



November 2025

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Whitney Burkhardtsmeier, Kate Langley, & Laura Reis

USHERING:

Sunday, November 2 at 9:40 a.m.: Greg & Janine Anderson
Sunday, November 9 at 9:40 a.m.: Scott & Nan Taverna
Sunday, November 16 at 9:40 a.m.: Rick & Leona Eversvik
Sunday, November 23 at 9:40 a.m.: Evan & Brianna Guler family
Sunday, November 30 at 9:40 a.m.: Michelle Pfeiffer

*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, November 2 at 9:15 a.m.: Carmen Ludwig
Sunday, November 9 at 9:15 a.m.: Austin & Kate Langley family
Sunday, November 16 at 9:15 a.m.: Sharon Whitmer
Sunday, November 23 at 9:15 a.m.: Jake & Whit Burkhardtsmeier family
Sunday, November 30 at 9:15 a.m.: LuAnn Meehan & Taylor Alderman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, November 2 at 9:15 a.m.: Patti Gehrtz and Melanie Quinton
Sunday, November 9 at 9:15 a.m.: Glenn & Dusti Nystrom family
Sunday, November 16 at 9:15 a.m.: Jordan & Laura Reis family
Sunday, November 23 at 9:15 a.m.: Melony Allmaras
Sunday, November 30 at 9:15 a.m.: Terah Weisenburger family

PREPLANNED CONGREGATION MEAL:

Sunday, November 23rd – Mission Partner Sunday – serve & clean up

FUND: Property Fund

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 co-chairperson.



pastor's ponderings

November is the month when people tend to list the things they're thankful for—probably because of THANKSgiving. Some even post daily gratitude lists on social media. This is something I've never done. Don't get me wrong—it's good to be thankful, and I am thankful for many things—I guess I just don't think I can commit to following through. Besides, after friends and family, including my church family, gratitude lists often turn to material things which feels to me a bit trite.

But I'm not trying to be the Scrooge or Grinch of Thanksgiving. Gratitude is good—the Bible tells us so! 1st Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Notice that the verse says *in* all circumstances, not *for* all circumstances. I think that is an important distinction. We should be thankful even when life doesn't go as planned or when something bad happens. We don't have to be thankful for the hardship, but we should be thankful in the hardship.

We all know that troubles come—people get sick, things break, relationships struggle. It's difficult to find gratitude in those moments, but that's exactly where faith invites us to it. We're not thankful *for* the pain—those things aren't from God—but we can be thankful *in* those times, because God remains with us through them.

Even when life is uncertain, God's love, mercy, and compassion never leave us. God provides through the resurrection of Jesus and power and presence of the Holy Spirit. For that, all of THAT, I give thanks. Now THAT, I might post on social media! Happy Thanksgiving!



November

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 st - Meah Gehrtz | 11 th - Kristy O'Connor |
| 2 nd - Lisa Longnecker | 12 th - Heather Bullinger |
| Christian Nystrom | 14 th - Logan Munson |
| Ava Peterson | 15 th - Nathan Holzwarth |
| Drake Skogen | 16 th - Avolt Baumbach |
| 3 rd - Paul Hungness | Lauren Pederson |
| Curtis Larson | 18 th - Sandy Koepplin |
| Riley Longnecker | Avery Weber |
| Scott Taverna | 19 th - Brekken Zeltinger |
| 4 th - Elliott Belquist | 23 rd - Wade Burkhardtmeier |
| 6 th - Jacob Lommen | Marlys Harrison |
| Jean Schuster | Chad Wobbema |
| Roger Topp | 24 th - Sophie Skogen |
| 7 th - Tucker Longnecker | Michael Thompson |
| 8 th - Judy Belquist | 25 th - Gina Clifton |
| Richard Carlson | 27 th - Lucas Langley |
| Gary Weigum | Kristi Swenson |
| 10 th - Kalli Anderson | 28 th - Brody Weisenburger |
| Mitch Bjerke | 30 th - Keaton Cudworth |
| Bradyn Collier | |
| Joey Wobbema | |

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



Top Left - Around the campfire after s'mores.



Top Right - On Tommy Turtle in Bottineau, ND.



Left - Makaya, Hannah, and Dylan still in Gaga ball as Luca looks on.



Right - At the Geographical Center of North America in Rugby, ND.

Friday Night Live was an event held by Metigoshe Ministries at the Christian Center. The girls that attended were: Hannah Wobbema, Rynna Jorgensen, Grace Pister, Kaliyah Whitetail, Dylan Cudworth, Ashtyn Lies, Luca Schumacher, and Makaya Heskin. Pastor Amy and Katie Jorgensen chaperoned the girls. It was a weekend of faith and fellowship!

Friday Night Live



Jumping for joy at Camp Metigoshe!



The chaperones!



Rynna and Kaliyah insisted on going in the lake!

By the Numbers

ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
October 1 - 15	\$ 120.00
October 5 - 106	\$ 4,584.00
October 8 - 15	\$ 60.00
October 12 - 122	\$ 6,872.00
October 15 - 9	\$ 140.00
October 19 - 80	\$ 1,370.00
Vanco MTD	\$ 550.63

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

YEAR-TO-DATE

(As of September 30, 2025)

BUDGET:	\$ 133,713.74
EXPENSES:	\$ 131,345.10
OFFERING:	\$ 125,145.68

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS (SAVINGS)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Property Fund:	\$26,288.34
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$796.64
Music Fund:	\$3,038.01
Budget Reserve:	\$18,507.36
Thrivent Choice:	\$994.00
Noisy Offering:	\$1,348.34
FLC Men's Group:	\$1,225.05
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$81,239.51
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,771.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35)



November (Group 6)

Taylor Alderman & James Marsaa family
David & Melony Allmaras
Greg & Janine Anderson
Jake & Whit Burkhardtsmeier family
Richard Carlson
Rick & Leona Eversvik
Mandy Fandrich
David & Patti Gehrtz
Evan & Brianna Guler family
Jon & Cherry Heinz
Karen Hovey
Jon & Carissa Johnson family
Austin & Kate Langley family
Robert & Carment Ludwig
LuAnn Meehan
Glenn & Dusti Nystrom family
Michelle Pfeiffer
Melanie Quinton family
Jordan & Laura Reis family
Scott & Nan Taverna
Terah Weisenburger family
Sharon Whitmer
Deb Wobbema
LaShane Wobbema family



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!



Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

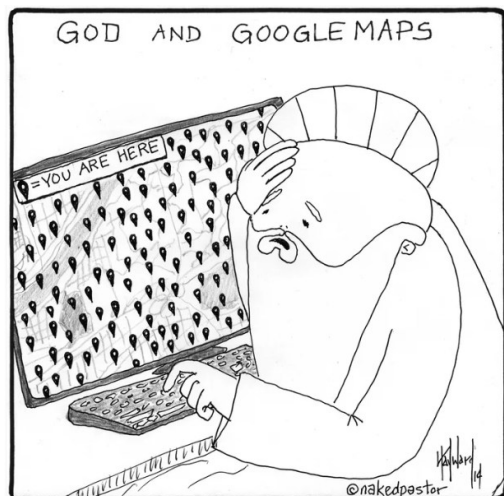
Nov. 2: IMO Delbert & Janice Clelland by their family

Nov. 9: IMO Norman Hirschert by Sharon Hirschert and family

Nov. 16: IMO Lyle & Helen, Marion, Kathy, and Nate by Kevin & Karen Omoth

Nov. 23: IMO Merv & Jeff Bjornson by Bev Bjornson

Nov. 30: IMO Tillie Collier by Tyler & Sydney Carr family



"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." — Augustine



Thrivent Choice Dollars

With the end of the year coming fast, it is time to think about Thrivent Choice Dollars! There will be one more allocation at the year's end into your account, but you can move the ones on hand at any time. You do have to designate Choice Dollars **EVERY YEAR**, as your choice does not carry over from one year to the next. Choice Dollars for 2025 must be moved by March 30th, 2026, or they will be lost to First Lutheran.

