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# Operation Christmas Child spreads Good News and gifts



Shelly Thelen, Church Relations Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, and Rick Kottke, Aitkin, get ready to load the filled boxes in the trailer. Ann Schwartz photos

By ANN SCHWARTZ Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is an annual charitable initiative led by Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian organization. The campaign involves people packing shoeboxes with gifts for children in need around the world. These boxes are then distributed to children in over 100 countries, many of whom are living in impoverished or difficult conditions due to poverty, natural disasters, or conflict.

The local area plays a part

in distributing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children all across the world. The boxes help to spread a hopeful Christian message of hope and love, as well as providing toys, school supplies and personal care items for impoverished children.

New Life Church in Aitkin is a collection point in the area. Organizers Rick and Ardel Kottke say that they collected over 870 boxes from press time from 10 area churches and five individual families. Churches are many denominations: Baptist, Evangelical, Lutheran, Community, Alliance, Wesleyan and more.

The journey of a box begins in a home, Sunday school or church group. A box is packed full of toys, school supplies and toiletry items.

Then, the boxes are brought into the donor's local church and amassed there. Last week, during collection week, some churches, such as New Life, serve as collection centers. After churches bring boxes to

**Continued on Page 2** 





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# Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation awards \$4,434 to local nonprofits



Onamia Area Friends of the Library Director Margaret Willis (right) accepts a \$2,000 grant award from MLACF Chairperson Kelly LaBrosse.

The Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation (MLACF) is pleased to announce \$4,434 in grants to two deserving local organizations that continue to make a significant impact in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Area.

This year's grant recipients are the Onamia Area Friends of the Library and the Family Pathways Onamia Food Shelf, both of which will use the funding to enhance their services and better serve the local community.

#### Onamia Area Friends of the Library: \$2,000 for energy efficiency and service continuity

The Onamia Area Friends of the Library was awarded \$2,000 for energy efficiency projects and service continuity at the Onamia Depot Library. Founded in 2009 in the refurbished Soo Line Railroad Depot, the Library is free and is open to the public.

Onamia Area Friends of the Library Director Margaret Willis is delighted to share that the grant will improve service to the community. "They are the reason we exist," said Willis. If you're looking for a new book to read, Willis encourages you to access the library's online card catalog at https:// onamiaarealibrary.com/. In addition, the library offers community education events and a variety of services to people of all ages.

And don't forget to mark your calendar for the Library's Bake, Book and Stuff sale. It takes place on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Onamia Area Library, 2004 Roosevelt Rd, Onamia. Spoiler Alert: Santa's stopping in for photo opportunities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Family Pathways Onamia Food Shelf: \$2,434 for refrigeration

Family Pathways Onamia Food Shelf was awarded \$2,434 for much needed upgrades to refrigeration equipment. Currently housed in a small building with an attached Thrift Store, the Food Shelf is severely challenged for space and fresh and frozen food storage. "This grant provides a beginning to expansion and modernization of the Food Shelf's service to the community," passionately explains Manager Meghan Reed. For more info about the food shelf, visit http://www. familypathways.org/.

#### A commitment to community vitality

MLACF Chairperson Kelly LaBrosse expressed her excitement over this year's grants and the positive changes they will bring to the Mille Lacs area. "We are grateful for all the ways our supporters enable us to make a meaningful difference in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Area," LaBrosse said. "Their financial gifts and volunteerism allow us to fund projects that focus on environmental stewardship, sustainable farming and food programs, economic vitality, and community pride."

Since its inception, the MLACF has awarded \$15,244 in grants to support a range of community initiatives. As a partner fund of the Initiative Foundation, the MLACF continues to help build vibrant communities in the region through grants, donor services, and volunteer efforts.

For more information about the MLACF and its grant programs, or to make a donation, visit www.funds.ifound.org/ mlacf. If you're interested in serving on the MLACF Advisory Board, contact Kelly LaBrosse at kalcansell@gmail.com or call 320-469-0368.

The MLACF Advisory Board is a partner fund of the Initiative Foundation and awards grants in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Area. Created in 1986, the Initiative Foundation helps people throughout Central Minnesota build a thriving economy, vibrant communities and a lasting culture of generosity. The Foundation serves the 14 counties of Central Minnesota, providing nonprofit grants, business loans, leadership training and an array of donor services. It believes that local people have the greatest sum of initiative, knowledge and relationships to achieve a brighter future.



MLACF Chairperson Kelly LaBrosse (left) awards \$2,434 to Family Pathways Onamia Food Shelf and Thrift Store Manager Meghan Reed.

