

A Ministry Decision Before Us

Dear Family of Faith,

Our church's radio ministry, 94.3 FM The Bridge, needs regular support to stay on the air. We need approximately \$850 annually to pay for music licenses, and additional funding for equipment maintenance and ongoing operational costs. At present, our **Emergency Alert System** (EAS) is non-functional. Without EAS compliance, we risk facing **FCC fines**.

Jeff Smith, our station manager, is researching the costs to **repair or replace the EAS** hardware and update its firmware. This could cost several thousand dollars, or it could be much cheaper, but this is currently unknown.

Since 2022, The Bridge has been sustained by a generous one-time gift from another Lutheran station that closed. That funding is nearly gone, and the members who previously had gotten underwriting (a form of non-profit sponsorship) for KRRC are no longer able to do so. With the EAS needing repair, it's time for us to make a decision together as a congregation.

We are considering **three options**:

Option 1: Keep The Bridge on FM

- Stay on the air as a **low-power FM station**
- Pastor Laws and member(s) will seek **underwriting or donor support** for:
 - Annual operating costs
 - EAS updates and repairs
 - A modest payment for Jeff Smith's ongoing work (approx. 5-7 hours a week).

Option 2: Switch to Online Streaming Only

- Move The Bridge to a **streaming-only format**
- Still need **underwriting** for:
 - Streaming licenses
 - Payment for Jeff Smith's continued labor
- **No EAS repairs required**

Option 3: Close The Bridge

- Thank God for the years of faithful broadcasting
- Use remaining funds to **support another Lutheran station or media ministry**
- Continue using our studio for **podcasts and audiobook projects**

The Bridge has served our church and community well for more than a decade, sharing Lutheran hymns, sermons, Bible studies, and faithful conversation. Like all ministries, it requires time, care, and resources.

We ask for your prayers as we consider the future of this outreach. Please come to the **Voters' Assembly** on **Sunday, August 3rd**, where we'll discuss and decide together our next steps.

Peace be with you in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Laws