

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Gather in Faith. Grow through Grace. Share
the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Date
January 25, 2026

Time
10:40 am



ELCA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith



1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
 Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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First Lutheran Church

120 - 5th Avenue NW
Minot, ND 58703

Gather in Faith - Grow through Grace - Share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Annual Congregational Meeting

(For the year ended December 31, 2025)

January 25, 2026

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2025 Annual Meeting Agenda
Sunday, January 25, 2026
10:45 am Parish Hall

1. Opening Devotion
2. Call to Order
3. Establish a Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting: held January 26, 2025
6. Pastoral and Committee Reports: Reports from leaders, committees, and ministry partners as submitted
 - Renewing for Tomorrow
 - Call Committee
7. New Business
 - 2026 Budget Presentation and Adoption
 - Elections: Council, Nominating Committee, Metigoshe Ministries Delegates, Synod Assembly Voting Members
8. The Lord's Prayer
9. Adjournment of Meeting



Annual Meeting Minutes for Year End 2024

First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025, 10:45 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Council Treasurer Kasey Lang at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was established with 87 voting members.

- 1. Opening Devotion:** Pastor Brandy led the group in an opening devotion that included liturgy, the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God,” and a prayer. Fresh caramel rolls and freshly brewed coffee were provided for all to enjoy.
- 2. Call to Order:** The Annual Meeting was called to order by Council Treasurer Kasey Lang at 11:00 a.m.
- 3. Establish a Quorum:** A quorum was established with 87 voting members in attendance.
- 4. Adoption of Agenda:** A motion was made by Dean Foss to adopt the agenda for the 2025 Annual Meeting and seconded by Terri Lang. The motion passed.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting:** A motion was made by Laurie Jenson to approve the Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting and seconded by Duane Brekke. The motion passed.
- 6. Year in Review Celebration Slideshow:** In what has become a fun and new addition to the Annual Meeting, a slideshow was presented to the congregation featuring all the events and activities from the past year. It was a fun and busy year for First Lutheran Church!
- 7. Pastoral and Committee Reports:** Reports from the pastors, leaders, committees, and ministry partners were presented in print form and submitted to the congregation. Please review the annual reports in the booklet.
- 8. New Business:** Member Jeri Langemo thanked Angie Speiser for filling the void in youth music with her organizing the children’s Christmas program this year.
- 9. The 2025 Budget Presentation and Adoption:** Council Treasurer Kasey Lang gave the 2024 financial report to the congregation. We ended the year on a positive financial note with total income and expenses coming in at \$661,788.52. Both the income and expenses for 2024 were under budget. However, there were some difficult financial months in July, August, and September and some tough decisions had to be made. Please remember to think about giving on a year-round basis and not just over the holidays. Church member Kyle Dahlgren asked a question about member contribution increase. He was wondering if there is a plan to raise that and what the coming year looks like. Kasey Lang answered that there is no set plan, just to ask that the congregation give what they can. There is no guarantee that the income will come from giving, Kasey added, just that it is based on the income that we receive. Church member Karen Langemo asked about the addition of giving contributions to Metigoshe Ministries, but that category was under a different heading. A motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented was made by Dennis Helgeson and seconded by Barb Solberg. The motion passed.

Annual Meeting Minutes for Year End 2024

10. **Elections Part 1 for Council Members and Nominating Committee:** There are three open seats on the Church Council and six open seats on the Nominating Committee. Three Council members are needed to fill a three-year term and one member is needed to fill a vacant seat for a remaining two-year term. There were two members listed, new candidate Roger Duchsherer, and current Council member Chuck Repnow, who agreed to serve a second three-year term. A verbal, unanimous vote was taken to elect the two Council members, leaving two seats still vacant. Nominations were taken from the floor for the Nominating Committee to serve a one-year term and member Angie Speiser volunteered to take one of the six open seats on that committee. A verbal vote was taken to confirm election to the seat, with five seats on the Nominating Committee remaining open.

11. **Elections Part 2 for Metigoshe Ministries and Synod Assembly:** There are five open seats for delegates for Metigoshe Ministries to serve a one-year term. Members Cory McIver and Angie Speiser volunteered to serve as delegates for Metigoshe Ministries, leaving seats still open. A verbal, unanimous vote was taken in favor to elect them as delegates. There are four open spots for the Synod Assembly for a one-year term. Members Janet Mathistad, Dean Foss, and Jean Foss volunteered to serve as Synod Assembly voting members and a verbal, unanimous vote was taken in favor to elect them. There is still one vacant seat for a Synod Assembly representative. Also, there are two members needed to serve as representatives for Lutheran Campus Ministry to serve a three-year term. Members Kyle Dahlgren and Jillian Dahlgren were voted in by verbal, unanimous agreement to serve on the LCM Board.

12. **The Lord's Prayer:** Kasey Lang led the congregation in saying The Lord's Prayer as a way to close the meeting.

13. **Adjournment of Meeting:** The 2025 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. after a motion was made by Kasey Lang.

2025 Council Members and Staff

2025 First Lutheran Church Council Members

Council Member:	Council Position:	Term Ending:	Liaison to:
Bob Barnard	President	02/2026	Personnel
Jill Hambek	Vice President	02/2027	Worship & Music
Kasey Lang	Treasurer	02/2026	Finance
Wendy Bosch	Council Member	02/2028	Education
Eric Davidson	Council Member	02/2027	Congregational Life
Janet Fisher	Council Member	02/2026	Social Ministry
Chuck Repnow	Council Member	02/2025	Evangelism
Roger Duchsherer	Council Member	02/2028	Property
*Vacant	Council Member	02/2027	Giving

2025 First Lutheran Church Staff

<i>Staff as of December 31, 2025:</i>	
Lead Pastor	Brandy Gerjets
Associate Pastor	Vacant
Director of Faith Formation	Tesha Telin
Administrative Assistant	Mae Blount
Administrative Assistant	Tarryll Shomento
Financial Secretary	Jennifer Hunze
Custodian	Bryant LaVallie
Organist	Rita Sundahl
Media Center	Ryken McGinnis, Dave Shomento, & Tarryll Shomento
Wedding Coordinator	Melissa Wolfe
Music Directors:	Arnikka Schreier – Cathedral Choir
	Jeannie Sovak - Handbell Choirs
	Karen Sims – Good News Band

