

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## 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,



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

# EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD

## Our Life Together: 2025 Annual Report

### Being The Church Together

*"For just as we have many members in one body and not all the members have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another".*

This scripture text continues to be both my prayer and vision for us as a synod and the Body of Christ: that we are church together. Or as our EaND strategic plan names: to be radically connected as the people of God.

In this radically connected way of being church, each entity (individual, congregation, ministry, synod, churchwide) is deeply rooted in collaboration and shared ministry, while also having distinct expressions of ministry. You as congregations are called to be local communities of worship while you provide direct service and care[BL1] to your communities. Synods are hubs for resourcing and convening, providing support and accompaniment for leaders, ministries, and congregations. Our Churchwide Organization is rightly positioned to steward our global witness and hunger and disaster initiatives. And because we are interconnected, you get to fully claim the ministry of global mission and disaster response as YOUR ministry, done by YOUR church.

This radical connection also means that there is ministry that can only be done together. The candidacy process for new pastors and deacons has touchpoints in each expression. Each part needs to play their role in supporting and equipping new leaders in the church. Radical connection also means that we commit to supporting neighboring congregations, developing new partnerships, attending synod and conference events, and sharing our resources for the sake of the flourishing of the entire Body of Christ.

My invitation to you in this coming year is to lean in even more. I invite you to take one step as an individual, ministry, and congregation further towards connection and community, whether that's with another congregation, a partner ministry, or a synod event. And when you do, share the story so we can celebrate and learn with you.

With gratitude for your ministry,

Bishop Tessa

### Ministry Spotlight

#### Connecting with Congregations

As the landscape of congregational leadership continues to change, a gap in connectivity was identified: the majority of synod communications were centered around a congregation having a called or contracted leader, which is no longer the reality for all. In 2024-2025 three initiatives were introduced to live into our commitment to **"radically connect the people of God"**:

- Re-introducing a mailed, paper newsletter
- A series of listening sessions with congregation members who do not have a called/contracted leader.
- A part-time Congregational Relator to connect with those congregations and parishes.



### 2025 By the Numbers

- 140 ministry visits
- 45 committee/team meetings
- 32 conference gatherings
- 4 ordinations
- 10 installations
- 33 learning and equipping events
- \$352,000 anticipated mission support shared with our Churchwide Organization
- \$162,900 grants received from our Churchwide Organization

## Mission and Priorities

United in Christ, we dare to invite, connect, and act.

Invest in robust, diverse, and well-equipped leadership for each ministry

Radically connecting the people of God

Living with extravagant grace as the body of Christ

Flourishing as a vital church into the future

## Radically Connecting the People of God

### Ministry Together in 2025

- Congregational Relator and intentional connection with congregations without a minister
- Launch of new SLM Cohort
- Retired Rostered Ministers Brunch
- 1<sup>st</sup> Third of Life Ministry Brunch
- Sunday worship, conference gatherings, council meetings
- Synod Authorized Minister & Mentor Retreat
- Fall Theological Conference
- Synod Assembly
- Pizza & Possibilities Events
- Interim Network
- Castaway Youth Retreat
- Worship Workshop Road trip
- Newsletter & Synod Communications
- Synod Council and Synod Teams
- Technology Survey & Analysis

### Looking ahead to 2026

- Retired Rostered Ministers Brunch (west location)
- Post First Call Cohort
- Professional Development Day
- Stewardship Planning Day
- Conference Caucuses
- Joint Theological Day
- Youth Road Trip (led by Campus Ministry)
- Congregations gathering for weekly worship
- New partnership and parish agreements
- Holy Innovation Grants
- Resurrection Fund Grants
- Vital Church Conversation Events



