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Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch  
Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus talk to the Borgstrom family in the First Western Bank and Trust drive-thru Friday, Nov. 27, during the Nisswa City of Lights celebration. The drive-thru was one of the COVID-19 precautions taken for the event.

## CITY OF LIGHTS

### Area church leaders react to governor's further restrictions on gatherings

By Frank Lee  
Staff Writer



Walz

Rye

It's a question that has vexed area churches during the coronavirus pandemic and now with surging COVID-19 cases: How does one worship together with others safely and responsibly? Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter announced earlier this month it would cease its Sunday morning in-building worship service until further notice about the same time Gov. Tim Walz ordered fur-

ther restrictions on bars and restaurants, gyms, sports and social gatherings. "I would describe our reaction as a voluntary one. I believe that the governor's restriction just embodies good advice for community members. And as a

church that values our community we've made decisions to support our community," Lord of Life Senior Pastor Steven Rye said. The reason stated in the announcement for the cessation of in-building services at Lord of Life was "in order to live out our mission to deepen and enrich our connection to our community, and in support of our local health care providers, businesses and schools."

COVID-19: Page A9

### Patient No. 1 to world leader

Five years after treating first patient, Mayo Clinic leads world in proton beam treatment

By Jeff Kiger  
Forum News Service



Jacobson

Foote

ROCHESTER, Minn. — Five years after the launch of its \$188 million program, Mayo Clinic is the world leader in proton beam cancer treatment and its proponents are looking to build a second center in Rochester. Based in the Richard O. Jacobson Building in downtown Rochester, Mayo Clinic's program has treated 4,142 patients as of August. That far surpasses the original goal of treating 3,200 in that time,

according to Dr. Robert Foote. Foote was the chairman of Mayo Clinic's radiation oncology department and director of the proton beam program when it started treating patients in June 2015. He acknowledges that Mayo Clinic's proton

beam treatment facility "was extremely controversial" when it was first proposed. "It was a huge amount of money," Foote said. Five years later, Foote and others are confident that the impact on patient care has justified the expense. While the number of competing U.S. proton beam centers has grown to 34, including Mayo Clinic's Arizona treatment center, Mayo Clinic's Rochester facility, with its four treatment rooms, is still often busy

PROTON: Page A8

### Wisconsin ballot recount confirms Biden's win over Trump

Cements the president's failure to change the election results

Rosalind S. Helderman  
The Washington Post

The recount of presidential ballots in Wisconsin's two largest counties finished Sunday, Nov. 29, reconfirming that President-elect Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump in the key swing state by more than 20,000 votes. After Milwaukee County completed its tally Friday and Dane County concluded its count Sunday, there was little change in the final breakdown

of the more than 800,000 ballots that had been cast in the two jurisdictions. As a result of the recount, Biden's lead over Trump in Wisconsin grew by 87 votes. Under Wisconsin law, Trump was required to foot the bill for the partial recount - meaning his campaign paid \$3 million only to see Biden's lead expand. The results of the Wisconsin recount cemented Trump's failure to alter the results of

the November election in a series of states where he has falsely alleged there was widespread fraud and irregularities. His efforts to stop Michigan officials from certifying the vote there earlier this month ran aground. A hand recount of ballots in Georgia confirmed Biden's win in that state. Two new court decisions in Pennsylvania late last week rejected the Trump campaign's attempts to halt the vote count there, the latest in a series of

forceful judicial opinions that have tossed out claims by the president and his allies around the country. On Monday, Arizona - the fifth of the six states where Trump has tried to upend the vote certification process - is set to finalize its results. The Wisconsin Election Commission is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, at which time state law says the election results will be certified by the chairwoman of the six-member panel, who is a Democrat. The president and his legal advisers have said they still plan to fight in court in an attempt to prevent Wisconsin from moving forward. The three Republicans on the state's six-member election commission could seek to delay certification while the process unfolds. "The Wisconsin recount is not about finding mistakes in the count, it is about finding people who have voted illegally, and that case will be

RECOUNT: Page A7



### It's time for another Stories of Christmas contest

This is the 32nd anniversary of the Brainerd Dispatch's Stories of Christmas and this year, more than ever, we want your stories! 2020 has been interesting to say the least. Take a few moments to jot down a

humorous or lighthearted story, fiction or nonfiction, or maybe you have a thoughtful and touching remembrance to share with everyone to brighten our holiday season. There will be three categories: kids category, for ages up

to 12; juniors, ages 13-17; and adults, 18 and older. Prizes will be awarded. Stories should be 300 words or less. Make sure it is legible and your name, address and age are included. Deadline is Dec. 11.

Email the story to delynn.howard@brainerddispatch.com or mail to DeLynn Howard, Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN, 56401, or put it in the dropbox in the alley of the Dispatch, 506 James St., Brainerd.

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### Football

#### B1

Vikings survive Panthers, keep playoff hopes alive



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