

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks...

God, we praise you and give thanks.
You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.
We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.
We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.
We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.
We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.
We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift.
and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:
love, you, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,
that the world may know and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv-en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joic-es;
with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir-it blest, who reign in high-est heav-en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
the one c-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n a-dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 25, 2026

- I. Call to Order
- II. Devotions-Prayer
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- V. Reports
 - a. Synod
 - b. President's Report
 - c. SAM/Parish Education Report
 - d. Membership Changes Report
 - e. Financial Reports

Committee Reports

- a. Property
 - b. Worship and Music
 - c. Altar Guild
 - d. FLCW
 - e. Memorials
- VI. Nominations
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Approval of 2026 Budget
 - b. Approval of Parish Agreement
- IX. Adjournment and the Lord's Prayer

**First Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes**

January 26, 2025

Present: 27 members were present, 1 child present.

President, Linda Bauers opened the annual meeting at 10:37 AM.

Opening prayer – Calista opened with a devotional.

Approval of the Agenda – Motion was made by Ruth Lee seconded by Kathy Tischart to approve the agenda. MC
Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2024– a motion was made Don Smith second by Judy Humeniuk to approve the minutes. MC

Reports:

The Synod, President's report, SAM/Parish Education report report were then gone through –
The financial report for the Parish was looked at.
All reports were discussed and if any questions to bring them to the president or (SAM) Calista.

Committee Reports

- a. Property – Jim wanted everyone to have his cell phone number in case things need to be taken care of at the church. 218-368-2785
- b. Worship & Music – Joyce Washburn said all is in her report.
- c. Education – Calista mentioned working with the parish on curriculum
- d. Altar Guild – all in report
- e. FLCW –
- f. Memorials – Were given in three different formats, according to how a person would want to look them up.

All of these reports are in the annual meeting booklet.

President then opened the floor for nominations – Linda then said the president, vice president and financial secretary positions are open. As of now we have Kay Schell (Wayne) for president, Judy Humeniuk for vice president and Eileen Cordray for financial secretary. A motion was made by Eileen to nominate Kay Schell for president, Judy Humeniuk for Vice President and Eileen Cordray for financial secretary, this motion was second by Don Smith. MC

The Synod Assembly will be held May 30 to June 1, 2025 in Moorhead. Eileen Cordray said she would attend.

Property board will be Jim Frohreich, Don Smith and Rod Gubbels.

Calista said she would like to meet parish wide with each church as she works on schedules she works on all 3 churches together.

Old Business:

- a. Doors – are done and installed.

New Business:

- a. Approval of 2025 budget – after some discussion a motion was made by Jeff Bauers seconded by Jerry Moline to approve this budget. MC
- b. Parish Agreement – was done and presented to the congregation – as this is a By-Law no motion was needed.

Being no further business a motion was made by Don Smith, second by Kathy Tischart to adjourn this meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Smith, Secretary



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Staff

Our synod staff is made up of both full-time and part-time team members who work together to support congregations, leaders, and ministries across Northwestern Minnesota.

Full-time staff serve in ongoing roles and provide leadership, support, and coordination across a wide range of synod ministries and operations. You'll find them regularly engaged in day-to-day synod work, available for questions, and present at most synod events.



Rev. Bill Tesch
Bishop
btesch@cord.edu



Rev. Genelle Netland
Associate to the Bishop
for Leadership
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Rev. Rebel Hurd
Associate to the Bishop
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Morgan Olson
Communications &
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Rachel Haun
Office Administrator
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Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Part-Time and Contract Staff

Part-Time staff serve in part-time or specialized roles. They bring unique gifts to the synod for a particular project, area of ministry, or time-limited need. While they may not be involved in all aspects of synod life, their contributions are essential to our shared mission.

