



The Messenger



Sometimes I suffer from writer's block. That seems to be the case for my *Messenger* article this month. So, I am simply going to stream my consciousness for a few minutes and see where the Spirit takes me.

Disclaimer: *this may or may not be worth reading. Continue at your own risk.* 😊

Donna is on a two-week vacation. I sometimes don't know what to do with myself when she is gone for an extended period of time. We are coming up on our 30th wedding anniversary, after all. I've grown accustomed to having her around most of the time. This has me thinking about commitment and marriage. We were blessed to have had a really good pastor provide us with pre-marital counseling prior to our wedding. We've also benefited, at different times, from what I call "tune-ups" along the way. Over the years, we've had "tune-ups" from pastors and from marriage counselors, both of which helped us navigate difficult times in our relationships. In every case, good counseling involves each spouse working toward both personal and relationship goals.

The reality is that people in long-term relationships can begin to take one another for granted. People change over time. I've had to reintroduce myself to Donna several times along our path, as she has for me. I could resent the change, but that gets us nowhere. Instead, I try to welcome each new growth and change period as an exciting new chapter in our relationship.

That is how I envision God relating to each of us as well. God wants us to grow and change. God gives us great imagination and resilience so that we may do so. As it happens, God grows with us. But the one constant, the one never-changing bedrock of it all, is God's steadfast love. This is why a relationship built upon the love of God can withstand the test of time.



With my meandering mind, I am compelled to let y'all know that I provide both pre-marital counseling and marital "tune-ups". I am also working on a couples' retreat for those who want to work on their relationships. I'm not sure when it will come together but stay tuned!

I think I will close with a prayer for all who are in committed relationships.

God of love, I give thanks for the gift of relationships. In my spouse I find such all those in committed relationships to like we are sinking, buoy us with your happy, remind us that it is your love that who seek love and commitment in their lives you as we work on all of our relationships.

relationship, especially committed deep trust and connection. Help us and grow and change together. When we feel steadfast love. When we are content and we lend to each other. Please encourage all and, above all, keep our hearts and minds in In Jesus name. Amen.

Pastor Luke



STARTS
09-27-2026!

WHO:
 **KIDS** 
Pre-kindergarten
through
6th Grade!

MUSIC:
 make a joyful
 noise to end our
 Sunday together!

OSLC Saplings

WHEN: 
During Sunday Service!

FAMILY SUNDAY!
3rd Sunday 
Each month
Kids contribute
and join in the
service



Growing faith n' love



GROWERS WANTED
CONTACT

to help all saplings develop deep roots and grow strong

Roxanne Frederick @ 218-830-0930

Not quite
sapling size?
Check out 

Enjoy the little
seeds during
service and
send them
home to grow!



Nurturing  **Nursery**
for
Seedlings
Infant -
age 4



Seedling
watchers
needed! Call: Roxanne Frederick
@ 218-830-0930

Help
tend
our
littlest
seeds



Need some helping hands?

Do you have some fall yard work that needs to be done, bushes trimmed, leaves raked? Projects that physical or financial conditions you that are a bit out of reach and some helping hands would make a difference? Could we help you out for a few hours?

On **Sunday September 20, 2026** we're joining with other area churches doing God's work through our helping hands, serving our community and neighbors as we share a few hours and projects.

Please note, due to weather concerns—like fall rain—we can't take on painting or staining projects, or promise an alternate date for helper if the project can't be done on one day, but let's see how we can help and what we CAN do!



If you have a project and would like to be considered as a site for God's Work, Our Hands please contact the church office at 218-879-1535 by September 1, 2026.

20 SEPTEMBER 2026



God's work. Our hands.

BIG hands? little hands? Young ones? Old ones? **Got hands? Use 'em!**

Join us September 20, 2026 for God's Work, Our Hands. Bring the whole family, friends of all ages - this is a great chance for us to do things together! Sign-up sheets will be available in the church narthex starting in August. Let's have a LARGE Lutheran contingent out there, rolling up our sleeves, and putting all those hands to use in a variety of ways!