Pastoral & Membership Statistics

Pastoral Statistics - 2025		
<i>BAPTISMS:</i>		<i>TOTALS:</i>
Member	7	
Non-Member		
<i>Total Baptisms</i>		7
<i>MARRIAGES:</i>		
Member	4	
Non-Member	3	
<i>Total Marriages:</i>		7
<i>FUNERALS:</i>		
Member	14	
Non-Member	5	
<i>Total Funerals:</i>		19
<i>CONFIRMATIONS:</i>	12	
<i>Total Confirmations</i>		12

Membership Statistics - 2025	
<i>MEMBER ACCESSIONS:</i>	
by Baptism	7
by Transfer In	14
by Affirmation of Faith	6
<i>Member Accession Total</i>	27
<i>MEMBER LOSSES (all ages):</i>	
by Death	14
Transfer Out	12
Inactivity-Request-Moved (no transfer)	42
<i>Member Loss Total</i>	68
<i>2025 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS:</i> <small>(as of 12/31/2025- Includes members of all ages)</small>	913
<i>2025 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS:</i> <small>(as of 12/31/2025- Confirmed members eligible to vote)</small>	729

Annual Worship Attendance Statistics

Month	2024	2025	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
<i>January</i>	1141	1166	25
<i>February</i>	1496	1204	-292
<i>March</i>	1871	1643**	-228
<i>April</i>	1203	1916	713
<i>May</i>	875	815**	-60
<i>June</i>	849	892	43
<i>July</i>	610	597	-13
<i>August</i>	532*	769**	237
<i>September</i>	1066	956	-110
<i>October</i>	1246	1211	-35
<i>November</i>	1196	1410	214
<i>December</i>	2299	1957	-342
	<i>*No data from Livestream</i>	<i>**No data from Facebook</i>	
Yearly Totals	14,384	14,536	152

Please note that Facebook data was not available for certain weeks in March, May and August 2025. Wednesday night services were only livestreamed during Lent. Attendance numbers represent calculations based on physical attendance, livestream views from our website, YouTube, and Facebook, and views of service recordings. Radio listeners are not accounted for.

Membership Changes ~ Pastoral Acts

Membership Changes 2025

Members Transferred Out

Jared Mongeon
Heather Mongeon
Hudson Mongeon
Tenleigh Mongeon
Deborah C. Winger
Ellery Dykeman
Denise Dykeman
Tyler Thiel
Ashley Thiel
Bellamy Thiel
Ford Thiel
Kollins Thiel

Members Received

Jon Solberg
Agnieszka Solberg
Gustav Solberg
Anna Solberg
Don Lafontaine
Jennifer Lafontaine
Lloyd Dahl
Matthew Meine
Levin Cutler-Meine
Merek Meine
Cameron Johnson
Cambree Johnson
Lincoln Johnson
Ainsley Johnson
James Simons
Lana Simons
Katie Young
Jacalyn Albert
Janice Archer

Confirmations

Mathew Archer
Brody Beeter
Braxtyn Bennett
Aiden Focke
Bejamin Hedberg
Ty Iverson
Elli Laskowski
Violet McGough
Brenner Olson
Mark Parton
Landin Slind
Faith Young

Pastoral Acts 2025

Weddings

David & Skylar Scharpe
Daylen & Hailey Benjamin
Robert & Abigail Lokken
Hunter & Carly Bear
Trevor & Taylor Emke
Curtis & Julyana Olson
Brandon & Kayla Solem

Funerals

Annette Lohn
Bobby Berdahl
Marion Nevland
Marlene Huber
Ella Pederson
Chad VanWinkle
Gary Christenson
Marion Rice
Leonard Rice
Joyce Brey
Dennis Olson
Elizabeth Skadeland
Dorothy Anderson
Sheila Rioux
Monte Barnes
Arlyn Borud
Fred Abelseth
Sandra Starr

Baptisms

Zoey Kirlis
Marlee Keller
Elizabeth Marquart
Harrison Goetz
Baker Gudmunson
Kollins Gudmunson
Lane Larson

Annual Report of Lead Pastor Brandy Gerjets

As always, this past year has been full of the joys and challenges of ministry and life together. We have been blessed by God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and strengthened for our life together.

One of the highlights of January was our 3rd annual one-day winter retreat event on Saturday, January 25th. This year our presenter was Deacon Michelle Walka, who led us in a range of prayer practices and spiritual reflection, including prayer painting. A hymn sing, good food, and excellent fellowship time rounded out a wonderful day together.

Additional opportunities for further reflection, discussion and growth came through book study. By May, we had read and met to discuss four new titles that helped us explore together various aspects of faith and life.

In 2025, the worship and music life of First Lutheran was rich, varied, and energetic! We continue to use The Mass for First Lutheran as our liturgy setting on Sunday mornings. This enduring piece of my 2024 sabbatical plan has become a really special part of how we worship together. It was an incredible joy to share this musical setting with friends and neighbors from across Western ND when FLC hosted the opening worship of the 2025 Synod Assembly on Friday, May 30th. The assembly was in awe of the beauty of the music and the spirited singing of the group. I offer a reminder that recordings of all Sunday services and many special services continue to be available on our church website.

A slightly later than usual Easter this year provided time to prepare an ambitious theme for our Lenten devotions and worship. On Ash Wednesday we distributed to each household a “Wilderness Garden”—bowls of sand with a combing rake to facilitate quiet contemplation—along with a devotional booklet prepared for our context. Each week following, a new item connected with a wilderness-themed Bible story was given out to add to our Wilderness Gardens for on-going prayer and reflection. Luther Hanson engineered a sanctuary-sized garden to help visualize our themes during worship. The feedback from worshipers of all ages was enthusiastically positive as tangible symbols and a physical prayer practice (raking) gave shape to our seasonal devotions and weekly worship.

We also adopted a 6-week theme for our summer worship called Grounded in Creation. Each week we read Scripture stories relating to an aspect of God’s good creation (soil, water, air, fire, flora, fauna). There were related activity cards and spiritual practices to take home and continue the reflection throughout each week. Luther again created an evolving visual masterpiece for the sanctuary.

