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Vol. 26 • Issue 14

Sat., April 5, 2025

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Celebrate spring with Poke the Bear Maple Tap Weekend



As the snow melts and the sap begins to flow, Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort is welcoming the arrival of spring with a sweet and savory tradition: the Poke the Bear Maple Tap Weekend. From Friday - Sunday, April 4-6, you are invited to celebrate all things maple syrup with a fun-filled, family-friendly weekend packed with authentic Minnesota traditions, outdoor activities, and a taste of the season's best flavors.

The weekend kicks off on Friday evening with a maple-themed dinner, where guests can indulge in dishes infused with the distinctive, amber sweetness of maple syrup. The event continues on Saturday, offering a variety of exciting activities. One highlight will be a hands-on tree tapping demonstration, where attendees can learn the time-honored process of turning sap into syrup, from tree to table.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Guests can enjoy a

craft spirit tasting and beer poking, adding a flavorful twist to the afternoon. The iconic pudgie pies cooked over an open bonfire will bring the perfect touch of nostalgia to the festivities. For those seeking relaxation, the resort's sauna and cold plunge offer an ideal way to unwind, with 30-minute sessions available for groups of up to six people.

On Sunday morning, the event reaches its grand finale with the Flapjack Feast. This hearty breakfast features Ruttger's own maple syrup, allowing guests to savor the full taste of the weekend's sweet experience before heading home.

The weekend's schedule includes exciting events like the Poke the Bear Social on Friday night, with a chance to win a free 2-night stay for Oktoberfest 2025!

Schedule of Events:

- **Friday, April 4**
6:30-8:00 p.m.: Poke the Bear Social (Enter to win a free 2-night stay for Oktoberfest 2025)
- **Saturday, April 5:**
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.: Sauna and Cold Plunge (\$60 for 30-minute sessions for up to 6 people)

11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.: Maple Syrup 101 (Outdoor demonstration)
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Craft Spirit Sampling
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Beer

Poking & Pudgie Pies
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Live Music with Dos Guys at the Bear Pine Bar
• **Sunday, April 6:**
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Flap-

jack Feast (Enjoy pancakes with Ruttger's own maple syrup)

For more information or to book a sauna session, call 218-678-4666.

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Aitkin's Business Shuffle: MLEC, Steveo's Dock & Lift and Emery Inc.

By ANN SCHWARTZ
A domino-effect took place among businesses in Aitkin. Mille Lacs Energy, the local energy cooperative, moved to a brand new headquarters south of Aitkin along Hwy. 169.



Stephen May sitting his desk located in the former Mille Lacs Energy headquarters along Hwy. 210/169 east of Aitkin.

With that move, their former headquarters, 18 acres and 45,000 square feet of buildings, came on the market. Steveo's Dock and Lift bought the former Mille Lacs Energy headquarters along Hwy. 210/169 in east Aitkin. He carries lift, docks and the products are displayed outside. He offers full service waterfront work: installation of docks and lifts, removal, moving and service calls. He also sells water toys such as slides and swim rafts. Other products are batteries and solar panels. In the peak season, Steveo's, in business since 2007, has about 11 employees. About five employees work year around.

"It is a work in progress," he said of the move to the large building. He sold his former shops and office on Hwy. 47 and CSAH 12 to Joe Emery. "I retained some storage space and we offer seasonal storage for boats, snowmobiles, autos, equipment, whatever," said May.

May is married to Hannah, a stay-at-home mom, and they have two sons who attend Aitkin schools – Carson and Breck. The boys also race snowmobiles, with the last race of this season last weekend at Spirit Mountain near Duluth.

"We enjoy spending time on the lake and snowmobiling," said May.

Mille Lacs Energy said this about Steveo's purchase of the former MLEC headquarters: "Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative (MLEC) is excited to announce the transition of our former headquarters to Steveo's Dock & Lift, a valued local business! In

2020, MLEC embarked on the journey to relocate our operations, with the primary goal of finding a buyer who would contribute positively to the economic landscape of our community.

"The move to our new headquarters has been transformative, empowering employees with modern facilities, enhancing operational efficiencies, and providing us with room for future growth. At the same time, this transition offers Steveo's Dock & Lift a fantastic opportunity to expand their business in a well-suited environment.