GWOH KIT SUPPLY NEEDS



Do you enjoy garage sales or tracking the fall back to school sales? Consider collecting items for the various kits that will be prepared and assembled on September 20th as part of our God's Work Our Hands day. Often useful items can be found at local garage sales. Among the items needed and the kits to be prepared will be:

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits:

- New light weight bath-sized towels (between 20" x 40" and 27"x 52"), dark colors recommended.
- Two or three bath size bars of soap equaling up to 8-9 oz., unscented, in original wrapping.
- One sturdy comb (packaging removed)
- One adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional), (packaging removed)

Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits

(sizes 3 to 24 months)(new or VERY GENTLY used.):

- Two lightweight cotton T-shirts (onesies can be cut to make t-shirts)
- Two long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers or pant sets
- Blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt
- Two or three bath size bars of soap- no antibacterial or scented soap- Dove brand is good. In original wrapping.
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins
- Cloth diapers, or new or gently used flannel sheets to make into diapers
- Socks – 2 pair per kit

School Kits:

- 70 sheet notebooks, wide or college ruled, approximately 8" x 10 1/2 " (no loose leaf paper please)
- 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink please)
- 2 1/2" eraser
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Pencil sharpener
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons

Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief School Kits:

- Heavy fabric like denim or upholstery fabric will be made into drawstring style cloth bags approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps.
- No standard backpacks please
- Instructions to make a backpack can be found at: <http://lwr.org/schoolkits>

Ditty Bags:

- Full size bar of soap (in original wrapping)
- Wash cloth
- Tooth brush
- Medium or large toothpaste
- Medium or small sized notebook
- 2 razors
- Sturdy comb
- Travel size shampoo, conditioner and lotion
- Sewing kit (optional)

Donated materials may be brought to the church office by **September 14, 2026**

Thank you!





Ministry in Medical Missions

Haiti Update

The ministry in Medical Missions team has been busy picking berries at the home of Joan Guite. Joan and her husband raise these wonderful organic berries. Then Joan becomes the chief of jam preparation. These berries will become the jam that we sell in the fall. There will be an apple festival fund raiser on October 4, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church. Jam will be available there as well as apples from the trees at Zion, apple juice, apple tasting and fun music. Mark your calendars!

This month the medical folks have spent time reviewing some fairly nasty wounds that Dr. Manno and his team are seeing. The goal is for sharing of histories, treatment ideas and options to help these patients who are suffering with long standing wounds. Much of the materials we send in our shipments help provide the needed supplies.

Your continued support, in financial donations, supplies and prayer, is critical to keeping the Sante' 2000 clinic in Limbe' Haiti open. Prayers especially for the mental health of the staff working in such difficult circumstances are tremendously helpful. Dr. Manno, his staff and their patients are all extremely grateful.

Thanks so very much from the Ministry in Medical Mission!



Mary Krohn for Ministry in Medical Mission
Want to add your support for Haiti?
Scan here and donate through Vanco: -->



**Radio Broadcasts
for August 2026**

- 08/02 Faith Salo in memory of dad, Ray Salo.
- 08/09 Keith and Shannon Matzdorf for everyone listening at home!
- 08/16 Curt and Kathy Nelson in celebration of our 46th Anniversary TODAY!
- 08/23 Shannon and Keith Matzdorf in celebration of our anniversary!
- 8/30 Ray and Judy Wiles - THANK YOU for our church!



FOOD SHELF SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is designated as Food Shelf Sunday.

Monetary gifts collected help BOTH

Second Harvest and
Cloquet Salvation Army.

Every \$1 donated ensures
3 meals for families, children, and seniors in need.

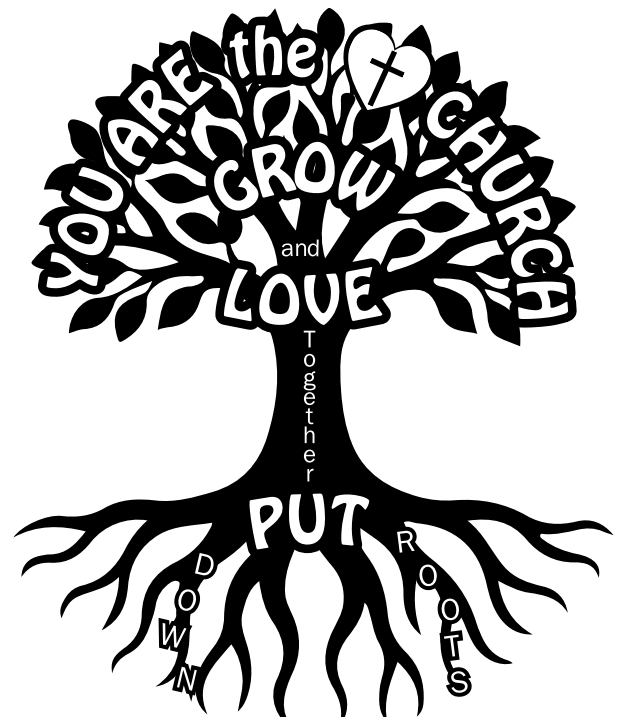
Let's share our blessings.

Thank you from Katie Nisula,
Irene Rudnicki, and Jen Behrens

Contributions

06-22-2026 to 07-26-2026

\$397.00



Your generosity makes EVERYTHING possible!

Become a sustainer TODAY

In-person, via the mail, or online!

Use the QR code for
secure recurring giving
or even for special donations.

Or download the
Vanco Mobile App!



Thank you

AUGUST 21-22, 2026

USD Rummage Sale

SAVE THE DATE! JOIN THE FUN!

Items **NOT ACCEPTED**
for the 2026 sale:

- TVs
- Playpens
- Cribs
- Car Seats
- Stuffed Animals
- Computers / Electronics
- Helmets
- Encyclopedias / Textbooks
- Large Furniture
- For any large items you will need permission PRIOR to dropping off

Drop off
Donations
AFTER
August 5,
2026
to Room
#18 off
Door #3

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Setup:
August 19-20
SIGN UP in
Narthex

Bring in your
good/working
condition items.
New or GENTLY
used will do!

Questions?
Contact
Sue Stahl
218
390
7356

SALE TIMES:

Friday 8-21-26:
8am-5:30pm

Saturday 8-22-26:
8am-3:30pm

Present: Brad Browers (Worship, Arts and Music), Bob DeCaigny (Secretary), Jill Elwood (Youth), Linda Holmstrand (Fellowship and WELCA), Kobe Kadelbach (Vice President), Sarah Klyve (President), Pastor Luke Lekander, Shannon Matzdorf (Welcome), Kathy Rye (Palanca Mutual Ministry and Church in Society), Marty Rye (Properties), Sue Stahl (Stewardship)

Unable to attend: Roxanne Frederick (Christian Education), Connor Hecht (Past President), Lisa Hecht (Stewardship), NHCP, Deb Templeton (Treasurer)

1. Welcome and Sharing of Highs and Lows: Members shared as they chose.

2. Devotion and Opening Prayer: Fellowship – Centered on John 15: 12-17.

3. Approval of July 21, 2026 agenda: Jill made a motion and Kobe seconded to approve the agenda as written, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of June 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes were approved via email.

5. Treasurer's Report/ Financials

- Bob provided the following information from Bruce's report: for June income was \$19,595 compared to our budget of \$19,438 (\$157 over plan) and expenses were \$21,631 compared to our budget of \$22,728 (\$1,098 under plan) for a gain of \$1,255. Year-to-date 2026 is \$2,703 ahead of plan.

6. Pastor's Report

- I have been on two vacations since the June meeting. Rest and renewal are such an important part of life. I give thanks for it. VBS was a smashing success. I am so thankful to all the volunteers who made it happen, especially Sarah Klyve for offering to take it on and coordinating a wonderful week of spiritual growth and fun. I worked with the Cub Scouts to get the raised bed vegetable garden set up for success. Thanks to Chris and Brandon for getting the plants in the ground and the watering system set up. I will continue to work with them on the rest of the program, including weighing and donating the produce. This is a great joint venture between OSLC and Scouting America that fits both our missions. We began a six-week sermon series called "Villains of the Bible." So far, Connor gave a message about the Serpent, and I told the story of Pharaoh. I'm looking forward to the next four Sundays. I led the monthly service at Inter-Faith Care Center, presided at a graveside service, and baptized two people this past Sunday (one child and one adult).