Our final worship/devotion theme of the year came during Advent. Each home was given a book/Advent calendar called The Wonder of the Greatest Gift, which featured a pop-up tree, and numbered doors that each revealed a daily decoration for the tree. A small storybook told the Bible stories of Jesus’ family tree connected to a symbol on the day’s small ornament. I again prepared a devotional book for our more mature members. It was a season rich with the stories of our faith family.

Annual Report of Lead Pastor Brandy Gerjets

At the 2024 synod assembly, I was elected to serve as a voting member to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix 28th -August 2nd. (Yes, it was hot!) The assembly was six days of learning more about our churchwide ministries, electing new leaders including our presiding bishop, worshipping and singing, discussing and discerning.

My role in the wider church takes shape closer to home as I have agreed to serve as a board member for one of our ministry partner organizations: Metigoshe Ministries. With an eye toward ministry in the larger community, I continue to record Lutheran Moments that air weekly on KMOT. This year I was also invited to be an honorary commander at the Minot Air Force base in 2026, which I accepted.

I will also remember of 2025 spending an unexpectedly large amount of time in the lead-up to Holy Week this year learning about local property tax exemptions and their limitations. I still marvel at how often our cemetery fence gets in the way of out-of-control vehicles. And social media is an unavoidable communication tool and platform for ministry: we set up our new YouTube channel this year.

The biggest change of this year was in staffing. Sunday, August 17th was Pastor Ellery Dykeman's final day among us as associate pastor. As he left to begin a new call, I found myself in a solo pastor position—in a congregation that is definitely set up for multiple pastors. There have been joys and challenges in this new reality, mainly challenges to be honest. The joy has been the addition of a lay assisting minister serving in our Sunday services beginning in September.

Sharing worship leadership with members is an illustration of the priesthood of all believers, and it saves my voice (and thus your ears) from filling the whole hour each week. The variety of voices and presence up front is a weekly source of refreshment for which I am grateful.

In the absence of a second regular preacher, my goal has been to find an alternate preacher once each month to give me a brief reprieve from continuous sermon preparation. With the help of technology, ministry partners, and our members who are retired pastors, this will continue to be my goal. Planning and leading worship music on Wednesday nights has been taken over by Deacon Kari Files to ease the burden of managing so much Wednesday evening programming.

Adding to the load of the regular rhythm of ministry (including all weddings, funerals, baptisms, visits, etc.), there have been special efforts on-going this fall. One of those was the Renewing for Tomorrow Special Appeal, which I have summarized in a separate report within this booklet. On top of that, the council discussed and discerned the future of pastoral leadership at FLC, eventually determining to form a call committee to search for a second full-time pastor. I have met with the call committee a few times in October and November as they completed the ministry site profile with the help of congregational input. The call process for pastors has been slowed by a shortage of candidates across the church. It may reasonably take up to two years to find a good fit to call to this position.

Annual Report of Lead Pastor Brandy Gerjets

Because we are not anticipating our open pastoral position to be filled immediately, it has become my goal for the year ahead to focus on the separation of duties between pastor and church council as outlined in our constitution, and to better maintain those boundaries of leadership areas. This will contribute to my own well-being and ability to lead well, as well as the health of the congregation. As the church and world have changed over time, the role of lead pastor has come to resemble a CEO position, with oversight of general operational management, which is too much for me to carry along with all of the Word & Sacrament ministry to which I am specifically called. I do lament the limitations on my capacity for fun and extra ministry activities, such as the winter retreat and leading book study. I trust that if these are important to others, they will find a way to make them happen. Thank you in advance to all of our lay leaders, committee members, and general membership who will take on the ministry of the baptized so that it does not fall so heavily on paid staff in 2026.

Yet again, we enter a new year, uncertain of how it will unfold, but with a sturdy trust based on our history and the witness of Scripture: God will be faithful. We put our trust in the Holy Spirit to lead us in faithful paths, to sustain us through what may come, and to give us joy and unity in the mission we share as First Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Brandy

Pastor Brandy Gerjets



Faith Formation Annual Report

As 2025 comes to a close, it also marks the completion of my first full year working as Faith Formation Director here at First Lutheran Church! This year has truly come full circle—one that began with anticipation and learning, and ended with gratitude, growth, and a deep sense of purpose.

Our regular Wednesday Night gatherings have continued with strong participation with supper, worship, faith formation and confirmation-- our numbers have increased some and we can't wait to see what 2026 has in store for us! Our Wednesday nights ended May 1st and began again on Sept 10th, 2025!

As summer arrives, some faith formation activities take a seasonal pause, while others just get started and continue growing! We brought back Vacation Bible School last summer and it was a hit; there was a lot of “buzz” in the building and outside—Our theme was Magnify Our Love for you -with a lot of magnify glasses and searching for lady bugs!! We also had 10 kids, and 2 adults attended our Serve Boldly Service trip in Seattle---there were a lot of good lessons learned and a lot of hard-working service hours put in by everyone!!



With Service Trips there is also Fundraising ---and these kids know how to do it!!

- January—Sold tickets for Cash Calander
- February-Super Bowl Subs on Super Bowl Sunday!
- March –sold raffle Tickets for cooler and beef
- April –Spring Bake Sale
- July –State Fair Food Stand
- December –Christmas Bake Sale

Faith Formation Annual Report

In September we kicked off our fall registration and had some new faces join us—so exciting to see all the smiles every Wednesday! In October we brought back the



Halloween Carnival, and the pictures do not do it justice---so many positive things came from this fun event—popcorn, cotton candy, games, photo booth and a cake walk were just a few of the fun!!

We were so thankful to Angie Speiser who put in countless hours, along with many others, to help make our Youth Led Christmas service a wonderful experience for everyone. Also, a huge thank you to all who agreed to be teachers, small group guides, kitchen workers, and generally caring adults in the lives of our children and youth. It really takes all hands-on deck to sustain a vibrant ministry with children, youth, and families, and we look forward to doing just that in 2026!!

Tesha Telin, Faith Formation Director

(A Picture from our Christmas Eve 9:00 Service 2025)



Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee is made up of a group of individuals who work together to plan and prepare for worship life at First Lutheran Church. This includes, but is not limited to, the order the service, music, and decorations.

The committee met two times in 2025, in the spring and fall. The 2025 worship year started with a full worship schedule of services on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, with both services available via livestream. The Sunday service is also accessible over radio broadcast. Devices are available for people who are hearing impaired.

