

TOGETHER IN FAITH

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



A Letter from the Pastor: Blessing the Fields, Nurturing the Soul

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

To the Disciples of Christ in the Kettle River Cooperative:

“April Showers bring May flowers... What do May flowers bring? Yes... pilgrims, but also BUGS!!!! Isn’t it great!

As you start to think about planting your gardens, or getting your holy pollinator plots ready for the season of planting, I thought you might enjoy a little history of “Rogation.”

Rogation celebrations are a way to focus one aspect of our life-long stewardship of the gifts that God has blessed us with. Maybe you are wondering...what in the world is Rogation? And why would we talk about it in church? Is it a disease or something? Here is a little

history of what, and why.

We frequently think of seedtime, planting, and prayers for an abundant harvest as the main emphasis of rogation, but the word “rogation” actually takes its meaning from the Latin word “rogare” which means “To Beseech.”

This comes from 5th century France: after horrible natural disasters, the Bishop required the people to make a solemn three-day observance in order to atone for their sin; the observance consisted of three main parts:

1. The people were to petition God for forgiveness of their sins.

Sunday Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 8:00am

Oak Lake Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 11:15am

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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!

2. The people were to petition God for protection from further calamities.
3. The people were to petition God for bountiful crops.

Over the years, rogation lost its penitential air and became festive. Present traditions include “blessing of the fields” with processions through local fields, a singing of the litany, and offering prayers for God’s protection and favor. The rogation service often includes a celebration of Holy Communion.

“We plant in hope,
trusting that God will
provide all that we
need.”

The spiritual lessons of rogation have also developed over the years: God and humanity cooperate in the creative processes of agriculture. Tilling and care of the soil are tasks and privileges given by God. The life-giving power of the sown seed depends on God’s goodness. These relationships result in a bountiful harvest.

You may not be a farmer, or have anything to do with farming in your life, or the planting of seeds. And yet, by God’s spirit and strong presence in our lives we are planting seeds, and growing in faith and life all the time. We give thanks for, and bless the gifts that God has graciously showered upon us before they have grown to maturity as an act of faith for what we know....**God will provide all that we need.** Maybe more than anything, Rogation and all the ways we remember,

celebrate, and create rituals around the season of planting reminds us of God’s presence in our lives that sustains us, and the many ways God has already blessed us with gifts, before the harvest has come.

Here are 3 prayers of blessing for you to use to bless the seed, the soil, and the water for your planting times.

Blessing of the Rogation Elements
Prayer for Seeds

All: Creating God, you have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Soil

All: Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens to your call of spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of this land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Water/Rain

All: Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that the crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. Amen.

God’s peace and strong presence be with you and your family in this beautiful time of Spring.

News for May

Graduation Sunday & Quilt Blessing

Join us Sunday, May 17 at Oak Lake for **Graduation Recognition Sunday** as we honor our six graduating seniors.

This special day also includes **Quilt Blessing Day at Oak Lake**, where each senior will receive a handmade quilt from the WELCA group—a gift of care, prayer, and support.

Graduates may take group photos before the service and additional photos afterward with their quilts. **Cake and refreshments** will be served following the service.

Please join us as we celebrate and send our seniors forward with love and blessings.

Reminder: Flea & Craft Market Coming Soon!

Join us for our Flea & Craft Market on **Saturday, May 16** from **10:00 AM – 3:00 PM!** Vendors are welcome, and we still have room for more.

Enjoy treats, food and beverages, and popcorn while you browse for treasures.

We’re also honored to feature **hand-crafted items from the Holy Land** through Touch of Grace. These meaningful pieces are created by Palestinian Christian artisans, where each purchase supports their communities.

Other proceeds from the market will go to the Bruno Food Shelf.

News for May

Save the Date: Confirmation Sunday

Join us at Oak Lake on **Sunday, June 7 at 11:15 AM** as we celebrate four students completing their studies with Pastor Tim and affirming their faith through Confirmation.

Cake and refreshments will be served following the service. Please come and support these students on this special day!

Sharing God's Love Through Giving

Oak Lake Lutheran's **March Food Drive** was a wonderful success! On April 18, donations of soup and other canned goods were delivered to the local food pantry in Bruno, where they were received with gratitude by the staff and volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who contributed such thoughtful, healthy donations. Your generosity is a true blessing to those in need and a meaningful way we share God's love in our community.

Give Blood, Give Life

The Red Cross has been making a humanitarian impact for more than 130 years, and now we can all be part of that mission.

Nemadji Research Center in Bruno is partnering with the American Red Cross on **Wednesday, June 3rd** from **11-5pm** to host the first of what they hope will be many Blood Drives. Every donation they collect saves up to 3 lives!

Hymns & Hops: A Joyful Night of Music and Community

On April 13, another wonderful evening of *Hymns and Hops* was held at the Moose Lake Brewery with Nathan Frazer leading the way.

This time, we were blessed with a full band, as musicians from Grace and Oak Lake joined together—featuring dulcimer, guitar, mandolin, and percussion. The music was lively and uplifting.

It was a fantastic evening of song, connection, and community, with many local friends joining in. We're grateful for the opportunity to gather in such a meaningful and joyful way!



Vilstad Easter Sunrise Gathering

On Easter morning, the community gathered at Vilstad for a quiet sunrise prayer gathering, where 13 people came together to celebrate the resurrection. It felt especially meaningful that our number matched that of Jesus and His disciples—a simple yet powerful reminder of faith and fellowship. As the sun rose, so did our spirits, filled with hope and the promise of Easter.



Way of the Wildflower: Faith & Fellowship in Bloom



Throughout the month of April, the women of Way of the Wildflower gathered in faith, reflection, and creativity. Together, they shared meaningful discussions on the book, deepened their connection to God and one another, and spent time creating beautiful art and luminaries adorned with wildflowers. A month filled with growth, beauty, and the quiet strength found in community.

May

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 and Readers: Volunteers Communion Server: Jeff Edin Greeters, Acolyte, and Sunday Coffee Hosts: Volunteers Trinity Worship Leaders: Betty Gebhart Schmidt and Char Davis					1	2
3 Trinity Worship 8am Trinity Council to follow worship OL Worship 11:15am	4 Health Council at 4:30pm at Trinity <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	5 Grounds Clean Up Day 1pm at Oak Lake (Rain Date is May 6)	6 Level 2 Confirmation 6-7:30pm at OL	7	8 Legion 6pm at Trinity	9
10 Trinity Worship 8am Potluck to follow OL Event Mtg 10:15am OL Worship 11:15am	11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	12	13 Level 2 Confirmation 6-7:30pm at OL (Last class)	14 Auxiliary 2-3pm at Trinity Cooperative Council Meeting 6pm at Hope in Moose Lake	15	16 OL Community Cemetery Meeting Flea & Craft Market 10am-3pm at Trinity
17 Trinity Worship 8am OL Property Mtg 10am OL Worship 11:15am <i>Graduation Recognition</i>	18 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	19 WELCA Gathering 9:30am-2pm at OL Oak Lake Council 6:30pm	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 Pancake Breakfast 9:30-11:30am at Oak Lake <i>Opening day of the Farmer's Market</i>
24 Trinity Worship 8am OL Worship 11:15am Potluck to follow	25 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	26	27	28	29	30 Barbara J Anderson Visitation 10am & Celebration of Life 11am at OL
31 Joint Worship 11:15am at Oak Lake		Confirmation / Sunday School Information Level 1 Confirmation and Sunday School: last day of classes is April 29 th . Level 2 Confirmation: class continues on May 6 th , with their last class day on May 13 th . They will be confirmed on June 7 th at Oak Lake.				