

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Let us gather as a community to celebrate the blessings that surround us



A Letter from the Pastor: All are Welcome at the Table

By Pastor Tim Ehling – Mission Developer for the Kettle River Cooperative

To the Disciples of Christ in the Kettle River Cooperative:

It was Easter Day. The custom and practice in Peace Lutheran Church was to kneel for Holy Communion, but being Easter Day, the pastor asked the congregation to stand to receive the sacrament. Laurel was one of the servers that day. As she placed the bread in the hand of a young mother she said, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” then began to choke back her tears; for there, next to her mom, stood a little girl looking up at her hopefully with her empty hands reached out. She had come to join in the celebration, but Laurel could not give her the bread. It was not for her. The little girl wasn’t old enough. She had not

been confirmed and wasn’t even in third grade yet. The little girl knew the bread and wine were only for grownups. And yet when Laurel passed by her with only a loving smile to give her, she could see the hurt in her eyes, she had been left out again. Oh yes, there was the blessing, “Child of God, the Lord keep you in the covenant of your baptism.” But when everyone else is eating a celebration meal, a kind word without the meal just doesn’t do it. Such is the experience of many children and pastors at the communion table. We get used to it. We have become so accustomed to the procedure and way of doing communion we don’t even wonder why our children are passed by.

Sunday Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 8:00am

Oak Lake Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 11:15am

Connect with Us

Pastor Tim Ehling

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Oak Lake Lutheran Church

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218-485-8710

oaklakechurch.org

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Bruno, MN 55712

320-838-3596

tinyurl.com/Trinity-Bruno

Kettle River Conference Church Cooperative

Stay updated with upcoming events, news, weekly Bible verses, and share prayer requests.

Website: kettleriverchurchcoop.org

Facebook Page: Kettle River Conference Church Cooperative, ELCA

Have News to Share?

For questions or to submit content for Trinity, Oak Lake, or Kettle River Co-op communications, contact Amy Nos at ajnos16@hotmail.com or 218-481-5636 – she’s happy to help!

It used to be the practice of our church that one does not receive communion until after confirmation. The thought being one needs to know enough, and understand what is going on, before one can partake in Christ's gift of body and blood. Today many churches in the ELCA are growing in their understanding of communion practices. Many have moved to 1st communion at 5th grade (the current practice in a few congregations), while still many others are participating in **Communion of the Baptized**, which means everyone who has been baptized, no matter their age, are welcome to the table of our Lord.

“All that one needs is simply a believing heart.”

- Martin Luther -

As stated in the 1997 ELCA church wide study on communion practices in the church called “The Use of the Means of Grace,” ... Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized...There is no command from our Lord regarding the age at which people should be baptized or first commune. Our practice should be defined by Christ's command...DO THIS!

On Tuesday March 31, Grace Lutheran in Sandstone (one of our sister coop churches) had a first communion class for **children and parents** of all ages who are interested in communing their children for the first time.

Children in all of our churches do not need to take a class in order to commune. BUT if you believe this gift of God is for your child now... whatever age they may be...they are welcome to begin communing and grow in their understanding of it as God leads and guides them. If your family would be interested in a first communion class, give me a call and we can talk about setting up a time. Or, remember it is ok to just begin communing your child. They will receive more instruction in confirmation. Keep in mind what Martin Luther once said, “all that one needs is simply a believing heart.” And then, we as God's people we grow in the gifts of God's grace and love. **Waiting to commune your child until they are in 5th grade or older is your choice parents as God leads and guides you and your family...**

As I think about my own communing over the years, and the communing of our daughters from the day of their baptism, one thing sticks out for me. We have not grown in our love and appreciation of the gift God gives us in Holy Communion by attending a class, instructing us in the gifts of God's grace and love in the meal. We have grown by experiencing God's strong presence and invitation as we eat and drink. “This is my body...this is my blood... FOR YOU.” Holy Communion...is a great gift God gives all God's people.

God's peace and blessing be with you and your family as you continue to grow in faith and life.

News for April

Thrivent Choice® Dollars Deadline – March 31

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice® Dollars** available to direct to your favorite charities. The process is simple, but the deadline to direct your 2025 dollars is **March 31**.

Visit thrivent.com or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) to make your selection today.

Hymns & Hops

Join us for an evening of fellowship, music, and great conversation at *Hymns & Hops* on **Monday, April 13** from **6-8 PM** at **Moose Lake Brewing Company**.

Enjoy live music from **Nathan Frazer** in a relaxed, welcoming setting. All are invited--bring a friend!

Kerrick Community Center Annual Pancake Breakfast

Join us on **Saturday, April 18** from **8:00-11:30 AM** at **Duquette Hall** for the Kerrick Community Center's Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

Enjoy pancakes with maple syrup, sausage, fruit, and beverages. A free will offering will be accepted. Come hungry and support a great cause!

News for April

1st Annual Flea & Craft Market at Trinity!