"The entire process was incredibly smooth, and we are genuinely excited to see Steveo's move into our previous location. Their commitment to serving our community aligns perfectly with our goals, and we can't wait to witness the developments that lie ahead for their business," shared MLEC CEO Sarah Cron.

Emery moves

Joe Emery moved his business from his home shop and office to the former Steveo's Dock and Lift on the corner of Hwy. 47 and CSAH 12.



Drew Seberg works at Emery Inc.

Steveo kept the outdoor storage across the road. Emery Inc. specializes in excavating and hard-scape landscaping, sewer installation, aggregate (gravel and rock) supplies and stone walls. "We do mostly excavation," said Emery. "We don't do the planting part of landscaping but



Joe Emery moved his business to Steveo's Dock & Lift former location.

we do hardscapes, such as concrete fire pits and stone walls." His inside shop is full of heavy equipment, including a skid steer and backhoe. With his dump trucks, etc. he is able to complete road maintenance and does all of Glen Township's road work. He has two people working in the winter and four in the summer. Drew Seberg was onsite working when this interview was done. "Every day is something different. I really like running this business," noted Emery, who started his business in 2009. His wife Sarah also owns the business. The family has two boys, Carson and Cayden, and a daughter Myla. The kids attend Aitkin Schools. The parents work much of the time as Sarah is a teacher at Rippleside Elementary plus they run the business. When not working, they like lake time, hunting and fishing.



Back Row L to R: Kim Waffensmith, Tyler Scull, Justin Smith, Kennedy Niska, Carol Wiherksi, Megan Cummings, Veronica Lundquist, Doyle Jelsing
Front Row L to R: Michelle Eksten, Dave Benson, Mary Savage, Pamela Andell.

Mille Lacs Energy Trust Board grants

The Mille Lacs Community Trust Board met in March to distribute \$27,750 in grants to local nonprofit organizations. These grants, raised through the voluntary Operation Round Up program, will support a variety of community initiatives. The recipients include Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair, Aitkin Grad Blast, Aitkin Youth Center, Aitkin Youth Fastpitch, and local food shelves in Aitkin, Cuyuna, Garrison, McGregor, Palisade, and St. James. Other recipients are Foster Adopt Minnesota, the Legacy Cho-

rale of Greater Minnesota, Onamia High School, Relationship Safety Alliance (formerly the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center), The Community Effect, and The Jaques Art Center. Since its inception, the Operation Round Up program has awarded over \$1.6 million in grants to local causes. The program allows Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative members to voluntarily round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar. The funds collected are then distributed through the Trust to support community-based projects.

The Trust Board meets quarterly—on the second Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. To apply for a grant, individuals can contact Deb Chute at 218-927-8221 or 1-800-450-2191. Applications are accepted year-round, with those submitted a week before a quarterly meeting being reviewed by the board. Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative serves over 13,000 members in Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs counties. For more information, contact Sarah Cron, CEO, at scron@mlcmmn.com.



Poke the Bear Maple Tap

Friday, April 4
Poke the Bear Social 6:30 - 8 p.m.
\$20/person and includes 2 drinks, bourbon shot, light appetizers, and an entry into a drawing for a FREE 2-night stay for 2 during Okotberfest.

Saturday, April 5
Sauna & Cold Plunge 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$60 for a 30 minute session for up to 6 people. Call 218-678-4666 to secure you spot.

Maple Syrup 101
11 a.m. session and 2 p.m session.
Learn the process from tree to bottle

Craft spirit sampling 1 - 3 p.m.

Beer Poking & Pudgie Pies 2 - 4 p.m.

Dos Guys LIVE at the Bear Pine Bar 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 6
Flapjack Feast 9 a.m. - Noon



Thursday 4-8 p.m. • Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HUNGRY? Stop In for Our Daily Specials:

Thursday: All-You-Can-Eat
Broasted Chicken 5 - 8 p.m.

Friday: All-You-Can-Eat
Fish Fry 5 - 8 p.m.

Saturday: All-You-Can-Eat Flying Flapjacks
8 a.m.- 11 a.m.

