

PARISH PARTNER

Vol. 31 Issue 9
September 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

SHARING MEMORIES OF KONGSVINGER

If you would care to share a special memory, story, or just something you enjoy about Kongsvinger, you may write them up and drop them off at the Parish Office (in secretary's box) - or simply email them to stjkongs@runestone.net. These memories will be shared at the anniversary program. Deadline is September 16 (please)!



Hello Autumn

*Kongsvinger
+
St. John's
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)
Peggy Wilke (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,
Joan Kopacek, and John
Kopacek (SJ)*

P.O. Box 97

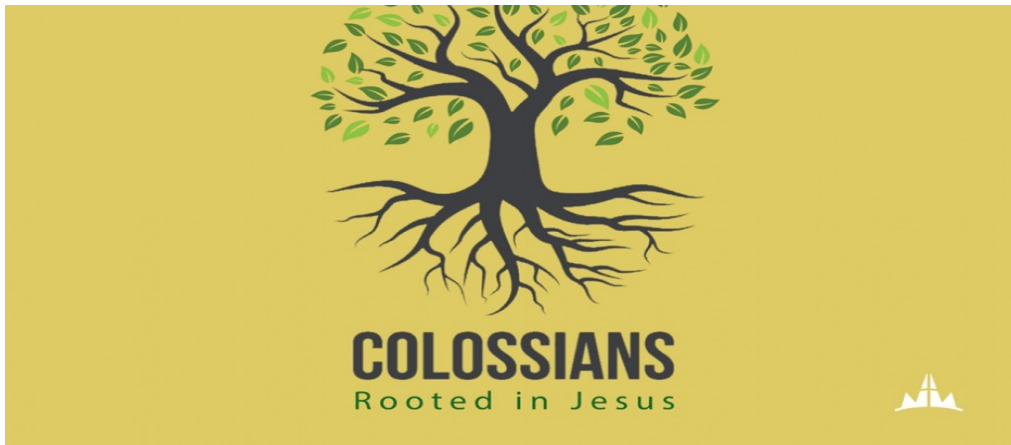
Donnelly, MN, 56235

Phone: 320-246-3211

E-mail: stjkongs@runestone.net

Website: stjohnskongsvingerchurch.com

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS



*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him,
and established in the faith just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7*

It is a few weeks away...have you made your reservation? Invited a friend? Picked out your best Sunday outfit? Our 150th Anniversary celebration comes in two weeks! Just enough time to put final touches on different items. And, yes, even church members need to reserve a meal for themselves and their family! We need an accurate head count so nobody goes hungry.

Speaking of looking forward to upcoming events - Sunday, September 13 is when Sunday school starts! Rally Sunday is here. Wow! A month filled with celebrations. These celebrations keep us learning about our triune God, which keeps us rooted in Christ. Just keep on reaching towards the future...sharing memories, thinking outside of the box, studying the Bible, and continuous education for all ages. Let us praise and shout that Jesus is Lord and King! AMEN!

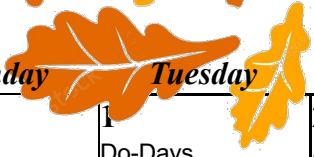
Pr. Rochelle

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.



***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!

SEPTEMBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	2 Recorded Message	3 KLCW MEETING 1:30 p.m.	4	5
6 JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (K) Coffee fellowship Rendsville 4H Club meeting.	7 	8 NO Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	9 Recorded Message Church Council Meetings (SJ) Kongsvinger Council 6:15 pm; Joint Council 7:00 pm; St. John's Council 8:00 pm	10	11 Anniversary Program committee meeting - 9:30 am (K)	12 Restore Kongsvinger Parish Hall following carpet cleaning 9:00 am
13 JOINT Service 9:30 a.m. (SJ) Coffee fellowship RALLY SUNDAY Sunday School 10:45 a.m. (K)	14	15 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	16 Recorded Message Worship Committee Meeting 9:30 am (SJ) Element Parent/ Student Kickoff at First Lutheran 6:30 pm Parent Student Meeting with Pr. Rochelle 8:00 pm at First Lutheran	17	18	19
20 <i>Kongsvinger 150th Anniversary Celebration</i> JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (K) Sunday School kids singing *Catered Anniversary meal and program following worship (RSVP required for meal) NO Sunday School	21 October 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Glacial Ridge Conf. Women's Fall Gathering 4:30 p.m. Our Redeemer's Benson	22 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K) 	23 Recorded Message Element - 6:30 pm at First Lutheran	24	25	26
27 JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (SJ) with guest Pastor John Smith Coffee fellowship Sunday School 10:45 a.m. (K)	28	29 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	30 Recorded Message Element - 6:30 pm at First Lutheran 9th Grade Faith Statement preparation with Pr. Rochelle at First Lutheran			

WORSHIP & PRAYER

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Lessons

Ezekiel 33:7-11;
Psalm 119:33-40;
Romans 12: 8-14;
Matthew 18: 15-20

Liturgy

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

Lector Scarlet Bergstrom-McKee (K)

Parish Challenge

For our Sunday School teachers, students and families as they begin a new year of learning about God!

Church

The ELCA and all ELCA Missionaries; the North Carolina Synod; Congregations of the Crow River Conference; and Glenwood Lutheran Church (Glenwood)

SIXTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Lessons

Genesis 50:15-21;

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13;

Romans 14:1-12;

Matthew 18:21-35

Liturgy

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

Lector Joan Kopacek (SJ)

Parish Prayers

For the women of the Glacial Ridge Conference as they meet for their Fall Gathering on 9/21 in Benson

Church

The ELCA and Lutheran Social Services; the South Carolina Synod; Mutual Ministry and Pastoral Support Committees; and Barsness and Chippewa Falls Lutheran Churches (Glenwood)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Kongsvinger's 150th Anniversary Celebration

Lessons

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11;
Psalm 145:1-8;
Philippians 1:21-30;
Matthew 20: 1-16

Liturgy

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

Lector Pastor Jerry Boerner

Parish Prayers

Of thanksgiving and praise as we acknowledge and celebrate 150 years of ministry at Kongsvinger Church!

Church

The ELCA and all Lutheran chaplains; the Southeastern Synod; our presiding Bishop and churchwide staff; and Immanuel and Indherrerd Lutheran Churches (Starbuck)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Lessons

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32;

Psalm 25:1-9;

Philippians 2:1-13;

Matthew 21:23-32

Liturgy

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

Lector Jan Griner (SJ)

Parish Prayers

For our Confirmation students as they deepen their understanding of their relationship with God.

Church

The ELCA and the ELCA Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas-Caribbean Synod; the work of Call Committees and rostered persons in transition; and Fron Lutheran Church (Starbuck)



EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY SUNDAY! “Nacho Average Sunday!” will be held Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 10:45 AM. We are looking forward to another great year of reconnecting with friends, growing in faith, and learning more about God’s love together in Sunday School!

***NO Sunday School on Sunday, Sept., 20.** The Sunday School kids will be singing in church that day as part of the 150th Celebration!

ELEMENT CONFIRMATION

Element Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Morris. This will be our kickoff event. Students will get to know one another and spend time in both large and small group activities. Parents will meet with Pastor A to look over the year ahead and answer any questions you may have. PLEASE NOTE: St. John’s/Kongsvinger students AND parents will meet with Pastor Rochelle following confirmation class that evening at First Lutheran in Morris (about 8:00 p.m.) to complete their Confirmation Covenants.

September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Morris - Themes of Creation

September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Morris - Story of Jacob

FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY IS A MULTI-CONGREGATION MINISTRY REACHING OUT TO 9TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH IN THE MORRIS AREA. FUSION WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 P.M. AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MORRIS.

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP

THANK YOU for an incredible Summer Fest/Auction. What an amazing day! Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated auction items, bid online, participated in the live auction, and prayed for this ministry. Because of your generosity, more kids will experience the life-changing gift of camp. Your support helps ensure that finances are never the reason a child misses the opportunity to grow in faith, confidence, and community. **THANK YOU** for helping make this year’s Summer Fest/Auction such a tremendous success.

“Every summer reminds us why camp matters. Watching young people discover their gifts, deepen their faith, and experience God’s love in such tangible ways is nothing short of inspiring. We are incredibly grateful for every family, congregation, volunteer, donor, and staff member who makes this ministry possible. Together, God is truly moving mountains.” Rev. Maddie Elliott, Executive Director—LCBC



WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

St. John's WELCA NO MONTHLY MEETING

ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS serve coffee each Sunday there are services at St. John's. We appreciate everyone taking a turn providing and serving lunch. Notebook to sign up is in the kitchen. If you have questions, please contact Donna Eystad or Peggy Wilke.

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

Sept. 3, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

CONTACT PERSON: Mary Werk

BIBLE STUDY THEME: *"The Call to Leave
Judgment in God's Hands" (Nahum)*

BIBLE STUDY LEADER: Elaine Harstad

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Bev Larson and Jody Loher

BANNER COMMITTEE: Craig and Cork Loge

COMMUNION BREAD: Jody Loher

SUNSHINE LADY: Jeanne Ennen

BULLETIN BOARD: Alycia Athey

HOSTESS: Cork Loge

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP for September will be served by Circle One.

