

TOGETHER IN FAITH

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



A Letter from NEMN Synod: Celebrating Three Years and Looking Ahead

By Bishop Taryn | Deacon Susan | Pastor Tanner

Congregations of the Kettle River Cooperative,

We are thrilled to celebrate with you as you mark three years of walking together in shared ministry! You have journeyed through joys and navigated challenges. You have been flexible and patient and beautifully care-filled. Thank you for being open to this holy experiment, and for your willingness to wonder together into the next piece of this collaborative work.

As you know, the initial covenant between each of the congregations and Pastor Tim comes to a close on November 1, 2026. This means that, in order to continue to move forward together, decisions need to

be made and some new opportunities for partnership must be explored.

Currently, Pastor Tim is called as an Interim Pastor. At the beginning of this process, this gave everyone involved better flexibility to live into the experiment and empowered your congregational councils to make decisions around pastoral ministry. His role as Interim is also what gives you the ability to work together on next steps for the Cooperative, while maintaining much of the patterns and procedures that are already in place.

Below you will find a proposed general timeline for the process moving ahead.

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

320-226-7074 | pastortim94@gmail.com

Oak Lake Lutheran Church

53131 Shadow Oak Road, Box 17

Kerrick, MN 55756

218-485-8710

oaklakechurch.org

Trinity Lutheran Church

7576 Lincoln Street

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!

This represents conversations that have happened between synod staff, Pastor Tim, and members of your leadership about how to move into the next phase of your work. Ultimately, each congregation gets to decide where the Spirit is nudging them in this moment, and we encourage you as congregational leaders to be in communication with members and one another about your hopes and dreams for what comes next.

As you look to the future, know that we continue to celebrate and hold you in prayer. Your “yes!” three years ago has dramatically changed the way our synod looks at collaborative ministry, and we give thanks for the way that God is moving in your congregations.

Proposed Timeline

October 2026 (now) – Renewal Covenant with Pastor Tim

- Each congregational council will need to vote on a renewed covenant for Pastor Tim. Please note that when this was voted on three years ago, some of you brought the vote to your congregations for the sake of transparency. You may choose to do this vote however you would like, but note that, as an Interim, this is a synod council call and only requires a vote of approval from congregational councils.
- Please send a signed copy of this new covenant to the synod office by October 30th.

November-January

Pastor Tim will continue to walk with you in ministry.

- A couple of Cooperative members will begin training with Pastor Rollie Bockbrader in the synod office to take over payroll and Portico in early 2027

- Congregations will work together on a Kettle River Cooperative Covenant which will formalize your partnership. We will provide you a sample. You will be responsible for creating a covenant that will provide a guide for your shared ministry moving forward. Consider:

- Cooperative Council Membership and elections along with officers and responsibilities.
- Payroll and Portico responsibilities
- Process for adding/removing a congregation to the Cooperative
- Establishing a Call Committee

When you have created this covenant and it has approval from the synod office, it will need to be voted on and approved at congregational meetings.

In the future...

- When you call a new settled pastor, the Call Committee will be jointly made up of members from each church. The final vote to call a settled pastor will require congregational votes in each church within the Cooperative.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please reach out to your Cooperative Council members.

Advent Decorating at Oak Lake Church

Join us on **Monday, November 30th**, as we decorate Oak Lake Church for the Advent season! We'll begin at **10:30 AM** and continue until the decorating is complete. **Everyone is welcome to help!** Stop by anytime and lend a hand as we prepare our church for this special season of hope and celebration.

News for November

Hunter's Supper at Trinity

Saturday, November 7th at 4:30pm. Gather your friends and family and join us at **Trinity Lutheran Church** for an evening of delicious food and fellowship! Enjoy a traditional **turkey dinner with all the trimmings**, plus dessert and beverage.

Cost: Adults \$12 | Kids \$6

All proceeds benefit the **Bruno Food Shelf**, so every plate helps support neighbors in need!

Be sure to browse the **Silent Auction** while you're there for a chance to take home something special.

Donations & Volunteers Needed!

We are still accepting items for the Silent Auction. Please drop off donations by **Nov. 6th**. Volunteers are also welcome to help in the dining room during the event.

Come enjoy great food, good company, and an opportunity to give back to our community!

Lap Quilting for Shut-Ins

Join us as we make lap quilts to bring warmth and comfort to our shut-ins!

All are welcome, regardless of sewing experience. Bring fabric and a sewing machine if you have them, along with a bag lunch. Come for one day or both!

Dates: November 10 & 17
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Come enjoy fellowship while creating something special for others!

November

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			
1 No worship at OL and Trinity Cooperative Worship & Event 12-3pm at Camp Miller in Sturgeon Lake	2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	3 Trinity Council 6pm	4 Confirmation 6-7:30pm at Bethlehem in Askov	5	6	7 Hunter's Supper 4:30pm at Trinity
8 Trinity Worship 8am OL Event Mtg 10:15am OL Worship 11:15am	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	10 Lap Quilt Making 10am-3pm at Trinity	11 Confirmation 6-7:30pm at Bethlehem in Askov	12 Auxiliary 3pm at Trinity	13 Legion 6pm at Trinity	14
15 Trinity Worship 8am OL Property Mtg 10am OL Worship 11:15am	16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	17 WELCA Quilting, Bible Study & Mtg 9:30am-2:30pm at OL Lap Quilting 10am-3pm at Trinity Oak Lake Council 6:30pm	18 Confirmation 6-7:30pm at Bethlehem in Askov	19	20 Free Senior Foot Care 9am-1pm at Trinity	21
22 Trinity Worship 8am OL Worship 11:15am <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	24	25 No Confirmation Newsletter Deadline	26 	27	28
29 Trinity Worship 8am OL Worship 11:15am Potluck to follow	30 Advent Decorating 10:30am at OL Health Council 4:30pm at Trinity <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>		OL Worship Servants: Altar Guild: Norma Hoffman & Volunteers Readers: David Dipman (Laurie Jorgensen backup) Communion Server: Julie Gunderson Greeters, Acolyte, and Sunday Coffee Hosts: Volunteers			