The seasonal transition to Lent in February required a few changes in the weekly liturgy, along with the hymn of praise and gospel acclamation. Lent also brought the addition of a noon service each Wednesday in addition to the evening service.

The theme for Lent in 2025 was a wilderness garden theme, which included a bowl of sand with accompanying wilderness/garden figurines to be added each week. The gardens continued to “grow” through Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday was on April 13, with Easter taking place on Sunday, April 20.

Many of the FLC musicians significantly contributed to the special worship services.

Holy Week and Easter featured several special worship services. The Maundy Thursday service was modified to emphasize the wilderness reflection theme. Good Friday was the traditional reading of the passion story with music and candle movers. Easter Sunday was joyous and festive and full of hallelujahs. There were 416 people who showed up for the Easter Sunday service to praise the risen Lord. Luther Hanson’s sanctuary adornments added greatly to the festivity.

The final Wednesday evening worship service was held on April 30, with midweek services resuming in September.

We celebrated our high school graduates in worship on May 4, followed by a brunch for the congregation.

Cantate Sunday was on May 11, which marks the end of the program year for the musical ensembles. The sanctuary was filled with joyful noise and song.

Also on May 11 was a volunteer recognition for Adeline Forsberg during the Cantate service. Opening worship for Synod Assembly was May 30.

The summer services featured more special musical soloists and Rita Sundahl, organ player extraordinaire. Summer services began on Memorial Day weekend and were led by one pastor, as is the church practice.

The theme for Sunday worship during the summer was “Grounded in Creation,” which was a departure from the lectionary path. The spoken liturgy, hymns, and preaching highlighted a different aspect of creation for six weeks. The theme focused on six areas: earth, wind, fire, water, flora, and fauna.

Worship and Music Committee

Worshippers were encouraged to pick up and follow the prompts on activity cards throughout each week, and there were also sensory-based spiritual practice ideas. The digital materials came from Church Anew.

Worship services were held for friends and residents of The View twice each month on Thursday afternoons. However, beginning in September with pastoral staffing changes, the schedule has shifted to once each month on the third Thursday.

In the fall, there was an exciting addition to the worship season, which was the addition of an Assisting Minister to the Sunday service leadership, beginning in September. The participation of our lay members has been very encouraging.

Wednesday worship began on September 10. Bibles were given to the pre-kindergarten, third, and seventh grade students during the service.

Confirmation Sunday was on October 26, followed by All Saints Sunday on November 2. New members were welcomed during the worship service on Wednesday, November 19.

Pastor Brandy has had a guest preacher once a month as a reprieve from being the sole pastor at the helm during this time of searching for an associate pastor.

Thanksgiving Eve worship on Wednesday, November 26, was a joyous occasion. This year, Worship and Music Committee members shared background information on various hymns of praise and thanksgiving that the congregation then sang. Pie and fellowship followed the service, as per tradition.

For the Advent season, the book "The Wonder of the Greatest Gift" was distributed to members of the congregation. It was an enthusiastic response as all 113 copies that were ordered were all taken when offered. To accompany the children's book, Pastor Brandy prepared a daily devotional booklet with content intended for members with a more mature faith and space to write reflections. She also posted the daily entries on the FLC Facebook page each day to engage people who are online.

Christmas Eve worship services were held at 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Attendance was slightly down compared to last year, but there was still joy and meaning found during those services.

With the Christmas season ending on January 5, that brings us back to preparing for Lent 2026.

Submitted by Jill Hambek

Council Liaison for the Worship and Music Committee

Giving Committee

First Lutheran Church has a beautiful landmark building in our community; this building is also aging and in need of constant care and attention, though this can be an expensive endeavor. In the summer of 2025, our treasurer Kasey Lang led us in exploring a



special appeal that would enable the congregation to address a number of facilities projects that have been deferred in past years. Most pressing among them have been roofing leaks that further damage our buildings, creating an on-going series of expensive patches and repairs. The council voted to use GSB Fundraising to help us raise \$310,500 to meet a list of repair and maintenance needs.

Meetings began in August to carry out an appeal we called Renewing for Tomorrow. We worked with our consultant Paul to prepare and print a brochure, three bulletin inserts and the intent form. In the meantime, the small steering committee was encouraged to begin with “cottage gatherings,” meeting with small groups of members to demonstrate the needs and gather initial commitments. While this didn’t quite take shape as directed, we were ready to begin the public phase of the appeal in worship on October 19th.

Each of three weeks, we had a “temple talk” in worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. Two of those were in the form of videos prepared by the pastor, which were then easily shared across social media platforms. A letter to the congregation was sent out on November 3rd with intent forms. With follow-up letters on their way out, we marked the end of our efforts with cake after worship on Sunday, November 16th. It was then time to return our attention to general fund giving to cover our annual operating expenses.

Contributions and commitments continued to come in. Jumpstarted by a contribution of \$30,000 from the First Lutheran Foundation, some of the needed projects were completed before winter set in. We continued to receive generous gifts, like \$15,000 from the FLCW. Funeral memorials were designated to this fund. Outside entities such as The View (where we lead regular worship services) and Thompson-Larson Funeral Home added their gifts. However, the funds raised mostly came from the generosity of our member households—people who love this church, and who value the ministry that our building makes possible.

Renewing for Tomorrow funds currently total: \$246,727 with an additional \$49,750 pledged. These commitments will bring our total given and pledged so far to \$296,477.

These walls bear witness to countless holy moments as chapters of a sacred story unfold. In a relatively short amount of time, this concentrated appeal was blessedly successful! Many, many thanks to all who gave gifts and who have made commitments to support these projects. With your contributions, our building will continue to house important ministries today and well into the years to come.

Submitted by Pastor Brandy Gerjets

Personnel and Evangelism Committees

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is appointed by the church council and is responsible for staff hiring, annual performance evaluations, and overall personnel matters. This includes creating job descriptions, updating the personnel policy, interviewing candidates with the Lead Pastor, and recommending hires to the council when staff vacancies occur. The Personnel Committee should also be included if/when conducting an exit interview. Essentially the Personnel Committee acts as the primary point of contact for all staff-related issues within the congregation.