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

— No trivia on April 10, Ruby's on the Lake will be closed for a private event.—

Thursday Night Trivia League

Prizes! Teams of 4 will play every Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Lounge located next to Ruby's on the Lake. Earn points that accumulate throughout the season. Prizes will be awarded to our top teams.

March 6 - June 12
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

April
7th - Community Table Meal, every Monday doors open at 5 p.m. and meal served from 5:30 to 6p.m. in St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 617 Poplar Street, Crosby. For more information, contact: Tammy Ringhand at 218-838-0658, Jill Larsen at 218-851-1488 or Ann Silgen at 218-330-9610.
11th - St. Francis School fish fry fundraiser, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at 411 North Tenth Street, Brainerd. Meal includes all-you-can-eat fried and baked fish, potatoes, vegetable, bread, beverage and dessert for \$15 per person ages 11 and older. Children 11 and under are \$8. A punch card is available for \$80 at check in. Carry-out is available.
11th - Learn about the history and re-inhabitation of the Republic for the United States of America at 6 p.m. Aitkin Public Library at 110 - 1st Ave NE, Aitkin.
12th - Serpent Lake Association April Social, 4 -6 p.m., at the Woodtick Inn in downtown Cuyuna.
12th - Great River Strings Spring Concert, 7 p.m., at Cascade United Methodist Church in Deerwood.
12th - Cuyuna Range Whitetails Banquet held at the Hallett Center of Crosby. Social hour starts at 5 p.m.; dinner and raffles begin at 6 p.m. 14th - Community Table Meal, every Monday doors open at 5 p.m. and meal served from 5:30 to 6p.m. in St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 617 Poplar Street, Crosby. For more information, contact: Tammy Ringhand at 218-838-0658, Jill Larsen at 218-851-1488 or Ann Silgen at 218-330-9610.
14th - Join Unlimited Learning at 1:30 p.m. to hear Steve Wenzel speak about the Vietnam War. The program will be at Heartwood Senior Living in Crosby. It's free for members and \$10.00 for non-members.
16th - Cascade United Methodist Church free supper, 5:30 p.m. brings families and neighbors together to enjoy a home-cooked meal. The supper is held the third Wednesday of each month. Call 218- 534-3507 for a reservation . Cascade is located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road, Deerwood on Highway 6 and 210.
16th, 17th & 18th - Friends of the Brainerd Public Library Spring Book Sale 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Westgate Mall Brainerd
25th - Free movie night at Mayberry Auditorium. "Mufasa" at 6:30 p.m. Light concessions are available.

May
8th - Crow Wing County Commissioner Jamie Lee will be hosting a town hall meeting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Crosby-Ironton High School in the forum room. The main topics will include your property tax valuations, property taxes and what you might qualify for to reduce your tax rate.
10th - 11th - Cuyuna Agate Mineral Show at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds in Brainerd. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 11. Admission is \$2; mothers are free on Sunday (Mother's Day). For more information go to www.cuyunarockclub.org
21st - Cascade United Methodist Church free supper, 5:30 p.m. brings families and neighbors together to enjoy a home-cooked meal. The supper is held the third Wednesday of each month. Call 218- 534-3507 for a reservation . Cascade is located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road, Deerwood on Highway 6 and 210.

June
5th - Music in the Park, 5- 8 p.m., at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218 546-8131 for more info.
7th - Take a Kid Fishing event hosted by Community Effect on Serpent Lake in Crosby. For more information contact Tyler Scull at 612-212-5772.
8th - Cuyuna Off-Road Triathlon. Paddle, shred and tread the red in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. Visit www.cuyunaoffroadtri.com to register.
14th - Woodtick Races in downtown Cuyuna at the Woodtick Inn. Races start at noon. Call Bill Bedard at 218-546-5883 for more info.
19th - Music in the Park, 5- 8 p.m., at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218 546-8131 for more info.
20th - 22nd Midwest Mountain Bike Fest Expo, Croft Historical Park, Crosby. Scavenger Hunt Challenge and Vintage Mountain Bike Meetup and Group Ride
21st - Serpent Lake Association Annual Meeting at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood, coffee and Mac-Daddy Donuts starting at 8 a.m. and meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

Send your community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net

CWC Commissioner Jamie Lee to host town hall on property taxes

Crow Wing County Commissioner Jamie Lee will be hosting a town hall meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Crosby-Ironton High School Forum Room, offering an opportunity for local residents to learn more about property tax issues and engage directly with the commissioner.