THRESHING BEE DUES (\$20) - It's not too late! If it slipped your mind, you may give your check to Laura Lehman or drop off at the Parish Office. Thank you!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held during our September KLCW Meeting. Thanks to the Nominating Committee (Diane Amundson, Jennifer Dunn, Alycia Athey) for their work in preparing the KLCW Ballot for 2027.

QUILT RAFFLE - We are selling raffle tickets (\$5 each) on a beautiful "Lonestar" king-plus quilt - made and hand quilted by the Amish. Drawing will be held at Fall Festival in November. Proceeds from the raffle will be given to support the Sunday School. Tickets are available from KLCW members or the Parish Office.

COOKBOOKS: KLCW has reprinted 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

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH:

Do you need an evening for yourself? Come to the 2026 Glacial Ridge Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering. Theme: "Hope and Comfort." You will not be disappointed by the experiences of worship, the speaker, and a light meal served at 5:00 p.m. The Gathering will take place on Monday, September 21, 2026, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Benson. Ride-share available ~ contact the Parish Office at 320-246-3211. Registration fee is \$15 and registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Speaker at 6:00 p.m. is open to the public. *All are welcome!*

PARISH POPCORN

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.

Opening Thought

A new school year brings excitement, change, and sometimes anxiety. God's Word reminds students, parents, and teachers that they are not alone and that every challenge can be met with His strength and guidance.

Joshua 1:9 — Courage

"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Perfect for first-day nerves)

Proverbs 3:5-6 — Trust

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." (A reminder to rely on God when school feels overwhelming.)

2 Timothy 1:7 — Confidence

God gives "power, love and self-discipline, not fear." (Encourages bravery in new subjects and activities.)

1 Timothy 4:12 — Leadership

Students can set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Philippians 4:13 — Strength

"I can do all things through Christ..." (Helpful for tests and tough days.)

Our Prayer:

Lord, as we begin this school year, give us courage, wisdom, and kindness like Christ. Guide our steps, calm our worries, and help us shine Your light in every classroom, hallway, and conversation. Strengthen teachers, protect students, and let Your peace fill our schools. Amen.

THANK YOUS...

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!

LIVE AND ON-DEMAND VIDEO STREAMING

****PLEASE NOTE CHAGES!***

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).

PARISH HAPPENINGS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at St. John's Church. Kongsvinger's Council will meet at 6:15 p.m.; JOINT Council will meet at 7:00 p.m.; and St. John's Council will meet at 8:00 p.m. Please plan to attend—quorum is needed to conduct church business.

\$25 THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS DURING YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH!

Thrivent is giving members an additional \$25 in their Choice Dollars account during their birthday month. These funds must be designated to an eligible non-profit by the end of your birthday month or they will expire. Log in to your Thrivent account to direct the funds to any non-profit organization of your choice.

Kongsvinger Kitchen Update

We are excited to share that the new kitchen at Kongsvinger is complete and fully functional! We are finishing up a few final decorating touches. The carpets in the Parish Hall are scheduled to be cleaned on September 9th.

The Kitchen Committee would like to sincerely thank the church council and the congregation for giving us the opportunity and trusting us with the task of redesigning and updating the church kitchen from start to finish. It has been rewarding to see the ideas and plans come together and become a beautiful, functional space for our church family. We are grateful to everyone who helped, donated, encouraged us, and contributed in so many ways to making the new kitchen a reality. As we celebrate 150 years of faith and fellowship, it is exciting to think about all the meals, conversations, celebrations, Sunday School events, and memories that will be shared in this space for years to come.

Here's to a beautiful new kitchen and the next 150 years of serving God and one another together!

God's Blessings!

Kitchen Committee Members:

Laura Lehman, Hannah Larson, Laura Ennen, and Kayla Erdahl

ST. JOHN'S/KONGSVINGER PARISH WILL OBSERVE GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY ON OCTOBER 4, 2026.

We will be assembling newborn kits for Global Health Ministries (GHM). These kits will be shipped to waiting partners overseas where Global Health Ministries ship supplies to 175 health facilities. The gift of a GHM Newborn Kit is a blessing for the woman who receives it, providing basic items to help her clothe and care for her child, and celebrate new life! Importantly, the promise of this gift can also motivate her to connect with a health worker when she is expecting - a connection that can save her life. GHM sends Newborn Kits along with medical supplies and equipment to partners in Liberia, Madagascar, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, where they are used to encourage women to visit their local hospital or clinic for prenatal care and assisted delivery. Once that connection is made, mom is more likely to return for postnatal care, vaccinations for all her family and other health interventions - and to tell her friends and family they should do the same. The Newborn Kit is a blessing multiplier!

