday School students will sing during the 9:15 church service on 11/15!



November Happenings

Growing in Faith Together

Our website: lnsclutheran.org



Important Dates

Nov 25 7:00pm
Thanksgiving Eve
Service
No Confirmation Class
No Choir Practice
Nov 26
Thanksgiving Day

Little Norway Gifts

Vision Fund -
In Memory of Judy Danielson from Claire and Lois
Bahnbub
In Memory of Judy Danielson from Nyla Musser
Gifted to the Vision Fund from John and Charlotte
Overlien

Volunteers Needed

Spirit Creek - Thank you to everyone who served as church janitor, on the altar guild or who shoveled snow at the church last winter. It was a job well down and is much appreciated.
Now for this coming year, there are sign up sheets in the Narthex for those who are willing to volunteer.
Little Norway - Thank you to those who have volunteered. There are sign up sheets in the narthex for janitors and ushers.

Do you like to sing?

The Little Norway choir needs more voices to join their wonderful and fun choir group. We meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm at Little Norway.

Baptism News

We joyfully welcome and congratulate
Otto Allen Peterson,
son of Jake and
Maranda Peterson
on his baptism 10/11/26.



Online Giving

There are options to safely and securely give offerings and memorials on the website.
lnsclutheran.org

Christ in Our Home

There are Christ in our Home books in the Narthex of each church!

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family of Frederic Jerome Gilbertson, of Creswell, Oregon. Fred was born on July 13, 1937 in Black River Falls, baptized on Sept. 26, 1937 at Little Norway, passed away on August 8, 2026. His remains were interred in the Little Norway Cemetery on October 24, 2026.

November Service Leaders

November 1, Cal Thoreson
November 8, Norm Converse
November 15, Cal Thoreson
November 22, Tom Epps
November 25, Allen Johnson,
Thanksgiving Eve at SC
November 29, Allen Johnson

**Little Norway Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2026**

Little Norway Church Council meeting was called to order by President Mark Hansen at 6:55 pm. Council members present were Karen and Bill Foust, Cindy Hansen, Allen and Lisa Johnson, Betzy Messelt, Paul and Trina Johnson, and Chris Gerdes. Allen opened meeting with a prayer.

Karen made a motion to accept the Secretary's report for September and Betsy seconded. Motion carried.

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

Balance on Hand September 1, 2026	\$ 7,306.10
Receipts	5,981.12
Total	\$13,287.22
Disbursements	2,771.50
Balance on Hand August 21, 2026	\$10,515.72

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

Education Committee updates: First Communion class held on 9/19/26 went well. Last Sunday on October 4th, there was a good turnout for Sunday School – thirteen children attended.

Parsonage update: On Sunday, October 11th, there will be a congregational meeting at both churches to discuss the sale of the parsonage and vote. Lisa will get the ballots made up for both churches to use for this vote.

SAM update: Allen stated that the baptism of Otto Allen Peterson will be held this coming Sunday, 10/11/26; he is the son of Jacob and Miranda Peterson.

Old Business: Mark Hansen has contacted Gaier Construction to replace the plexiglass in front of the three steeple windows with clear glass. He has not heard back when this will be scheduled yet.

Bill Foust and Vicky Emerson have been designing the storage cabinets for downstairs. He hopes to get the materials soon to start constructing them.

New Business: Karen brought up that the home communion sessions have still been going well.

She also asked for suggestions on how to keep WELCA going at Little Norway. Attendance has been getting smaller at the monthly meetings.

Allen mentioned getting a bulletin board to post notices of what is going on in the church and in the community. It would be located on the wall going into the Gathering Room. Betsy made a motion that Lisa could purchase a bulletin board and Trina seconded. Motion carried.

Betsy stated that it would be nice to have a couple of Bibles put in the pews as she had seen this at another church she went to.

