

Kristin Janisch, her husband Greg and son Kaden stopped on a road three miles northwest of Clark Thursday evening to take photos of the northern lights. "I took photos from outside the vehicle, got back in, and Greg put his foot on the brake when I took this one," she said, referring to the picture on the far left. "You can see how the red brake light reflection is captured in the photo's long exposure, which I think adds to the scene's mystery."

"When you start looking for the aurora, you will notice what might look like fog or a mist in the northern sky," said Kristin. She suggests taking photos of that spot in the sky, because the camera processor will let in more light and pick up more colors than your eye will see. "It was quite easy to see the green, pink and purple of the northern lights with the naked eye this time because the Kp index was a 7, meaning there was a lot of geomagnetic activity," she said.

Northern lights make an appearance Thursday night

A ribbon of green light glowed and danced in the night sky on Thursday, March 23. The aurora borealis, commonly known as the northern lights, was visible all over the state where there wasn't any cloud cover. "I've tried to see it a number of times, but there was always cloud cover," said Kristin Janisch, the fine arts teacher at Clark High School, who was out Thursday at 10:00 p.m. three miles northwest of town taking photos of the event. "The night

was clear, and the Kp Index was 7," she said. Kp is the Planetary K index which shows the level of geomagnetic activity created from a storm on the sun, according to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). "At that number, you are definitely going to see a light show," Kristin said. Her husband Greg Janisch, who grew up north near Lake City, said he has experienced the northern lights a couple of times, but never like how they appeared

on Thursday. "I have seen a band of green before, but never the brilliance of colors like purple and pink across the sky," he said. "The green is caused by oxygen and the purple and pink are caused by nitrogen in the earth's atmosphere," Kristin explained.

Kristin was alerted to possible northern light activity through the South Dakota Aurora Notification Group on Facebook, a group Janisch says has grown by 7,000 members in the past four days

after it was mentioned on Keland. "I got my family in the vehicle, and we headed north away from the lights of town," she said. "We are used to her wanting us to see something in the sky," her 15 year-old son Kaden said. "She's always pointing out something like 'that's not a star but Jupiter. Come out and watch the International Space Station go across the sky faster than an airplane,' but I have never seen anything in the sky like the northern lights. It was amazing."

"I was pretty excited and wanted to get photos before the lights disappeared, but they can last two to three hours," Kristin said. After they parked on the side of a rural road, Kristin said she got out into a ditch full of snow so she could get under power lines to avoid having them appear in her photos. In her excitement to leave the house, she forgot the tripod for her camera so she used her iPhone.

"For iPhone, go to camera and touch the arrow at the top middle of your phone. Press the half moon button second from the left for night mode. Slide to 10 seconds. When you take the photo, hold it steady with your arms bent tight to your torso and breathe out before you hit the button," Kristin explained. "The key is holding still for a longer exposure. Using a camera on a tripod, you'll want to be on manual, have the white balance on night mode or cloudy, no flash and a high picture quality. Your exposure will need to be from two to 15 seconds, and your ISO will need to be 400. You may have to bump it up to a higher number."

There may be more chances to see and take photos of the northern lights in the near future.

"As the solar cycle approaches its maximum in 2025, there will be more solar wind from the sun disrupting the Earth's magnetic

field," Kristin said. To be alerted to a higher Kp index to track the northern lights, she suggests using such apps like My Aurora Forecast or Aurora Alerts. Kristin's next goal is to get a photo of what is called 'STEVE,' which is an acronym for strong thermal emission velocity enhancement. "It can happen during an aurora," she said. "It normally looks like a straight vertical line of white light. STEVE might not be as ethereal as the northern lights, but it's an interesting celestial phenomenon."

With more expected chances to see the northern lights, there are common courtesies that should be remembered, according to Janisch. "Park your vehicle off to the side of the road, and turn it off, as well as the lights. Even dashboard and brake lights can disturb a nighttime photo."

Easter services planned at area churches

The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. John 10: 10 & 11. King James Bible.

That is exactly what Jesus did. He gave his life for our sins, and that is what Easter is all about. His death, but then his resurrection three days later - all for his children - us.

Holy Week is upon us starting next week and ends with the culmination of Easter Sunday, April 9. The following is a list of Easter services in our area:

Maundy Thursday

Churches having a Maundy Thursday service in the area on Thursday, April 6, include in Clark: The Plymouth UCC Church will host a community Maundy Thursday service with members of the ministerial association and host Pastor Fawn Lamb leading the service at 6:30 p.m.

Saint Michael Catholic Church will celebrate with a Holy Thursday of the Lord's supper mass with members of the Saint Henry Catholic Church at 7:00 p.m. in Henry at Saint Henry Catholic Church.

At Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church, members from Peace Lutheran in Clark and Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond will join together at Peace Lutheran for a 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

Members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna will gather at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday.

At Crocker Lutheran in Crocker, a 6:30 p.m. worship service with Holy Communion will be

held.

Good Friday

The Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church in Willow Lake will host a Good Friday Tenebrae (service of shadows) service at 6:30 p.m. for members of Peace Lutheran in Clark and the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In Carpenter, members of the United Methodist Church will have a 7:00 p.m. service.

At Saint Henry Catholic Church in Henry, a 5:30 p.m. Good Friday

Lutheran Church in Clark and at 10:45 a.m. at the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church in Willow Lake. This will include members of Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond.