# 2026 Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda

## ***Mission Statement:***

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

- A) Opening: Mission Statement & Prayer
- B) Approval of the Agenda
- C) Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes ..... pages 1-2
- D) Thank 2025 Elected Leaders
- E) Ministry Reports
  - 1) Statistics ..... pages 4-6
  - 2) President ..... page 7
  - 3) Pastor ..... pages 8
  - 4) Congregation Secretary ..... pages 9-10
  - 5) Board of Education ..... pages 11-12
  - 6) Property/Stewardship Board ..... page 13
  - 7) Lay Ministry/Evangelism Board ..... pages 14-15
  - 8) Women's Ministry Leadership Team ..... page 16
  - 9) Thrivent Choice Advocate Team ..... page 17
  - 10) Hunger Free Food Pantry Coordinator ..... pages 18-19
  - 11) Holy Experiment Report by Council ..... page 20
- F) Financial Reports
  - 1) Auditing Committee (Treasurer Oral Report)
  - 2) 2025 General Fund Financials ..... page 21
  - 3) 2025 Designated Fund Financials ..... pages 22-23
  - 4) Annual Giving Range ..... page 24
  - 5) Sunday School & Luther League ..... page 25
  - 6) Radio Fund ..... page 26
  - 7) Women's Ministry ..... page 27
  - 8) Hunger Free Food Pantry ..... page 28
  - 9) First Lutheran Foundation ..... pages 29-30
- G) Report of the Nominating Committee ..... page 33
  - 1) Officer Election by written ballot
  - 2) Election of all other positions
- H) Old Business
- I) New Business
  - 1) EaND Synod Bishop Nomination
  - 2) Church Council Holy Experiment Update (page 30)
  - 3) Capital Campaign "God's House, Our Home" Update
  - 4) Model Constitution Updates
  - 5) Approval of the 2026 Budget (pages 31-32)
  - 6) Foundation Distributions
  - 7) Officer Election Results
- J) Installation of 2026 Church Leadership
- K) State of the Church Address
- L) Adjournment
- M) Table Grace

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEW ROCKFORD, ND**

**Date and Time:** January 26, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** First Lutheran Church's Sanctuary

A quorum was met for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hirchert with the reading of First Lutheran Church's Mission Statement and prayer.

Kristi Swenson made a motion to accept the proposed agenda, Colleen Semmens seconded the motion, the motion passed. Deb Belquist made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2024 congregational meeting as presented, Katie Jorgensen seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Pastor Amy thanked all out-going church leadership personnel. For her State of the Church address, Pastor Amy asked all members to read the letter from Bishop Eaton at the front of the report and reflect on her message.

**Ministry Reports:** President Hirchert asked if there were any corrections or additions to any of the ministry reports. As there were none, Kristi Swenson made a motion to accept all ministry reports as presented, Fern Schuster seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Financial Reports:** Financial Treasurer Jon Johnson presented the financial reports for 2024. The general fund has an ending balance of \$32,194.62. The auditing committee report showed all financial information was correct for 2024. Rick Swenson made a motion to accept all financial reports as presented, Sharon Whitmer seconded the motion, the motion passed. Jon gave thanks on behalf of the FL Church Council for the generous support throughout 2024 to cover all yearly expenses.

**Election Report:** The 2025 FLC Executive Board nominees were presented to the congregation by nominating committee member Becky Kjos. President Hirchert asked for nominations from the floor for any positions. As there were no nominations from the floor, a written ballot for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer was handed out to all voting members.

The remaining election report for the positions of Auditors, Stewardship/Church Property Board, Evangelism/Lay Ministry Board, Education Board, Delegates to the Synod Assembly, Nominating Committee, First Lutheran Foundation, Delegate to Red Willow Bible Camp and Delegates to the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd was presented to the congregation by Becky Kjos. President Hirchert asked for any nominations from the floor. As there were no nominations from the floor, Kristi Swenson made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot, Jon Johnson seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- There was no old business for discussion.

**New Business:**

- **2025 Budget**—Jon Johnson presented the 2025 proposed budget to the congregation. Jon noted there is a 3.1% increase in the budget over last year, which reflects an increased need of 1.9% in offerings to meet the new budget. Deb Belquist made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 budget, Becky Kjos seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- **Foundation Distributions**—Foundation President, Bruce Hirchert presented checks to the following:
  - Board of Education in the amount of \$1,500 for VBS
  - Board of Education in the amount of \$500 for Metigoshe in Motion events
  - \$300 to a family in the community for medical expenses
- **Capital Campaign “God’s House, Our Home” Launch**—Fern Schuster presented the need to replenish our Property Fund for major repairs to church and parsonage over the next 10-15 years. A Task Force was assembled in March with the following members: Bruce Hirchert as chair, Shelly Ehni, Pastor Amy Kippen, Nancy Ludwig, Sydney Carr, Amy Perleberg and Fern Schuster. Property Board prepared a list of upcoming expected repairs and set a campaign fundraising goal of \$300,000. Leadership and Task Force members were asked to pledge first ahead of the launch and \$44,000 has already been pledged. The Carpet Fund and Hopes and Dreams Fund have been rolled into the Capital Campaign Fund for a total of \$56,000 at the time of this meeting. Letters have been mailed to all families in the congregation. Pastor Amy spoke on the reason for choosing the theme “God’s House, Our Home” and how it is up to us, as the next generation, to commit to carrying out the mission of our church home over the next 100 years. Pastor Amy led us in a prayer over the campaign.
- **Officer Election**—The four candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were voted on by the congregation. Marilyn Gedrose made a motion to accept the vote count, Becky Kjos seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Pastor Amy conducted the installation of the newly elected officers and leaders. President Hirchert thanked the congregation for all the support over the past year and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with the singing of the table prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Perleberg