## Author Janet Kurtz

Join author Janet Kurtz at tions at the Family Cabin on the Brainerd Public Library for a special talk about her new book, The Heart of My Soul: Tales of Five Genera-

Monday, Dec. 2 from noon to 1:00 p.m. The event is free.

For more details, call the library at 218-829-5574.

# A Christmas Carol comes to Central Lakes College December 4-8

Experience the magic of p.m. and Saturday - Sunday, Charles Dickens' A Christ- December 7-8 at 2 p.m.

mas Carol as the Central Lakes College Performing Arts Center presents a bold and inventive retelling of the holiday classic.

Performances at the Chalberg Theatre, are on Wednesday -Saturday, December 4-7 at 7

"I'm so please we're able to revisit this production after our first staging in 2022 was cut short due to weather," says Joey Yow, Director of the CLC Performing Arts

Center. "This version is an inventive and comic adaptation of the classic story that relies on the creativity and

versatility of our talented cast to portray dozens of beloved characters, often switching roles in an instant."

This adaptation by Patrick Barlow (known for the Broadway and West End hit The 39 Steps) brings Dickens' timeless tale to life with just five extraordinary actors.

Using minimal props, dynamic physicality, and the audience's imagination, this adaptation captures the heart and humor of Dickens'

original story while adding a dreamlike quality to Scrooge's journey. From the lovable Tiny Tim to the haunting Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come, audiences will witness the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge in a fresh and engaging way.

"What drew me to this production was its unique style and energy," Yow explains. "There's something truly magical about watching actors embody multiple characters Rhett as Ebenezer Scrooge so seamlessly—it creates an intimate connection with the story and enhances the themes of redemption and community."

Adding to the charm, puppets, masks, and unconventional props play a role in conveying the whimsical and theatrical nature of Barlow's adaptation. The result is a heartfelt, family-friendly performance that invites the audience to see this classic story through a new lens.

The production is directed by Amy Borash, and the talented cast includes Brian

and Noah Barnhart, Abby Pratt, Kryston Wiseley, and Travis Chaput as the actor ensemble. Wiseley reprises her role from the 2022 production while Rhett, also a cast member in 2022 production, moves from the ensemble into the role of Scrooge.

For more information and tickets can be found by calling the Box Office at 218-855-8199. Don't miss this opportunity to experience an unforgettable theatrical experience that captures the joy and spirit of the holiday season.

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- with or without rims, and scrap metals can be disposed at the site for a nominal fee for recycling.

The landfill is open only to residents of Crow Wing County for recycling and disposal needs.



For more information, please call 218-824-1010.



## Operation Christmas Child | Continued from Page 1

New Life, boxes are packed into identical brown cartons. Those cartons, in turn, are packed into a trailer in Aitkin. The trailer is brought to a church in Baxter. From there, semi-trailers bring them to Chicago and from there, this region's boxes are shipped all around the world.

"They are on their way to Chicago now," Rick Kottke, Aitkin, said.



Ardel Kottke brings boxes into the New Life Church.

**CORRECTION:** Correction to report on the front page of November 23, 2024 issue of the NewsHopper "Former Crosby police chief files discrimination lawsuit". The reference to Sheriff Todd Klang should have been Sheriff Eric Klang. We apologize for this error in name reference.

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# **Electronics Recycling Drive**

Looking to clear out your old electronwhile ics making a differ ence in the community? Mark your calendar for Saturday, December

14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., when Deerwood Technologies will host an Electronics Recycling Drive to benefit the Deerwood Technologies Scholarship Fund.

The event will take place at Deerwood Technologies, located at 21301 Archibald Road (at the corner of Archibald Road/Hwy 6 and Cross Drive). This drive is a perfect opportunity to dispose of your unwanted electronics in an environmentally responsible way, all while

education for local youth. For u s t \$0.60 e pound, you can drop off a wide vari-

continuing

ety of electronics, including computer towers, monitors, laptops, printers, speakers, cell phones, digital cameras, PDAs, MP3 players, and even small household electronics like razors, hair dryers, and electric brooms. The drive also accepts larger items like VCRs, DVD players, radios, and cable boxes.

Got an old microwave? You can recycle those for a flat fee of \$30. Televisions are also being accepted at a donation rate of \$15 for those under

supporting 27 inches and \$20 for larger models (over 27 inches).

Christmas lights can be dropped off for recycling free of charge—a great way to clear out last season's tangled strands and do your part for the planet.

