

A Place Where Nerves Gently Settle

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In rural communities, he acknowledges, conversations about mental health can still carry stigma. He believes that is slowly changing and sees faith communities as part of that shift toward greater compassion and understanding.

That same focus on connection shapes his involvement in Leadership Barnesville, a community leadership program through the Barnesville Area Community Fund. His group is focusing on community wellness with an intergenerational approach that involves children, parents, and grandparents.

"Community wellness isn't just an individual thing," he said. "It's relational."

Part of what drew him to St. John's was the feel of the congregation itself. Some weeks, he has noticed, there are more children than adults in worship. He does not see that as a problem to solve but as a sign of life.

When asked where he sees hope in Barnesville, DeMuth did not hesitate.

He pointed to families who value time together, parents who are intentional about how they raise their children, and grandparents who play an active role in daily life.

"There's a generation of grandparents here who are knocking it out of the park," he said. "They're a huge resource."



Pastor Greg DeMuth plays guitar during a service at a former congregation. Music remains one of the many passions he brings with him to St. John's Lutheran Church in Barnesville.

He was also struck by the way the city reinvests in itself. Income is folded back into parks, facilities, and long-term planning rather than simply spent for the sake of spending. To him, it feels like a community trying to preserve what is good before it is gone.

Hope, he suggested, is often found in ordinary rhythms. Kids

riding bikes to the park. Neighbors who still stop long enough to talk. After years in metro spaces that felt fast and sharp-edged, he describes Barnesville as a place where people can slow down and breathe again.

"There's a desire here to preserve something special," he said. "Not to let it fade out."

Having lived in both large metro

areas and small rural communities, DeMuth is keenly aware of the difference.

"People slow down here," he said. "They talk. They listen."

As our conversation wound down, Pepper finally settled, curling up after expending her last bit of puppy energy. The office grew quieter.

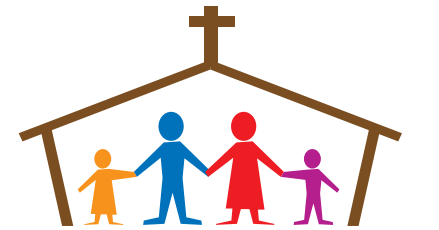
"This is a place where your nervous system can regulate," DeMuth said, almost as an observation rather than a declaration.

St. John's is part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, one of several Lutheran "tribes," as he described it. For DeMuth, the anchor is simple: a faith grounded in Scripture and lived out in care for the community.

In a world that often feels rushed, loud, and heavy, that kind of peace feels increasingly rare and increasingly valuable.

For DeMuth, it is not something to manufacture or market. It is something to protect, nurture, and live into, one relationship at a time.

And perhaps that is what steady light looks like after all.