Engagement Ministers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CONFERENCE 1 <i>Roseau</i> Rev. Dave Swonger | CONFERENCE 2 <i>Thief River Falls</i> Rev. Genelle Netland/ Rev. Bill Tesch | CONFERENCE 3 <i>Crookston</i> Rev. Chris Leach | CONFERENCE 4 <i>Bemidji</i> Rev. Chris Leach |
| CONFERENCE 5 <i>Moorhead</i> Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson | CONFERENCE 6 <i>Detroit Lakes</i> Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson | CONFERENCE 7 <i>Fergus Falls</i> Rev. Dennis Preston | CONFERENCE 8 <i>Alexandria</i> Rev. Dennis Preston |

Financial and Data-Systems Specialist

Joan Meulebroeck

Synod Authorized Ministers Coordinator

Kip Fontaine

Minister for Vocations

Rev. Jon Olson

Minister for Mental Health & Wellness

Rev. Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkerds

Minister for First-Third Ministry

Kristina Johnson-Dernier

**Behold The New Has Come!
Project Coordinators**

Jody Johnson
Rev. Melissa Pickering



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
-- Matthew 2:11

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

When the Magi first saw the child Jesus, their first instinct was to *pay him homage*. The word translated “homage” comes from the Greek *proskyneō*—from *pros* (“toward”) and *kyneō* (“to kiss”). Their worship was literally a *kiss toward Jesus*—a gesture of love, humility, and devotion.

That image captures what we long to be about in Northwestern Minnesota. Our vision—to be “a people wholly devoted to Jesus and our neighbor in love”—is another way of saying that we want everything we do together to be a kiss toward Jesus: a homage to the gentle One who heals, forgives, and sends us out in love.

This past year, our shared ministry offered many such kisses toward Christ:

- We **welcomed 15 new Synod Authorized Ministers**, ensuring that Word and Sacrament continue to touch lives in every corner of our synod.
- We **entrusted 14 new candidates for ordination**, nurturing leaders who will teach and serve in the spirit of Jesus’ humble strength.
- We **walked with congregations in transition and conflict**, showing that reconciliation itself can be an act of homage.
- We **sparked renewal** in rural congregations through our *Rural Revival Journey*, breathing hope and fresh imagination into places where Christ’s light still shines bright.
- And through *Jeremiah 29* and *F.A.C.E.S. of Leadership*, we are **equipping 41 leaders** to guide their communities toward deeper devotion—a daily kiss toward Jesus.

Friends, thank you. Your prayers, offerings, and faithful witness make these stories possible. Every kindness shared in Jesus’ name, every act of generosity, is another kiss toward the Savior we adore.

And in a time when Jesus’ name is sometimes used to divide us from one another or demean vulnerable neighbors, let us be clear about the One we worship. We pay homage not to a Lord of domination or fear, but to the humble Christ who welcomes the stranger, lifts the poor, blesses our most vulnerable siblings and honors the image of God in every person. The world has seen that kind of power come and go. The Magi journeyed far to worship a *different* kind of king—the one who reigns through mercy, not might.

As this year draws to a close, I invite you to join me in one more act of homage—a gift that becomes a kiss toward Jesus. Your congregation’s support and your personal generosity sustain ministries that bear Christ’s love to every corner of Northwestern Minnesota.

May our every gift, and every act of love, be a kiss toward the One who reigns from a manger and calls us to follow him in humility, justice, and joy.

In Christ,

Bp. Bill Tesch
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

First Lutheran Church
President's Report
Kay M. Schell
January 2026

1 Corinthians 12:14

"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."

It has been an honor to serve as your council president this past year. Thankfully, I have been surrounded by a dedicated group of council members who provide support, friendship and wisdom. There is so much work being done behind the scenes that often goes unnoticed. I get to see firsthand the good work of our church members, volunteers and staff. Thanks to each of you for sharing your time and gifts for our church, community and most importantly caring for each other.

Each month, the First Lutheran Church Council minutes are included in the Beacon. The goal is to keep the congregation informed and up to date with projects, activities, issues, concerns or general business of the church. I hope this has been helpful.