I was appointed to the personnel committee mid-year 2025. Most personnel remained in place from the previous year and continued to do an excellent job. We are very fortunate to have a staff that works together to promote the mission of our church. In the third quarter of 2025, Pastor Ellery announced that he would be leaving our church and the Minot area in order to answer a call in Minnesota. This triggered the formation of a call committee which included members of the congregation and one member from the church council. With the guidance of the synod and church leadership a new pastor will be called to serve at our church hopefully in the year 2026.

Our lead pastor has taken on more duties as a result of this vacancy and our staff, as well as church members, have stepped up to fill the void with hard work and dedication. This year will be the end of my term on the council and therefore the end of my service to the personnel committee.

Thanks to all for the opportunity to serve. Robert Barnard

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

We are focusing on the summer of 2026 and the First Lutheran Fair Stand. This will be the 103rd anniversary of our fair stand. Once again, we would like to have 103 plus volunteers signed up 103 days, ahead of the first shift, on Friday, July 17, 2026. It seems early to set sign up sheet out by April 1; however, we have realized that the sooner people sign up the better the system works. So, check your calendars and make a commitment to service at the First Lutheran Fair Stand. We are thankful for the commitment of faithful First Lutheran members who have sustained this ministry. The NDSF will be celebrating America's 250th birthday with a patriotic theme, special events and plenty of grandstand concerts. So needless to say, there will be plenty of customers. Thank you, to all the workers who make our First Lutheran Fair Stand a success.

Our council meetings open with devotions and Pastor Brandy. This is something that I feel is important as each one of us tells how we see Christ in our world or the world. This point of inspiration has come about because of the leadership of Pastor Brandy. Thank you, Pastor Brandy for accentuating the positive at church council. The council takes its cue from the leaders. There are times when we have difficult things to discuss and if this discussion starts out negative it drifts down to all members. But if the leaders dwell on what's right or suggest a positive way to possibly correct a situation, our council approaches this in the same manner. We all know that there will always be critics to point out what's wrong. It's the leader's responsibility to see what's right and share it.

Part of serving on the evangelism committee is to welcome and stay in contact with our new members. This is an ongoing process to assure new members that they are not forgotten about. Evangelism in our church is about sharing the message of the Christian faith-particularly the belief in Jesus Christ. When we can do this beyond recruitment it builds purpose, love and responsibility.

We are still looking to have more greeters at all doors on Sunday, as this makes members and guests feel welcome. If you have suggestions or are willing to do this, please, feel free to contact me. ~ Chuck Repnow

Congregational Life Committee

The purpose of the Congregational Life Committee is to care for the life of the congregation in a way that encourages members to grow in our relationships with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ and also encourages us to welcome others into this wonderful family of faith.

Our committee planned and carried out the following fellowship events this past year:

In May, we were thrilled to celebrate our FLC graduating high school seniors as they were beginning a new chapter in their lives. The brunch celebration was open to the whole congregation. We had a good turnout for the brunch as we celebrated the students' achievements. We served assorted bagels and cream cheese, fresh fruit, coffee, juice and a cold brew bar with a variety of flavors.

August 17th was the day that Pastor Ellery and Denise were honored with a going away reception. We still miss them very much. This party had a Hawaiian theme. Our Fellowship Hall was brightly decorated with that theme in green, yellow, orange, red, and blue. We made a variety of egg bakes along with fresh fruit, OJ, coffee and water. "Sent with Love and Prayers" was written on the beautifully decorated cake. The celebration ended with Hawaiian music and maybe some hula dancing!!!!

We celebrated Pastor Brandy on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 12th, right after the church service with caramel rolls and coffee. We had a great turnout for this event as we needed to set up more tables to accommodate the congregation. We so appreciate Pastor Brandy.

Our confirmation banquet was held also on October 12th in the evening. Karen Waltz made a delicious meal of Chicken Alfredo along with salad and scotch-a-roos. We decorated with the fall theme.

Our committee consists of Eric Davidson, Council Representative, Kathy Mackey, Jan Shipman, Loanne Olson, Pat Slotto, Audrey Williams, Joette Ridenour, and Karen Barnes.

Eric Davidson, Council Liaison
Karen Barnes

Social Ministry and Property

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The FLC Social Ministry Committee understands that “service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.” (God’s work. Our Hands. ELCA.org)

Our FLC congregation met every outreach project the committee proposed this year with compassion, generosity, and hearty spirit. Thank you all for responding to God’s call to Love Thy Neighbor and promote their wellbeing.

Project Summaries:

- January** FLC donated 100 pairs of glasses to the Lions Club Recycling Center.
- The committee hosted a Martin Luther King evening that highlighted the work of our FLC quilters.
- February** Coats for Kids given to Roosevelt and Longfellow schools. 24 girls’ jackets, 23 boys’ jackets, 51 hats and gloves, 3 snowpants.
- March** LWR: Joined the First Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA: The Quilters Group to put together 63 Personal Health Kits for LWR.
- April** The congregation donated food/snacks for the Backpack Buddies program run by the United Way. FLC also donated \$390.00.
- May/June** Metigoshe Ministries Mother the Camp yielded plenty of food and nonfood items; plus, a \$50.00 donation.
- June** 101 edible items and 26 non-edible items donated to Metigoshe Ministry and a \$50 donation. \$1000 and \$50 were donated to STEP.
- July** LWR: Partnered with the First Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA: The Quilters Group to put together 72 School Kits for LWR.
- August** School Supply Items for Minot Teachers: 27 teacher supply totes with various items teachers need.
- September** God’s Work. Our Hands. Members of FLC met in the Parish Hall on September 8th to assemble and distribute 27 teachers supply bags, 16 emergency childcare bags, 12 Domestic Violence kits, Good News jars and rocks, 16 tie blankets for childcare bags, 1 box Men’s Winter Refuge kits and 8 quilts, and 12 Acts of Kindness boxes for our first responder’s stations (Fire Stations, Police Stations, ER Trauma Center, and the Ambulance. Build your own sandwich lunch was served for all our many volunteers. Three members donated their Thrivent dollars, while other members donated \$270.00.

Social Ministry and Property

- October** Lutheran Campus Ministry/MSU Food Pantry: many food items and non-food items were donated.
- November** The Lord's Cupboard: 1029 lbs. of food items; \$125.00 cash. Minot Area Community Foundation donated \$1029.00 to match our pounds/cash.
- December** Angel Tree: 47 children and their siblings were provided with gifts at Roosevelt Elementary School. 54 gifts went to students at McKinley Alternative High School.