The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Bill Foust made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Paul seconded. Meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Chris Gerdes, Secretary

**Special Congregational Meeting of
Little Norway Lutheran Church
October 11, 2026**



President Mark Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

Mark Hansen listed several reasons why the councils decided to put selling the parsonage to a congregational vote:

- 1. We have been in the call process for 3 years and have not yet received a call. According to the Synod, a prospective graduate would need to have a salary of \$50,000 with benefits of another \$50,000.**
- 2. The parsonage roof is approximately 12 years old. The parsonage will need a new roof in three years because insurance will no longer cover a building with a roof that is over 15 years old.**
- 3. Insurance also will not continue to cover the parsonage if it remains unoccupied.**
- 4. Homeless people set up tents in the backyard this past summer, and possibly increased the electricity bill by plugging in their phones. Someone also tried breaking into the parsonage. Mark put locks on all outside doors to prevent access.**
- 5. The parsonage cannot be rented out since it is a non-profit entity.**
- 6. If we receive a call, the prospective pastor has the option of living in the parsonage or living somewhere else. The parish is responsible for a housing allowance, which would be 30% of their salary.**

Bill Foust made a motion to vote. Bruce seconded. All say Ballots were handed out.

Results were: Yes 30 and one ballot was left blank

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Johnson

**Special Congregational Meeting of Spirit Creek Lutheran Church
on October 11, 2026**



President Joel Busse called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Mark Hansen listed several reasons why the councils decided to put selling the parsonage to a congregational vote:

- 1. We have been in the call process for 3 years and have had no interest.**
- 2. While working on insurance for Little Norway he found out that they won't cover the parsonage if there isn't anyone living in it. It will also need a new roof in a few years because they won't cover a building with a roof that is over 15 years old.**
- 3. This summer there were homeless people setting up tents in the back yard and using the electricity. (He did work to prevent that from happening again) Someone also tried breaking into the parsonage.**
- 4. Because we are a non-profit entity we can not rent the building.**

Mark also mentioned that according to the deed it was purchased 60% by Little Norway and 40% by Spirit Creek. It was brought up that that may have changed later as we have been sharing expenses 50/50.

Kurt Salveson agreed with what was said; but added that the Synod does say that a parsonage is a benefit. He also mentioned that we don't need the money at this time. If we do get a minister we will need a place for them to live.

If we don't have a parsonage Mark said we will need to pay an additional 30% of their salary for a housing allowance. It was also mentioned that a future minister may not find the parsonage fitting their needs. Currently a recent graduate would need to have a salary of \$50,000 with benefits of another \$50,000.

Tom Olson suggested keeping the money from the sale in a joint account that could be used to pay expenses for future ministerial expenses. Mark replied that the councils could discuss that option.

Carolyn Burge asked about what we would use for a mailing address. If we had a mailbox someone would have to check it daily. Other options mentioned were using Allen's address or getting a PO box.

Cal Burge made a motion to vote, seconded by Cindy Dressler. Ballots were handed out.

Results were: Yes 15, No 1, and 1 left blank

Tom Olson made a motion to adjourn at 11:50am; seconded by Mike Kutcher. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by church secretary, Karla Engebretson

Spirit Creek Church Council Minutes. 10/13/26

Council members in attendance: Joel, Allen, Kurt, Dena, Cal, Cindy, Kristi, Mary, Lori, Peggie

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Allen opened with a prayer and discussed the Christ In Our Home entry for today and its reference to Psalm 34. He discussed the comparison of the word “follow” and how it translates to “pursue” in Hebrew. Follow is more passive in meaning vs pursue being more of an active process. Psalm 34:14 “Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. “. Suggesting that we should pursue (or take a more active approach) with our relationship with God.

The secretary report from the September Spirit Creek council meeting was read by Joel. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Cindy and seconded by Cal. Motion carried.

The September treasurer report was presented by Cindy:

**The balance on hand = \$4,852.47
Total contributions = \$3,089.60
Total Disbursements = \$2,660.05
Balance on hand 9/30/26 = \$5,345.59**

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Dena and seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Church usage policy: tabled until next meeting.**
- **Spirit Creek Sunday School had 4 children attend last week but none the week prior.**
- **The baptism that was previously mentioned in September council minutes won’t occur until Spring of 2027.**

New Business:

- **Snow plowing at church - Cal stated he will contact Ryan Hansen to plow again for us this winter**
- **Delaney Pest Control- Joel stated he will contact the business to come out to the church ASAP**
- **Noisy Offering Nov and Dec 2026- discussion held regarding the BRF School District need for student hygiene supplies. A motion to use funds gained from Noisy offering from Nov and Dec to be used to purchase needed supplies and donate to BRF School District was made by Mary and seconded by Cindy.**
- **Peggy is stepping down from organizing the Church Christmas decorating. We are looking for someone to take over Christmas decorating duties. There is a short window to coordinate this task. The church will need to be decorated either Fri Nov 27 or Sat Nov 28th as the church needs to be decorated for the 1st Sunday of Advent which is 11/29/26. The majority of the Christmas decorations are stored upstairs with the exception of the Christmas trees and the Outside wreath which are in the basement.**
- **Brief discussion held regarding a church member in need. More info to come once exact needs are known and if permission is given to release their identity.**
- **Peggy inquired about purchasing a stair lift to go to the basement. Allen shared that LN used a company entitled AllStar Elevator. They offer elevators, stair lifts, etc. Joel stated he will do more research and bring info to later meeting.**
- **Folding chair storage: discussion held regarding purchasing 2 rolling chair storage carts made of wood and metal. Peggy agreed to obtain the exact cost of 2 carts and bring to later meeting.**
- **Parsonage: Allen shared that on 10/11/26 both congregations voted to sell the parsonage. Discussion held regarding possible suggestions to target the sale to an organization whose mission is to help others for the greater good. No decisions made; discussion only.**
- **Parsonages continued: The likely next step is for the Joint Council Presidents to meet and set up an appraisal of the parsonage.**
- **Allen brought a book titled “All Creation Sings” which is a supplement to the ELW Book of Worship. The new book contains 2 more communion settings as well as many new songs. Discussion held regarding trialing the new book at times- Allen is still thinking on when he might use it. A motion for Spirit Creek to purchase the Accompaniment Book as well as the Leader book was made by Mary and seconded by Kristi. Motion carried. Allen will order the materials and submit bill to Cindy.**
- **LP for winter: Joel stated he will check the tank level and check on pricing. Cindy stated she had called Chippewa Valley on 9/27/26 and the price was \$1.399/ gallon.**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm by Peggy and seconded by Cal. Motion carried. Meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Dobson
(filling in for Spirit Creek Secretary, Karla Engebretson)**

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Holy Communion All Saints' Day 9:15am Worship @LN 9:30am SS @ SC 10:30am SS @ LN 10:45am Worship @ SC 11:45 Worship committee meeting @ SC	2	3	4 10:00am WELCA at LN 6:00pm Confirmation at LN 7:00pm Choir practice at LN	5	6	7
8 9:15am Worship @LN 9:30am SS @ SC 10:30am SS @ LN 10:45am Worship @ SC	9	10 7:00pm SC Council Meeting	11 6:00pm Confirmation at LN 7:00pm Choir practice at LN	12	13	14
15 9:15am Worship @LN/Sunday School students Sing 9:30am SS @ SC 10:30am SS @ LN 10:45am Worship @ SC	16	17	18 6:00pm Confirmation at LN 7:00pm Choir practice at LN	19	20 	21
22 9:15am Worship @LN 9:30am SS @ SC 10:30am SS @ LN 10:45am Worship @ SC	23	24	25 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service @ SC	26 	27	28
29 9:15am Worship @LN 9:30am SS @ SC 10:30am SS @ LN 10:45am Worship @ SC	30					

Prayer Lights Donations

Funds raised will go toward Christmas gift baskets for homebound members
or other organizations in need.

Donations can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to:

Peggie Busse 615 Rose St; BRF, WI 54615

Questions/Comments: call 715-299-9229

Given By: _____

		Check One:	
		Memory	Honor
1.	_____	☐	☐
2.	_____	☐	☐
3.	_____	☐	☐
4.	_____	☐	☐
5.	_____	☐	☐
6.	_____	☐	☐
7.	_____	☐	☐
8.	_____	☐	☐
9.	_____	☐	☐
10.	_____	☐	☐
11.	_____	☐	☐
12.	_____	☐	☐

(Please use reverse side for additional names)

Amount Donated: _____

Make checks payable to Spirit Creek Church

BIBLE VERSES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

2. "Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'"
4. "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place."
6. "When they reached the place God had told about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it."
8. "I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up."
9. "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan."
10. "So Moses went down to the people and told them."

Down

1. "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham."
3. "A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grieves to his mother."
5. "They have mouths, but cannot speak eyes, but they cannot see."
7. "In the course of time, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king."

Word Bank

2 Samuel	Proverbs	Joshua	Psalm	Mark
Revelation	Matthew	Exodus	Genesis	Galatians