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Sertoma Winter Wonderland holiday magic in Lakes Area



For nearly two decades, the Brainerd Area Sertoma Club has been transforming the holiday season into a glowing spectacle for families across the region. This year, Sertoma Winter Wonderland celebrates its 18th year of bringing festive cheer to the Brainerd Lakes Area. Located at the Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter, visitors can experience a stunning drive-through tour of over 80 animated and lighted displays.

Event Dates:

- Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday- Saturday, December 19-21, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets:

Fee for small buses and limos is \$25.00.
Fee for vehicles (at the gate)

is \$20.00

Advance Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased online <https://www.brainerdnoonsertoma.org/winter-wonderland>. Visitors are encouraged to buy in advance to save on the admission price.

Weather closures

The event is weather-dependent, and organizers encourage visitors to follow the Sertoma Winter Wonderland Facebook page for timely updates on any weather-related closures. If there is no announcement at least one hour before opening, visitors can assume the event will take place as scheduled. In certain conditions, the event may close early, and efforts will be made to notify the public as soon as possible.

A holiday tradition

The event, which has become a beloved local tradition, began in 2007 with the

goal of creating a holiday experience unlike any other. Thanks to the strong support from the community and countless volunteers, Winter Wonderland has flourished, drawing thousands of visitors each year. The drive-through format makes it a safe and convenient way to experience the festive lights from the com-

fort of your vehicle, allowing families to enjoy the show at their own pace.

Each year, the Sertoma Club strives to offer new additions to the display, ensuring that every visit brings something fresh and exciting. Whether it's a new light arrangement, an innovative animated scene, or a larger-than-life holiday fig-

ure, there's always something to look forward to.

For more information on Sertoma Winter Wonderland, to purchase tickets, or to stay updated on event details, visit Sertoma Winter Wonderland's Facebook page or call the Sertoma Club at (218) 828-6187. Email: info@sertomawinter-wonderland.org

Recycle your holiday lights / cords and help the community shine

If your holiday lights have lost their sparkle, don't toss them in the trash—give them a second life through the annual Recycle Your Lights program!

This holiday season, the Sunrise Sertoma Club of Brainerd, in partnership with Crow Wing County Land Services, is offering local residents a chance to recycle their non-working Christmas lights and extension cords. The best part? 100% of the funds raised from the recycling effort will stay in the community, supporting local initiatives.

Drop-off locations

Residents can drop off their non-working Christmas lights and extension cords at follow-

ing drop-off locations:

Aitkin: Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, 23483 US Highway 169

Baxter: Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Drive; Fransen Bank, 7429 Excelsior Road or MMFCU, 13283 Isle Drive

Brainerd: Crow Wing County Landfill, 15732 State Highway 210; Ace Hardware, 214 West Washington Street; MMFCU, 200 South Sixth Street or Holiday Station Store, 1500 Mill Avenue NE

Breezy Point: Ace Hardware, 8170 Co Rd 11

Crosby: Crosby Ace Hardware or Crosby-Ironton Courier, 12 East Main Street

Crosslake: Crosslake Ace

Hardware, 35593 Pioneer Drive; or Holiday Station Store, Route 66 and County Road 3

Emily: Emily Ace Hardware, 69959 State Highway 6

Jenkins: Speedway next to A-Pine Restaurant

Nisswa: Nisswa Ace Hardware, 25673 Main Street

Little Falls: Ace Hardware, 1101 2nd Ave. NE

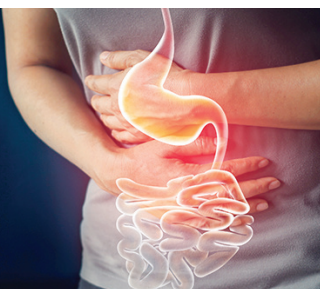
Staples: Ace Hardware, 210 2nd Ave. NE

The program is part of a broader effort to promote sustainability in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Don't let your broken lights dim your holiday spirit—recycle them and help your community shine brighter this year.

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Photo contest celebrates Minnesota’s native Trees, shrubs, and wildlife



Ken Rynda secured First Place with his amazing “Red Oak with Chipmunk” photograph in the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2024 Summer/Fall Photo Contest.