Submitted by Social Ministry Committee 2025: Andrea Lang, Kara MacIver, Duska LaCount, Mae Blount, Tarryll Shomento, Joette Ridenour, Janet Fisher

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

THANK YOU! To You, our congregation, for continuing financial support, which allow us to keep up with most maintenance projects.

Projects completed:

- A church informational sign was updated and installed on the Northwest corner wood fence.
- 7 Smart TVs were installed in the classrooms
- The oak tree behind the parish center kitchen in the play area was completely removed due to safety concerns. A tree service was hired. They also trimmed the tree north of the parsonage (branches were rubbing on the roof).
- When the roof fans were removed from the church balcony in 2024, they left openings in the ceiling on the east and west sides. Two wood platforms below the openings were damaged. To repair the ceilings were insulated and enclosed and the platforms were reconditioned and painted.
- The snow removal equipment has been gone through and is now in working order.
- Ceiling tiles by the south elevator were damaged from a roof leak and are now replaced after the roof repair.

The Renewing for Tomorrow Specials Appeals 2026 has allowed us to have several projects done before the cold weather set in.

- Roof replacement over and around the south elevator is completed.
- Roof repair over east and west sides of the balcony is completed.

Once weather permits, we are looking at more projects to be completed in 2026.

- Roof over parish center dining hall area.
- Replace roof on utility garage.
- Cap 4 chimneys (no longer used)
- Replace windows

Again, thanks to the congregation for your generosity in helping with these needs.

Roger Duchsherer, Council Liaison

First Lutheran Church Cemetery

FLC CEMETERY REPORT

The following projects have been completed.

- Thirteen new trees have been planted by D. Walz (experimental planting to see what will grow in that area).
 1. Prairie Horizon Alder
 2. Prairie Torch Buckeye
 3. Merrill Magnolia
 4. Autumn Maple
 5. Blaze Butternut
 6. Ming Cherry
 7. Black Walnut
 8. Sensation Maple
 9. Fire King Muscle Wood
 10. Crimson Spire Foak
 11. Autumn Gold Ginkgo
 12. Northern Empress Elm (replaced)
 13. Royal Red Maple (replaced)New Trees were donated by D. Walz family.
Replacements donated by Lowe's.
- Tour of the Cemetery (All Saints Day) for Confirmation students and interested parties October 29. 2025.
- Six plots sold at \$500 each: three to Struksnes family and three to D. Brekke (\$3,000.00)
- Bob Barnard filled some animal holes around graves. We need to do more in future.
- Pending: December 28th, 2025, a young man slid through the FLC Cemetery Fence on NE side, across from the Ryan School entrance. Incident was reported to police. We are in the process of receiving estimates for the fence (Security Fence Inc.) and a tombstone repair.

Burial Pending: Bob Struksnes passed away Jan. 2, 2026. His burial is pending for Spring thaw.

Future Projects:

- Filling animal holes.
- Grave washing & repairing
- Possible 2nd sign or art bench or art sculpture.
- 100 plots available for purchase @\$500.00 each

Holly M. Eidsness
Jennifer Shirley
Co-chairs of FLC Cemetery

Finance Committee FLC Balance Sheet

Schedule of Cash & Investment Accounts As of December 31, 2025

Checking Accounts	General Fund	Designated Funds
First Western	\$63,573.23	
PPP Loan Checking	\$20,186.80	
Fair/Hostfest		\$10,116.13
Designated Fund Checking		\$288,454.57
Town & Country Savings	\$185.89	
Youth Campership Savings		\$4,015.70
TOTAL ACCOUNTS	\$83,945.92	\$302,586.40

Schedule of Designated Debt Balances

First Western Line of Credit		\$0.00
SBA Loan		\$204,105.16
TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBT		\$204,105.16

Schedule of Designated Fund Balances

Music Fund		\$0.00
Luther's Kitchen		\$20,374.63
Salt & Light Ministry		\$1,645.62
Building Fund		\$2,797.84
Good Samaritan		\$17,187.37
Thrivent Choice		\$10,772.63
Administrative Expenses		\$1,340.21
Handbell		\$8,042.77
Birthday Mission Fund		\$521.26
Fair/Hostfest		\$10,116.13
Wedding Receipts/Disb.		\$40.58
Youth Campership		\$4,015.70
Organ		\$2,785.33
Cemetery		\$9,942.28
Grounds/Flowers		\$834.71
Archive		\$694.09
FLCW Bazaar/Sales		\$3,805.79
Wish List		\$5,857.19
Capital Fund Expenses	as of 12/31/25	-42,486.01
Capital Fund Income	as of 12/31/25	\$244,298.28
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS BALANCES		\$302,586.40

INCOME

	Budget 2025	Actuals 2025	Budget 2026
CONTRIBUTIONS			
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 465,566.00	\$ 397,708.71	\$ 459,551.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,620.81	\$ 12,000.00
SEASONAL OFFERINGS	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 22,112.00	\$ 19,000.00
PARISH EDUCATION	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,411.09	\$ 6,000.00
VANCO GIVING	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 100,778.45	\$ 108,000.00
VENMO/PAYPAL		\$ 6,429.00	\$ 7,000.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 609,566.00	\$ 547,060.06	\$ 611,551.00
OTHER INCOME			
BEQUESTS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,120.00	\$ 10,000.00
RADIO BROADCAST	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 1,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,994.02	\$ 6,000.00
FAIR PROCEEDS	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,312.98	\$ 8,000.00
HOSTFEST PROCEEDS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,839.78	\$ 5,000.00
FOUNDATION SUPPORT	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MONTESSORI RENT	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 10,830.00	\$ 14,000.00
LUTHERAN CAMPUS RENT	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 13,725.00	\$ 15,300.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$ 58,500.00	\$ 49,456.78	\$ 61,800.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 668,066.00	\$ 596,516.84	\$ 673,351.00
EXPENSES			
MISSIONS			
WESTERN ND SYNOD	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 2,500.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 3,500.00
TOTAL PASTORAL SUPPORT	\$ 247,340.00	\$ 209,067.93	\$ 243,650.00
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 7,246.70	\$ 8,400.00
EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR	\$ 68,800.00	\$ 63,391.47	\$ 70,250.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$ 500.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 500.00
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$ 9,150.00	\$ 9,904.62	\$ 10,100.00
ADMINISTRATIVE CHURCH & OFFICES	\$ 114,700.00	\$ 100,739.13	\$ 108,300.00
ADMIN. OFFICE SALARY SUPPORT & BENEFITS	\$ 86,600.00	\$ 86,913.55	\$ 90,750.00
WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 8,328.16	\$ 9,000.00
WORSHIP & MUSIC SALARY	\$ 23,876.00	\$ 22,808.09	\$ 25,265.00
CHURCH PROPERTY	\$ 65,200.00	\$ 67,865.21	\$ 71,500.00
CHURCH CUSTODIAL SUPPORT	\$ 31,200.00	\$ 26,526.01	\$ 32,136.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 668,066.00	\$ 605,070.87	\$ 673,351.00