The best part? All electronics collected will be sent to an environmentally safe, U.S.-based recycling facility, ensuring that your discarded items are processed in an eco-friendly way.

Please note: No major appliances (like refrigerators or air conditioners) will be accepted at the drive.

For more information or to find out what items can be recycled, visit www.deertech. com/recycle or email events@ deertech.com.

Don't miss out on this chance to declutter, recycle, and make a difference this holiday season!

#### November

30th - Lions 26 Club raffle tickets for sale with 26 chances to win cash prizes with the top prizes of \$500. Drawing starts at 7 p.m. at the Town Tavern in Ironton. For more info contact Mark Boike at 218-349-2234

6th - Tree Lighting Ceremony at Main Street Plaza in Crosby, starting at 5 p.m. with tree Lighting, hot chocolate and treats. Organized by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

7th - Aitkin County Historical Society Cookie Walk at the museum, 20 Pacific St. SW Aitkin, 9:00 a.m., going until sold out. Cookies are \$8.00 per dozen. Varieties of cookies will be pre-wrapped in 1, 2, 3, and 4 doz. packages. If you would like to pre-order cookies, call 218-927-3348 or email ACHS@aitkincohs. org. Pre-ordered cookies must be picked up by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the sale! Proceeds support the Historical Society.

7th - Bring your camera to the Fifty Lakes City Hall to visit with Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and treats, 3 -5 p.m. 14th- Indoor Christmas Market at Deerwood Auditorium, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free cookie decorating for youth, coffee, hot chocolate, live music, children's Christmas karaoke, local vendors offering home-made and hand-crafted items. Visit with Santa 9-10 a.m.

14th- Creativity Kit Giveaway 10 a.m.- noon at Crossing Arts, 711 Laurel Street, Brainerd. Creativity Kits are free to the public. Kits are limited. First come, first served. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org.

14th - Come as you are for a joyous celebration of "The Prince of Peace" presented by the Garrison Alliance Church, 3-4 p.m. There will be music, message, food, beverage, and dessert, starting at 1:30 p.m. Free will offering. Please RSVP by calling 218-838-0164. Located at 9475 Jefferson St., Garrison.

Send your community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net

# Sweeten your holiday season

The Aitkin County Historical Society is inviting all cookie lovers to indulge their sweet tooth while supporting a great cause at its popular Cookie Walk, happening Saturday, December 7, at the museum located at 20 Pacific St. SW, Aitkin.

Starting at 9:00 a.m., the Cookie Walk will feature an array of homemade holiday cookies available for purchase, with each dozen priced at just \$8.00. But hurry-cookies are sold on a first-come, first-served basis and the event lasts only until the cookies are gone!

Whether you're looking for a classic favorite or something new to add to your holiday spread, you're sure to find something to tempt your taste buds. The cookies will be pre-wrapped in convenient packages of 1, 2, 3, or 4 dozen, making it easy to pick

up a sweet treat for yourself or to gift to someone special.

For those planning ahead, pre-orders are available to ensure you get the cookies you want before they sell out. To place an order, simply call 218-927-3348 or email ACHS@aitkincohs.org. Remember, pre-ordered cookies must be picked up by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the sale.

**Gall** for

Proceeds from the Cookie Walk will go toward supporting the Aitkin County Historical Society, helping fund its mission to preserve and share the rich history of the Aitkin area.

For more information or to pre-order cookies, contact the Historical Society at 218-927-3348 or email ACHS@ aitkincohs.org

# Art gallery exhibition at CLC

There's still plenty of time to explore the vibrant world of student art at Central Lakes College! The 2-D Design Student Art Exhibition is now on display at the college's Art Gallery, and visitors are invited to see the stunning works created by budding artists. The exhibition opened its doors on Monday, November 25, with a lively reception, and it will remain open through December 19.

Located in room E422, across from the college library on the Brainerd campus, the exhibit showcases the talent of students enrolled in the 2-D Design course. These works, offer a dynamic glimpse into the artistic processes of CLC students. Each piece reflects the creativity and skills that these students have honed throughout the

Best of all, the exhibition is free and open to the public. It's an opportunity to support local artists while enjoying a diverse range of contemporary 2-D art. The Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m., Monday through Friday, offering ample time for community members, art lovers, and students to stop by and experience the show.

Whether you're an art aficionado or simply looking for an inspiring way to spend a few hours, the 2-D Design Student Art Exhibition is a must-see this season.

