



2026

Hope Scope

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

Matthew 20:1 (NRSV)

You maybe know the rest of the story about the laborers and the landowner. It is a parable of Jesus, and in it, the landowner decides to pay all of his day-laborers one day's wages even though some worked only a very short part of the day. Many of us have trouble with this story because it seems to display an inherent unfairness. In America, we are taught that everybody should get what they earn. And yet Jesus tells the story to say what the Kingdom of God is like. So, God is unfair?

No. It is not God who is wrong here, but our sense of what is right. And I think this is an important story for us to keep in mind. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation, it will be important for us to remember that, and I'll paraphrase the prophet Isaiah: America's thoughts are not God's thoughts and America's ways are not God's ways. In America, we worry about whether people are getting something without earning it. That's not an issue for God. We will recall that God's grace is not—cannot be—earned. God's values are not the same as ours.

In these days when the false Gospel of Christian Nationalism seems to be getting a lot of airtime, it is important to remember that much of what Christian nationalists espouse is contrary to Scripture. Starting with Jesus' parable of the landowner and the laborers.

The Apostle Paul tells us, in the third chapter of his letter to the Philippians, about what he calls the enemies of the cross. And he contrasts those enemies with those whose citizenship is in heaven. We dare not ever forget that our citizenship is in heaven.

There are a lot of truly great things about this nation we live in. But it is not the Kingdom of God. Very often it does not think or act like Jesus. Our nation engages in war. It sometimes ignores the cry of the needy. It sends desperate people away at the gates. These are things that Jesus never did, and things that will not be done in God's kingdom. And we will want to keep that straight.

But by all means, let's celebrate all that is great about this nation—all it has been, and all it can be. And let's remember what a blessing—what an unearned gift—it has been for us to live here—to be resident aliens here—while our citizenship remains elsewhere.

~ Blessings, Brian Jones

At its June 22nd meeting, the Session approved:

- Received a brochure “Pathways for Ministry & Leadership” and information on “Becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder”, and was informed there is a great need in the Presbyterian denomination for ministers and Commissioned Ruling Elders. Everyone is asked to keep this in mind for themselves, family members, youth and others, and, if interested, contact Pastor Jones.
- Approved transferring funds from the New Covenant Funds for the remodeling project
- Approved the following requests of the Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee:
 - Amend the previous motion approving the payment of \$10 per TAG youth and chaperones to go to Valley Fair, to also include WOW youth and spending up to a total of \$200 on a first-come, first-serve basis with payment to be received upon signing up
 - To hold Rally Sunday on August 30th with a mental health presentation on Wednesday, September 2nd for the congregation, and classes starting on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026
 - To approve the Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee’s activity calendar for the 2026-2027 school year as presented
- Approved hiring Scott Lottman Painting to repaint the Fellowship Hall and hallway at the same time he paints the remodeled areas of the church
- Approved the baptism of Charlotte Dulas to be held during worship on a Sunday in August 2026



The following volunteered to serve communion on July 5th at the 10:00 a.m. worship service: Jerry Bents, Larry Bratsch, Howard Jones, Kathy Terpstra

FINANCE REPORT

	Month of May 2026	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date May 2026	Prior Year to Date May 2025
Ministry Support Received	\$ 55,048.30	\$ 31,612.14	\$ 158,060.71	\$ 108,098.65
Ministry & Operations Investment	\$ 27,002.24	\$ 30,156.26	\$ 150,781.31	\$ 121,745.26
Mission Plan Variance (Loss)	\$ 28,046.06		\$ 7,279.40	(\$ 13,646.61)
Support Needed to Meet the Mission Plan				\$ 27,674.40
Per Capita Commitment for 2026				\$ 7,144.00
Per Capita Support Received Through 05/31/2026				\$ 2,845.00

Report prepared by Kristene King, Treasurer

In 2026, Per Capita has increased to \$47.00 per active member.

The Giving Oven

The Giving Oven has started its inaugural season! What is “The Giving Oven” you ask? It is a wood fired oven designed to cook pizzas to perfection and feed our communities while giving back to area non-profit organizations!

Come join the fun this summer from 4:30-7:00 pm on the evenings of July 1st, 15th & 29th; and August 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th at Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer . Proceeds from the pizzas sold throughout the summer go towards the non-profit groups who help bake and serve the pizzas. You can order online at spicercommunitywoodfiredpizza.com ahead of time or walk-in to place an order that night!

Our Belize Mission team will be serving on Wednesday, July 1st, so be sure to stop in that night and order a pizza (or 2 or 3)! Please help spread the word about this fun opportunity to help out the local non-profits!



Christian Education Youth & Families

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

(The parable of the Sower) “This is the meaning of the parable; The seed is the word of God.” Luke 8:11

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For the past several years the Christian Education, Youth & Families Committee has been picking a theme for the educational year. The theme is used as a focus point for the Water Days parade, Rally Day, and other activities throughout the year. This year’s theme is **“Growing in God’s Word”**.