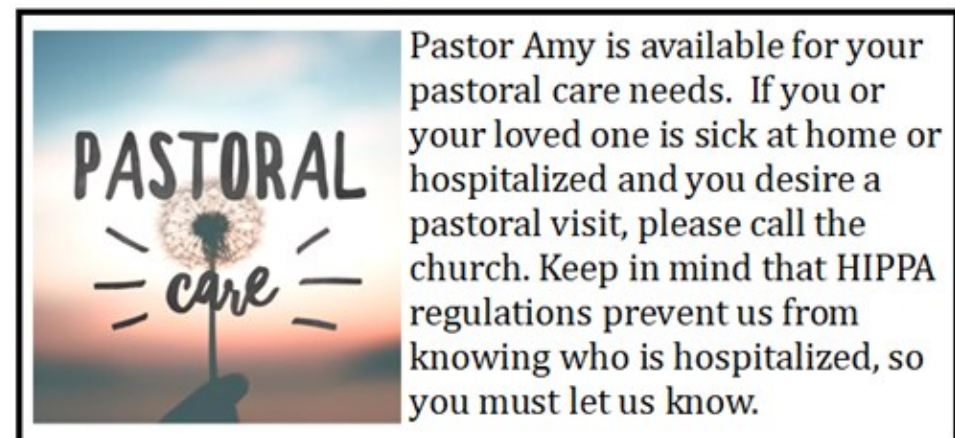
If you have any questions, Thrivent's 1-800-847-4836 number offers great support.

Thank you for the support you have shown our congregation this past year. First Lutheran Thrivent funds will be distributed in December to any of our church groups who apply. Pick up an application in the church office.

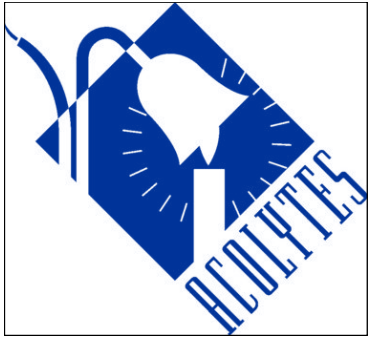


November

Vikki Cartwright
&
Sheila Brown



Pastor Amy is available for your pastoral care needs. If you or your loved one is sick at home or hospitalized and you desire a pastoral visit, please call the church. Keep in mind that HIPPA regulations prevent us from knowing who is hospitalized, so you must let us know.



Sunday, November 2nd
Haley Thompson & Dylan Cudworth

Sunday, November 9th
Ella Radke & Makaya Heskin

Sunday, November 16th
Jack Skogen & Livi Skogen

Sunday, November 23rd
Christian Nystrom & Hudson Myhre

Sunday, November 30th
Evan Hultgren & Auggie Meier

Memorials & Honorariums

Capital Campaign Fund

IMO Betty Georgeson
by Al & Gail Weisenburger
IMO Wes Lindstrom
by Al & Gail Weisenburger
IMO Roy Nielsen
by Al & Gail Weisenburger
IMO MaryLou Krause
by Robert & Carmen Ludwig
IMO Roy Nielsen
by Greg & Janine Anderson

Radio Fund

IMO Betty Georgeson
by Richard & Vicky Ryan

Youth Fund

IMO MaryLou Krause
by Deb Stafford
IMO Betty Georgeson
by Deb Stafford
IMO Daniel Becvar
by Deb Stafford
IMO LaDonna Keller
by Johny & Theresa Carlson
IMO MaryLou Krause
by Paul & Janel Fortney

Music Fund

IMO Betty Georgeson
by Jim & Judy Belquist



Appreciation from Pastor Amy for Pastor Appreciation!

Oh my goodness gracious! Literally!
Thank you from the bottom of my heart
to the Lay Ministry & Evangelism Board
for such a lovely open house. And
thank you to all who attended.
I appreciate you!

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



November 2: Kenny Thompson, sound; Nancy Ludwig, lay reader; Tammy Longnecker, communion coordinator

November 9: Mitch Bjerke, sound; Jon Johnson, lay reader.