When: Saturday, May 16th
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church

Come hunt for treasures--and enjoy handmade goods and delicious treats--at a fun-filled day of buying and selling! Food will be available by free-will donation, and this is a **cash-only event**. If needed, we will have a rain-out day on **June 13**.

Sellers/Crafters/Bakers Welcome!

- Spaces are **10' x 12'** and **\$20 each**
- You may reserve **multiple spaces** if you need more room
- Sellers must **bring their own tables**
- Each space will be assigned a number for easy setup
- Open to anyone - no church affiliation required
- To reserve a space, contact:
Julie D at 320-279-2707 or
Dave J at 612-390-2087

All proceeds will go to support the **Bruno Food Shelf**. For more information, call **Julie D. at 320-279-2707**.

Mark your calendars and join us for a day of community, bargains, handmade creations, tasty treats, and helping a great cause!

Kettle River WELCA Spring Gathering – All Are Worthy

All women are invited to a day of fun, fellowship, lunch, singing, worship, and a bit of business!

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Pine City

Theme: *All are Worthy*

Verse: Ephesians 1:5

The program, **“Welcoming the Stranger: Understanding ICE in Willmar”**, will be presented by **Lisa Nos-Tollefson** and **Crystal Hendrix-Dagle**.

Registration begins at 8:30 AM, with a requested **\$10 donation**. Coffee and treats provided by Grace Lutheran (Sandstone); registration hosted by Zion Lutheran (Cloverdale).

The **business meeting** includes the election of Conference Coordinator and Secretary, and discussion of “Meals in a Bag” recipes.

Enjoy a **silent auction** and **buy-it-now tables**, followed by lunch and a message with Holy Communion led by **Intern Pastor Wendy Reamer-Johnson**.

Our in-kind project: 200 Newborn Kits for **Global Health Ministries**, assembled after lunch if time allows.

Offerings support **A Place for You, Churchwide**, and **LSS Center for Changing Lives**.

Mark your calendars and come with a car full of grateful women!

Emmaus Fund Gala

You are invited to the **Emmaus Fund Gala**, held during the 2026 NEMN Synod Assembly on **Saturday, April 25**, at **Breezy Point Resort**. **Doors open at 5:45 PM**, with **dinner at 6:30 PM**. The evening will include a live auction, silent auction, giving moment, live music, and more.

Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased at nemnsynod.org/emmaus-fund.

The Emmaus Fund supports leadership development, youth and young adult engagement, and congregational outreach by providing micro-grants for new ministry programs and opportunities. This year's guest speaker is **Abby Hartog, LYO President**, whose home congregation was awarded one of the first Emmaus Fund grants this fall.

Congregations are invited to **donate a themed basket, item, or experience** for the Silent Auction. For donation inquiries, please contact **Julia Gwash** at julia.gwasheelca.org. Donations may be dropped off at the Synod Office in Duluth or given to Synod Assembly attendees.

New this year: Churches can also give a congregational gift to the Emmaus Fund endowment through a free-will offering, endowment contribution, or other creative ideas. Contact **Pastor Taryn Montgomery** to learn more.

Applications are now open for the **Spring 2026 Emmaus Fund micro-grants**. To learn more and apply, please visit nemnsynod.org/emmaus-fund.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bruno Food Shelf Hours: Monday, Friday & Saturday 1-2pm			Daisy's Thrift Store Hours: Monday, Friday & Saturday 10am-3pm; Thursday 3-6pm			
OL Worship Servants: Altar Guild: Norma Hoffman and Diane Bloom Readers: Laurie Jorgensen (Norma Hoffman backup) Communion Server: Bill Spaulding Greeters, Acolyte, and Sunday Coffee Hosts: Volunteers Trinity Worship Leaders: Tracy and Dave Jensen			1 Women's Bible Study 4:30pm at Trinity	2 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm at OL meal to follow	3 Good Friday Service 5:30pm at Trinity	4
5 Easter Vilstad Prayer Gathering 6:30am Trinity Worship 9:45am - Breakfast at 8:45am OL Worship 8:45am	6 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	7 Trinity Council 7pm	8 Women's Bible Study 4:30pm at Trinity Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at OL	9 Auxiliary 12-4pm at Trinity	10 Legion 6pm at Trinity	11
12 Trinity Worship 8am OL Event Mtg 10:15am OL Worship 11:15am	13 Hymns & Hops 6-8pm at Moose Lake Brewing <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	14	15 Women's Bible Study 4:30pm at Trinity Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at OL	16	17	18 Kettle River WELCA Spring Gathering 8:30am at Redeemer in Pine City
19 Trinity Worship 8am Potluck to follow OL Property Mtg 10am OL Worship 11:15am	20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	21 WELCA Meeting 9:30am at OL Oak Lake Council 6:30pm	22 Women's Bible Study 4:30pm at Trinity Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at OL	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 NEMN Synod Assembly	25 NEMN Synod Assembly
26 Trinity Worship 8am OL Worship 11:15am Potluck to follow NEMN Synod Assembly	27 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	28	29 Women's Bible Study 4:30pm at Trinity Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at OL	30		