

April 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Spring is sprung / the grass is riz' / I wonder where / the flowers iz" I realize how much this probably ages me, but I loved this rhyme when I was a kid and still do. It expresses the energy, excitement, and frustration of children who can't wait to be done with Winter and move on to Spring. I'm still very much that type of child, and so a conversation with Ella Mae was somewhat of a downer when she reminded me that we can't count Winter out until April is over. As we talked about April blizzards from years past--in particular the 1997 storm that brought 3 inches of ice, 18 inches of snow, and temperatures of -10 degrees--that I realized she had a point. Spring will come when God wills it, not when we do.

But it will come eventually. That we can count on. God is faithful, even if He does follow His own calendar. The same applies to faith. For centuries the people of God awaited the coming of a Savior to deliver them from the hands of their enemies. The longing for that day grew ever stronger until it reached a critical point under Roman domination. Messiahs began to pop up all over, each promising to deliver the people of Israel from their bondage. Finally the day of the true Messiah came, but quietly and without fanfare. God's Messiah would come, only to be rejected by the very people who so yearned for His coming. God's Messiah taught them that their true enemy was not the Romans, or others who would oppress them, but they themselves. He taught that sin was inherent in all people, not just the opponents of Israel, and that God's deliverance was therefore intended for all the people He had created, not just one segment. The call to "love thy neighbor as thyself" was not received at all kindly, and He would be killed for it.

This represented truly the darkest of Winters as the power of sin sought to consolidate itself over the people forever. But then came Easter. The Son rose and the ice and snow of sin began to melt away. Hope was restored to the world, and the promise of a better world beckoned.

I wish I could say that this was the end of the story, but it is not. Winter storms continue to return and challenge faith and hope. Each new generation must grapple with the problem of the sin inherent in us and find its answer in Christ. But also each year Easter returns to remind us that there is reason to hope, and that those who turn to Christ will have their sin forgiven and find strength to break free from sin's grasp. In Christ we see the new life awaiting, free from the bigotry, hate, and dissension of this life, the heaven we can begin living even now through Him. Grasp that Easter promise that he has prepared for you, and for all people. Seek to live the life to come even while you are here. And know that the coming of Spring is not a mirage, but the new reality, as sure to come as day follows night or Easter follows Good Friday.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pete

Tri Parish Events

ELM RIVER SERVING TEAM

<i>Date</i>	<i>Usher & Bell</i>	<i>Communion</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Church Cleaning</i>
April 2 nd 7pm	Kristi & Fred Vadnie	Dawn Flaten	-----	Kathy & Janice
April 5 th 10:30	Andy & Kayla	Savanah	-----	
April 19 th 9am	Bob & Cindy Sanderson	-----	Darren Levitt	
May 3 rd 9am	Jesse & Wendy Bring	Kendall	Jesse & Wendy Bring	Shelly Satrom Dori Elliott

NORMAN COMMITTEES

<i>Calling Committee</i>	<i>Cleaning Groups</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Head Usher</i>
Audrey Knudson	Knudson families	5 th Easter Brunch	Paul Knudsvig
		12 Shelia Anderson	
		26 Judy Erbstoesser	
<u>Flowers</u>	<i>Altar Cloths</i>		
Shirley Sand	Donna Vadnie		

Lent 2026

March 29th Palm Sunday 10am Stordahl
 April 2nd Maundy Thursday Elm River (First Communion)
 April 3rd Good Friday Norman
 Easter Sunday April 5th 7:30am Norman,
 9am Stordahl, 10:30 Elm River

CIRCLE NEWS

Norman - Wednesday, April 8th @ 1pm Audrey Knudsvig Hostess

Elm River – Wednesday, April 15th @ 1pm

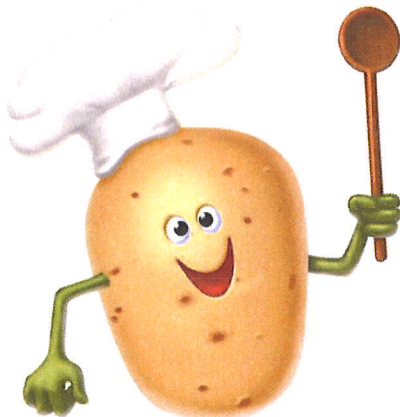


Wheeler Douglas James T.
Son of Reggie & Nikki T. was
baptized on March 22nd at
Stordahl Lutheran Church

BAZAAR

Stordahl Bazaar: Wednesday, April 8th 7:30pm

Plan to drive out to Stordahl Lutheran Church for some fun & food. Raffle tickets are available from church members. The bazaar enables the Stordahl women to do ministry through financial support of various groups.



Potato Klub Supper
Sunday, April 19th
4:30 to 7PM
Norman Lutheran Church

The Elm River, Norman and Stordahl Tri-Parish met on March 4th following Tri Parish worship at Elm River Lutheran Church.

Present were Pastor Peter Schiefelbein, Secretary Dori Elliott and Treasurer Lori Paulson.

Elm River: Kendall Johnson, Beth Kainz

Stordahl: Jeff Voltz, Steve Kylo

Norman: James Aarsvold, Ella Mae Satrom, Jack Vadnie

Quorum established, and agenda approved.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the minutes from the November 19th meeting by James, second by Beth, Motion carried.

Treasure Report: All bills current and payments up to date. Motion to approve by Steve, second by Kendall, motion Carried.

Old Business:

Pastor's Report: Continued visitation to shut ins, confirmation is going well.

New Business:

*Pastor Pete's contract was reviewed, motion to keep the contract the same by James, second by Jeff, motion carried, Pastor signed new contract

*April & May Schedules were discussed, No Church at Norman March 22nd

*Summer Schedule will be Sunday Services at Norman and Elm River, Wednesday evening service at Stordahl, motion by Beth, second by Steve to approve, motion carried

* Dori submitted her letter of resignation as church secretary. March 31st will be her last day. Will begin advertising within the Tri Parish immediately and if no one is interested will then send to newspaper.

For the Good of the Order

Norman will be having a Pork Loin lunch on March 22nd at the Portland Senior Center
Thank you to Dori for the many years she has served as our secretary.

Next Meeting: August 5th following worship at Stordahl.

Motion by Beth, second by Kendall, Meeting adjourned.

Dori Elliott

Tri Parish Secretary

Special Meeting of the Tri Parish on March 18th at Norman

The laptop Secretary currently uses is out of date and no longer updates. James Aarsvold motioned to buy a new laptop, Kendall seconded. James will shop for the laptop, look into a Microsoft program, and anti-virus. Two parishioners expressed interest in the position of church secretary, after they were interviewed the position was offered to Inez Olson and she accepted.