



# October 2025

**CO-CHAIRPERSONS:** Katie Jorgensen and Eric & Lisa Longnecker

**USHERING:**

Sunday, October 5 at 9:40 a.m.: Deb Stafford & Shelly Ehni

Sunday, October 12 at 9:40 a.m.: Stu & Vicky Richter

Sunday, October 19 at 9:40 a.m.: Ross and Melanie Homelvig family

Sunday, October 26 at 9:40 a.m.: Traci Harrington

*Please fill out the Usher Report and place in the offering plate.  
Usher duties are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.*

**GREETERS:**

Sunday, October 5 at 9:15 a.m.: Glenda Collier & Larry Danduran

Sunday, October 12 at 9:15 a.m.: Dennis & Luann Rimmereid

Sunday, October 19 at 9:15 a.m.: Tim & Dori Tollefson

Sunday, October 26 at 9:15 a.m.: Jordon Meier

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

Sunday, October 5 at 9:15 a.m.: Karen Anderson and MarJean Pfau

Sunday, October 12 at 9:15 a.m.: Jeanette Munson and Helen Duda

Sunday, October 19 at 9:15 a.m.: Duane & Kayla Schumacker family

Sunday, October 26 at 9:15 a.m.: Tiffany Munson

**PREPLANNED CONGREGATION MEAL: NONE**

**FUND:** Capital Campaign

*If you are unavailable on your assigned day, please use the group list that was mailed to you to find a replacement. If you are unsuccessful at finding a replacement, please notify a chairperson.*



## pastor's ponderings



We've been told this since our days in Sunday school: God calls us to give and God loves a cheerful giver. Our church's mission statement claims the same:

*Living out our faith in Jesus Christ, we strive to love all people by accepting unconditionally, giving joyfully, and caring faithfully.*

As we prepare for our annual Stewardship Sunday coming up on November 9th, I invite you to consider the messages in Scripture about giving.

**Offerings and Tithing**

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come (1 Corinthians 16:2).*

The faith practice of making a regular financial **offering** to our congregation is grounded in a "first fruits" philosophy. We might think of this regular giving as "business as usual." You pay the rent, you buy groceries and you contribute regularly to your church. It's what you do and who you are. Your generosity isn't an afterthought; it's part of your day-in-and-day-out joyful response as a child of God. These offerings first help to support our own church's ministries and local mission. We then share a portion—mission support—with our Eastern ND Synod, who then passes some of those funds on to the churchwide/national ministry of the ELCA, who then passes part of those funds on to ELCA international mission and justice work.

Sometimes we talk about our regular contribution to our local congregation as a **tithe**. This helps to differentiate between our financial commitment to our congregation and the special offerings we designate to specific/special causes and church funds.

**Alms**

*Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys (Luke 12:33).*

Alms are our compassionate, heartfelt response to the people Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25: those "least" of our sisters and brothers who are "less" in circumstance only and always our equal in their humanity.

Continued on page 5



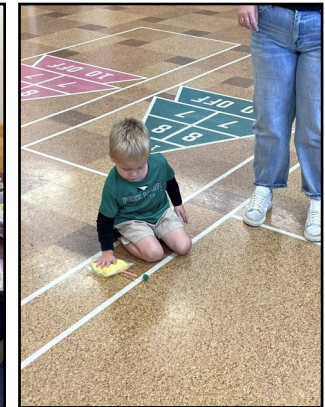
- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - Bailey Baumbach    | 19 <sup>th</sup> - Mya Cudworth       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Stephanie Grossman | 20 <sup>th</sup> - Marydean Weinmann  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Stacy Benz         | 21 <sup>st</sup> - Beverly Clifton    |
| Rynna Jorgensen                      | Neal Rud                              |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> - Shaun Reimche      | 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Ella Allmaras      |
| Rick Swenson                         | Ed Brecto                             |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> - Luann Johnson      | Carissa Johnson                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> - Kenny Thompson     | 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Teigan Alderman    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> - Bill Bachmeier     | Jim Wobbema                           |
| Donna Gedrose                        | 25 <sup>th</sup> - Bruce Gedrose      |
| Ann Smith                            | Betty Westby                          |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> - Kayce Shroyer     | 26 <sup>th</sup> - Daisy Richter      |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> - Debra Lommen      | 29 <sup>th</sup> - Easton Benz        |
| Joan Shroyer                         | 30 <sup>th</sup> - Allan Weisenburger |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> - Beau Baumbach     | 31 <sup>st</sup> - Duane Duda         |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> - Tim Tollefson     |                                       |

If you find your birthday is not listed, or is incorrect, let us know!