The primary topics for discussion will include property tax valuations, the impact of property taxes on residents, and options available for reducing your tax rate. Commissioner Lee will provide valuable information on how property valuations are determined, what residents can do if they believe their valuation is too high, and what programs or exemptions may be available to help reduce their

tax burden.

Residents are encouraged to attend, especially those who may be looking for ways to qualify for potential tax reductions or who are unsure about the details of their property valuations.

The event is free and open to the public, and Commissioner Lee encourages all residents of Crow Wing County to take part in this informative session.

READER RIBBETS

Heintzeman legislative update

As we approach the first and second legislative deadlines, time is running out to address the critical issues Minnesotans are facing right now. Under the leadership of Speaker Lisa Demuth, House Republicans have put forward commonsense bills that will provide real relief for our state. These bills are ready to move forward, but just one Democrat is standing in the way of delivering much needed solutions.

We need Democrats to step up and put Minnesotans first. The House is tied 67 Republicans to 67 Democrats and the path forward is clear. If even one Democrat will join us in supporting these measures, we can start addressing the urgent needs of our state today.

Tax Cuts and Relief for Working Families

Minnesotans are struggling to make ends meet, and House Republicans are ready to provide relief. We've introduced legislation that will cut taxes for working families, eliminate the state tax on Social Security benefits, and repeal the gas tax inflator and the new delivery fee. These are commonsense tax cuts that will ease the financial burden on hardworking Minnesotans. We need just one Democrat to help pass these cuts before the looming deadline. The

people of Minnesota cannot afford to wait any longer.

Protecting Babies Who Survive an Abortion

One of the most basic duties of government is to protect the most vulnerable among us. We've introduced legislation that ensures babies who survive an abortion are given the care and protection they deserve. This is not a partisan issue; it's about basic human dignity. This bill is ready to move forward, but we need Democrats to join us in protecting these innocent lives. Minnesotans expect their elected leaders to stand up for the most vulnerable, and this is a moment for the Democrats to do just that.

Common-Sense Gun Laws

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities. HF 13 would allow law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families without fear of legal repercussions. This bill ensures there is no duty to retreat when using reasonable force to resist an offense. It's a commonsense approach to public safety. We need Democrats to stand with us and protect the rights of

law-abiding Minnesotans to defend themselves.

Fighting Fraud and Protecting Taxpayer Dollars

Minnesota has lost hundreds of millions of dollars to fraud, including the \$250 million lost in the Feeding Our Future scandal. We cannot afford to let this continue. We've introduced bills to establish a centralized Office of the Inspector General, improve grant oversight, and protect taxpayer dollars. These bills are the first step in restoring trust in government and ensuring that Minnesotans' money is spent responsibly. Democrats need to drop this partisan game and do what's right for Minnesota.

Thanks For Your Support

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any thoughts, questions, concerns regarding these bills, or input on future legislation, please feel free to reach out. I can be reached by phone at 651-296-6206 or via email at rep.josh.heintzeman@house.mn.gov. Have a great weekend,

Rep. Josh Heintzeman,
District 6State Representative

Send Us Your Photos and Community Events!



Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to hopper@crosbyironton.net, along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events. And who knows, you may see your submission next week in the **NEWS HOPPER!**

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OBITUARIES

SHANNON COOK



Shannon Marie Cook, 51, died Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at her home in Hill City.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at the Assembly of God Church in Hill City with Pastor Lisa Jordan officiating. Visitation will begin at 10:30 a.m.

She was born March 19, 1973 in Austin, the daughter of Kenneth and Shirley (Pritzkau) Cook. She grew up in Austin and graduated High School

in Waterville. She attended Mankato State University and earned a B.A. Degree. She moved to Sioux Falls, S.D. where she worked at a bank for many years. She later moved to Hill City and worked in Grand Rapids.

Shannon is survived by her half-sister, Erin (Cook) Mecklinberg; half-brother, John White; many aunts, cousins, other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, uncle and aunts.