November 16: Cherry Heinz, sound; Allmaras family, lay reader; Deb Stafford, communion coordinator

November 23: Gail Weisenburger, sound; Marilyn Gedrose, lay reader

November 30: Kevin Cartwright, sound; Judy Belquist, lay reader



PARSONAGE DECK COMPLETED!

After months of planning and months of waiting for an available contractor, the new deck on the parsonage is finished! It is made from composite decking, it is sure to last for decades to come. This project was made possible by your generous gifts to the Capital Campaign.





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

Present Council: Bruce Hirschert – President, Jon Johnson - Treasurer, Katie Jorgensen – Office Administrator, Pastor Amy Kippen

Board representatives: Lay Ministry – Fern Schuster, Board of Education – Carissa Johnson, Property – Rick Swenson

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Amy reported on worship and ministry highlights. Two nursing home worship services, one baptism, four pastoral care visits, one pastoral counsel session, and two funerals since last meeting with a burial upcoming on Friday. She participated in women's retreat planning, continues to lead GriefShare (four of 13 sessions complete), held LAUNCH parent meeting, and a Luther League meeting. She continues her work with EaND Lay Minister Mentor group and Red Willow Bible Camp Board. Attended EaND Synod Lay Mentor Retreat and a Red Willow board retreat.

Board of Education Report: Carissa reported LAUNCH is underway. Finances are on track. The Board completed the staff evaluation forms for Pastor Amy and Katie, as a part of the Council's annual staff evaluation process.

Lay Ministry / Evangelism Report: Fern reported Lay Ministry discussed pastoral care, Christmas cards to shut ins, and a review of the Faith Family Food and Fun Festival. The fall festival will replace worship in the park and become an annual event. The Board completed the staff evaluation forms for Pastor Amy and Katie, as a part of the Council's annual staff evaluation process.

Property / Stewardship Report: Rick reported the parsonage deck is completed. They will not be installing smart thermometers at this time. Rick is working with Bruce G. from the lumber yard regarding the down tree branches by the parsonage. Furnace filters will be changed this month. The Board completed the staff evaluation forms for Pastor Amy and Katie, as a part of the Council's annual staff evaluation process.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Pastor Amy to approve minutes of September 10th, 2025, as presented. Second by Jon. All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Report received. Treasurer noted \$25,000 in checking without middle of the month bills paid. Expenses are \$6,000 behind income; offerings are up compared to prior year. Motion by Pastor Amy to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Bruce. All in favor, motion carries.

Office Admin Report: Katie reported Cards of Care. There was no correspondence received.

Old Business: Pastor's insurance plan was approved via email vote. Katie gave an updated estimated cost and will complete the online open enrollment. The council brainstormed names for open leadership positions for 2026 and the names will be given to the nominating committee.

New Business: Extra Benevolence: Motion by Pastor Amy to designate October benevolence to Kathleen Eggermont family for the medical costs that have arisen for their youngest son. Second by Jon. Motion carries.

Advent Offering: Council discussed advent offering designations. A motion was made by Bruce, seconded by Jon, to split the Advent special offering evenly between Red Willow Ministries and ELCA Good Gifts Campaign. Motion carries.

Youth representatives on boards: This was tabled for the November meeting.

Annual Meeting report due December 15th: This was a reminder for all to have their reports ready by the deadline. Katie will also put reminder in the newsletter.

Men's ministry finances: The men's ministry pays for children's Bibles (preschool and third grade) and summer Bible camp scholarships. There is currently no source of income for the Men's Ministry account, as the waffle supper is no longer being held and the fall supper proceeds are being designated to the capital campaign. It was decided that a letter will be sent to all FLC men in January, asking for an annual gift of approximately \$25 to fund Bibles and Bible camp scholarships. This brings the funding for men's ministry in line with how we currently fund women's ministry at our church.

Year-end giving statements: Council discussed the cost of mailing our year-end giving statements and the fact that most people are not able to itemize their church donations on their taxes, so do not use their statement. It was decided that year-end giving statements will not be mailed out. They will be placed in the church mailboxes, and remain there until the tax deadline date, when they will be shredded.

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

Submitted by:
Katie Jorgensen, Office Administrator