DIFFERENCE

\$ (8,554.03)

Prayer Chain ~ Luther's Kitchen ~ Quilters

PRAYER CHAIN

It is the goal of the Prayer Chain to show Christian love, caring, and concern by praying for individuals and families who have specific needs in their lives. Prayer Chain members are also excited to share with praise and thanksgiving in times of joy. Whatever the situation, a call will be made.

As communication connections change in our society, it is often difficult to make connections by land-line telephone. The goal is to connect members with the message as soon as possible. For those who are willing, we have used text message groups to communicate. The concern is received and the message is delivered to all at one time as soon as possible. Those who do not text still receive the message by the established phone-chain call.

A thank you celebration was held to recognize Adeline Forsberg for her many years as coordinator of the Prayer Chain. It was also at a time when she was celebrating her 98th birthday. Adeline represents the spirit of volunteers who give so much time to support the ministry of First Lutheran and the community. We give thanks for Adeline and for all who volunteer.

If you would like to say a prayer and support those who have concern, consider being a part of the Prayer Chain. Contact the office or the Prayer Chain Coordinator. "THANK YOU" to all who are a part of this important ministry. Your participation is very appreciated.

Submitted by Joylea Knutson, Prayer Chain Coordinator

Luther's Kitchen

Greetings from Luther's Kitchen crew!

We continue to serve meals every Friday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. We are in partnership with Great Plains Food Bank and Minot Community Foundation. We are still generously supported by contributions of both food and money from our First Lutheran family and the community. Thank you to the many volunteers who make this mission possible.

Submitted by The Crew of Luther's Kitchen

FLC Quilters

This year 93+ quilts were shipped to those in need. Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents, or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. Our quilters also prepared and gave out 34 quilts to various groups for auction items and wrapped our graduating seniors with their very own quilt. The quilting group meets weekly to make each quilt with love and care.

Along with the quilts 63 health care kits, 12 baby care kits, 4 baby blankets, and 72 school kits were packaged and sent to Lutheran World Relief. The members of FLC came together to donate the items needed for these kits. Your care for others outside our walls and the mission of Lutheran World Relief is appreciated!

Submitted by First Lutheran Church Quilters

FLC Women Treasurer's Report 2025

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN – TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Beginning Balance **\$20,631.11**

Income

Worship Offerings	371.00
Missionary for a Day	371.00
Receptions	6,599.55
Fair Stand	7,312.98
Hostfest	3,839.78
Bazaar	5,706.50
Quilters	780.00
Interest	2.43
December Offering	<u>263.00</u>
	25,246.24

Beginning Balance & Income **\$45,877.35**

Expenses

Receptions	2222.43
Bazaar	464.50
Worship Offerings	325.00
Missionary for a Day	325.00
Gifts	850.00
Quilters	689.05
*Lady of Grace Pantry	500.00
*Lord's Cupboard	500.00
*Camp Metigoshe	500.00
*Camp of the Cross	250.00
*Domestic Violence	500.00
*Matthew 25	500.00
*Minot 2 nd Story	500.00
*Minot Homeless Coalition	250.00
*Men's Winter Refuge	500.00
*Lutheran Campus Ministry	750.00
WND Synod Ministry Trust	500.00
Luther Seminary	500.00
WND WISE Fund	500.00
Lutheran World Relief	1000.00
FLC Youth	700.00

FLC Women Treasurer's Report 2025

Luther Campus Ministry Food Pantry	193.48
Kitchen	292.62
FLC – Renewing for Tomorrow Appeal	15,000.00
World Missions	2,000.00
Sanctuary Adornment Fund	400.00
Outdoor Flowers	400.00
Total Expenses	\$31,112.08

*Indicates matching funds with St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation

December 31, 2024, Checkbook Balance **\$14,765.27**

\$3,461.22 - designated for Quilters
\$681.00 - Johnson Kitchen Renovation
\$5,000.00 – Kitchen Renovation

CD at Bravera Bank - \$2,414.28
4746 Mission Investment Fund - \$2,594.61
4359 Mission Investment – Johnson Kitchen - \$1,869.81
4340 Mission Investment Fund – Kitchen Renovation - \$3,276.19



First Lutheran Foundation Balance Sheet 2025

FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

Financial Summary December 31, 2025

ASSETS

Bank Checking	3,400	
General fund Agency balance	1,467,768	
Facilities fund Agency balance	<u>262,300</u>	
Total Assets		\$1,733,468

LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 0</u>	
NET ASSETS December 31, 2025		\$1,733,468

RECONCILIATIONS

General Fund Market Value 12/31/2024	\$1,334,531	
Contributions received YTD 2025	23,608	
Transfer to checking account	(53,100)	
Fund market value increase YTD (decrease)	<u>162,729</u>	
General Fund Market Value December 31 2025		\$1,467,768

General Fund spendable funds 1/01/2025 (1)	\$53,381	
Support paid YTD 2025	(53,096)	
General Fund spendable funds December 31, 2025		\$ 285

Facilities Fund Market Value 12/31/2024	\$236,721	
Contributions received YTD 2025	23,608	
Transfer to checking account	(30,000)	
Fund market value increase (decrease)	<u>31,971</u>	
Facilities fund Market Value December 31, 2025		\$ 262,300

Facilities Fund spendable funds 1/01/2025 (1)	\$ 9,469	
Facilities support paid YTD 2025	(9,469)	
Facilities fund spendable funds December 31, 2025		\$000

Bank Checking Balance 12/31/2024	\$3,508	
Plus, gifts deposited	47,216	
Net transfer to/from agency	38,000	
Less checks written for support	(62,565)	
Bank charges refunded	30	
Return of prior gift received by mistake	(24,789)	
Check for Support not cleared	2,000	
Bank Checking Balance December 31, 2025		\$ 3,400

(1) The Foundation approved a new Spending Policy (effective December 31, 2022) with a change in the method of determining spendable funds. That policy provides for an annual distribution from the General and Facilities Funds of 4% of the prior FYE balance. In the event the market value of the assets is less than 90% but greater than 80% of the prior FYE, the spendable amount would be limited to 2%. Should the value of the assets at FYE fall below 80% of the prior FYE, spending would be suspended for the following year. The "spending allowance" for 2026 is-- General Fund \$58,710 and Facility Fund \$10,492.