As you read the committee reports, you will see many examples of outreach, service, dedication and sharing of time, talent and funds. Thank you to each and every person who contributes to the life of First Lutheran Church. As we go forward this next year, consider what God is calling you to do! Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

2025 SAM Report

Thank you for another year of support as I continue serving you as a full-time minister and part-time student at Luther Seminary. Our 2024 Star Word for the parish was relationship and our 2025 Star Word was Leadership and I carried that with me as I continued my studies and my path to ordination. We have a new Star Word this year, but even though we move forward we can still hold onto what we've built on. There are many ways to use those words within the church and I view this parish as true relationship builders and leaders in our community, and I hope you do too. We lead with welcome, we lead with love, we lead with engagement and now we can remind ourselves to lead with enthusiasm. Our 2026 Star Word is *Enthusiasm* and I'm excited to see how the Holy Spirit guides us through this year enthusiastically.

This year we went back to basics with worship and events. For Lent we leaned into our theme of *Unbroken: A Living Faith* and watched as how the Holy Spirit guided us to have God revealed to us through the lectionary readings through the gospels of Luke and Matthew. We've continued to show up for our community and beyond through quilt making, pizza baking, pantry fillings, special collections and more. I'm proud of how we have kept our stability in the community and am excited to see the new ways that we show up for our neighbors in the future.

This summer we had so much fun during our annual Vacation Bible School. We had about 35 kids come out to learn about how *God's Word Comes Near* through crafts, games, snacks and water fun! A big thank you to all the youth and adults that showed up to make the week so fun!

I had the honor of confirming 4 parish youth this year: Keira Ferrier, Carter Husbands, Ali Plourde and Jack Cook. During the 2024-2025 confirmation year we wrapped up our Old Testament curriculum and started our New Testament curriculum. We had an average of 10 Confirmation students each year. We are blessed to have such active youth in all three churches!

Right now there is a lot of fear and uncertainty in the world, and I often wonder what the church's role is in all of this. One thing I am certain of is that we keep doing God's work with our hands: loving our neighbors, ALL of our neighbors, spreading the gospel even when it feels like we are being drowned out, and showing how God's love is boundless at all times, especially when it feels the hardest to show it.

I'm not sure what 2026 will bring, but I'm feeling grateful and blessed to move through the year with you all.

Your sibling in Christ,
Calista Wolf

First Lutheran Member Change Statistics Report 2025

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Baptisms | | | |
| Blair Mia Hanson | | | |
| Millie Rose Spires | | | |
| Wrenley Ann Hamm | | | |
| | | | |
| Confirmation/Affirmation of Faith | | | |
| Carter Husbands | | | |
| Keira Ferrier | | | |
| | | | |
| Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials | | | |
| Helen Mord | | Davy Nesmoe | |
| Gerry Buegler | | | |
| Ina Nesmoe | | | |
| Bruce Chapman | | | |
| | | | |
| Membership | | | |
| <i>Transferred to other churches/removed by own request/removed by council action</i> | | | |
| Jeannie Kuehl | | | |
| Carolyn (and Mark) Rud | | | |
| | | | |
| <i>Members Received</i> | | | |
| (Any number discrepancies are due to members being unarchived) | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | Baptized | Confirmed |
| December 31, 2024 | | 233 | 153 |
| December 31, 2025 | | 234 | 189 |

Financial Secretary's Report 2025

First Lutheran Church Giving (3 year Comparison)

| | Total Deposits | Loose Offering | Member Giving | Building Use | Other Income | Building Fund | 2025 Memorials | Miscellaneous |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| January | \$8,300.00 | \$85.00 | \$7,920.00 | \$50.00 | \$902.00 | \$200.00 | \$45.00 | \$200.00 |
| February | \$5,450.00 | \$70.00 | \$5,140.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$220.00 | \$20.00 | \$200.00 |
| March | \$7,370.00 | \$110.00 | \$6,945.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$90.00 | \$225.00 |
| April | \$9,896.25 | \$128.25 | \$8,555.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,183.00 |
| May | \$6,045.00 | \$50.00 | \$5,720.00 | \$0.00 | \$902.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| June | \$11,120.00 | \$110.00 | \$10,150.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$660.00 | \$200.00 |
| July | \$6,345.00 | \$175.00 | \$5,920.00 | \$50.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| August | \$6,685.00 | \$40.00 | \$6,380.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| September | \$8,775.71 | \$67.00 | \$6,825.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| October | \$5,970.00 | \$120.00 | \$5,530.00 | \$0.00 | \$902.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| November | \$8,821.00 | \$141.00 | \$8,430.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 |
| <u>December</u> | \$11,960.00 | \$586.00 | \$9,150.00 | \$0.00 | \$802.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,840.00 |
| <u>Total General Fund for 2025</u> | | | \$108,104.25 | | | | | |
| Total Deposits | \$96,737.96 | \$1,682.25 | \$86,665.00 | \$100.00 | \$9,924.00 | \$2,420.00 | \$865.00 | \$6,448.00 |
| <u>Total General Fund for 2024 *</u> | | | \$98,371.25 | | | | | |
| Total Deposits | \$108,543.08 | \$3,105.85 | \$92,987.92 | \$5,410.00 | \$3,539.35 | \$1,650.00 | \$80.00 | \$1,769.96 |
| <u>Total General Fund for 2023 *</u> | | | \$105,043.12 | | | | | |
| | \$147,870.70 | \$2,703.00 | \$97,336.00 | \$5,350.00 | \$1,059.00 | \$6,356.63 | \$245.00 | \$34,821.07 |

* Note: Total General Fund Amounts = Loose, Member, Building Use & Other Income Totals

Submitted by: Eileen Cordray, Financial Secretary

First Lutheran Church Treasurer's 2025 End of Year Report

Account Balances/(Income and Expenses)

| <u>Bank Accounts</u> | 2024 Year End | Increase | Decrease | 2025 Year End |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Riverwood - General Checking | \$33,213.40 | \$109,315.96 | \$79,610.85 | \$62,918.51 |
| Riverwood - Designated Funds | \$33,830.70 | \$4,323.00 | \$3,747.41 | <u>\$34,406.29</u> |
| SubTotal | | | | \$97,324.80 |
| ELCA Endowment-General | \$32,640.92 | \$4,425.78 | | \$37,066.70 |
| ELCA Endowment-Building | \$31,067.11 | \$4,212.48 | | \$35,279.59 |
| CD at Border Bank | \$21,030.78 | \$567.83 | | \$21,598.61 |
| <u>Total Funds</u> | \$151,782.91 | \$122,845.05 | \$83,358.26 | \$191,269.70 |
| <u>Designated Funds</u> | | | | |
| Temporary | \$20.85 | \$1,762.00 | \$1,782.85 | \$0.00 |
| Endowment Fund | \$1,436.50 | \$126.00 | | \$1,562.50 |
| Alter Guild | \$478.45 | | | \$478.45 |
| Building Fund | \$14,887.02 | \$2,435.00 | \$1,209.48 | \$16,112.54 |
| Music | \$1,921.94 | | | \$1,921.94 |
| Parking Lot | \$1,620.00 | | \$482.72 | \$1,137.28 |
| Pastor's Discretionary | \$100.78 | | | \$100.78 |
| Youth | \$1,990.18 | | | \$1,990.18 |
| Sunday School | \$450.00 | | | \$450.00 |
| Garden of Grace | \$10,097.98 | | \$272.36 | \$9,825.62 |
| VBS | \$827.00 | | | \$827.00 |
| Total Designated Funds | \$33,830.70 | \$4,323.00 | \$3,747.41 | \$34,406.29 |
| <u>Designated Funds Disbursements</u> | | | | |
| Building Fund: Roof Repairs | \$94.51 | | | |
| Parking Lot: Patching | \$482.72 | | | |
| Garden of Grace: Trees | \$272.36 | | | |
| Building: Sump Pumps | \$439.98 | | | |
| Building: Water Heater | <u>\$674.99</u> | | | |
| Total Designated Disbursements | \$1,964.56 | | | |

First Lutheran Church Property Report 2025

Some of the tasks completed, or overseen, by the First Lutheran Property Board in 2025

January-March- required the replacement of both the sump pumps in the basement. Rodney Gubbels saw to it that this project was completed.

April- one of the water heaters for the kitchen was replaced.