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

TIMOTHY FOX



Timothy Frederick Fox, 63, of Deerwood, died at the St. Cloud Hospital on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 as result from a fall.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with prayer service at 1:00 p.m. Burial will be at the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby.

He was born on November 3, 1961 to Frederick and

Mary (Wright) Fox. Tim was the owner and operator of Fox Chimney Sweep with over 30 years of service.

Tim is survived by his wife, Christine; daughter, Zoe Hamm of Memphis, TN; stepdaughters, Samantha Mudderman and Tabatha Kirkland; brother, Rick (Theresa) Fox of Pequot Lakes and sister, Terri Kaster of Plymouth.

Preceding Tim in death are his parents and brother, Mike Fox.

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

RENEE GILMER



Renee Ann Gilmer, 82, of Aitkin died on March 29, 2025 at Golden Horizons in Aitkin.

A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at church on Saturday. Burial will be at the Scandia Cemetery in Deerwood.

She was born on March 15, 1943 in Crosby to Douglas and Ethel (Harms) Ahear.

Renee was a member of the Salem Lutheran in Deerwood.

Renee is survived by her son, Michael (Jamie) Boodle of Deerwood; her daughters, Sheryl (Dan) Lindberg of Aitkin and Tamie (Kurt) Mueller of Lakeville; one brother, Terry Ahear of Deerwood; one sister, Sue (Rick) Johnson of Deerwood; eleven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Preceding Renee in death are her parents; her husband Claude Gilmer; and one brother, Dale Ahear.

Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

DR. DAVID SUFKA



Dr. David H. Sufka, 82, died on Monday, March 24, 2025 at Pequot Lakes Caring Hearts Senior Community.

Mass of Chrisitan Burial was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025, at Our Lady of the Lakes "St. Christopher's" Catholic Church in Nisswa.

Burial will be at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery on Thursday, April 10 with full military honors.

David was born on December 1, 1942, in Sartell, to Henry L. and Alma R. (Weisz) Sufka. He grew up in Sartell and graduated from St Cloud Cathedral High School in 1960. He graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1964 with degrees in Chemistry and Medical Technology while working full time at St Regis Paper Mill in Sartell, and then from the Illinois College of Optometry in 1968. He joined the US Army Medical Corp and served as Captain for 2 years at DeWitt Army Hospital in Fort Belvoir, VA. After his tour of duty in 1970, he returned to St Cloud and started his private

practice in Optometry until his retirement in 2005. David married JoAnn M. Host in August of 1966. They had two children, Dr. Michael David (who also went to the Illinois College of Optometry and Dr. Susan Sufka Kaplan. He grew up hunting and fishing with his father and was a "Huckleberry Finn" of the North on the Mississippi River. He also had a love for aviation and flew with the Civil Air Patrol until his retirement. He started golfing in retirement in both St George, Utah, and Nisswa, Minnesota, which became his exercise and fellowship through his retirement years. He loved to travel with his wife, JoAnn, and after his children were in college, traveled to all seven continents and about 85 different countries.

David is survived by his wife of 58 years, JoAnn; children: Michael (Jennifer Rice) of Crosslake, and Susan, of Philadelphia, PA; granddaughters: Adah and Dahlia Kaplan; sisters: Rosemary Knapek and Marjorie (David) Garmen; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, James; sister-in-law, Katharine Sufka; brother-in-law, Marcel Knapek; and godson, Paul Host.

CHARLES WIEDERHOLT



Charles Gregory Wiederholt, 76, of Aitkin died Tuesday, April 1, 2025 in Aitkin.

Honoring Charles' wishes, no funeral will be held.

He was born May 12, 1948 in Aitkin the youngest child of Benedict and Lil (Chale) Wiederholt. After graduating from Aitkin High School in 1966 Charles served in the US Air Force from 1967 to 1971, traveling to Spain and Brazil. Charles was united in marriage to Linda Florance on November 14, 1970 in Topeka, KS. He worked for the Aitkin County

Highway Dept. for 39 years.

Charles is survived by his wife Linda; daughters: Kam Knutson of Oklahoma and Kasandra Clark (Jeff) of North Carolina; four grandchildren: Ashlee, Drake, Austin and Alayna; great-granddaughter Avery; sister, Janice Fairchild; brothers: Jerome Wiederholt and Kermit Wiederholt; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters: Jeanine McArthur, Karen Fisher and Jacqueline Sundholm.

Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Aitkin. To leave a message of condolence please go to www.srtfuneral.com

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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 - Eagle Brook Church , Worship 9 & 11, www.eaglebrookchurch.com/locations/brainerd-lakes/
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.ihmstemiys.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

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 Konnect 6:30 pm
Malmö — 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 Ingelwood 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.lchchurch.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) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:15; 10:30 fellowship
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 • 35960 CR 66, Through Mid-May: Sunday at 9:30am & Wednesday at 6:15pm. Weekly Free Community Meal - Wednesdays at 5:15pm - All are welcome!
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 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), Worship 9:15
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)
Malmö — 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.
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. www.uccbrainerdmn.org

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 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 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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St. Joseph Parochial School alumni gather for 50th Anniversary Reunion

A special reunion is being planned for anyone who attended St. Joseph Parochial School in Crosby, set for Saturday, May 17. The event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school's closure in 1975, marking the end of an era that saw the school play a significant role in the lives of many in the community.

The reunion will feature a variety of activities that will take alumni and guests on a nostalgic journey back to their school days. Highlights include a continental breakfast, guided tours of the school, displays of memorabilia, and the highly anticipated opening of a time capsule that was placed in the school's cornerstone when it was built. The afternoon will conclude with a Mass, followed by a dinner and program, providing ample opportunities for alumni to reconnect and reminisce.

St. Joseph Parochial School opened in the fall of 1959, initially enrolling 205 students in grades one through six. The school was constructed under the guidance of Fr. Joseph Cashen after a one-day fundraising drive, led by Carney Middleton, successfully raised the necessary \$100,000. The school's legacy continued to serve the parish long after its closure, with the building still housing parish offices, an adoration chapel, and educational classrooms.

Over the years, St. Joseph's was staffed by Benedictine nuns who lived in a convent on Serpent Lake, alongside some lay teachers. Students attended daily Mass and enjoyed hot lunches in the church basement, prepared by the women of the parish. To honor this part of the school's history, the reunion dinner will feature a recipe from those iconic hot lunches.

Reunion organizers are excited to report that nearly 75 alumni have already registered for the event. Invitations and registration information have been sent to alumni whose contact details are on file, though organizers are reaching out to help fill in the gaps. They are seeking assistance from alumni in spreading the word to their siblings and friends, particularly those whose contact information is not readily available. Additionally, the reunion committee is still gathering photos and memorabilia from the time when the school was open, to help enrich the displays at the event.

Anyone who attended St. Joseph Parochial School and has not received an invitation is encouraged to reach out to reunion co-chair Mike Aulie at 763-498-2997 or via email at mikeaulie@gmail.com. Registration details can also be found on the St. Joseph Catholic Elementary Crosby MN alumni Facebook page.

This reunion promises to be a memorable event for all those whose lives were touched by St. Joseph Parochial School, and organizers are eager to see former students reconnect and celebrate the legacy of this beloved institution.

Vendors sought for Deerwood Days

Mark your calendars for Deerwood Days 2025, a two-day outdoor festival that promises fun for all ages. On Friday, August 8 and Saturday, August 9, the charming town of Deerwood will come alive with a variety of activities from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

each day.

This family-friendly event will feature something for everyone, including craft booths showcasing local artisans, children's activities to keep the little ones entertained, and live music to set the mood throughout the weekend. Of course, no festival is complete without delicious food and beverages, and Deerwood Days will have plenty to satisfy every craving.

"We had a wonderful turnout last summer, and are once again excited to hold this event," said Kathy Hagens, a volunteer and member of the planning committee. "We anticipate it will be even larger this year."

If you're interested in becoming a vendor at Deerwood Days, there's still time to sign up. Organizers are welcoming anyone who would like to showcase their crafts, goods, or services during the festival. For more information, please email Deerwood-Days@gmail.com.

To stay up-to-date on event details and announcements, be sure to follow the Deerwood Days Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DeerwoodDays>.





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