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has announced the winners of its 2024 Summer/Fall Photo Contest, which spotlighted the natural beauty of Minnesota’s native trees, shrubs, and wildlife. This annual contest attracted 33 submissions from photographers of all ages and experience levels, each offering a unique perspective on the state’s diverse flora and fauna. After careful deliberation, the Crow Wing SWCD staff se-

lected the following winners: **First Place:** Ken Rynda, for “Red Oak with Chipmunk” **Second Place:** Sami Rice, for “Oak Tree with Fawn” **Third Place:** Ashley Marx, for “Northern Pin Oak with Warbler” As part of their recognition, each winner will receive a canvas print of their award-winning photograph. In addition, all entries will be featured in Crow Wing SWCD’s publications, web-

site, and social media channels, highlighting the incredible diversity of Minnesota’s native landscapes. “These photos not only celebrate the beauty of Minnesota’s native species, but they also help raise awareness about the importance of conservation,” said Melissa Barrick, District Manager of Crow Wing SWCD. “We are thrilled to feature these works in our upcoming educational and promotional materials,

which include our Crow Wing County Plat Books and social media platforms.” The contest’s goal was to encourage residents to engage with their local environment by capturing images of native trees and shrubs. Photographers were also encouraged to incorporate wildlife, such as insects and animals, into their shots, with additional points awarded for these features. **Continued on Page 6**

Art gallery exhibition at CLC

There’s still 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 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 semester. 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. The 2-D Design Student Art Exhibition is a must-see this season.

CROW WING COUNTY LANDFILL

Open Mon – Sat / 8am to 5pm (April to October)
Open Mon – Friday / 8am to 5pm (November to March)

The Following Items are Accepted

- Household Garbage
- Fiberglass boats
- Mattresses
- Furniture
- Mobile Homes
- Free recycling of lead-acid car/marine batteries - NOT to be disposed of in the landfill
- Free compost of lawn and garden material (please separate brush and branches)
- Recycling of used oil filters and anti-freeze
- Free oil recycling at the landfill and several drop-off locations within the County. Visit our webpage for drop-off locations: www.crowwing.us and search “oil.”
- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires 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.

READER RIBBETS

Freedom of religion is needed

Everybody in America has been deceived all their life. Under the First Amendment in America. We have religious freedoms and freedom of speech. But under Covid, the churches were shut down why? Well, the church leaders decided to become a 501(c)(3) a (nonprofit) corporation (incorporated with the government), but what they didn’t realize is there’s more than one type of nonprofit—thanks to the BAR Lawyers pushing them to a 501(c)(3). There’s also a 508(c)(1)(A) a FBO (Faith based organization), which is not incorporated with the government. And is truly a separation of church and state, it was codified into law in the tax reform act of 1969 as public law 91–172.

A public law is an actual law that has been passed by both Congress and the president. Under a 508(c)(1)(A), your faith based organization, would one-be tax exempt, and two-have nothing to do with the government. Which means you could have held church services all through Covid, those that were scared by the government could stay home. Imagine the fact of the church being able to do what it wants and NOT letting the government control it. Wouldn’t that be great? Also isn’t that the way America was designed with the Constitution, separation of church and state. In conclusion, churches and church ministers would not have to live in fear of losing their tax exempt status for speeches on lead-

ership, legislation and politics. Preachers and pastors could speak the truth without compromise. People do have a choice in how they form their FBO. What will churches and church ministries do to meet the challenges and the increased need to speak the truth without fear or compromise and train Godly leaders consistent with their beliefs? It’s up to the church leaders to lead by God’s commands instead of following the government. Freedom of speech can actually change the world that we live in for the better. We’ve seen wars started with lies, peace can be started with the truth. Merry Christmas, **Brian Smith, Brainerd**

\$10 billion in new taxes and fees

This week, the state released the November budget forecast which painted a very clear picture of the Democrats’ failure to responsibly manage our tax dollars. It projects a \$616 million surplus at the end of 2026, down \$1.1 billion from previous estimates. The only reason we have this small projected surplus in the short term is because Democrats slapped \$10 billion in new taxes and fee increases on Minnesotans, but even those massive increases won’t keep up with their out-of-control spending. Further, the forecast projects a massive budget shortfall north of \$5 billion by 2029. These forecast numbers do not account for any new spending, meaning that new spending bills passed in the next legislative session will further

