

January, 2026

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1327 North Salem Road
La Crosse, WI 54603

NORTH STAR NEWS is a non-profit publication containing information and concerns of members and friends of North Presbyterian Church of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Sunday Worship: 8:00am & 10:00am
Virtually - Sunday at 8am on our Facebook Page or Website
Sunday School: 9am

Please contact us at:
608-781-5690
office@npclax.org

PASTOR:
Rev. Scott Skogen
OFFICE MANAGER & EDUCATION COORDINATOR:
Karla Korish
ORGANIST: Ruth Mashak
FIRST SERVICE MUSICIAN:
Judy Bouffleur
ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR:
Ruth Mashak
MAINTENANCE:
Joel Cloutier



January 2026 North Star News

Pastor Scott's Scripts:

Someone once said, "I never make New Year's resolutions any more... I never keep them anyway." I certainly understand that. I have made many a resolution that I have failed to keep, but I do believe they are worth making. Let me tell you why...

First, we all need changes. We all need to take a good look at ourselves and the direction our life is going and make the necessary changes that can lead to better. Even though change can sometimes be difficult, once on the other side we may come to see something unexpectedly wonderful...something peaceful...something good.

Second, as we leap into the new year, I find it is a good time to look back and do some self-reflection. How did last year go? What did I do well? What can I improve? How did I treat others? How did I respond to compliments and criticisms? What did I do last year that reflects my love for God and my love for others? The new year is an opportunity to look back and assess what we accomplished and what was left undone.

Third, the new year is an opportunity to plan ahead. As the old saying put it, "If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail." In the new year, set goals...resolutions...dare to dream...and give yourselves permission to fail. Failure is not the end. Refusing to try is far worse.

Fourth, the new year is a great time to embrace God's grace. Life is complicated. Life can be excruciatingly hard. Give yourself some grace...some understanding...some self-kindness. Place your life in the arms of our loving Lord and let us all be more gracious with ourselves as we venture into the new year! Happy New Year!

See ya in church!
Pastor Scott

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January, 2025

1	Megan Wilhelm	11	John Crayton
	Pat Walters		Lloyd Kennedy
2	Brunner Hanabarger	12	Gretchen Burns
3	Dave Molling	14	Bob Patros
	Chris Butler		Arlone McCabe
4	Jeanne Holmquist	15	Emma Gamoke
	Benji Zimmer	17	Tracy Doyle
	Trish Ruetten	18	Nick Jensen-Shafer
5	Helen Herlitzka	19	Betty Macha
	Rob Sturgis	20	Don Wilhelm
			Megan Jurgensen
6	Karen Smith	23	Mason Zimmer
	Nanette Harter		Evy Milner
	Karen Schultz		Peggy Mageland
8	Linda Betsinger		Dave Hagenbarth
	Brian Mansky	25	Mary Mills
	Cody Feehan	26	Jo Ann Fink
	Maureen Colburn	27	Brandon Hanabarger
10	Hazel Stakston	30	Suzy Zenker



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on
Sunday, January 18th
 following the 10:00 worship service for
**Sub Sandwiches when temps are
 sub-below!**

(Let's hope this prediction is wrong!)

We'll provide all of the sandwich fixings and potato chips.
 Please feel free to bring a dish to share and enjoy this
 wonderful fellowship time!

Welcome New Members to our NPC Family!

On Sunday, November 30th, we welcomed the following people into the NPC family:

- **Leah Wittkop;** Lives in Hokah, MN. Retired Dental Hygienist. Has two children & 4 grandchildren. Enjoys horses, volunteering for Horse Sense, hiking, and quilting
- **Kris Harring;** Has husband, Jim, 5 adult children, and 6 grandchildren under the age of 6! Was a flight attendant, reading tutor, and hospice volunteer. Enjoys fishing, pickleball, and the outdoors.
- **Angie & Zach Craig;** Zach works for Agropur. Angie works for Select Custom Solutions. They have on child just graduating from UW-Milwaukee with a teaching degree and a chihuahua, Simba.
- **Lois Roberts;** Has 3 children, 5 grandchildren & 2 great-grandchildren and enjoys following their sports and activities. Enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom, wife, and volunteering with church, community, and choirs. Enjoys playing cards and games.
- **Melinda Ervin;** Has husband, Jeff, two teenage daughters and is mother to Pastor Scott's future son-in-law, AJ. Works at Mayo as a radiographer. Has two dogs and enjoys the outdoors, traveling and repurposing thrift finds.
- **Ethel Andrews;** Born and raised in the Carolinas. La Crosse resident for over 70 years. Worked at the old K-Mart for 30 years. Has 6 children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren
- **Mary Prindle;** Has worked in real estate and enjoys winters in warmer temperatures

Fun Bunch Lunch

Join us on Tuesday, January 27th
 for lunch and fellowship!

We'll provide the main dish.
 You are welcome to bring a dish to
 share or simply join us for a meal
 paired with wonderful conversation.



To our North Presbyterian Family:

Debby and I would like to thank you for your generous gift to our family this Christmas.

Your kindness coupled with your generosity made Christmas extra special for us this year.

Thank you so much for your loving support and your gracious gift. Happy New Year to all of you!

With Love, Pastor Scott & Debby

A graphic with the words "THANK YOU" in large, colorful, block letters. "THANK" is in red, yellow, and blue, and "YOU" is in green and orange.

Thank you!

Once again the NPC family engaged in so many ways to share the true spirit of Christmas within our walls and out into our community. We baked and bought cookies, we caroled at a variety of care facilities, we rang bells for the Salvation Army, we shared our Fellowship Hall with those needing a place to gather for a Christmas meal, we bought gifts for the Northside Elementary School children, and provided trinkets and goodies that our Deacons assembled into gift bags to deliver to many. Along with all of these things, our church itself never looked as beautiful as it did this year with the many poinsettias purchased in loving memory and in honor of special people in our lives. We are blessed to have received the wonderful gift of Jesus who we strive to emulate living in love, kindness, and grace.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

The ordination/Installation service will be held Sunday, January 11th, at the 10 a.m. Worship Service. Please join us as we welcome:

Class of 2028 Elders:

Nancy Ernst, Amanda Monroe, & Dan Ender

Class of 2028 Deacons:

Patty Peppers, Kathy Scott, & Bernadette Taylor



Just a reminder that the hospitals DO NOT contact us when our NPC family members are hospitalized. Pastor Scott would definitely want to know when this occurs so please contact him or the church office at (608)781-5690 to let us know. You can then also let us know if we can add you to our prayer list and announcements. Thank you!

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026 right after the 10:00 a.m. Worship service. Please plan on attending as 2025 happenings and all the churches finances are reviewed.

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT (Blue Envelope)

Per Capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission: and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians.

COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The Per Capita amount for North Presbyterian members for 2026 is \$40

“Members” includes everyone who has been confirmed as an “Active Member”

2026 MOBILE MEALS SCHEDULE FOR NPC

Delivery days Monday—Sunday

(Mon.) February 16— (Sun.) February 22
(Mon.) June 29— (Sun.) July 5
(Mon.) September 28— (Sun.) October 4
(Mon.) November 23 — (Sun.) November 29
(Mon.) December 28— (Sun.) January 3

PICK UP WHERE:

Mayo Clinic Hospital on the corner of Mississippi St. & 11th St. between Walgreens and the new hospital building

PICK-UP TIME- 10:30 AM (Route #2)




SIGN-UP IN THE NARTHEX

Or email or call the church office.608-781-5690 or office@npcclax.org

If you have any questions on the process or would like to try this ministry opportunity, please contact Karla at the Church office for more information.



JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
4	5	6	7  Knit/Crochet Group 10:00-Noon in the Fellowship Hall	8	9	10
11 ORDINATION/ INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS 10:00 A.M. SERVICE	12	13	14 JOINT MEETING OF ELDERS & DEACONS 6:00 POTLUCK MEETING FOLLOWING	15	16	17
18  Sub-Sandwich Fellowship Luncheon following 10:00 service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING 10:00 SERVICE 	26	27 Fun Bunch Lunch Noon- Fellowship Hall  Fellowship Meal	28	29	30	31