LCM 2025 Report for Congregations

Dear Partners in Ministry –

Thank you once again for supporting students at Minot State University through your partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry! Your gifts, prayers, and encouragement make our call to walk with students in their journeys of faith & love possible.



Move-in day



Signing up for LCM!



Welcome week events



Worship on campus



Chaplaincy



Weekly Brunch & Bible



Monthly events



MSU Angel Tree



Food Pantry (100 visits/month)



Tuesday Soup (450 served/week)



Free Cold Weather Gear



We hope you enjoy these highlights! We are also busy leading weekly yoga, meditation, speaking with freshmen classes, and collaborating with departments on campus such as Nursing, Social Work, ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, and the Counseling Center. You can email Pastor Rachel if you'd like our quarterly physical or email newsletter for more on what LCM is up to and where God's Spirit continues to lead us:
Rachel.Simonson@MinotStateU.edu

With Gratitude,
Pastor Rachel Simonson

Metigoshe Ministries



**is Adventure Anchored in Christ
where people experience and celebrate
the gifts of God in a life together**

2025 Recap & '26 Plans

NEW CAMP PROGRAMS! After the success of our new half-week High School Navigators program, which welcomed 18 campers its first year, we are excited to add another half-week option for 6-7th graders with a Pioneers Mini session, as well as offering our youngest campers (all 1st-4th grade!) who might not be comfortable staying overnight yet to come for a fun day at camp with one or both parents for and our inaugural offering of Camp Junior!

2024 was a “record setting” year of retreat ministry at the Christian Center! Our usage numbers continue to go up! Church groups and other organizations are recognizing the many options available to them in our space, and we are excited to be hosting the 2025 WND “rostered leaders gathering” as one of a number of conferences that we are now beginning to book.

Camp Metigoshe remains the **ONLY** church-related camp in western ND, and is one of only 5 summer camps in the entire state, to receive accreditation from the American Camp Association. 2026 is an “accreditation visit” year for us and we have already begun to prepare. Camper safety and quality of programming are always at the top of our minds at Camp Metigoshe!

We are happy to be able to keep 2026 camp prices the same as last year. And we are even more excited to be able to continue to “just say YES!” Because of our abundantly generous donors, we are always able to help with the cost of camp: whether it is \$50 or a full tuition “campership” of \$550. We are also thankful that so many of you have “congregational scholarship” programs that also cover part - or even all - of the cost of camp for your youth. Thank you for helping show the importance of camp!

A few important dates to remember!

- **ANNUAL MEETING:** April 19, 3 pm at the Christian Center. *“Owner” Churches: be sure to elect your delegates!*
- **WORK DAY:** June 6 starting at 9 am - help us get camp ready for the year!
- **QUILT AUCTION:** June 27 at 10 am. We raised nearly \$80,000 in 2025 and are looking forward to another great event in 2026! If you can't join us live, viewing & bidding will be online again!



Congregational Update

Metigoshe Ministries is owned and operated by over 70 ELCA congregations in north central North Dakota—and we have wide participation from non-member churches as well. Camp Metigoshe is **YOUR** Bible camp!

In 2025 Camp Metigoshe welcomed approximately 1,500 youth, families, and adults who experienced “Adventure Anchored in Christ” at Camp Metigoshe on Pelican Lake, and through our day camp program in area congregations.

Did you know...

- Camp Metigoshe serves youth entering first grade to graduated seniors.
- Plus, camping programs are available for families and grandparents.
- And there are year-round retreating options for people of all ages at our Christian Center.

For more details about any of our ministry programs - and to register for a week of summer camp or one of our retreats - make sure you check out our website at

www.metigosheministries.com

Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus.



**Western
North Dakota
Synod**

Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

“I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, *as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*” (Ephesians 3:16–17)

These ancient words from the Apostle Paul gave shape to our 2025 Synod Assembly that was held in Minot in early June. They have continued to shape our shared ministry and mission throughout the year. They remind us that everything we do — from worship and service to leadership and mission — begins with God’s deep, steady love.

As we look back on 2025 across the Western North Dakota Synod, I thank you for the ways we have witnessed together the love of Christ Jesus at work among and through you. People of God, called and sent by God, with faith, courage, and generosity — in small town cafes and office buildings that stand tall along city streets; in communities of learning like our schools and church school classrooms; in holy moments of Christ’s healing touch in local food pantries or at a hospital bedside.



We continue to celebrate the growth of synod-authorized ministry across our synod, where gifted lay leaders are helping congregations thrive as witnesses of Christ’s love in their communities.



This year also brought continued investment in lay formation, faith-in-daily-life conversations, and tools that help congregations deepen discipleship and embrace their callings. Through your congregation’s mission support, our synod supports leaders in transition, strengthens local and global partnerships, and creates spaces of healing, learning, and renewal for people of faith across western North Dakota.

In every corner of Western North Dakota, we see congregations stepping into God’s future with hope — feeding neighbors, welcoming newcomers, walking with the grieving, preparing the newly baptized, accompanying youth, and proclaiming good news in word and deed. These everyday ministries matter. They are changing lives.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your trust. Thank you for being rooted and grounded in Christ’s love — and for embodying that love in your communities.

May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen you in the year to come. And may the peace of Christ guard your hearts and minds as you live out the gospel with courage and joy.



Serving in Christ together,



+The Rev. Craig A. Schweitzer
Bishop, Western North Dakota Synod, ELCA

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yehiel Curry".

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.