# LAUNCH Rally Day



Rally Day had the students learning about their gifts through STEM activities on Sunday, September 21st. They also helped to create the prayer chain that you see in hung in the church by writing people and things to prayer for on a piece of paper.



# FLC Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry Team  
September 14, 2025

The Women's Ministry Team met on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 11:15 a.m. In attendance: Kristen Allmaras, Allison Pfeiffer, Marydean Weinmann, Sharon Whitmer, Katie Jorgensen, Pastor Amy Kippen and Amy Perleberg. Absent: Michelle Pfeiffer, Ashley Fleming and Nan Taverna

Metigoshe Fall Women's Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, October 30 through Saturday, November 1. The team spent the meeting time finalizing all the plans for the retreat. It is going to be a wonderful time spent together in faith, fellowship and fun!

A fall event was discussed briefly, and a few ideas were brought forth. The team will plan something once the retreat is finished. The team agreed on covering the cost for initial purchases of food for funerals by the Helping Hands groups, so food can be on hand in the kitchen.

The meeting was adjourned.  
Amy Perleberg, Secretary



**Sunday, October 5th**  
Leah Bullinger & Adison Bullinger

**Sunday, October 12th**  
Jace Ystaas & Casey Ystaas

**Sunday, October 19th**  
Evan Hultgren & Auggie Meier

**Sunday, October 26th**  
Noah Sorensen & William Jorgensen

## By the Numbers

ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
September 3 - 5	\$ 120.00
September 7 - 98	\$ 2,840.00
September 10 - 2	\$ 0.00
September 14 - 79	\$ 9,365.00
September 17 - 10	\$ 0.00
September 21 - 112	\$ 2,300.00
Vanco MTD	\$ 550.98

*Weekly Offering Needed to Meet  
Budget \$3,430.00*

### YEAR-TO-DATE

**(As of August 31, 2025)**

BUDGET:	\$ 118,856.66
EXPENSES:	\$ 116,965.23
OFFERING:	\$ 107,581.15

### SPECIAL ACCOUNTS (SAVINGS)

#### DESIGNATED FUNDS

Property Fund:	\$32,098.42
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$796.64
Music Fund:	\$2,998.01
Budget Reserve:	\$18,507.36
Thrivent Choice:	\$994.00
Noisy Offering:	\$1,168.34
FLC Men's Group:	\$2,075.05
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$91,915.27
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,771.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35)



### October (Group 5)

David & Karen Anderson  
Elliott & Beth Belquist family  
Glenda Collier & Larry Danduran  
Helen Duda  
Kip & Shelly Ehni  
Traci Harrington  
Ross & Melanie Homelvig family  
Cory & Katie Jorgensen family  
Bev Lesmeister  
Eric & Lisa Longnecker  
Jordon Meier  
Tommy & Jeanette Munson  
Justin & Tiffany Munson  
Jeff & MarJean Pfau  
Stu & Vicky Richter  
Dennis & Luann Rimmeroid  
Duane & Kayla Schumacker family  
Nick & Katlyn Smith family  
Tim & Dori Tollefson



Reminder that Red Willow has a Thrift Store in Finley. Be sure to stop by!

Also, remember that Pastor Amy will be happy to bring your donated items to Finley. Please drop your donations off in her storage shed behind the parsonage any time!



# Radio Ministry



## Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

- Oct. 5: IMO Larry "Buck" Comer & Elsie Comer by Deb Wobbema family  
 Oct. 12: IMO Marion Omoth & Kathy Omoth Bonderson by Milton Omoth  
 Oct. 19: IMO Eldon & Betty Clelland by Jake Clelland family  
 Oct. 26: IHO Jim's birthday by Ann Wobbema and family

## CHURCH NEWS

- ◆ **BAPTISMS:**
- ◆ Bryson James Gehrtz
- ◆ **WEDDINGS:**
- ◆ **FUNERALS:**
- ◆ LaDonna Keller
- ◆ Betty Georgeson
- ◆ **TRANSFERS:**



## October 2025

Amy Perleberg  
 And  
 Janine Anderson

## Fall Turkey Supper Sunday, Nov. 9th

- 13 & over \$15
- 6-12 years \$5
- Under 6 Free
- Family Rate \$40



Delivery Available for \$5 fee from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Call 947-2478 after 3:30 pm on November 9th.

**4:30 - 6:30 pm**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
**436 1st Ave. N., New Rockford**



## Faith Stepping Stones

Marking Milestones  
 from Cradle to Graduation

### Upcoming Classes and Blessings

**FSS3: My Bible Class** will be held on October 5th from 1-4 pm for third graders and their parents.

**FSS3: My Bible Blessing** will take place during worship on October 26th worship.

**Nominating Committee** has been finalized with all boards appointing 1 representative.

**Fall Supper Committee:** Council representatives assigned: Bruce and Katie.

Meeting was closed with prayer and blessing. Motion by Jon to adjourn. Second by Colleen. Motion carries.

Submitted by:  
Christina Anderson, Secretary

# Reformation Sunday

## Reformation Sunday: Why It Matters

Each year on the last Sunday in October, ELCA Lutherans celebrate **Reformation Sunday**, remembering **October 31, 1517**, when **Martin Luther** posted his 95 Theses in Wittenberg. His call for reform sparked the **Protestant Reformation**, emphasizing that we are saved by **grace through faith**, and that **Scripture** is the foundation of our faith.

Reformation Sunday is not just about the past—it's about how God is still at work renewing the church today. As we **wear red** and sing *A Mighty Fortress*, we give thanks for our Lutheran heritage and look forward with hope, asking:

“What is God reforming in us today?”



**SUNDAY**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**October 5:** Gail Weisenburger, sound; Luann Thompson, lay reader, Shelly Ehni, communion coordinator  
**October 12:** Cherry Heinz, sound; Mitch Bjerke, lay reader.  
**October 19:** Mitch Bjerke, sound; Whit Burkhardtsmeier, lay reader; Nancy Ludwig, communion coordinator  
**October 26:** Kevin Cartwright, sound; Marydean Weinmann, lay reader

Continued from page 1

This is our most personal and spontaneous kind of giving in response to people in need. Think about the homeless man you might see in a day trip to Fargo, or the family in our congregation whose home was lost during a fire. Our outreach makes God's love for them feel very real and very immediate.

### Time and Talent

*For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*  
(1 Corinthians 3:9)

It's also important to remember that when we focus exclusively on giving in terms of money alone, we lose sight of the bigger picture. God calls us to be generous in all areas our lives and invites us to explore the many opportunities to share ourselves through our time and talent. We offer of ourselves for the good of the other, for the good of the church, for the good of God's kingdom.

### Living Our Mission 2026

Included in this newsletter is our annual Time & Talent form. This is our yearly opportunity to really consider what roles God is calling us to fill in our church. Please plan to fill out this form and return on November 9th, Stewardship Sunday.



**August 13th, 2025 Council Minutes  
NOT PUBLISHED LAST MONTH**

Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by Colleen Semmens.

**Present:**

Council: Colleen Semmens – Vice President, Jon Johnson - Treasurer, Christina Anderson - Secretary, Katie Jorgensen (voice only) – Office Administrator, Pastor Amy Kippen

Absent: Bruce Hirschert - President

**Board representatives**

Lay Ministry – Fern Schuster

Board of Education – Katie Jorgensen

Property – Rick Swenson

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Jon to approve the preliminary agenda. Second by Pastor Amy. All in favor with one absent, motion carries.

**Reports:**

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Amy reported on worship and ministry highlights. Backpack Sunday is scheduled for August 24, with blessing of backpacks during worship. Fall planning is underway, with LAUNCH and Rally Day scheduled for September 21. Pastor also noted the upcoming "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 7, though Council consensus was to revisit for next year with earlier planning. She expressed gratitude for the continued work of the boards and emphasized the importance of council visits to boards for maintaining communication.

**Board of Education**

Katie reported on VBS held earlier this month and upcoming fall programming. Sunday School and Confirmation registration night will be held on September 3. Rally Day/LAUNCH will begin on September 21, with activities to engage children and youth in the fall kickoff. Discussion took place around Rally Day format and ways to involve parents. The board is working on ensuring adequate teaching volunteers and reviewing curriculum materials for the upcoming program year.

*Continued on page 7*

**Property / Stewardship Report:** Rick reported the parsonage deck is near completion. Basement window replacement scheduled. Exploring smart thermostat options. Front tree to be secured, carpet cleaner to be ordered. Safe room needs remain under discussion. Rick will serve on the fall supper committee; Cory Longnecker will serve on nominating committee. Council directed secretary to draft letter to lumberyard owners regarding hazardous tree near parsonage lot.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion by Pastor to approve minutes of August 13, 2025, as presented. Second by Christina. All in favor, motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report received. Treasurer noted \$21,000 in checking. Expenses ~\$9,000 behind income; offerings down ~\$2,000 compared to prior year. Motion by Christina to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Colleen. All in favor, motion carries.

**Office Admin Report:** Katie reported Cards of Care. Request received from Lutheran Home Auxiliary for support of Fall Festival.

**Old Business:** Evaluation Forms: New evaluation format was reviewed which includes an evaluation that is specific for each board to complete at their next meeting and will be utilized to complete the final version. Evaluation structure: Boards will complete staff-specific evaluations. President and Vice President to coordinate overall staff and pastor evaluations. Pastor and Office Admin to complete self-evaluation to be utilized in the evaluation. Motion by Jon to approved new staff evaluation forms, second by Christina (Pastor, Office Administrator, Custodian) for use in 2025. Red Willow Van usage: Motion by Jon to pay Red Willow Ministries \$2000 to cover their auto insurance deductible, should any damage occur to the vehicle when FLC is borrowing it. Second by Christina. Motion carries.

**New Business:** Extra Benevolence: Motion by Christina to designate September benevolence to Lutheran Home Auxiliary. Second by Jon. Motion carries.

**Stewardship Leadership:** Council discussed stewardship responsibilities. Consensus to form a Stewardship Committee (3–4 members) that will meet quarterly to broaden engagement in time, talents, and treasures. Nominating Committee will recruit slate of candidates.

**Pastor's Insurance:** Council reviewed Portico benefit options (HSA vs. FSA/High Deductible vs. Co-pay options). Pastor Amy to provide preference. Special meeting or email may be required prior to October 1 deadline to approve 2026 plan.

*Continued on page 12*



### **First Lutheran Church Council Minutes September 10, 2025**

Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hirschert.

**Present Council:** Bruce Hirschert – President, Colleen Semmens – Vice President, Jon Johnson - Treasurer, Christina Anderson - Secretary, Katie Jorgensen – Office Administrator, Pastor Amy Kippen

**Board representatives:** Lay Ministry – Fern Schuster, Board of Education – Katie Jorgensen, Property – Rick Swenson

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Coleen to approve the preliminary agenda. Second by Pastor Amy. All in favor, motion carries.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Amy reported on worship and ministry highlights. Two nursing home worship services, one baptism, and one pastoral counsel session since last meeting. She participated in women's retreat planning, continues to lead Grief-Share (four of 13 sessions complete), held Backpack Blessing, LAUNCH teacher training, and a Luther League advisor meeting. Community involvement included Life of Hope event with Eddy County Community Cares. She continues her work with EaND Lay Minister Mentor group and Red Willow Bible Camp Board. Attended EaND Synod Theological Fall Conference.

**Board of Education Report:** Katie reported preparations for Rally Day on September 21. Parent meeting scheduled September 14. Carissa will serve as the fall supper committee representative; LaShane as Nominating Committee representative. Finances are on track.

**Lay Ministry / Evangelism Report:** Fern reported Lay Ministry discussed involving confirmed youth on boards for leadership development. Further governance discussion will be needed. Christmas Eve services planned for 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Reviewed new member orientation process with Pastor Amy. Fall Supper planning underway. Kathy will serve on the nominating committee and Karen O. will serve on the fall supper committee. Craft event scheduled following Fall Faith Festival.