In the spirit of our theme, the WOW students planted some vegetables behind the church to remind us that with water and sunshine the plants will grow just as following God’s word and adding “SONshine” will help our faith grow.



Watering our Vegetables at church



Church Picnic at Games Lake







We are discussing the God-given gift of water and all the many ways we use it, including growing things.

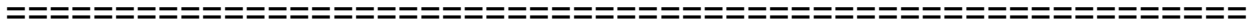
Our time together at Games Lake is an important time of sharing a meal, remembering changes over the last year, and connecting with our “family”.



The New London Water Days Parade is Saturday, July 18th.

Our theme is
"Growing in God's Word".

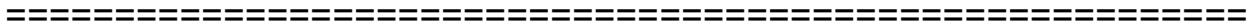
You are welcome to join us as we decorate the float and walk in the parade.



Valley Fair Day
Saturday, August 15th

It's more fun when we can all go together!

- *Group rate
- *Partial funding from our church
- *Sign-up sheet and details at church



Join our Summer Giving Challenge!!



Remember our very own **“FLAME”**, Alisa Taatjes, who first introduced us to the Fan the Flame Clearwater Forest Capital Campaign?

She wanted a job at Clearwater Forest Camp as the official mascot of the campaign. She was following the lead of the **“flickering flames”** of the **“burning bush”** to **“ignite”** our giving spirit.

Thank you, **“Flame”** for lighting a **“fire”** under us and **“sparking”** our generosity to support the Clearwater Forest Capital Campaign!



A \$100,000 Challenge Gift Has Been Given!

An anonymous donor has pledged \$100,000 to inspire others to invest in the future of Clearwater Forest.

Now we need your help.

Every gift received before Labor Day will help meet this challenge and move us closer to a new Multi-Purpose Program Building where lives will be changed in God’s woods and waters for generations to come.

Will you make your best gift today?

Whether it’s \$25, \$250, \$2,500, or more, every dollar brings us closer to our goal.

Give before Labor Day and help unlock the full impact of this \$100,000 Challenge Gift!

How to Support This Project – PRAY!

- Write a check ✓ IRA distributions ✓ Stocks and Bonds
- Host a mini-fundraiser in your neighborhood or at your church!
- Bake Sale, Lemonade Stand, Camp Party, Camp Sunday



Scan QR code to donate online!



Use a credit card to make a one-time or recurring donation

How To Make Your Gift

- **Write a check**

- Write **Fan the FLAME** on the memo line
- Send the check to:

Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center
16595 Crooked Lake Road
Deerwood, MN 56444

- **Donate with your credit card online**

- Click on the blue 'Donate Now!' button below or scan the QR code with your phone camera
- If you have donated before, login with your username and password
- Choose to donate once or monthly and then select the amount
- Select the Fan the FLAME Capital Campaign by clicking on the dropdown arrow

- **Donate using stocks, IRAs, or Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)**

Organization's Legal Name:
Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Inc.
EIN: 41-1402122



Contact Erin Anderson, Executive Director,
if you have any questions!

eanderson@clearwaterforest.org

(218) 381-1123 (direct line)



Clearwater Forest is an option for your **Thrivent Choice** dollars!



Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Inc

16595 Crooked Lake Rd

Deerwood, MN

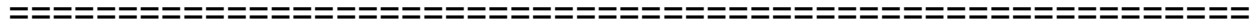
Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith building Christian programming, nurture an active Christian...

Type: Camp/Outdoor Ministry

Focus: Congregation, Camps / Outdoor Ministries / Retreat Centers, Children / Youth, Families, Religious, Environment

Log in to Direct Now

Make a Personal Donation



Fridge Bridge

July

- 18 New London Water Days Parade
- 19 Children's Church – Lesson after the children's sermon

August

- 9 Children's Church – Lesson after the children's sermon
- 15 Valley Fair Day
- 30 Rally Day

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who came to the Picnic Supper & Silent Auction, and supported the Belize Mission Team on Thursday, June 25th. With your help, we were able to raise over \$5000 to go towards our trip! Here are a few pictures from the beautiful, fun night...



Happy 60th Anniversary, Elroy and Sharon Jones!

Please join us for **cake between the church services on Sunday, July 12th**, to celebrate our parents' 60th wedding anniversary.

~ Resa & Alissa Jones, daughters

THEN – July 9, 1966



NOW



July's CARE Pantry Challenge product are..... Kid's items!

This includes: Kid's shampoo/conditioner, body wash, hair gel, deodorant, detangler spray, acne cleanser, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Please place your donations on the table in front of the mailboxes or in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes. Thank you!



Weeders needed...

We could use some more people to help weed around the church grounds. This includes around youth center, around the church building, around the Gazebo, in the chapel, and in the Prayer Garden. If you have a few hours here or there, please feel free to come and pull some weeds!

With this rain, they are growing like crazy!

Construction is progressing nicely. Please continue to use the green door by the Fireside Room or the main doors by the sanctuary to enter on Sunday mornings. During the week, please use the far door of the Christian Education wing. If you can't make it to the door and need assistance during the week, please call the church (320-796-2650), and we will come out to help you. Again, thank you for your cooperation during this time of remodeling!



Offering Envelopes

Deacons, Per Capita, and other special offering envelopes are now located on a table in the Narthex next to the large print hymnals and Bibles rather than in the pews. Please see an usher or Steph if you need help finding them. Thank you!



June 2026 Impact Report

**WE ARE
TEMPORARILY
MOVING**

**WHEN: JUNE 19TH, 2026
WHERE: 110 MANITOBA ST, SPICER
(OLD MAC HARDWARE STORE)**

WE WILL BE TEMPORARILY MOVING OUR FOOD PANTRY & OUTREACH OFFICES TO START OUR BUILDING RENOVATIONS.

WE WILL OFFICIALLY START SERVING FAMILIES ON JUNE 23RD AND WILL BE THERE UNTIL RENOVATIONS ARE FINISHED (ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 2026).

A HUGE THANK YOU TO MAC HARDWARE FOR PROVIDING US THE MUCH NEEDED SPACE DURING THE RENOVATION PROCESS TO CONTINUE SERVING FAMILIES EFFICIENTLY!

COMMUNITY REVIVAL BOUTIQUE AND THRIFT WILL REMAIN IN OUR CURRENT LOCATION IN NEW LONDON AND WILL BE OPEN FOR SHOPPING AND DONATIONS THROUGHOUT OUR RENOVATIONS!

HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE TIMES THE STORE HAS TO CLOSE FOR A DAY OR 2 DURING CONSTRUCTION- SO PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO ENSURE WE'RE OPEN.

OUR PHONE NUMBERS & MAILING ADDRESS WILL REMAIN THE SAME DURING THE RENOVATIONS!

**FOR UPDATES ON THE MOVE,
-FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
-CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US
320-354-5465**

RIBFEST 2026

Is in the books! Thank you to everyone that came out to support The Link on June 6th! Stay tuned for the total impact!

YOUR IMPACT

234

families served in the Food Pantry

13,873

pounds of food distributed

167

students currently enrolled from the NL-S Schools to receive food for the weekend.

342

hours donated by generous community members to keep The Link's programs running smoothly

81

families provided with household needs, including:
clothing, dishes, furniture

14

provided with financial support to families facing hardships. This support includes, but is not limited to: medical bills, prescription costs, utility bills, rent/mortgage payments and other basic needs.

Tuesday's Table Schedule:

- 1st Tuesday: Our Lady of the Lakes
- 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant
- 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran
- 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran
- 5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community

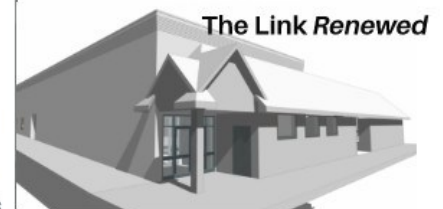
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!!

YOU are The Link!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Gently used clothing (any size)
- Household essentials (dishes, sheets, small furniture items, etc.)
- Unexpired food donations
- Monetary donations to The Link's general fund
- Donations to The Link's Capital Campaign for needed building renovations
- Pray for The Link & your community
- Invite The Link's staff to attend a business or church meeting, book club or any group event to help spread awareness of The Link's programs

BE A PART OF THE LINK'S LEGACY!



The Link has launched it's capital campaign for building renovations! The estimated cost for these much needed renovations is \$365,000! The Link's goal is to raise \$200,000 to go toward these renovations!

DONOR WALL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!



Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

8:30 A.M. Outdoor Worship in the Chapel
9:15 A.M. Fellowship Hour
10:00 A.M. Indoor Worship in the Sanctuary
Also on Facebook Live &
on Radio 96.9 FM

TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181 - Sundays 2:15 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &
3:00 pm, or Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Members with Health Issues:

Conny Williamson, Don Heath, Arlos Jones,
Ruth Birkeland, Dick Lindahl

*Prayer
Requests*



Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Larry (Leslie Radabaugh's brother), David (Mark Radabaugh's brother, Resa Jones, Shirley (Sherry Bratsch's mom)

Grieving:

Family of Ardis Just, Families of Heather Carver's niece and boyfriend, Family of Ed (Bill Schurman's brother), Family of Celia Evenson

****Please Note** If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request card found on the table by the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall and return it to an usher or Pastor Brian.

July Deacons of the Month: Greg Swenson & Jeff Wersal

July Coffee Servers

July 5th: Clara O'Connor, Joyce & Darwin Schroeder

July 12th: Bob & Carol Sampson

July 19th: Jerry & Karen Bents

July 26th: Sue & Jerry Schiro