increase the deficit down the line. Minnesotans were very clear with us this past November, it’s time to clean up this mess and work to get our state out of the top 10 highest tax burdens in the country. The last two years of one-party control have been devastating for family budgets, small businesses, and even for schools. They increased government spending 40%, lost nearly \$1 billion to waste, fraud, and abuse, implemented one-size-fits-all mandates on small businesses, schools, and local governments. All of this resulted in higher taxes and increased fees for Minnesotans. This coming session we need leaders to prioritize Minnesota families and make sure we have

a government that is accountable to those it works for. I will be focusing on increasing government transparency, protecting family budgets, and supporting common sense reforms for industries that fuel our economy and employ our neighbors. **Contact me:** If you have any questions or comments about the issues we are working on, please contact me anytime. My email is justin.eichorn@mnsenate.gov, or you can call me at 651-296-7079. Don’t forget to follow me on Facebook: <https://www.fb.com/SenatorJustinEichorn>. It is a privilege to serve you! Sincerely, **Justin D. Eichorn Minnesota Senate, District 6**

Ruby's on the Lake

Thursday 4 - 8 p.m. • Friday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Extended Holiday Hours:
Sunday, December 29 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday, December 30 4-8 p.m.
New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31 4-8 p.m.

HUNGRY? Stop In for Our Daily Specials:

Thursday: All-You-Can-Eat Broasted Chicken
Friday: All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry
Saturday: All-You-Can-Eat Flying Flapjacks
8 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Sunday: Crepes 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Grab lunch at Ruby's on the Lake and shop Ruttger's Winter Retail Market

Ruttger's Winter Market at Ruby's on the Lake

Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Extended Holiday Hours:
Monday, December 30 4-8 p.m.
New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31 4-8 p.m.

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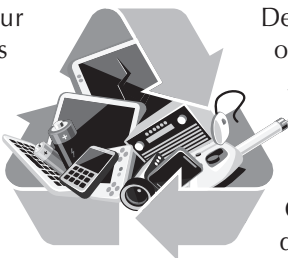
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Deerwood Technologies Electronics Recycling Drive for scholarship fund

Clear out your old electronics on Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Deerwood Technologies Electronics Recycling Drive. 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 supporting continuing education for local youth through Deerwood Technologies Scholarship Fund. For just 60¢ per pound, you can drop off a wide variety 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 27 inches and \$20 for larger models (over 27 inches). Christmas lights can be dropped off for recycling free of charge. 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.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- December**
- 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 - Electronic Recycling at Deerwood Technologies, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 21301 Archibald Road in Deerwood. No major appliances will be accepted. Visit www.deertech.com/recycle for more information.
- 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.
- 14th - Garrison Kids Christmas Party, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 1816 pavillion, 27234 Monroe Street in Garrison. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be there. Hot dogs, brats and hot chocolate will be served. Gabriels Home Horse Rescue mini horses will also be there. Hosted by the Garrison Commercial Club, Garrison Bay Lake Lions and Garrison Women's VFW Auxiliary.
- 14th - Crooked Lake Emergency Services Christmas Holiday Spaghetti Dinner, 4:30 - 8 p.m. at the Crooked Lake Fire Hall. Cost is \$15 per person. Sponsored by the Outing Chamber of Commerce and The Pickled Loon Saloon of Emily.
- 14th - Northland Arboretum Full Moon Snowshoe Hike, 7:30-8:30 p.m., guided by Bryan Pike. Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots, and a headlamp for an hour hike. Class size is limited. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Payment is due at registration.
- 17th & 18th - Heartland Dance and Gymnastics Christmas Show, 6 p.m., Mayberry Auditorium, C-I High School, Crosby.
- 18th - Free Supper at Cascade United Methodist Church, 5:30 p.m. To reserve your spot call 218- 534-3507. The church is located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road, Deerwood on Highway 6 and 210.
- 20th - Call 218-546-5975 by Friday, Dec. 20 to reserve your Community Christmas Meal sponsored by the Deerwood and Ironton American Legions. All donations benefit the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf.
- Send your community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net**

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Dec. 7 & 14, 2024)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP ONLINE MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The December 17 meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at wilowsedge.janesfarm@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Dated this 26th day of November, 2024

Jane Grimsbo Jewett
Clerk, Libby Township
2.65



hopper@crosbyironton.net

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 7 & 14, 2024)

HAZELTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF 2025 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given for the time of filing affidavits of candidacy for township officers to be elected at the Hazelton Township Annual Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Filings will open December 31, 2024 and close at 5 p.m. on January 14, 2025. Filings must be made by contacting the Township Clerk, Kay Olson, at 218-678-3389 or email hazeltonclerk@gmail.com. The Hazelton Township Clerk will be available from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the last day, January 14, 2025 for filing as required by law. Offices to be filled are:

- 1 Supervisor for a 3-year term
- Treasurer for a 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2.00.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2024

KAY OLSON,
Clerk Hazelton Township
5.0

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 7 & 14, 2024)

PROBATE OF WILL NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File No. 18-PR-24-37 41
State of Minnesota
District Court
County of Crow Wing
Probate Division
Ninth Judicial District

Jeffrey Milo Shelstad, Decedent (Deceased person)

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedents will dated April 3, 2017 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Brooks J. Shelstad whose address is 5501-10th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated October 22, 2024

/s/ Erica Castillo
Registrar
/s/ Dana R. Anderson
Court Administrator
10.55

Early **NEWSHOPPER** deadline for the issue of December 28 is Friday, December 20.

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OBITUARIES

ROBERT DELOACH



Robert Earl DeLoach, 92, of Aitkin died Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at Aitkin Health Services.

Services for Robert will be held at a later date. Burial will be in Diamond Lake Cemetery. He was born January 28, 1932 in Shreveport, Louisiana the son of Lester G. and Lorette A. (Melton) DeLoach. He grew up in Shreveport and graduated from Fair Park High School in 1950 and then attended Centenary College. He joined the Naval Reserves and served for 14 years. Robert was united in marriage to Sandra Lee (Sorensen) on June 3, 1978 in Chaska. He worked for 42 years for the Association of American Rail Roads in many different capacities, retiring as an Inspector. He was

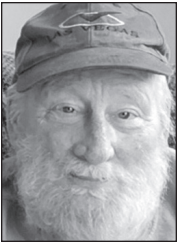
a member of the Masonic Fraternity for 67 years most recently Mystic Lodge #213, The Blue lodge for 67 years, Scottish Rite for 65 years, the Jerusalem Shrine in New Orleans for 60 years, Eastern Star, and was past historian for the American Legion Posts in Chaska and Aitkin.

Robert is survived by his wife, Sandra L. DeLoach; six children and their spouses: Katherine Bohara, Andrea Kidder, Robert DeLoach Jr, Lester DeLoach, Michael Pierce and Jason Pierce; sister, Barbara (Ronnie) Craig; brother, Dennis (Donna) DeLoach; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Lester A. DeLoach.

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

THOMAS ALLERS



Thomas Allers, 71, of Aitkin, died peacefully on December 4, 2024 surrounded by his family.

In accordance with Tom's wishes, a Memorial Bonfire Gathering will be held at his home early next summer.

Tom was born on September 21, 1953 in Minneapolis to Peter and Carole

Allers. He grew up in Minneapolis and became a Paintee real estate agent. In 2000, he and Cassandra moved to Aitkin. Tom had multiple medical problems.

He is survived by wife, Cassandra; daughters: Melissa Tevik, Carrie Tevik, and Krista Kommer (Donald Kommer); eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Brad and Bob and sisters Jane and Julie.

MARILYN THOMPSON



Marilyn "Marty" Kathleen Thompson, 83, of Aitkin, died Thursday, December 5, 2024 in Aitkin Health Services, Aitkin.

A celebration of Marty's Life will be held at a later date.

She was born August 2, 1941 in Duluth to Merrill and Thelma (Webb) Olsen. Marilyn was united in marriage to James Edward Thompson on June 27, 1964 in Duluth. Marilyn was an Elementary Teach-

er, as well as a Certified Pharmacy Technician. She was a member of First Lutheran Church, Aitkin. Marty enjoyed reading, gardening, cooking, bird watching, needlework and researching family ancestry.

Marty is survived by her son, Brian Thompson of Shakopee.

Marty was preceded in death by her husband, James; parents; and brother, Rodney Olsen.

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

JASIE MUELLER

Jasie Erin Mueller, 39, of Nisswa died on December 3, 2024, after a brief illness.