At the Clark and Garden City United Methodist Churches, Pastor Rob Salmons will present the Easter message at the 9:00 a.m. service in Garden City and at the 11:00 a.m. service in Clark.

In Clark at Saint Michael Catholic Church, Father Daniel Smith will host an 8:30 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.

Pastor Mark Cronauer will officiate at their Easter service which will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Assembly of God Church.

Pastor Marion Grimes will celebrate their Easter festival service at Crocker Lutheran at 11:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

Easter services will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clark.

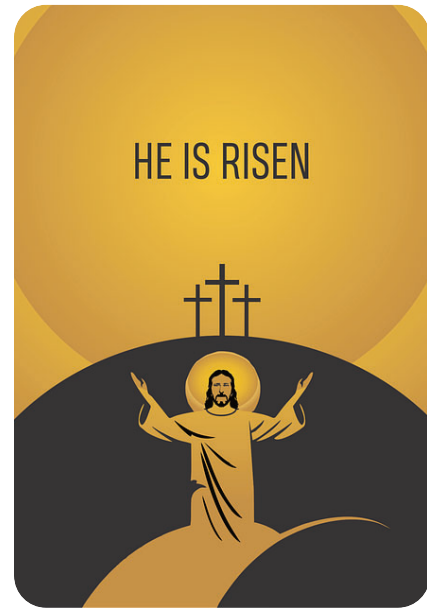
The First Presbyterian Church in Raymond will host their Easter worship at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

Easter services at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant will be at 8:30 a.m. Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake and the Good Hope Church will have their Easter Sunday worship services at 10:30 a.m.

Father Daniel Smith will officiate at an 11:00 a.m. Easter morning Mass at St. Henry Catholic Church in Henry.

In Carpenter, at the United Methodist Church, their Easter Sunday service will be held at 9:00 a.m.

At Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake, there will be a 9:30 a.m. service.



Mass will be held on April 7 and also an Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8.

Easter Sunday

In Clark, the Easter service at the Plymouth UCC church will be at 9:30 a.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb. At St. Paul Lutheran Church, a sunrise service will be held at 7:00 a.m. and an additional service at 9:00 a.m.

Reverend Randy Bader will host an Easter Resurrection Festival service at 9:00 a.m. at the Peace

Ambulance staff wages discussed again at Clark County Commissioners meeting

The Clark County Commissioners meeting last Tuesday saw important discussion regarding our local ambulance service in addition to body cameras for our local sheriff deputies and other business items.

Discussion about ambulance staff wages amongst commission members and the Clark County ambulance staff opened up for the second time this year. Louann Streff, local practitioner and medical director for Clark's ambulance service, was also present.

Streff asked to take the floor and spoke on a few important points regarding the community's needs and current competitive pay scales that our service is unable to come close to matching.

"When I started, there was excellent volunteer service. In today's world, we do not have the volunteerism that we had then, which created the need for salaried positions," said Streff. The need for our local ambulance service is real and we all know it is essential to the community.

Streff shared that the starting wages for Emergency Medical Technicians in the area is at fifteen to seventeen dollars an hour and the starting wages for paramedics in the area is at twenty three to twenty six dollars an hour.

Currently our ambulance staff Emergency Medical Technicians make less than minimum wage, which is ten dollars and eighty

cents. Our single paramedic makes around thirteen dollars an hour.

Possibly due to the low pay, Clark County's ambulance service is not an attractive place for new graduates from EMT and Paramedic programs to come work. There are currently four staff members and this paves the way for potential burn out and also leaves the community at risk in the event there is a second call when one team is already out.

The board encouraged the ambulance staff spokesperson to move into executive session to begin discussion about wages. The board will need to look at budgets and see where and if anything can be changed.

An ambulance service is not put into place to be lucrative for a community in the financial sense, it is in place to provide a service to our community that is oftentimes lifesaving.

Clark County Sheriff, Tad Heaton, was also present at the commissioners meeting, requesting permission to purchase body cameras for himself and his deputies. The board approved this motion. The body cameras will help ensure the safety of both law enforcement and the public and have swiftly become a 'no-brainer' in policing around the country.

The sheriff's department also mentioned that only one of their vehicle cameras is operational

and that it is sometimes not even working. They hope to include that in the budget next year again to ensure both the safety of law enforcement and the public.

Deputy Steifel approached the commissioners with a request to adopt a county wide pet ordinance. The ordinance would be somewhat of a fail safe for the townships and cities that do not already have a pet ordinance in place.

The ordinance would not supersede any policy or ordinance already in place by a city or township, but would protect citizens in places where there may not be one in place already, the board requested time to see what options there are.

The Clark County Commissioners meet at the Clark County Courthouse every first and third Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

| | HI | LO | PR |
|----------------------------|-------|----|------|
| March 21 | 26 | 15 | 0 |
| March 22 | 31 | 11 | 0.22 |
| March 23 | 26 | 12 | 0 |
| March 24 | 30 | 12 | 0 |
| March 25 | 37 | 19 | 0 |
| March 26 | 32 | 8 | 0 |
| March 27 | 28 | 12 | 0 |
| 2023 precipitation to date | 2.54" | | |
| 2022 precipitation to date | 0.66" | | |