May- Annual Group Clean-up of the church yard: trimming bushes, trees and picking up debris.

June and July- Roof leak at flat roof area of the church hallway, bathrooms and in library-repairs were made to roof, should be checked once a year. We put it on the May Clean-up Day Schedule.

Don Smith organized repairs to our parking lot several times during the summer- with help from Bertel, Wayne and Jim.

November- Day Care water heater was replaced in the lower Sunday School level.

On-going sanctuary LED bulb replacement. I have been having trouble getting matching bulbs.

December- Added a new shelf in the sanctuary on which to mount our new streaming camera, tripod and iPad.

Property Board: Jim Frohreich, Don Smith and Rod Gubbels

Submitted by: Jim Frohreich, Property Board Chair

Worship and Music Report 2025

The choir gathers to practice once a week from September through May, providing music for many Sundays during the Worship Service, approximately 12 performances over the year for Sunday Services, with several times offering two songs on a Sunday. We have moved back and forth from Wednesday evenings to Monday evenings, depending on the Wednesday night schedule. We are, right now, practicing at 6:30pm on Monday evenings. We take a break in June, July and August, as has been the tradition for decades. We ended a bit earlier than usual, due to my May hip replacement surgery.

The choir has been gathering to sing with our small group again, this year. We have had 10 dedicated members for most of the year. Please consider joining our small but close-knit group. We can always use new voices! Harvey Lein has been our primary accompanist during the year, since September. Sue Smith has been our primary accompanist for Sunday Worship Services. When Sue isn't available, we use the recorded music on the Clavinova (electronic keyboard). Nancy Anundson and Joyce Washburn have been trained to run the pre-recorded hymns and liturgy. Calista can do it as well, if necessary, and if she is here on that Sunday.

This year, some special things we have added were a couple choir performances at two of the joint Parish Services.

We called on our talented friend, Kitty Gayle, from Rainy River to accompany our choir on flute for a joint parish service choir anthem, in March.

We did our usual Community Christmas Caroling on Dec. 14th, with about 25, or so, carolers participating and some young ones, too! We started at the home of a shut-in parish member, and moved on to the Care Center, Hospital, Summerfield Apartments and ended up at Northwoods Commons, with sweet or savory snacks, chili, and potluck refreshments for the participants and residents at Northwood Commons. The choir also provided special music for the First Sunday School program with one of our songs included Harvey Lein singing a lead solo to the song "Angels Among Us", for the Angel themed Sunday School Program written and directed by Judy Gubbels. About eight Sunday School age children participated in Judy's star themed Christmas program. The children listened to a Christmas story, decorated a tree dressed as angels and handed ornaments out to all the members of the congregation. It was a sweet and very appropriate program for the season.

For our Christmas Eve Service, we had special music from Eric Buegler who sang and played "O Holy Night" on his ukulele during offering. AJ Washburn played "The First Noel" on his trombone and sang "Mary Did You Know". The service was very well attended and extra bulletins needed to be printed at the last minute.

The choir has received a number of compliments and appreciation for the music, this year, and we want to thank those people who have made a special effort to let us know when they enjoy the music!

In addition to the choir, new equipment has been purchased, by the Women's group, to stream our church services via a YouTube Channel. The new iPad will be located on the main floor of the church for ease in turning on the camera. The shelf is installed, now at the year's-end. If you would like the link to our YouTube Channel, let us know in the parish office.

Gratefully submitted by Joyce Washburn,

First Lutheran Choir Director and Worship and Music Board Representative

Altar Guild Report 2025

The altar guild is a dedicated group of volunteers responsible for setting the Lord's table. This year we added Nancy Anundson to our volunteer group!

Baptismal banners, sewn by Ruth Lee, are made for each child when they are baptized. She made three this year for the newest baptized members of First Lutheran.

We are also responsible for decorating the sanctuary which includes keeping floral arrangements fresh, placing the proper paraments for each season, changing the sanctuary candle each week, setting the table for communion and many other things.

THANK YOU TO ALL who helped with these duties this year; those who set up and served communion, those who helped decorate and take down decorations and take down and store the Christmas tree for the sanctuary at Christmas time.