7. Team Leader Reports

- Christian Education: Nothing new to report.
- Church Properties: Nothing new to report.
- Palanca Mutual Ministry: Nothing new to report.
- Welcome: Nothing new to report.
- Fellowship: Final plans have been made for the 7-29-26 picnic, except for the weather. 😊
- NHCP: No report
- Stewardship Team: a. The Team will "host" the Annual Rummage Sale with setup on 8-19-26 and 8-20-26. Sale days are 8-21-26 and 8-22-26. Sign up board to help is in the Narthex. No date set for future meetings.
- Worship, Arts & Music: Nothing new to report.
- Youth Ministry: We recognized our graduates by decorating the narthex, serving cake, and other refreshments on 6-21. From 6-22 to 25 we led a very successful Vacation Bible School for approximately 36 children from age 4 to 11 years. Team member Sarah Klyve coordinated this year's VBS with assistance from Jill Elwood and Annaliese Lafond. We were fortunate to have six AMAZING Middle School students lead the groups of students through activities! A tremendous shout-out to Kennedy, Rowan, Paxtyn, Evie, Gavin, and Maci! OSLC provided a fun experience and morning snacks for all the campers and Cloquet Public Schools provided wonderful lunches!
- WELCA: Nothing new to report.
- Church in Society: Nothing new to report.



8. Old Business

- Community of Hope: The group will hold its 2nd annual car show fund raiser on Saturday 8-8 from 1 – 6 p.m. at the Esko Athletic Field/Sports Complex. In addition to the car show there will be a BBQ, 50/50 and item raffles plus other Esko Fun Days events. One dinner will be held at OSLC over the summer on August 16th.
- Revival Day: Chaplain Rebecca at Inter-Faith Care Center, at the suggestion of resident Izzy, is coordinating a community event on 9-13 from 2 – 4 p.m. Any church that would like to participate is welcome. We will have a stage right in front of the Nursing Home with speakers and a mic. We hope to have some kind of refreshments: cookies and lemonade, possibly root beer floats. It is also grandparents day so we hope to incorporate that as well. She wants it to be back to God. I am, in my mind, calling it Izzy's gathering. We hope to have face painting, maybe balloon animal making, music and fun. Izzy will share her testimony and if we can have pastors share a five-minute thought, maybe 2 to 3 short thoughts, that would be awesome.
- IT/Phone Update: Brad said the phone conversion project to the Voice over Internet Protocol system is 95% done. It is anticipated we will save about \$200/month versus our previous hard wired system.

9. New Business

- Community Ed Request for Rental Space: On 6-24 Cloquet Community Education Director, Erin Bates, sent an email to Pastor Luke requesting rental of two or three rooms in Horizon Hall for program materials storage and craft set-up. Pastor Luke will talk with Erin to determine if they still have interest in renting space from us. If so, he will arrange a tour and discuss some potential terms.
- Synod Mission Support dinner 9-29-2026: Bishop-elect Taryn Montgomery sent Pastor Luke an email 6-23 requesting OSLC host a dinner sponsored by the synod on Tuesday 9-29, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The request is for use of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen areas. The meal would be catered. OSLC would provide 8 – 10 people for set-up, run the dishwasher, help serve (if needed), and cleanup. None of the details of the request are contrary to past practice. The CAT recommends approval of the request. The CC concurred.
- President Resignation: Sarah Klyve has resigned effective immediately due to other commitments and stated she is unable to give the position the level of involvement it merits.
- Dumpster event 7-1-2026: Brad Browers sent an email to the CC on 7-1 documenting our next-door neighbor to the north on 12th St. dumping four bicycles into the OSLC dumpster. Two days later Connor and Bob discussed this with the wife of the family who lives there. She said her oldest son probably put them in there. She took back three of the four bikes (the 4th couldn't be reached in the bottom of the dumpster). The CC agreed the dumpster is to be locked going forward with a key kept in the kitchen and one in the office. Post meeting update: Cloquet Sanitary will provide a lock and key so their driver can unlock the dumpster when it is time to empty it.

10. Action item review: The list was reviewed and updated as needed.

11. Next Meeting August 18, 2026, 6:30 p.m.: Devotion and opening prayer--Properties.

12. Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

12. Adjournment: Shannon made a motion and Kobe seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m., the motion carried unanimously.



Installation

Bishop Taryn K. Montgomery

Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Saturday, September 12th



Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

DULUTH, MN

save
the Date



Friends – we have a holy roof and it is currently blessed with  leaks.

While grateful for the gifts of rain, we think we should make sure our little ark isn't taking on too much water and mend our sanctuary roof.

Our goal – get the shingle roof replaced by October 2026, improving insulation and ventilation and installing lifetime shingles.

This sturdy building endeavor has an

expected price tag of \$200,000-\$250,000 as well as a **CHALLENGE** and a matching .

Many of you have earmarked contributions for this roof repair already – **THANK YOU**. The Endowment will also be supporting this slowing of heavenly drippings. We now look to you to help us plug the funding holes – this is the challenge!

What about the ? We have some members who have stepped forward and made a commitment to provide \$50,000 in matching funds for NOAH more leaks!

As of July 17, we have received \$6,227 towards this \$50,000 match.

GOOD JOB AND KEEP IT UP EVERYONE!!!

Happy Birthday



Aug 5

- Alayna Crowser
- Timothy Nordin

Aug 8

- Ryder Hietala
- Aleah Oshie

Aug 12

- Iris Wood

Aug 16

- Ryan Christofferson
- Cliff Gilchrist

Aug 17

- Lyle Hultgren

Aug 18

- Paxson Belden
- Kathy Hanson
- Steve Korby

Aug 20

- Brittle Lund
- Ethan Matzdorf
- Aiden Tingum

Aug 21

- Riley Nelson

Aug 22

- Erik Petoletti

Aug 23

- Kristin Abrahamson

Aug 24

- Bruce Spetz

Aug 25

- Cole Berglund
- Kathleen Nelson

Aug 26

- Philip Maunu
- Sonja Wick
- Nyah Yurek

Aug 28

- Dylan Hanson

Aug 29

- Suzette Randall

Aug 31

- Linda Jankowski
- Emily Matzdorf
- Oliver Voltzke

Aug 1

- Donna Lekander
- Finnigan Tuve

Aug 2

- Peggy (Joy) Armstrong
- Matt Krikava

Aug 3

- Betty Doble
- Jayce Koskela

Aug 4

- Kenneth Brule



Altar Guild

08/02	9:30	Linda Boyd
08/09	9:30	Sherri Waller
08/16	9:30	Linda Boyd
08/23	9:30	Bonnie Christopherson
08/30	9:30	Sherri Waller

Readers

08/02	9:30	Clay Kazmierczak
08/09	9:30	Will Buytaert
08/16	9:30	Gavin Painter
08/23	9:30	Amber and Juli Lattner
08/30	9:30	Keagan Daigle

Sound Board Operators

08/02	9:30	Terry and Sue Nanti
08/09	9:30	Randy and Amy Stahl
08/16	9:30	Jan Larson
08/23	9:30	Jan Larson
08/30	9:30	HEAR NEED A VOLUNTEER!

Video Booth Operator / Video Editor

08/02	9:30	Bruce Larson/ Brad Browsers
08/09	9:30	Mary Krohn / Brad Browsers
08/16	9:30	Bruce Larson/ Brad Browsers
08/23	9:30	Bruce Larson/ Brad Browsers
08/30	9:30	NEED OPERATOR / Brad Browsers

Communion Servers (Palanca Mutual Ministry):

08/02	9:30	Denny Painter, Linda Jankowski, Jan Larson
08/09	9:30	Linda Holmstrand, Sherri Waller, Duane Buytaert
08/16	9:30	Ron Stahl, Cindy Haglin, Dea Haglin
08/23	9:30	Jim Boyd, Deb Templeton, Dave Templeton
08/30	9:30	Curt Nelson, Roy Ober, Bill Schlenvogt

Ushers

08/02	9:30	Hagen Family
08/09	9:30	Randall Family
08/16	9:30	Matzdorf Family
08/23	9:30	Jim and Linda Boyd, Sherri Waller
08/30	9:30	Jim and Linda Boyd, Sherri Waller

THANKS!

TO OUR GREAT
GEEK-MOUSE
BRAD BROWERS
FOR ALL HIS
TECHNICAL
WIZARDRY!

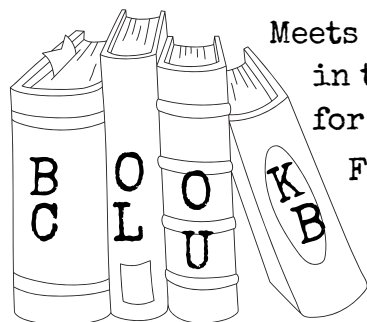


Baptism
Brady Allen Badciong
July 19, 2026

Baptism
Remington Allen Badciong
July 19, 2026



Date	Location
08/16	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
08/23	Good Hope Church



Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm at Our Savior's in the Fireside room to discuss various books of interest for both men and women.

For more information contact Jan Larson or Mary Krohn.

The August book is "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.
The September book is "The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali.

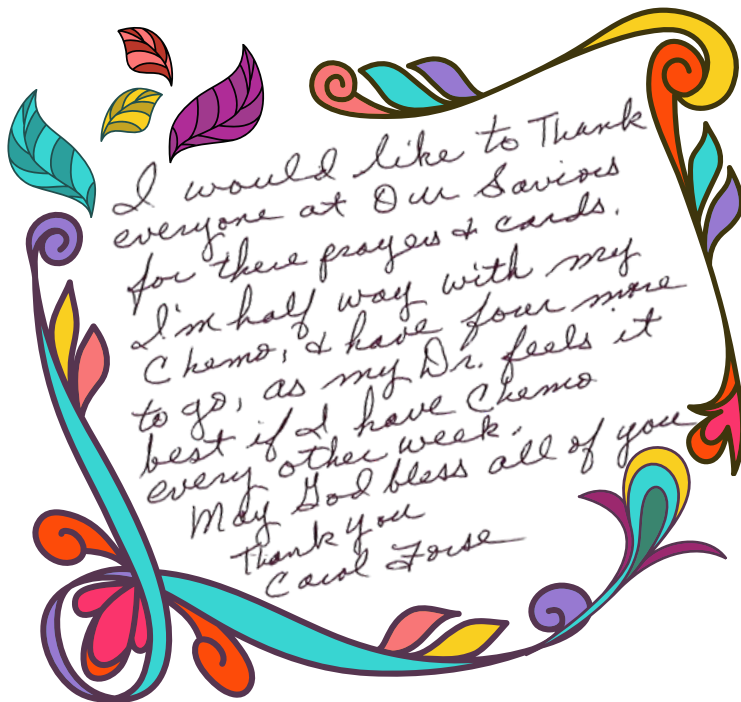
	<u>June 26 Budget</u>	<u>June 26 Actual</u>	<u>YTD 2026 Budget</u>	<u>YTD 2026 Actual</u>
Income	19,438	19,595	128,065	130,209
Expenses	22,728	21,631	133,011	132,453
2026 Net Income	(3,290)	(2,035)	(4,946)	(2,244)
2025 Net Income	(880)	454	(5,517)	1,616

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Offering Needed</u>
June 28	87	1,652	4,744
July 5	74	8,669	4,456
July 12	77	3,474	4,456
July 19	113	4,591	4,456
July 26	84	1,960	4,456
Totals	435	20,346	22,568