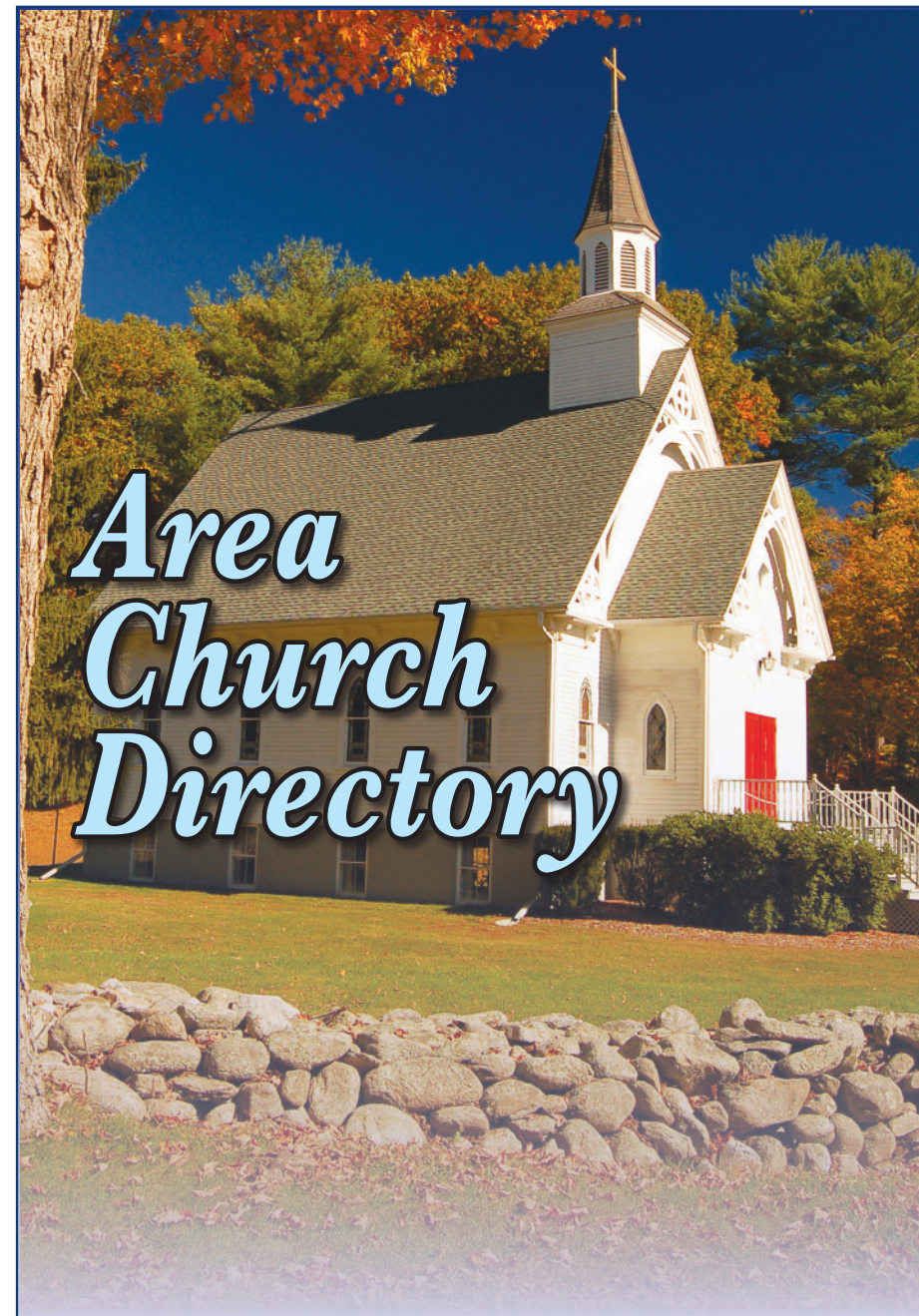


In Loving Memory

Deaths in 2025

There were 78 deaths recorded in the Record-Review in the year 2025. The deceased names and dates of death are listed below.

Janis Anderson	December 2, 1952 - May 23, 2025
Olive M. Andvik	May 10, 1927 - October 6, 2025
Liselotte (Lilo) Antczak	September 17, 1931 - December 6, 2025
Donna M. Askegaard	October 10, 1940 - July 26, 2025
Bernard R. Bates	July 4, 1942 - January 30, 2025
Orin Paul Berg	June 2, 1941 - December 27, 2024
Leonard (Butch) Boone	July 29, 1946 - February 25, 2025
Darlene L. Bowden	April 6, 1938 - August 7, 2025
Sandra (Lien) Bulik	September 18, 1944 - February 14, 2025
Laurence L. Butenhoff	January 1, 1932 - April 26, 2025
George W. Butenhoff	April 18, 1936 - June 16, 2025
Timothy A. Caylor	June 9, 1970 - June 4, 2025
Donna A. Cook	November 13, 1931 - December 25, 2025
Roger D. Cooper	October 19, 1944 - October 19, 2025
Linda L. Curfman	April 24, 1950 - July 31, 2025
Orville (Buzz) Dow	February 1, 1935 - October 19, 2025
Theodore (Ted) duCharme	November 2, 1946 - December 13, 2025
Deloris H. Dunham	April 21, 1930 - March 27, 2025
Jane A. Feigum	May 27, 1948 - December 31, 2025
Rosanna M. Gardner	February 26, 1938 - August 13, 2025
Valentina (Nosal) Garrison	January 18, 1935 - December 10, 2025
Donald R. Getz	November 8, 1928 - November 20, 2025
Jeanette Gilbertson	October 3, 1926 - September 8, 2025
Alvin A. Hansen	September 28, 1927 - April 13, 2025
Arlene J. Haugrud	June 14, 1933 - August 11, 2025
Sarah (Mundstock) Hayes	December 14, 1949 - November 13, 2025
Gerald C. Henry	May 25, 1946 - November 15, 2025
David C. Herbranson	January 19, 1959 - May 31, 2025
Helen J. Hoff	November 15, 1936 - February 4, 2025
Robert D. Ishaug	October 21, 1935 - April 3, 2025
Donald Ishaug	January 17, 1937 - June 19, 2025
Sharon (Lien) Johnson	October 5, 1943 - March 5, 2025
Norris W. Johnson	April 26, 1933 - October 11, 2025
Jeanette Just	January 23, 1936 - November 29, 2025
Nancy L. Kava	June 27, 1940 - August 27, 2025
Marlys J. Kuznia	October 10, 1946 - January 29, 2025
Frances (Aamodt) Lahti	October 25, 1936 - January 22, 2025
Eva Mae Lamb	November 27, 1936 - September 21, 2025
Richard D. Lass	July 20, 1949 - February 6, 2025
Barbara K. Le Claire	December 22, 1953 - April 12, 2025
Jerome (Jerry) Loegering	October 15, 1932 - March 31, 2025
Rebecca (Becky) Mehlhoff	June 14, 1975 - February 25, 2025
Heinz R. Meyhuber	May 29, 1936 - January 8, 2025
Charlotte M. Meyhuber	September 5, 1937 - August 17, 2025
Ranelle (Rollie) Miller	February 25, 1947 - February 24, 2025
Donavon G. Nasstrom	January 28, 1946 - October 23, 2025
Lynn Nelson	May 29, 1937 - January 16, 2025
Duane L. Nelson	September 13, 1936 - September 7, 2025
Janice K. Ness	February 18, 1939 - April 29, 2025
John Neubauer	June 19, 1948 - September 4, 2025
Douglas A. Noyes	April 16, 1946 - February 13, 2025
Herbert K. Olson	March 8, 1936 - April 15, 2025
Jacqueline (Alfstad) Packer	July 30, 1945 - February 4, 2025
Phillip M. Pender	June 11, 1957 - November 19, 2025
Sherwood (Pete) Peterson	October 17, 1940 - May 23, 2025
George Poehls	October 29, 1934 - December 14, 2024
Roger D. Possehl	April 21, 1939 - March 8, 2025
Barry Prichard	October 1, 1939 - January 9, 2025
Lisa Wyland Priutt	August 12, 1963 - January 19, 2025
Judy A. Rehder	January 7, 1947 - June 28, 2025
Everett B. Rollie	October 3, 1943 - June 20, 2025
Dorothy Ronsberg	May 22, 1933 - March 22, 2025
Jane R. Salber	July 19, 1958 - December 3, 2025
Barbara K. Schenck	December 14, 1951 - February 26, 2025
Gene B. Schepp	November 26, 1953 - May 31, 2025
Eleanor (Scheffler) Siggerud	March 30, 1934 - March 21, 2025
Kirk A. Solum	August 30, 1963 - October 9, 2025
Michael R. Stoddard	June 13, 1957 - January 20, 2025
Janice (Lammers) Stuverud	October 14, 1947 - April 28, 2025
Bonnie (Johnson) Swenson	April 1, 1939 - March 21, 2025
Margaret (Maggie) Swenson	February 1, 1953 - June 13, 2025
Burton J. Swenson	December 28, 1935 - August 25, 2025
Sharon Thomas	June 13, 1945 - July 25, 2025
Patsy (Dembowski) Thompson	January 31, 1933 - May 30, 2025
Robert G. Thompson, Jr.	May 12, 1949 - June 15, 2025
Melissa (Ellefson) Thune	August 15, 1977 - June 18, 2025
Geraldine V. Tonsfeldt	July 8, 1927 - June 10, 2025
Lois (Hoppe) Williams	May 17, 1955 - April 16, 2025