The Altar guild would like to express their appreciation to those who shared flowers, plants, and monetary gifts that helped beautify the sanctuary during 2025. If you wish to share flowers for worship, please let us know. If you plan to order flowers, please let us know a week ahead to allow time for the flowers to arrive.

Thank you to Mike Paulsen for taking over filling candles and the Baptismal candle weekly for the altar area.

Thank you to Tweety Larson for continuing to make Communion bread.

Thank you to Meg Hemmingson for continuing to set up communion.

IT'S GOD'S WORK, WITH OUR HANDS, AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK IN OUR CHURCH.

Altar Guild members

Ruth Lee, Phyllis Paulsen, Michael Paulsen, Becky Curran, Meg Hemmingson and Nancy Anundson.

Members in training: Lilly and Triton Curran, Lily Schwenzfeier, Landin Raschke and Charlotte Paulsen.

Submitted by Phyllis Paulsen

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025

The First Lutheran Women Tuesday quilters met each week and worked on quilts for L.W.R. The ladies had a rummage sale last Fall and did pretty well. Also this year we did a Scandinavian Bake Sale in Nov., we made lefsa and had baked goods which went over well.

We made 80 quilts, 40 health kits, 40 school kits and 20 layette kits that were shipped out to World Relief on Nov. 7, 2025.

Two quilts were made for our high school graduates this past year – the Rachel Group helped spearhead this project with others helping also.

Easter baskets were delivered to many people of our church.

Each year Thrivent Financial helps in our quilting. As members who have a product with them, you can receive \$250.00 twice per year. This has been a big boost on our ladies group to help get batting, material and supplies. We appreciate all who have gone into Thrivent to help with this. If you have any questions on how to get this, please ask some of our ladies on the quilting group.

Our board meetings are the 4th Wed. of each month.

Action chairs: Betty Sorenson, Sandy Johnson, Karen Berg and Sue Smith

FLCW FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE REPORT

January 1, 2025 - December 23, 2025

| | | | | CHECKING ACCOUNT BEGINNING BALANCE |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | | | \$7,242.44 |
| Line Item | INCOME | EXPENSES | NET PROFIT/LOSS | CHECKING ACCOUNT CURRENT BALANCE |
| Action Group | \$25.00 | \$28.00 | (\$3.00) | \$7,239.44 |
| Alter Guild | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,239.44 |
| Angels of Mercy | \$178.00 | \$0.00 | \$178.00 | \$7,417.44 |
| Bakeless Bake Sale | \$1,575.00 | \$13.95 | \$1,561.05 | \$8,978.49 |
| Care Center Bingo Prizes | \$0.00 | \$170.00 | (\$170.00) | \$8,808.49 |
| Circle Offering | \$284.50 | \$0.00 | \$284.50 | \$9,092.99 |
| Coffee Donations | \$1,366.05 | \$0.00 | \$1,366.05 | \$10,459.04 |
| Easter Fruit Baskets | \$186.00 | \$49.77 | \$136.23 | \$10,595.27 |
| Funerals | \$2,428.36 | \$1,953.45 | \$474.91 | \$11,070.18 |
| Misc Income/Expenses | \$200.00 | \$931.94 | (\$731.94) | \$10,338.24 |
| Prayer Breakfast | \$0.00 | \$79.56 | (\$79.56) | \$10,258.68 |
| Rummage Sale | \$996.00 | \$200.00 | \$796.00 | \$11,054.68 |
| Scandinavian Bake Sale | \$2,213.00 | \$499.44 | \$1,713.56 | \$12,768.24 |
| FLCW Unit Meeting | \$0.00 | \$110.08 | (\$110.08) | \$12,658.16 |
| WELCA Blanket Offering | \$328.00 | \$328.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,658.16 |
| WELCA Thankoffering | \$274.00 | \$274.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,658.16 |
| 1st Lutheran Alter Guild | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,658.16 |
| Baudette Lutheran Soul Food/Sunday School | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,658.16 |
| Benevolence Payment | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,658.16 |
| Bibles | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,658.16 |
| General Building Fund | \$0.00 | \$621.19 | (\$621.19) | \$12,036.97 |
| Christ In Our Home | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,036.97 |
| Cradle Roll | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,036.97 |
| Gifts, Plants, Misc for Pastors & Staff | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | (\$100.00) | \$11,936.97 |
| Kitchen Equipment & Supplies | \$0.00 | \$428.74 | (\$428.74) | \$11,508.23 |
| Mission Outreach | \$0.00 | \$600.00 | (\$600.00) | \$10,908.23 |
| Over 80 Banquet | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,908.23 |
| Post Prom Donation | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | (\$50.00) | \$10,858.23 |
| Postage & Mailing Envelopes | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,858.23 |
| Quilts for Graduates | \$0.00 | \$419.40 | (\$419.40) | \$10,438.83 |
| Carpet Cleaning | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,438.83 |
| Synod Convention Registration/Travel Expenses | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,438.83 |
| Synod Convention Expenses | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,438.83 |
| Synod Convention Offering (Physical & RegularOffe | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,438.83 |
| Synod Scholarship Offering | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,438.83 |
| Triennial Convention Offering | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,438.83 |
| WELCA NWMN Cluster Offering & Travel Expenses | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,388.83 |
| WELCA Quarterly Offering | \$0.00 | \$240.00 | (\$240.00) | \$10,148.83 |
| TOTAL | \$10,053.91 | \$7,147.52 | \$2,906.39 | \$10,148.83 |

