



**NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

MAY

NEWSLETTER 2023

“GOD’S COUNTRY IN AND AROUND COUNTY O”

As one comes to the corner of County D and County O in Barron County, if you look to the southwest the steeple of a white country church stands ebbed among the trees. It is an iconic scene that most miss because they rarely travel along these roads. Unremarkably, it says that this is God’s Country.

Yet while the cross sends a message alone, it is the people that worship in this place that makes its God’s country. It is the people who worship, and pray, and serve God through this place that truly make it a place where God dwells and lives in the life of its people.

Simply put, we can wave at people, but it does not build a relationship. We become interrelated through our working together, our blood relationship interactions, and our neighborliness. The church is a place where we build relationships with one another and God that impact us and others as we live in community.

Simply put, we can think of our church as something that is always there and represents our past. We know where it is, we know it is there if we need it, we know it is always the same because that is the way we picture it. The church, however, is a place where we build relationships with one another and God that impact us and others in the community.



The church is the place where the Gospel is preached and is connecting us together as a community of Christ. As the Apostle Peter teaches us, (1 Peter 3:15) ***“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.”***

As Jesus relates his own life to us, we should be ready and willing to share with others what Jesus means to us in our life.

In other words, let enter the process of building relationships. Instead of a strategy to get people into the door of the church, let's build relationships with people. And if people are willing to listen to what brings us meaning, we can help build relationships by listening to them as well. Let us cultivate openness in God's Country. Let us cultivate good listening skills in God's Country. Let us cultivate lasting and meaningful relationships in God's Country.

This was once how the church was built and survived and grew. It was demonstrated by Jesus and his apostles, and the immigrants from Europe. And it is what we can do today and tomorrow. This is what built God's Country in and around County O and County D in Barron County. So, let's continue to do it as Jesus wants us to!

Pastor Ron Gerl, Interim Pastor