Area Church Directory

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

BAKER-DOWNER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our bluegrass services are on the 4th Sunday of the month.

(218) 789-1488
11927 123rd Ave. S.
Sabin, MN 56580
bakerdownerchurch.org
bakerdownerpres@gmail.com

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

HC HOPE Church

Rev. Kevin Skaret

807 Fifth Street SE
Barnesville, MN

Sundays: Sunday School & Worship
Wednesdays: Awana & Youth Group

(218) 354-7466
www.hopelbc.org
hopelbc@outlook.com

FOUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Ali Haugerud

(218) 354-7101
302 3rd St NE
Barnesville, MN

oslcarnesville@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook!

Comstock-Hoff Lutheran Parish

Comstock Lutheran Church
2044 159th Ave S
Even Dates: Worship 9:30 a.m.
Hoff (Rustad) Lutheran Church
10979 18th St S
Odd Dates: Worship 9:30 a.m.

"One Faith Community - Two Locations!"

Jill Steichen, Church Office: (218) 585-4345
Pastor chsecretary@live.com

Assumption Catholic Church
FATHER TODD ARENDS, PASTOR

Join us for Mass

Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.
Friday (Valley Care & Rehab) 9:45 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE: 218 354-7320
HILDEBRAND HALL: 218 354-2489
307 FRONT STREET NORTH
BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA
WWW.ASSUMPTIONBARNESVILLE.ORG

North Immanuel Lutheran Church

"Come and see."
Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Nate Bjorge - (320) 360-0277
(218) 863-5447 - nilchurch@yahoo.com
12713 County Road 30 - Pelican Rapids, MN

St. John's Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School, Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Greg DeMuth, Pastor 1103 4th Ave. NE, Barnesville
www.stjohnsbarnesville.org 218 354-7159

St. James United Church of Christ

Worship: Sunday 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.

(218) 354-7198
201 Third Street SE
Barnesville, Minnesota

Find us on Facebook! @StJamesUCCMN

Gran-Dark-Rollag Parish
3 Churches - 1 Ministry

Gran Lutheran 11976 230th St S Hawley, MN 56549
Park Lutheran 29464 78th Ave S Hawley, MN 56549
Rollag Lutheran 10501 Hwy 32 S Hawley, MN 56549

SUNDAYS
8:00 AM [3rd Sun. 11:00 AM] - Gran
9:30 AM - Rollag
10:30 AM - Rollag - Sunday School

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays