

LOCAL BRIEFS

Nisswa church to present ‘Christmas in November’ organ concert

A “Christmas in November” organ concert presented by Cathy Taylor and Laura Rae-deke will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, in the sanctuary of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa.

Refreshments will be served following the concert.

A free will offering will benefit the sanctuary remodel project. Updates may be found on the church Facebook page.

Ruby’s Pantry to be in Pine River Nov. 23

Ruby’s Pantry will sell food shares from 3–6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, in Pine River.

Interested parties should turn off Highway 371 onto Cass County 42 at the fairgrounds, then follow the signs to line up at the fairgrounds where they will be given a number for the shares they would like to purchase.

Shares are \$22 for an abundant amount of

groceries to share with family, friends or neighbors.

Participants are asked to remain in line and follow directions of the traffic coordinator who will guide them to New Life Community Church (Faith Assembly of God).

More information is available at 218-587-2109.

Spirit of Christmas Bazaar set Nov. 13 at Crosby church

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crosby will host its annual Spirit of Christmas Bazaar from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.

The event gives individuals the opportunity to browse through crafts ranging from furniture to photography, wearables and jewelry, fresh wreaths to handmade cards and paintings.

Lefse will also be available, along with personalized ornaments, baked and canned goods and confections.

The Little Elves Gift Shop will welcome children up to age 12 to shop for their parents and other loved ones.

SENIOR MEALS

The Senior Nutrition Program still offers a nutritionally balanced meal at 11:30 a.m. Monday–Friday in Pine River and Crosslake, but people must pick them up at the door at Heartland Apartments, 445 Snell Ave., in Pine River, or have meals delivered by Meals on Wheels.

To order a meal or Meals on Wheels in Pine River, call 218-587-2921. To order a meal by noon a day in advance or for Meals on Wheels in Crosslake, call 218-692-4271.

The suggested voluntary donation is \$5 per meal for those over 60 and \$8.50 for those under 60. Menus are subject to change.

Meals are served with bread, margarine and low-fat milk.

**Nov. 15-19**

► **Monday:** Chef salad, crackers, creamy fruit salad, cake with frosting.

► **Tuesday:** Ham, au gratin potatoes, peas, dinner roll, dessert.

► **Wednesday:** Sloppy joe on a bun, broccoli salad, cinnamon apple-sauce, dessert.

► **Thursday:** Roast beef and mashed potatoes with gravy, California Normandy blend, dessert.

► **Friday:** Chicken alfredo with fettuccine pasta, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, dessert.

Why do I give? Let me share the reasons

November is upon us and within many churches there is talk of stewardship.



STEPHEN BLENKUSH

Wait, let me rephrase that. Talk of stewardship should be taking place. The truth is that most of my colleagues in ministry get a bit uncomfortable when it comes to talking about stewardship

because that often involves talking about money and that is often interpreted as talking about your money, and that’s when folks get either uncomfortable or defensive. Right?

And that is unfortunate for a number of reasons. It is unfortunate because it means that by not talking about money and faithful stewardship, many miss out on the joy of giving, the opportunity to share an expression of gratitude for all that God has done for us and promises to do for us.

With that thought in mind I would like to take this opportunity to focus on why I give.

Reason #1: I give because of the Good News.

My giving is part of my faithful response to what God has already done for me. My giving is an expression of gratitude for what God has done and what God desires to be done in the lives of others. My giving to my church, my college alma mater, to hunger ministries, social services, relief organizations and other

agencies is also part of this response.

I deeply believe that I cannot earn my salvation, but I can help share the love of Jesus and the grace of God through my faithful stewardship and thereby contribution to the sharing of the Good News with others.

Reason #2: I give because there is a need.

My giving is also usually initiated by being moved to act in response to a need in the world. When I see someone hurting or not being cared for, I wonder, “What can I do to help?” If I can contribute with a financial contribution, that is wonderful.

If my budget is constrained, I can still give through volunteering and helping in other ways.

Reason #3: I give because I want to.

There is no greater joy in life than the feeling of helping another person or bringing a smile to someone’s face. When I was a kid, I ran across the word “philanthropist.” When it was explained to me, I took it to mean being in a financial position to be generous toward others, to support things I believe in.

As I became older I tried a bit of philanthropy, and I found that it gave me joy. Being generous warms my heart when I can support a worthy cause.

Reason #4: I give because it’s part of God’s work.

I believe that the way I serve and give are part of God’s work in the world, and we are all called to share in this work. Our vocations and God-given

gifts, strengths and passions aren’t meant to be hoarded, but are to be used in service to our neighbor to build up the Kingdom of God.

Reason # 5: I give because my parents taught me by example by giving.

I grew up in a family of givers. I listened when my dad preached his stewardship sermons. His faith-based attitudes about money were helpful in shaping my own attitudes about money, finances and stewardship.

My mother was an artist and I watched as she shared her God-given gifts and talents with others. As a kid I was given an allowance, and when I was a fifth-grader and delivering the Minneapolis morning paper each day before school, I knew and understood that a portion of such was to be given to God’s work – through my offering at church or to nonprofits.

Over time, I learned and came to believe that this giving to God was the returning of some of what God has actually entrusted to my care. I credit my desire to give especially to my parents.

Hopefully we all have reasons for giving. Hopefully you too are experiencing the joy of giving. In light of Reason #5, I invite and or challenge parents and grandparents to have this conversation with children and grandchildren. Talk to them about why you give and the joy you experience when you do so.

Oh, and to my clergy colleagues, you are welcome!

Stephen Blenkush is pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Pequot Lakes

CARD GAMES

<b>500 SCORES</b> <b>1 p.m. Tuesdays</b> Pine River American Legion <b>Tuesday, Nov. 2</b> ► Jack Anderson 3940, Carol Furnstahl	3830, Jim Hawkinson 3510, Bud Johnson 3490, Lila Kersey 3400. Ron Kriewald won the door prize. <b>BRIDGE SCORES</b> Ideal Town Hall	<b>Thursday, Nov. 4</b> Duplicate: 1 p.m. ► Joyce Roemer and Sue Caquelin 52, Tom and Helen McGrath 49, Lois Steffen and Terri Steffen 47.	Crosslake Community Center <b>Friday, Nov. 5</b> ► Larry Fleer 4540, Carolyn Thompson 4190, Peter Graves 3880
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