

# *Rose and Spruce Church Newsletter*

PARISH NEWSLETTER

## **“The Blessings of a Dirty Barn”**

**Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean,  
but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest.**

**Proverbs 14:4**

Recently I heard a sermon preached with the title listed above. The pastor did a tremendous job, and it was a text that the Holy Spirit knew I needed to hear.

We've been studying the book of Proverbs on Wednesday evenings for a while now and finding that God's wisdom can transform all of life. Though the Proverbs are not promises they apply God's knowledge and wisdom for us all. One commentator put it this way as he described the book of Proverbs....

“It is a book which seldom takes you to church. Like its own figure of Wisdom, it calls across to you in the street about some every day matter, or points things out at home. Its function in Scripture is to put godliness into working clothes.” (Proverbs, Kidner, p. 35)

I have cleaned the barn many, many, many times in my life. Let's just say I'm very handy with a pitchfork and broom. If there were no milk cows, my job would have been easy—there would have been no manure to sling. My chore would have been non-existent, but with the cows we were able to make money, and my mom and dad put food on the table, bought me clothes and kept a roof over my head. Proverbs 14:4 is noting the practical fact that if you have oxen there will be a livelihood; without them you have a clean barn, yes, but also no way to make a living.

In our church, our lives, and our families, people can make things messy at times. Our lives have messes and mess means things are happening. Yes, you may have to clean up the messes and keep cleaning the barn; however, if there was no mess to clean it would mean no life going on. If we apply this spiritually and practically, I believe we can be thankful for the blessings of a dirty barn. This life throws us lots of “curves” and we deal with the “dirtiness” of our lives, but thanks be to God we can be washed clean by the Blood of The LAMB. Be thankful, my dear friends, for the “dirty barn” and look for God at work in our lives and the lives of those around us. May you and I be faithful, trust in the Lord with all our hearts, and live pressing forward knowing the “blessings” of a dirty barn.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Todd

# Rose News

## Ministries

### Women

- **WMF Bible Study Meeting & lunch:** March 13 at 2:00 pm at Rose. Bible Study: *Seeing the Light of God in the Face of Christ* Lesson 3. Hostess/Program: Debbie Erickson, Anna Mekash & Elaine Borneman
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** *Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts* at 9:30 am at Rose; Contact: Debbie Erickson
- **Monday Evening Bible Study:** *John LifeChange* Bible Study Mondays at 7:00 pm at Rose; Contact: Joyce Erickson

### Men

**Men's Community Fellowship Breakfast** at Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church on Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 am

**Guy's CFB** Wednesdays, March 12, 19, and 26; 7:00-8:00 am at Rose; All guys are welcome to come for CFB--coffee, food, & Bible

## Worship

SERVICE TIME

10:30 AM



### Coffee Fellowship Servers

Sunday, March 2, 9:30am

Jean Pederson, Lesa Schmechel, Louise Vatnsdal & Ashley Vatnsdal families



### Fellowship Meal Servers

Sunday, March 16

John Gaukerud, Jeremy Anderson, Brent Olson & Linda Johnson families



### Special Music Organizer

Anna Mekash



### Ushers

\*Les Mitterling  
Jeremy Anderson  
Pat Kvien

# *The Scene at Spruce*

## *Worship*

SERVICE TIME

9:00 AM



## Fellowship Brunch Servers

Beth Karol & Karen Beito



## Church Cleaning\*

Dennis Smedsmo & Mark Karol families

\*Our hired cleaning person, Sue Suess, will be cleaning the church every other month. When it is your assigned month if there is something that you see that needs to be done, please take care of it or put it down on the list on the bulletin board in the kitchen.



## Birthdays

5: Gracie Drown  
15: Tim Erickson  
15: Levi Erickson  
16: Ross Kershner  
17: Katharine Grahn  
21: Darlene Arneson  
24: Daryle Dahl

## *Ministries*

### Youth

**Youth Group** at Osweiler's on Sunday's at 6:30pm.

### Women

#### **March Spruce Mission Aid**

Wednesday, March 12, 2:00 pm  
Hostess: Beth Karol

### Men

#### **Men's Community Fellowship**

**Breakfast** at Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church on Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 am

**Guy's CFB** Wednesdays, March 12, 19, and 26; 7:00-8:00 am at Rose; All guys are welcome to come for CFB-- coffee, food, & Bible







# *Meeting Minutes*

## Parish Council Unapproved Meeting Minutes February 18, 2025

Attendance: Scot Bellefy, Pastor Todd, Greg Dahl, Connie Nelson, Kurt Osweiller, Jerry Skoglund, Kurt Osweiller, Cody Schumann, Tim Fugleberg, Ben Huener, Keith Peppel, Mark Karol, Dennis Smedsmo, Daryle Dahl, Greg Dahl, Anna Mekash

Pastor opened with prayer and devotions from Proverbs 14:4.

