

PARISH PARTNER

Vol. 31 Issue 6
June 2026

“KEEP IT SIMPLE” WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services at 9:30 A.M.

**First/third/fifth Sundays at Kongsvinger

**Second/Fourth Sundays at St. John's

Holy Communion Services:

**First Sunday of the month at Kongsvinger

**Fourth Sunday of the month at St. John's

St. John's
+
Kongsvinger
Lutheran Parish
is a member of the
Glacial Ridge
Conference
of the
Southwestern Minnesota
Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

STAFF

Pastor Rochelle Anderson

Parish Secretary
Mary L. Werk

Kongsvinger Organist
Sue Erdahl-Nelson

St. John's Organist
Peggy Wilke

OFFICERS

President
Chad Smith (K)
_____ (SJ)

Secretary
Algene Larson/
Laura Lehman (K)
_____ (SJ)

Treasurer
Mary Werk (K)
Jan Greiner (SJ)

Financial Secretary
Nancy Thompson (K)
Judy Burner (SJ)

Women's Group President
KLCW - Co-led by Algene
Larson and Mary Werk
SJ WELCA - Donna Eystad

Women's Group
Council Representative
KLCW - Cork Loge
SJ WELCA - Della Dunn

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Chad Smith, Jody Loher,
Pat Smith, David Larson,
and Blake Flaten (K)

Donna Eystad, Greg
Greiner, Jack Kopacek,
and John Kopacek (SJ)



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Phone: 320-246-3211

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Website: stjohnskongsvingerchurch.com

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	3 Recorded Message	4 KLCW MEETING 1:30 p.m.	5 Southwestern MN Synod Assembly - St. Peter, MN and via Zoom	6
7 JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (K) Coffee fellowship Rendsville 4-H Club meeting.	8	9 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	10 Recorded Message	11	12	13
14  FLAG DAY JOINT Service 9:30 a.m. (SJ) Coffee fellowship	15	16 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	17 Recorded Message	18	19	20 June 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
21 JOINT Service 9:30 a.m. (K) Coffee fellowship 	22	23 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	24 Recorded Message	25	26	27
Luther Crest Women's Week - Pastor Rochelle will be attending camp.						
28 JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (SJ) Coffee fellowship	29	30 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)				

PARISH POPCORN

LIVE AND ON-DEMAND VIDEO STREAMING

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES!*

Worship services originating from Kongsvinger will now be available to watch live – or watch later at your convenience – on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskongsvinger>

To watch live, visit the link above and click on the 'LIVE' tab to access the next scheduled service. To watch a past worship service, click the 'HOME' tab and look for the date in the title. All worship services will be archived at this location. Broadcast of Kongsvinger worship services on Morris Access TV will be on first, third, and fifth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., AND ADDITIONALLY ON THE FIRST, THIRD, AND FIFTH SUNDAYS at 1:30 p.m. It is on **MediaCom channel 8 (OR on MediaCom channel 117-2 for users with a digital box).**

KONGSVINGER CHURCH 150th Anniversary is September 20, 2026.

We are encouraging committees (Food, History, Advertising, Program, Grounds, Decorating, etc.) to begin meeting as soon as possible. There is a committee worksheet in the church basement with committee members listed. If you have volunteered for a committee, please contact the other members listed and get your meeting scheduled. We have room for more volunteers.

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

If you have family/friends/former members in mind to invite to our Anniversary celebration, please get their names and addresses to Mary Werk at the Parish office as soon as possible.

JUST A REMINDER: If you or someone you know is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or homebound, and would appreciate a pastoral contact or Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office at 246-3211. Even though you may be asked your religious affiliation during check-in, the hospital/nursing homes don't share that information with us - unless you specifically request that they do. Updates to the Parish Office are always appreciated.

THANK YOU...

To all our prayer warriors for your continuing prayers. When we aren't able to do anything else — we can always pray!

To all those who continue to do quiet (and often unseen) acts—being God's hands and feet.

To the world you may be just one person, but to one person, you may be the world.

To our congregation members for remembering your church with your financial offerings. Your continued generous support is appreciated!

To ushers, musicians, lectors, altar guilds, deacons, trustees, coffee fellowship servers, and all who work to keep our worship services running smoothly.

"THANK YOU" seems inadequate to express our appreciation to all our members. You ARE God's church—caring for God's people!

THANK YOU!

BE PART OF THE THRIVENT CALENDAR:

We are seeking original photography or artwork that captures the theme for next year's calendar: *GOD'S HANDIWORK*. God's handiwork surrounds us every day in the glow of morning light, the strength of the mountains, the rhythm of the sea, the delicate details of a flower, and the quiet moments of kindness and peace that shape our world. We invite you to submit original photos or artwork that questions, capture these glimpses of God's creativity — images that inspire awe, gratitude, joy, or peace. Your work can help tell the story of a world lovingly shaped by God's hand. To submit an entry or for more information - visit thrivent.com/calendar. Entries accepted through June 30.

***WEBSITE DISCLAIMER:** With our website active, we would like to know if any of our members prefer to not have pictures of themselves or their children included on the site. They would likely be group photos of activities of the churches without names attached. If you do not want pictures of you or your family included, please let the Parish office know. Thank you!

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 2 – Emmitt Athey, Ryker Jones
- 3 – Brady Cardwell, Logan Mau
- 4 – Bristol Bothun, Catherine Bothun
- 5 – Diane Amundson
- 8 – Donna Eystad
- 9 – Lori Mau
- 11 – Phoebe Oelke, Paxton Eystad
- 16 – Kristin Olson, Jason Strand
- 17 – Bruce Erdahl
- 19 – Lindsay Mann
- 20 – Kylie Mau
- 22 – Jacob Eystad, Courtney Lehman, Steve Disselkamp
- 23 – Bill Kruize
- 24 – Amanda Anderson
- 26 – Destiny Pollard
- 27 – Mason Dunn



- Family of Sandra Drevecky
- Family of Deb Erickson
- Family of Gloria (Kloos) Flaten
- Pastor Joel and Renee Dahlen
- Pastor Tim and Cyndi Olson
- Bernice Erdahl
- Gertie Werk
- Gloria Larson
- Governmental leaders around the world
- Conflicts around the globe
- Area military members and their families
- Our homebound members; residents of nursing homes and care centers



- 1 - Royce Erdahl
- 2 - Jill Winther, Jazzney Frank
- 4 - Fulton Janachovsky
- 6 - Glen Henrichs
- 7 - Elaine Harstad
- 9 - Keason Cihak, Hunter Smith
- 10 - Gordon Erickson, Karen Janachovsky, Eric Sassenfeld
- 11 - Natalie Ennen
- 12 - Kris Wilke, Amaya Rath
- 13 - Cork Loge
- 16 - Jan Greiner, Carter Erickson
- 17 - Jeanne Ennen, David Sax
- 20 - Jacob Eystad, Elroy Larson
- 21 - Kristi Werner
- 22 - Chris Smith
- 25 - Robert Kloos, Zachary Eystad
- 29 - Mark Erickson



PARISH PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

THE MISSION OF THE PRAYER MINISTRY IS TO PRAY, TEACH OTHERS TO PRAY, PROVIDE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION AS WE ARE INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The role of a father is a sacred and holy position. On Father's Day, we celebrate the blessing of fatherhood. Be it by birth or by taking on the responsibility, the fathers and father figures in our lives deserve our admiration and our prayers. We encourage you to use these prayers for Father's Day to help you encourage and inspire the men in your life. Let us join together in thanking God for these men and blessing them in their daily life.

Father God, Please bless our fathers with wisdom and discernment. In Proverbs 3:13-18, that wisdom is a gift far greater than gold, and we pray such a gift would be given to the fathers in our lives. Help them to grow in learning to know, understand, and discern Your voice. Assist them in the decisions they make that affect not only their lives but the lives of those around them. Mature them in faith in order that they may encourage those around them to trust and come to know You more richly. Amen.

Heavenly Father, We pray today for the health and well-being of our fathers and father figures. We know that life on this side of heaven is quite fragile, but we also know that You have precise and perfect timing set out for each day of our lives (Psalm 139:16). May their bodies be strong, and may their spiritual hearts grow even stronger with each passing day as they grow closer to You. Amen.

Excerpts from Crosswalk.com

- 7 - David & Hannah Larson
- 8 - Vernon & Victoria Strand
- 15 - Jon & Bev Larson
- 17 - Brad & Crystal Searle; Nick & Amanda Sanchez
- 19 - Glen & Judy Henrichs
- 21 - Ryan & Rachel Bothun; Ryan & Anna Weispfenning
- 22 - Warren & Delores Rathke
- 23 - Randy & Louisa Werk
- 25 - Paul & Nancy Thompson
- 28 - Richard & Joan Strand; Jacob & Mindy Eystad
- 29 - Maynard & Lori Mau; Nolan & Jana Pierce
- 30 - Jamey & Kathy Eystad; Phil & Kris Kloos

HAPPY Anniversary!



WORSHIP & PRAYER

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 7, 2026

Lessons

Hosea 5:15 - 6:6;
Psalm 50:7-14;
Romans 4:13-25;
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Liturgy

JOINT Holy Communion Service at Kongsvinger 9:30 a.m.

Lector Craig Loge (K)

Parish Challenge

For our families to take the time to gather and celebrate family and friends

Church

The ELCA and Lutheran Theological Seminary - Philadelphia; the New England Synod; Homebound and shut-in members; and Trinity Lutheran Church (Alberta)

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 21, 2026

Lessons

Jeremiah 20:7-13;
Psalm 69: 7-10 (11-15) 16-18;
Romans 6:1b-11;
Matthew 10:24-39

Liturgy

JOINT Worship Service at Kongsvinger 9:30 a.m.

Lector Mary Werk(SJ)

Parish Prayers

Of thanksgiving for God's gift of fathers

Church

The ELCA and Lutheran School of Theology - Chicago; the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Endowment and Foundation Committees; and Trinity and Bethany Lutheran Churches (Benson)

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 14, 2026

Lessons

Exodus 19:2-8a;
Psalm 100;
Romans 5:1-8;
Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 (9-23)

Liturgy

JOINT Worship Service at St. John's 9:30 a.m.

Lector Pat Smith (SJ)

Parish Prayers

For favorable conditions and God's blessing for growth for crops and gardens

Church

The ELCA and Lutheran Theological Seminary - Gettysburg; the Metro and Upstate New York Synod; Congregations of the Great River Conference; and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Benson)

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 28, 2026

Lessons

Jeremiah 28:5-9;
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Romans 6:12-23;
Matthew 10:40-42

Liturgy

JOINT Holy Communion Service at St. John's 9:30 a.m.

Lector Scarlet Berstrom-McKee (K)

Parish Prayers

For our country as we celebrate our 250th Anniversary.
God Bless America!

Church

The ELCA and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary; the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Lutheran Men in Mission and all men's groups;; and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

NOTES OF *thanks*



A big thank you to everyone for the prayers, the good luck wishes, and the cards sent to me for my recent knee surgery. Thank you, also, to Pastor Rochelle for her phone visit and the inspirational words. Thank you all! Warren Rathke

St. John's/Kongsvinger Parish

Thank you for your recent donation to the Stevens County Food Shelf (Lenten cash offering of \$400). Your donation will be used for the purchase of food and other related items. In these times of rising food costs, your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Doug Ehlers, Treasurer Stevens County Food Shelf

Kongsvinger Church - Pat Smith

On behalf of the Office of Community Engagement at UMM, thank you for your donation of bars and bread. Your generous contribution helped to support our 19th Annual Bread N' Bowls fundraiser which raised awareness about violence, poverty, and food insecurity in our community. We had over 125 community members attend the event, and we raised over \$1,500 that was donated to three area non-profits: Someplace Safe, the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance, and the Stevens County Food Shelf. Once again, thank you so much for your donation and your continued support. Your generosity allows us to build connections and combat violence, poverty, and food insecurity in our community.

Sarah Eckel, Office of Community Engagement

PARISH HAPPENINGS

FUNERAL SERVICES for Sandra (Bjorlin) Drevecky will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Adams Mountain Lutheran Church (603 Third Avenue) in Adams, ND. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. The service will be live streamed on the Tollefson Funeral Home website.

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of a girl, Evangeline Jene Eystad, to proud parents Lee and Brooke Eystad on May 4, 2026. Evangeline weighed 6#, 2 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. God's blessings to your family!

COLLEGE GRADUATE

Congratulations to Jackson Loge, son of Kevin and Shannon Loge (and grandson of Craig and Cork Loge) who graduated in May from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, with a degree in Business and Finance. God's blessings to you, Jackson, in your future plans.

KONGSVINGER LUTHERAN CHURCH will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary on September 20, 2026.

LEFSE MEMORIES TO SHARE?

Hannah Larson is looking for photos (labeled), stories, anecdotes, memories, etc. to include in the Kongsvinger Lefse Book. Items can be left at the Parish Office. Deadline is July 1 so the book can be compiled/printed/delivered by the 150th Anniversary Celebration. Please email or call Hannah at 651-249-3496/ if you have any questions.

HEALTH UPDATE FROM PASTOR TIM OLSON:

HOME!! We had our second post-transplant evaluation today after discharge. Based on my labs and all other measures, they concluded that there was no reason to keep us. "You are healing like a person half your age" was the assessment. So, we've been cleared to head home - A beautiful word. This is not the end of anything. I will have lab work twice a week and see the Docs at the Unity Point Liver Center, who are Nebraska Med docs. The meds are lifelong. My anemia is cured. I've lost 20+ lbs. as my body now processes fluid the way it is supposed to. No more gastroscopies or iron infusions. All because someone donated a liver to a stranger. I won't be rushing back to work, but am cleared to ease back into things as I see fit - mostly from home. Are you a donor? Pax Christi - Tim & Cyndi

***JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Saturday, July 20, 2026.

Community News and Events

"GATHERINGS" PEDERSEN FUNERAL HOMES - We are encouraging anyone who wants to attend the gatherings - that the meetings will continue but we will not be there to facilitate them. The meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of every month (June 9) at noon at Old #1 in Morris.