Continue on page 11

### **Lay Ministry / Evangelism**

Fern shared updates from Lay Ministry. Cards of Care remain an ongoing ministry. Lay Ministry continues to coordinate home communion delivery. The board suggested adding greeters to the helping hands monthly duties. Discussion included supporting the fall supper by ensuring lay ministry volunteers are represented. The board also noted the need to encourage congregation participation in worship leadership roles.

### **Property / Stewardship**

Rick Swenson submitted a Capital Campaign Fund Request on behalf of the Property Board for the cost of the parsonage deck. Property is also monitoring routine maintenance needs and fall preparations.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Motion by Jon to approve the minutes of June 11, 2025, meeting as presented. Second by Christina. All in favor with one absent, motion carries.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Report received. Motion by Christina to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Pastor Amy. All in favor with one absent, motion carries.

### **Correspondence:**

Thank-yous and routine correspondence were noted. No action required.

Cards of Care:

Council affirmed continuing Cards of Care. Several names were lifted in prayer.

### **Old Business:**

**Extra Benevolence:** Extra benevolence was given to Weisenburger family to help with Austin's medical costs. All in favor with one absent, motion carries.

**Continuing Education Carry-Over:** Per Treasurer, continuing education carry-over fund is recommended to pay out to the pastor at end of year for future use. Katie presented that per EaND Synod continuing ed funds can and should carry over for three years.

**Board of Education new member:** The board of education voted and added Abby Nystrom as a new member of their board. The council ratified Board of Education's decision.

**God's Work, Our Hands (ELCA churchwide program)** – September 7: Council discussed options and timing for a congregation-wide service activity. Given short lead time, consensus to revisit for next program year with earlier planning (target June agenda review due to no July council meeting).

**Fall Supper** – November 9: Council discussed date viability, volunteer capacity, committee, and menu. Revenue last year was \$3,027.75.

Each board will appoint two representatives at its September board meeting to serve on the Fall Supper Planning Team

All board members are expected to work the event.

Planning team to finalize menu and planning.



**Tree Removal in Empty Lot Near Parsonage:** Motion by Christina to ask the Property Board to approach the lumberyard (lot owner) regarding removal of the cottonwood tree on the adjacent empty lot due to frequent lightning strikes, branch-fall risk, and neighborhood impact. Second by Jon. All in favor with one absent, motion carries.

**Evaluation Forms:** Tabled to a future meeting to allow Pastor Amy, Christina, and Katie to bring draft forms/process for all staff to the Council for final evaluation procedure approval.

**Upcoming Dates (FYI):**

- Aug. 24 – Backpack Sunday
- Sept. 3 – Children & Youth registration night
- Sept. 21 – Rally Day for LAUNCH

**Prayer & Lord's Prayer:**

Council shared prayer concerns and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Jon to adjourn. Second by Christina. All in favor with one absent, motion carries.

Submitted by:

Christina Anderson, Secretary

## September Memorials & Honorariums

**Capital Campaign Fund**

IMO Joyce Starke  
by Al & Gail Weisenburger  
IMO LaDonna Keller  
by David & Patti Gehrtz  
IMO MaryLou Krause  
by Al & Gail Weisenburger

**Youth Fund**

IMO LaDonna Keller  
by Josh & Trista Langley

**Music Fund**

IMO LaDonna Keller  
by Tim & Amy Perleberg  
IMO MaryLou Krause  
by Tim & Amy Perleberg  
IMO Betty Georgeson  
by Tim & Amy Perleberg  
IMO Betty Georgeson  
by David & Patti Gehrtz

## Thank you Pastor Amy!

### Pastor Appreciation Day October 12th, 2025

Pastor Appreciation Day, originally known as Clergy Appreciation Day, was founded in 1992 and is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October.

The holiday was created to truly recognize all the work that pastors do daily at least once a year. It allows congregants to express their appreciation in ways such as supporting their pastor, finding ways to meet special needs of their pastor, or recognizing all the emotions that come with the position.

In fact, the entire month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month.



Pictured holding Kolbie Anderson  
on her baptism day.



### Contact Info

Did you move to a new home?  
Did you get a new phone number?  
Did you change your job and now have a new email address?  
Please be sure to provide any new info to the church office. We appreciate it!