### OLD BUSINESS

Scot reviewed meeting minutes from November 27th, 2024. Pastor Todd was granted an extra week of vacation.

Parsonage is need of some repairs: Gutter leaf guards, fire pit (tabled for now), and landscaping will be evaluated in spring to address water issues. Cody will look into leaf gutters. Also steps will be addressed and also a possible basement window cover. Kurt reported Lee's plumbing from Thief River Falls will install the new bathroom tub, no date yet for tub repair, but as soon as possible.

Motioned by Mark Karol (1st) and seconded by Dennis Smedsmo.

### NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Todd contacting new intern, Alex Grimes, to set up a meet and greet visit. Pastor Todd will host him. Looking for possible date of March 16th. Mileage is covered. Possible start date June 1st. Motioned by Cody and seconded by Kurt.

Events coming: Lent season is starting at Rose March 5th followed by alternating schedule with Spruce and finishing up April 17th. The theme is Face to Face with Jesus. Speakers are rotating each week. Confirmation is May 4th with 5 confirmation students. FLY convention is coming in July. 15 students are attending from Rose /Spruce and 5 students are coming from Riverside. The cost of transportation is very expensive and cost of hotels one night each way. AFLC Annual Conference to be held June 11th-14th at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, WI. Upcoming Bible Camp is starting in June: Teen 17th-22nd, June 22nd open for family, and Preteen is 22nd-26th.

Release Time instructions have continued at First Baptist Church (25 kids), led by Pastor Todd and Pastor Travis Ambrose. It is half-hour sessions.

Discussion held on new officers- no changes were made as nominated: President: Scot Bellefy, Vice President: Mike Rudebusch, Secretary: Anna Mekash, Buddy Erickson: Treasurer. Buddy Erickson is treasurer for one more year. Mark Karol made a suggestion for someone to possibly train before Buddy is done. Motioned carried by Greg and seconded by Cody.

Motion to adjourn- 1st Kurt and 2nd by Greg. Meeting adjourned. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Anna Mekash  
Rose Council Secretary

# News & Events

## 2025 Lenten Schedule Face to Face with Jesus

Wednesday, March 5	Pastor Todd Erickson	Rose	Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 12	Wes Langaas	Spruce	Herod—Luke 13:31-34
Wednesday, March 19	Don Balmer	Rose	Caiaphas—John 11:49-52
Wednesday March 26	Dr. Lyle Mattson	Spruce	Pilate—John 18:33-40
Wednesday, April 2	Pastor Alex Amiot	Rose	Malchus—John 18:3-11; Luke 22:47-51
Wednesday, April 9	Pastor David Niemela	Spruce	Barabbas—Matthew 27:15-26
Thursday, April 17	Pastor Todd Erickson	Rose	Maundy Thursday Service: Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus— John 19:38-42

5:30 - 6:30 PM Soup & Sandwiches Served  
7:00 pm Lenten Services

## Save the Dates

April 4-5: FLBC Campus Days

April 5: Men Alive Retreat at Galilee Bible Camp

April 12: District WMF Rally at Westaker

Jun. 11-14, AFLC Annual Conference at the  
Association Retreat Center (ARC)

Jun. 17-22, Galilee Teen Camp

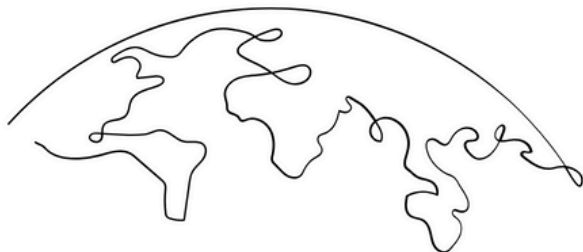
Jun. 22-26, Galilee Pre-Teen Camp

Jun. 30-Jul. 5, FLY Convention in Colorado

Jul. 9-12, Galilee Family Camp



# News & Events



## MISSION CONFERENCE

### GOSPEL-EMPOWERED MISSIONS

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

7PM, "THE GOSPEL ENABLES US TO GO"

SATURDAY, MAR. 1

9AM, BIBLE STUDY (8:30AM COFFEE)

7PM, "THE GOSPEL EMPOWERS MISSIONS"

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP, MAR. 2

9:30AM OUR SAVIOUR'S AND 11:30AM REINER

"THE GOOD NEWS OF THE COST OF MISSIONS"



WITH PASTOR DAVID HANDSAKER

**FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2**

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2075 HWY 59 S, TRF

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR PRIMAVERA PROJECT TO HELP  
GARDEN OF HOPE FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BUILD A CHURCH IN BRAZIL



## SLEDDING AT MALUNG

Sunday,  
March 9  
2-4 pm

Let's get together for some family fun!  
Kids can sled or skate;  
parents can mingle!