STEVENS COUNTY FOOD SHELF supplies a five-day emergency or supplemental food package to residents of Stevens County. There is no fee for this service. Clients must provide proof of residency. The food shelf welcomes donations of foods or financial contributions to support our community. **PLEASE NOTE HOURS** (to accommodate the increasing after-work traffic) The Stevens County Food Shelf is open: Monday: 2:30-3:30 10:30-11:30 a.m.; p.m.; Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday: Thursday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; and Friday: 10:30-11:30 a.m. The food shelf is located on the corner of Seventh Street and Iowa Avenue on the northeast side of Morris.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

St. John's WELCA **NO MONTHLY MEETING**

WANTED: Sheets or bedding for use as liners in quilts. Flat sheets preferred, but if Queen or King size – fitted is OK. May drop off in box in St. John's entry. Any questions, please call Joan Kopacek. (VFW/Legion sewing group)

Kongsvinger **Women of the ELCA** **June 4, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.**

CONTACT PERSON: Algene Larson

BIBLE STUDY THEME:

“The Call to Love Your Brothers and Sisters” (Obadiah)

BIBLE STUDY LEADER: Elaine Harstad

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Bonnie Moses and Christy Haynes

BANNER COMMITTEE: Jon and Bev Larson

COMMUNION BREAD: Mindy Eystad

SUNSHINE LADY: Bonnie Gulbrandson

BULLETIN BOARD: Toni Hughes and Kris Kloos

HOSTESS: Bonnie Gulbrandson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP for June will be served by Circle One.

KLCW SPRING CLEANING - As the remodeling project is going on at the Parish Hall, we will instead focus all three Circles on cleaning at the church building and basement. If you have a bit of spare time, any cleaning you are able to complete at the church is much appreciated. We will do a pre-Anniversary cleaning at the Parish Hall when the remodel is completed. Thank you for what you are able to do!

MISSING! The green plastic inserts (sleeves) that fit inside the altar vases at Kongsvinger are missing. If you happen to have them at your house, could you please return them to the church? The metal sleeves are no longer water-tight.

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP WOMEN'S WEEK will be June 21 to June 26, 2026.

COOKBOOKS: KLCW has received the re-print of our original “Blue” Cookbook - in time for our 150th Anniversary. The cost of the books will be \$12 each. Contact the Parish office if you would like to purchase one.

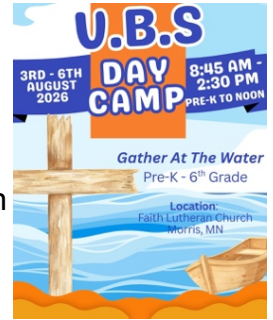
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP: We have found a place where we can replace portions of the Confirmation picture display in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in financially supporting this project or working on updating the display in time for our 150th Anniversary, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.



EDUCATION CORNER

Sunday School - We wish all our Sunday School students, parents, teachers and families an enjoyable summer break.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “Gather At the Water” will be held August 3-6, 2026, from 8:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (pre-kindergarten until noon only). Open to pre-school through sixth grade. Event will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Morris. Registration begins on July 6, and we'll have a QR code/link for families to use. Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be leading VBS this year.



ELEMENT CONFIRMATION is on summer break. Have a wonderful summer!

FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY is a multi-congregation ministry reaching out to 9th-12th grade youth in the Morris area.

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP

LCBC Women's Week: Luther Crest Bible Camp's Women's Week will be held June 21 - 26, 2026. Come away to Luther Crest for a meaningful and refreshing week designed just for women. Enjoy powerful speakers, worship, fellowship, and time to rest and reconnect in the beauty of camp. Explore your faith, go for a swim, take a hike, enjoy meals (prepared for you and cleaned up by camp staff), and just enjoy the great outdoors. Join us for the whole week or just a day or two — whichever fits your summer schedule best! We look forward to seeing you!

FAMILY CAMP - Make lasting memories together as a family! Enjoy classic camp activities, faith-building experiences, and time to unplug and reconnect with one another. Whether you join us for the full week or just the weekend, Family Camp is a special experience for all ages. Half-week Camp is June 28—July 1; Weekend Camp is June 24-26, and August 2-7 (full week).

FISHING CAMP - Whether your camper is new to fishing or already loves being out on the water, this popular program is a fantastic way to learn skills, build friendships, and enjoy God's creation.

LOOKING AHEAD: Luther Crest Bible Camp's Summer Fest and Auction will be held on July 11, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exciting live auction at the camp waterfront at 2 p.m. (dedicated to camper scholarships); on-line auction; day of viewing; camp fun like zip lining, tours, arts and crafts and beach time; camp meal served from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. For more information, visit <https://luthercrest.org/summer-festand-auction>. Bring the whole family and enjoy the day.



Call Luther Crest at 320-846-2431 or visit luthercrest.org for more information and to register. Camps fill up fast - so get registered TODAY!