FLCW DESIGNATED FUNDS

| Designation | 2024 Ending Balance | 2025 Income | 2025 Expenses | 2025 Current Balance |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Angels of Mercy | \$239.24 | \$178.00 | \$0.00 | \$417.24 |
| Easter Fruit Baskets | \$375.08 | \$186.00 | \$49.77 | \$511.31 |
| General Building and Maintenance Fund | \$2,642.99 | \$4,070.61 | \$621.19 | \$6,092.41 |
| Total Designated Funds | \$3,257.31 | \$4,434.61 | \$670.96 | \$7,020.96 |

FLCW FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| CHECKING ACCOUNT CURRENT BALANCE | \$10,148.83 | | CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT | \$5,411.39 |
| MINUS DESIGNATED FUNDS | \$7,020.96 | | SAVINGS ACCOUNT | \$5,974.34 |
| CHECKING ACCOUNT AVAILABLE BALANCE | \$3,127.87 | | THRIVENT FINANCIAL FUND (Designated for Parking Lot Repair) | \$15,810.97 |

| Memorials | Fund | From |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Wally Beyers | General | Jeff & Linda Bauers |
| | General | Doug & Gayle McCloud |
| Bruce Chapman | General | Ruth Lee |
| Helen Mord | Building Fund | Don & Sue Smith |
| | General | Jeff & Linda Bauers |
| | General | Dale & Louise Cook |
| | General | Judy Humeniuk |
| Davey Nesmoe | Building Fund | Don & Sue Smith |
| Ina Nesmoe | General | Dale & Louise Cook |
| | General | Carol Sindelir |
| | General | Brian & Amy Potts |
| | General | Ron & Betty Thompson |
| | General | Don & Sue Smith |
| | General | The Nesmoe Family |
| Gerry Buegler | General | Don & Sue Smith |
| | General | Jeff & Linda Bauers |
| Marilyn Hartwig | General | Betty Sorenson |

2025 First Lutheran Church Council

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| 2025 Council Officers | Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms | |
| President | Kay Schell | 1 st Term 2025-2027 |
| Vice President | Judy Humeniuk | 1 st Term mid-year fill in 2024-2026 |
| Secretary | Sue Smith | 3 rd Term(over)Jan. 2022-2024 |
| Treasurer | Mark Washburn | 1 st Term Jan.2024-2026 |
| Financial Secretary | Eileen Cordray | 1 st Term 2025-2027 |
| 2025 Members at Large | Terms are two years, with a max of two consecutive terms | |
| Education | Phyllis Paulsen | 3 rd Term(over) Jan. 2022-2024 |
| Worship and Music | Joyce Washburn | 2 nd Term Jan. 2024-2026 |
| Property | Jim Frohreich | 2 nd Term Jan. 2024-2026 |
| Evangelism | | |
| Stewardship | | |
| WELCA | Karen Hanson/Monica Buegler | |
| | | |