Gifts & Memorials:

- Harvey Korby and Family in memory of Judy Korby supporting youth ministry via the Liberty K9 Rescue Ranch, the pollinator project and the Community Raised Bed Project.
- Karen Dormanen in memory of Jimmy Lekander, Pastor Luke's father, to Praise and Worship.
- Jim and Linda Boyd and Family in memory of Jimmy Lekander, Pastor Luke's father, to the roof fund

- Cliff and Marilyn Gilchrist in memory of dear friend Larry Carlson, to the Gift and Memorial Fund



Community of Hope 2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER CAR SHOW

SATURDAY 1pm - 6pm **8 AUG 2026** Esko Athletic Field Sport Complex

Car Show
Entry \$10

BBQ!

Esko Fun
Days Events

50/50
Raffles



Item
Raffles



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:



Sue Butkiewicz
218-349-4798



Email
sue.butkiewicz@gmail.com

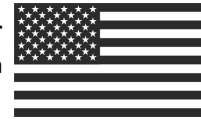


Lutheran Church
615 12th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720-2321
oursaviorscloquet.org
Office: (218) 879-1535
email@oursaviorscloquet.org

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation that are former or current military. Please contact the Church office for any other members we may have missed or if any of these names should be removed.

Tim Schlenvogt
Tim Larson

Erika Blesner
River Krikava



 <https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorscloquet>

Pastor: Pastor Luke Lekander (ext. 11)
pastorluke@oursaviorscloquet.org

Visitation: visitation@oursaviorscloquet.org
(218) 879-1535

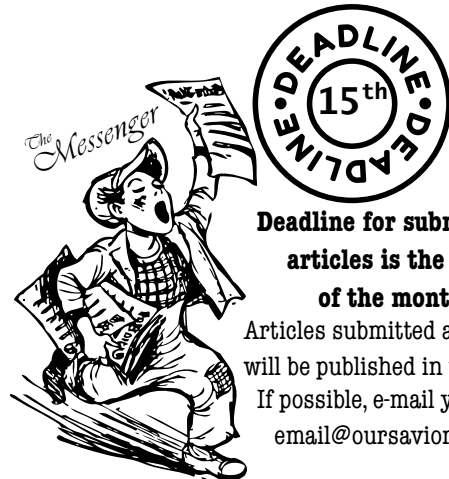
Administrative Assistant: Kristen Adams (ext. 10)
email@oursaviorscloquet.org

Accounting: Bruce Larson, Bookkeeper
bruce@oursaviorscloquet.org

Sr Choir/Praise & Worship: Ryan Hanson, Director
ryan.hanson77@gmail.com

Church Website: oursaviorscloquet.org

Church Office Hours: Sat-Sun: CLOSED
Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Friday: 8 am - Noon



**Deadline for submitting
articles is the 15th
of the month.**

Articles submitted after the 15th
will be published in the next issue.
If possible, e-mail your article to:
email@oursaviorscloquet.org.



Join us for Worship!

In Person and on 
Sundays at 9:30am



By 3:00 pm Sundays



Radio

WKLK AM 1230
@ 11:00am Sundays

CAT-7 Broadcast

3:00pm - Thursday



3:00pm - The Following Sunday

*Please remember the following friends below
not always able to join us on Sundays:*

Mabel Clemens	Sharon Harney
Robert Fountain	Lyle and Candy Hultgren
Ray Manisto	Carol Maki
Joan Essen	Karen Splett
Carolyn Watson	Donna Redding

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
615 12th Street
Cloquet MN 55720
Phone: 218-879-1535



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Cloquet, MN
Permit 50

Address Service Requested
July 2026

Upcoming Events!

Get an e-copy of *The Messenger* too!
See all the colors; zoom in for easy reading.
Let the office you'd like to be added to the email list. You can even get the PRINT and the E-Version!



VILLAINS
IN THE BIBLE

STARTS 09-27-2026



Seedlings

AUGUST 21-22, 2026

OSLC Rummage Sale

SAVE THE DATE! JOIN THE FUN!

NOAH

more lezks