Don't miss your chance to witness the next generation of artists in action—stop by the Art Gallery before the exhibition wraps up on December 19.





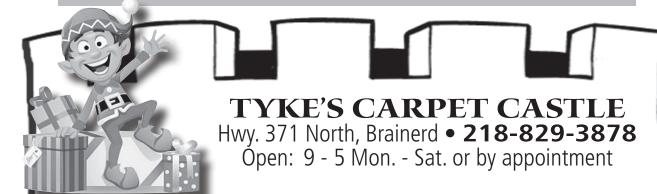


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# **OBITUARIES**

#### ROBERT MONROE



Robert "Bob" James Monroe. 88, of Aitkin, died Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at Aicota Health Care Center.

Services will be Friday, December 13 at 11 a.m. in First Lutheran Church with Pastor Reggie Denton officiating. Visitation will be one hour

prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at a later date in Milaca at Forest Hill Cemetery. He was born December 17, 1935

in Milaca, to Arthur Monroe and Selma (Olson) Monroe. He attended schools in Milaca until 1952, and graduated with honors from Granite Falls High School in 1953. He went on to attend South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy where he was active in student government. He was elected to Rho Chi Society (honorary pharmacy society) and Who's Who in American Universities. He graduated from pharmacy school in 1957. Upon graduation he was awarded a commission as Ensign in the U.S. Public Health Service and served as pharmacist officer for several years at various locations in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and California, he remained a member of the Inactive Reserve Officer Corps until 1990, leaving the service with the rank of Commander. He moved to Washington D.C. in 1959 working at pharmacies in the area. While there he was introduced to Betty Jo Hash through his brother Don. They began dating and on August 20th 1960 he married the love of his life at Foundry Methodist Church in Washington D.C. They made their home in Chevy Chase, Maryland until October 1963. During this time, they welcomed two children, Alan in 1961 and Paul in 1963. Bob and Betty moved to Aitkin in November 1963. Two more children were welcomed, Cindi in 1967 and Scott in 1972. He was the pharmacist manager for Buss Rexall Drug until April 1965. He purchased Aitkin

Drug Store in 1965 and operated that pharmacy as Monroe Drug until 1973 when he formed a partnership with Jack Fossen to form Village Drug which they operated until July 1992. He continued to work at pharmacies around the area until 2015. It's been said if you love your job, it's not work. He felt blessed to have served actively as a pharmacist, a career which he loved, and enjoyed the interaction with his customers and assisting with people's health needs and questions. In the community, he was a member of First Lutheran Church, serving several terms on the church council, District Representative and financial secretary. He was a 50 year and life member of Aitkin Masonic Lodge, serving two terms as Master and recipient of Minnesota Grand Lodge Hiram award; a 50 year and life member of Scottish Rite Freemasonry 32nd KCCH; and 50 year and life member of Aad Shriners of Duluth. He was a 50 year and life member of the Order of Eastern Star serving many terms as Worthy Patron. He served 10 years on the Board of Trustees for Riverwood Healthcare Center. He was a member of the Aitkin Historical Society serving a term on that Board of Directors and former member of the Aitkin Jaycees & Quarterbacks Club. He enjoyed family gatherings, many camping trips along the Mississippi River with his brothers, travel including family cross-country trips and international travel, snowmobiling, boating

on area lakes and the Mississippi. Robert is survived by sons Alan (Penny), Paul (Leigh) and Scott (Sue) and daughter Cynthia (Rob), his grandchildren Erin Pollock, Mark, Matthew, Kelly and Leona Monroe, Skylar Kelly, Aliyah and Layla Fayaz, Great Grandchildren Adrianne and Michael Pollock.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; his parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.Cremation Service, Aitkin.

#### **NANCY KOKESH**



Nancy Hannah Kokesh, 82, of Aitkin passed away Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin.

Funeral Mass will be11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at Saint James Catholic Church in Aitkin. Burial will be

in Garrison Cemetery, Garrison. Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday December 2, 2024 at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin and will continue one hour prior to the service at

She was born June 15, 1942 in Minneapolis the daughter of Kenneth and Hazel (Anderson) Siemers. She graduated from Aitkin High School class of 1960 and then attended college in Illinois for a year. Nancy was united in marriage to Robert Randall Kokesh on June 1, 1963 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Garrison.

She worked as a Chemical Dependency Counselor and helped Robert when he started Kokesh Tree & Stump Removal in 1982. She was very involved with AA and establishing the Alano Club in Aitkin. She participated and volunteered at Saint James Catholic Church. She enjoyed Vacations, cross stitch, Bingo, Reading and loved her grandchildren and being with her family.