| 2026 First Lutheran Church Council Nominations | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 2026 Council Officers | Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms | |
| President | Kay Schell | 1 st Term 2025-2027 |
| Vice President | | |
| Secretary*2026 Parish Secretary | | |
| Treasurer | | |
| Financial Secretary | Eileen Cordray | 1 st Term 2025-2027 |
| 2026 Members at Large | Terms are two years with a max of two consecutive terms | |
| Education | | |
| Worship and Music | | |
| Property | | |
| Evangelism | | |
| Stewardship | | |
| WELCA | Karen Hanson/Monica Buegler | |
| | | |

Great Synod Get Together Attendees- Sat., March 21st at Calvary Luther Church in Bemidji

Join us on March 21, 2026 at Calvary Lutheran in Bemidji for *The Great NW MN Synod Get Together!*

This one-day event is all about reconnecting, learning, and sharing ministry. We'll enjoy fellowship, conference time, and breakout sessions—plus a little preview of our 2026 Synod Assembly theme, "Grace in a Digital Space."

Together we'll begin exploring what it means to live our faith in an increasingly virtual world.

- 1.
- 2.

Virtual Synod Assembly Attendee Nominations-Sat., May 30 online

- 1.
- 2.

First Lutheran Church Budget (2026)

| Category | 2025 Mission | 2025 Actual | % of 2025 Budget | 2026 Proposed Mission |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Administration | | | | |
| Admin: Bank Charges | \$200.00 | \$127.04 | 63.5% | \$200.00 |
| Admin: Miscellaneous | \$200.00 | \$57.43 | 28.7% | \$200.00 |
| Admin: Postage | \$75.00 | | 0.0% | \$75.00 |
| Administration Total | \$475.00 | \$184.47 | 38.8% | \$475.00 |
| God's House | | | | |
| God's House: Fuel | \$5,000.00 | \$3,409.58 | 68.2% | \$5,000.00 |
| God's House: Insurance & Worker's Comp | \$13,225.00 | \$11,601.40 | 87.7% | \$13,600.00 |
| God's House: Maintenance Service Salary | \$4,672.00 | \$4,478.89 | 95.9% | \$4,300.00 |
| God's House: Maintenance and Repair | \$5,000.00 | \$4,621.54 | 92.4% | \$6,000.00 |
| God's House: Snow Removal | \$2,500.00 | \$1,067.50 | 42.7% | \$2,500.00 |
| God's House: Tax | \$130.00 | \$150.00 | 115.4% | \$170.00 |
| God's House: Utilities | \$9,000.00 | \$5,731.12 | 63.7% | \$9,000.00 |
| God's House Total | \$39,527.00 | \$31,060.03 | 78.6% | \$40,570.00 |
| Outreach | | | | |
| Outreach: ELCA - Benevolence | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | 100.0% | \$10,000.00 |
| Parish | | | | |
| Total | at 39% of \$127,733.00 | | | at 40% of \$110,175.00 |
| First | \$49,816.00 | \$34,346.91 | 68.9% | \$44,070.00 |
| Worshipping God | | | | |
| Worshipping God: Altar Guild | \$200.00 | \$44.44 | 22.2% | \$200.00 |
| Worshipping God: Evangelism | \$200.00 | | 0.0% | \$200.00 |
| Worshipping God: Music Dept | \$5,000.00 | \$3,575.00 | 71.5% | \$4,500.00 |
| Worshipping God: NW Synod Assembly | \$1,000.00 | \$400.00 | 40.0% | \$500.00 |
| Total Worshipping God | \$6,400.00 | \$4,019.44 | 62.8% | \$5,400.00 |
| Budget Total | \$106,218.00 | \$79,610.85 | 74.95% | \$100,515.00 |