GHM partners are asking for more Newborn Kits. This year, our goal is to send 20,000 Newborn Kits to waiting partners overseas. We will help to meet this challenge by assembling 200 newborn health kits following a brief worship service. GHM furnishes all the supplies needed for the kits. But if you would like to donate pillowcases, GHM likes to send the contents of the kits in a pillowcase. Pillowcases can be new, but a used case that is laundered is also welcome. Please visit their site Global Health Ministries <https://www.ghm.org/> for more information on this non-profit organization located in Fridley, MN. We encourage everyone to help as we have several small children who could use an adult to help them assemble kits.

Following our service project we will enjoy a light lunch and time of fellowship. *Please join us!*

***October 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Monday, Sept. 21, 2026.

Baptismal Anniversaries

2 - David Haugen, Andrew Loher
 4 - Bety Kill
 6 - Jan Griener
 8 - Aaron Erdahl
 10 - Lee Eyetad
 11 - Ivy Rose Klever
 14 - Harry Kruize, Audrey Henrichs, Warren Rathke, Richard Olson, Peggy Wilke
 15 - Royce Erdahl
 17 - Gordon Erickson, Landon Strand, Jax Messner
 18 - Darren Schultz
 19 - Blandon Cihak
 20 - Pat Smith
 21 - Delores Rathke, Leah Winther
 24 - Jazzney Frank
 26 - Ben DeLong, Jada Wittern
 28 - Lyle Dunn, Carrie Waggoner



2 - Bev Larson
 4 - Bristyl Searle
 6 - Garrett Eystad
 8 - Jordyn Hughes, Linda Hatlestad
 9 - Jason Werk
 10 - Gloria Larson, Makayla Mickelson
 11 - Sharon VanHorn
 12 - Jana Pierce
 13 - Craig Loge, Alex Winther
 14 - Vernon Strand
 15 - Owen Sayles
 16 - Kasie Schaefer
 17 - Pastor Rochelle Anderson
 19 - Algene Larson
 21 - Burdell Strand, KoraLee Heins
 22 - Nancy Kisgen
 23 - Ryan Smith
 25 - Randy Werk, Maynard Mau, Cindy Casselton
 27 - Rebecca Diehl, Erica Jahner, Margaret Larson
 28 - Lola Smith
 30 - Michael Mau, Bristol Bothun, Catherine Bothun



- Family of Carol Holten
- Sue Erdahl-Nelson
- Tom Horning
- Georger Harstad
- Elaine Harstad
- Della Dunn
- Renee Dahlen
- Cyndi Olson
- Bernice Erdahl
- Gertie Werk
- Gloria Larson
- The United States of America as we celebrate 250 years of freedom
- 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



3 - Dale & Jeanne Ennen
 4 - Nick & Laura Lehman
 5 - Jon & Jolene Cin
 8 - Keith & Sheila Kaehler
 10 - Lowell & Sandra Dunn; Bret & Lorie Oelke
 14 - Leroy & Rebecca Diehl; Sean & Amanda Sorteberg; Garrett & Rebecca Eystad
 17 - Paul & Gail Kloos
 18 - Ryan & Angie Smith
 21 - Conrad & Beth Jackson
 30 - Michael & Jennifer Cihak



Community News and Events

ST. CHARLES CATHOLIC CHURCH'S FALL FESTIVAL will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Herman Community Center in Herman, MN. Enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Adult tickets are \$18; Children ages 5-10 are \$8 and children ages 4 and under are free. Take-outs available. We will also be selling raffle calendars. Everyone is welcome!

GARDEN PRODUCE, FOOD, AND CRAFT SALE will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. (following worship services) at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church (800 Tenth Street S.) in Benson, MN. Everyone is welcome!

PROVIDE A SUNDAY NIGHT MEAL: Each Sunday at 6 p.m. the LCM at Morris hosts *The Sunday Table*, a dinner and dialogue program for students. While the number varies from week to week and is yet unknown as we are just starting the semester, we ask you to prepare for 12-18 students, and include a vegetarian option (if possible). Each semester we attempt to get a list of food allergies and needs, and then create a set of quick options if you need extra help coming up with a meal. Sign up at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/31273172041/false-/invitation> or contact "A" Williams at A@ummlcm.org with questions! Thank you for your consideration!

"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 (Sept. 8) 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.