Nancy is survived by her children: Christina "Tina" (Jerry) Dagen of Aitkin, Bob Kokesh (Mary Peters) of Brainerd; three grandchildren: Shelby(Jay) Thran of Aitkin, Kelsey Dagen of Aitkin, and Jack Dagen of Aitkin; four great-grandchildren: Jayden Dagen-Fryxell, Jakob Dagen, Weslynn Thran, and Braelynn Thran; brother, Doug Siemers; sisters: Linda McGillis, Glenda (Mike) Murphy, Patty (Rick) Baillif, Sharon (Daryl) Hanson; sister-in-law, Jerry Siemers; and many special nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robert on December 3, 2021; parents, Kenneth and Hazel Siemers; brothers: Richard and Dennis Siemers and sister, Tammy Siemers.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

#### JUDITH THIESFELD



Judith Joann "Judy" Thiesfeld, 80, of Deerwood formerly of Hutchinson and Glencoe, died peacefully at her home on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

A Memorial service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 29, 2024 at the

Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. A reception followed at the Taconite Canteen Event Center in Ironton.

She was born in Glencoe on August 23, 1944 to Melvin and Marvel (Schultz) Meyer. Judy married

Thomas Thiesfeld in Brownton, MN on June 29,

Judy is survived by her husband, Thomas; two daughters: Rebecca (Jon) Rauen of Chanhassen and Jennifer (Jeremie) Waller of Belgrade, MT; two brothers: James (Corrine) Meyer of Brownton and Jerome (Rose) Meyer of Hutchinson; sister-inlaw, Connie Meyer of Cokato; four grandchildren: Jonah and Nate Jaskowiak and Samuel and Lucy

Preceding Judy in death were her parents; and two siblings: Janet Zajicek and Jerald Meyer.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services Aitkin, MN 218-927-2614

**McGregor Funeral Home** & Cremation Services McGregor, MN 218-768-3136

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# CHURCH DIRECTO

\* Indicates handicap accessible. NOTE: All times are Sunday morning (a.m.) unless indicated otherwise.

#### **ALLIANCE**

Aitkin\* — New Life Church of the CM&A; Worship 10:15 am; Services on Sunday at 10:15am and 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; newlifeaitkin.com 218-927-2823.

Baxter\* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; www.pointway.org

Garrison\* — Worship 10:30am

Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

#### **ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Aitkin — Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.

Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 8:30, 10 & 11:30 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, iamheritage.org Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30

Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30, Worship at 10:45 Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa

Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-Palisade — Pastor Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids

Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

#### **BAPTIST**

Aitkin - Northwoods Community Church, Pastor William Verbeke, Worship 10:30, northwoodscommunitychurch.org Baxter - The Journey North, Worship 9 & 10:30, 218-824-5617 thejourneynorth.com

Brainerd\* - Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Jim Stephens, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m., Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbcbrainerd.com Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd

Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-

5252, Worship 9:30, SS 11. Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor Jon Thorson; SS 9:45; Service

10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study Wed. 7 pm

Deerwood\* — Jeff Shadrick, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm. Glory\* — SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory

Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12. aitkinchurch.com Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.

Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.

Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

#### **CATHOLIC**

Aitkin\* — St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat.4:30; Sun.

10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00. Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sun-

day 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30. Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat.

Crosby\* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri.

at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30. Crosslake - Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www. ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.

Emily — St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101. Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass Wed.

9 & Sat. 4 pm, Confession Sat. 3:30 - 3:50 pm Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483

Hillman — Holy Family; Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt. McGregor - Holy Family, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8; Confessions Tues. 5:30-6:30 pm Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

## **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362

Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship

9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Aitkin — Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Haffner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10

Aitkin - Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE.,

Aitkin, Services Sun.10, 218-927-6959 Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene-Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10, SS 9;

16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005 Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9

May-Oct. Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God. Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm

Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm

Kimberly - Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.

McGregor — The Lighthouse Christian Church; Worship 10; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel

McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.

Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting. 7 p.m.: 218-829-7536. Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed.

Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m. Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean;

Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10 Outing\* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm,

218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwv. 6 bridge Palisade —Hilltop Chapel (Waukenabo Twp)\*- service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; 49448 Osprey

Avenue, Palisade. Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

**EPISCOPAL** 

Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9 Brainerd\* — St. Paul's, Rev. Joyce A. Rush. In-person worship service at 10 am Sunday. Online at 5 pm Saturday. Call the church 219-829-3834 and leave a message with email to receive a Zoom invitation.