A celebration of Jasie's life was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at Heritage Church in Baxter. Jasie was born on November 19, 1985, in Park Rapids to Shelly Miller and Larry Popma. She grew up in Park Rapids and graduated from Park Rapids High School. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and met the love of her life, Justin Mueller. The two were married on June 3, 2011, in the beautiful Colorado Mountains. Jasie had a strong Christian faith and was an

active member of Heritage Church in Baxter. She also was the Third Grade Teacher at Lake Region Christian School.

Jasie is survived by her loving husband, Justin Mueller; two boys: Brayden Micah (10) and Xavier James (7); mother, Shelly (Lee); father, Larry, and father figure, Dan; siblings: Michelle (Dennis), Paula (Cory), Culley (Kristin), and Tracie; parents-in-law, Gene and Julie Mueller; and her brothers-in-law, Cory (Kate, Adler, and Grant) and Jared (Shauna and Vivian).

She is preceded in death by her grandpa, "Lefty" Sjoberg, and nephew, Baby Hayes.

LARRY CUYLER

Larry Lee Cuyler, 85, of Aitkin died on December 7, 2024 at Aicota Healthcare Center.

He was born January 12, 1939, in southern Michigan. A full obituary to be published at a later date.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

* 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; 218-697-2662
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 a.m.; 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 4-4:45 pm.
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; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
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; 10:10 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

COMMUNITY
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 Seibel.
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 Hwy. 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 Connect 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 KGIN 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 Ingleswood 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.princeofpeace-lutheran.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 flicbrainerd.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.lchurch.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. Lovaa; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.
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 Lorelei 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 Kelderer, 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.
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.)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Brainerd—Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, Worship service is Sunday at 9:30, 523 SE 11th Street, 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 Worship 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 Irontdale 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 Talley; 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 Josh Jeresek; Worship Sat. 9:30, Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933; 830 Minnesota Ave S Brainerd — Pastor Josh Jeresek; Worship Sat. 11:10, 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 Hornstad; 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 Thursdays 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 bks 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.

SWCD Photo Contest| Continued from Page 2



Third Place went to Ashley Marx, for this “Northern Pin Oak with Warbler” photograph in the 2024 Summer/Fall Photo Contest.

Looking ahead: 2025 photo contest

The Crow Wing SWCD is already gearing up for the next photo contest, which will run from January 1 to October 31, 2025. Photographers are invited to submit images that capture the vibrancy of central Minnesota’s spring and summer seasons, featuring blooming

trees, budding shrubs, or newly planted saplings. Bonus points will be awarded for wildlife in the images, with a particular emphasis on pollinators. “We’re excited to see what the 2025 contest will bring,” said Barrick. “Next year, we’ll be looking for photos that showcase the renewal of life in the spring and the

lush growth of summer, along with wildlife interactions in our local ecosystems. It’s an excellent opportunity for photographers to help tell the story of Minnesota’s natural beauty.”
Photo Contest Guidelines
To enter the 2025 contest, participants must adhere to the following guidelines:
Theme: Native trees and shrubs of central Minnesota in spring and summer.
Eligibility: Open to all ages and skill levels.
Bonus Points: Extra points for photos featuring insects (5 points) or other wildlife (10 points).
Requirements: Photos must be original work and feature a native tree or shrub species such as red oak, white pine, or highbush cranberry. Entries must include the photographer’s name, email, location, and species identification.
Deadline: October 31, 2025.
Photographers are limited

to five entries, with one photo per species. Each photo must be submitted in high-resolution digital format (.jpg, minimum 600 dpi). Photos that include pollinators will also earn additional points.
How to Participate
To enter, visit Crow Wing SWCD’s photo contest page for submission details. For more information, contact Tasha at tasha@cwsxcd.org or call 218-828-6197.
“We’re eager to see the next round of entries and to continue celebrating the stunning beauty of our local landscape,” Barrick added. “We hope everyone will take the opportunity to share their vision of Minnesota’s natural world.”
About Crow Wing SWCD
The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) works to protect and enhance the natural resources of Crow Wing County through education, conservation programs, and land man-

agement assistance. Through initiatives like the photo contest, the SWCD strives to foster a deeper connection between the community and

the environment. For more information on Crow Wing SWCD and its programs, visit www.cwsxcd.org.



Sami Rice placed second with this serene “Oak Tree with Fawn” photograph in the 2024 Summer/Fall Photo Contest.

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