#### **EVANGELICAL FREE** Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at

9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm. Crosslake — The Log Church 9:30, Pastor Troy Nelson; 218-692-4141,37218 County Road 66, www.crosslakeefc.org Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer

6:30 pm and Kids Konnect 6:30 pm Malmo — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15

Wright - Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

HEBREW/MESSIANIC Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, for information 320-684-2804

LUTHERAN Aitkin — Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.

Aitkin - First\* (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton; worship Sun. 99am (9am service also available via livestream on YouTube - First Lutheran Church, Aitkin and broadcast on KKIN 94.3 FM radio at 10am), take out community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm and Tues. 12pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9am- 4pm.

Aitkin (Cedarbrook) — St. John's (ELCA) Pastor Sarah Stadler, 602-318-6876, 27452 St. John's Church Road, Aitkin. Worship on Sundays at 9:00 am followed by Sunday school at 10:00 am. stjohns-cedarbrook.weebly.com. Aitkin — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker; Worship Sun. 9, SS 10

Baxter — Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool (WELS). Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com. Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every

Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeacelutheran.church

Beaver Township - Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st &

3rd Sun., 10:30.

Brainerd — First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 flcbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

Brainerd\* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www. goodshepherdfreelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.llchurch.org) Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9

Brainerd - Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Steve Benson, Sunday Worship 9, Monday Worship 6 pm. Education hour Sunday 10:15 am. 220 N. 8th St. Brainerd. 218-829-4317. www.zionbrainerd.com.

Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran - Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson;

Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40. Crosby —Zion (LC-MS) Worship 9 (alternates with Immanuel

Iron Hub) 218-546-6910. Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran. com Kristin Oltmann, Pastor / Becky Swanson, Pastor 218-692-3682 September 8-Mid-May: Sunday at 8:30am & October-Mid-May: Wednesday at 6:15pm

Crosslake - Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228,

www.missionofthecross.org
Deerwood\*— Salem (ELCA), Pastor Amanda Kempthorne; Worship: 9; Sunday School 9:50.

Garrison - Light of the Cross (ELCA), Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.

Garrison - Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Caleb Worrel. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org. Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.

Hillman - Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 11, fellowship follows. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)

Iron Hub - Immanuel (LC-MS) Worship 9, (alternates with Zion of Crosby) 218-534-3069 Isle — Faith (ELCA), Pastor Josh Blair; Worship 9:30;

handicapped accessible. Isle - Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.

Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 9; Fellowship follows; SS 10:30; Adult Bible 10:30. Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.

Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N) Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske: Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion

every Sunday. McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.

McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Worship 9; SS 9. McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelie Robinson; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.

McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Luke Lekander, Worship 9.

Palisade\* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30. Pequot Lakes - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Monte Meyer Worship 9 am, Fellowship 10 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 am

Pequot Lakes\* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Rossburg — Bethesda Lutheran (LCMC Congregations in Mission for Christ) 11:30 service. Communion 1st & 3rd

Sunday each month Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of

Hwy 210 Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through

December. Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.\

Brainerd—Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, Brainerd, 218-454-0984 Brainerd—Remnant Ministry Center, Pastor Ben Davis, Worship service is Sunday at 10am, 512 S 8th St., Suite

2, 218-829-2989. PENTECOSTAL Baxter — Christ Alive, 12485 Forestview Drive, Baxter, MN 56425. Pastor Walter Starr, 763-316-7270, Sunday Wor-

ship 10:00am. Wednesday Bible study 6:30pm Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939. Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight

Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Irondale Town Hall\*, Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm. Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585 PRESBYTERIAN

Crosslake - Pastor Mark Ford, 218-692-4769; Worship 9; Fellowship 11. 14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, just passed the Community Center; www.crosslakepres.org. McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9. McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Tallev: Worship Sat. 5 pm.

Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11. REFORMED Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.visitlifespring.com

## SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Aitkin - Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30, Bible Study 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist. org; 423-805-0933

Brainerd - Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20, Bible Study 10; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

## **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

#### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St, Brainerd. Sunday worship at 10. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible.

#### **UNITED METHODIST**

Aitkin\* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.

Crosby/Deerwood\* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507.

Cutler\* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows.

Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9 Emily\* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UWF meet on the first Sunday of each month following worship. Men's prayer breakfast 2nd Saturday of each month at 8. Bible

Study Thursday at 6 pm. Fleming\* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship

10:30; fellowship follows. Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10

McGregor\* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows. Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947

WESLEYAN Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time

10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

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