# 2025 Church Leadership

*\*ELECTED THIS YEAR (2025)*

**PRESIDENT** (1 year) - \*Bruce Hirschert

**VICE PRESIDENT** (1 year) – \*Colleen Semmens

**SECRETARY** – (1 year) - \*Christina Anderson

**TREASURER** – (1 year) - \*Jon Johnson

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR** – Katie Jorgensen

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION** (2 year term)

LaShane Wobbema

Katie Jorgensen

\*Carissa Johnson

Melanie Homelvig

\*Emilee Larson

\*Abby Nystrom

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE for 2025**

**Congregation members** – (1 year term)

\*Gina Clifton

\*Lisa Longnecker

(Plus 1 member from each board)

## **AUDITORS** (2 years term)

Janet Heskin

\*Tammy Longnecker

## **EVANGELISM/LAY MINISTRY** (2 term)

Fern Schuster

\*Nancy Ludwig

\*Karen Omoth

\*Marydean Weinmann

\*Michelle Pfeiffer

\*Kathy Ryan

## **STEWARDSHIP/PROPERTY** (2 year term)

(Joan Shroyer – Church Maint./Advisory)

Rick Swenson

Corey Longnecker

Curt Weinmann

\*Korey Anderson

## **DELEGATE TO RWBC** (1 year term)

\*Nan Taverna

\*Marydean Weinmann

## **DELEGATES TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

\*Bruce Hirschert - President

\*Colleen Semmens – Vice President

## **FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION**

(3 year term) (year term expires)

Richard Carlson (2027)

Jeanette Perleberg (2027)

\*Amy Perleberg (2028)

\*Dori Tollefson (2028)

Bruce Hirschert (2026)

## **DELEGATES TO LHGS** (1 year term)

\*Richard Ryan

\*Gail Roberts

\*Vicki Ryan

\*Bev Lesmeister

\*Terry Koeplin

\*Rachel Anderson

\*Janel Fortney

\*MarJean Pfau

\*Janine Anderson

\*Gail Weisenburger

\*Karen Anderson

\*Sandy Koeplin

# Statistics Report

V = Voting    C = Confirmed    B = Baptized

## TRANSFERRED OUT - 2025

	V	C	B
1) Chris & Courtney Bittman family	2	2	3
2) Tom & Judy Smith	2	2	2
3) Carrie Widmer	1	1	1

## TRANSFERRED IN - 2025

V    C    B

## FUNERALS – 2025

1) Dan Shroyer	January 23, 2025
2) Doreen Taylor	February 21, 2025
3) Beverly Broin	May 10, 2025
4) LaDonna Keller	September 15, 2025
5) Betty Georges	September 22, 2025

## MARRIAGES – 2025

1) Riley & Camee Longnecker	June 28, 2025
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## **THOSE BAPTIZED – 2025**

1) Nathaniel Scanson	January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
2) Oaklynn Bachmeier	January 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
3) Scarlett Richter	March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
4) Camee Wangler	May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
5) Dalila Lommen	May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
6) Kolbie Anderson	August 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
7) Bryson Gehrtz	September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025
8) Bryn Thorsell	November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025
9) Rorie Perleberg	November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
10) Westen Shroyer	November 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025

## **YOUTH CONFIRMED – May 18, 2025**

- 1) Beau Baumbach
- 2) Megyn Bjerke
- 3) Kaylynn Chamberlain
- 4) Tatyn Heskin
- 5) Jaida Schumacher
- 6) Sophie Skogen
- 7) Hannah Wobbema

## **RECEIVED FIRST COMMUNION – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- 1) Teigan Alderman
- 2) Meah Gehrtz
- 3) Josslyn Hager
- 4) Rynna Jorgensen
- 5) Lincoln Langley
- 6) Kelsy Larson
- 7) Luca Schumacher
- 8) Jack Skogen
- 9) Livi Skogen
- 10) Kinley Thompson
- 11) Kaliyah Whitetail
- 12) Jace Ystaas

## STATISTICS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total Baptized Members	421	449	458	473	473
Total Confirmed Members	338	358	359	370	368
Infant/Child Baptisms	7	8	9	9	9
Teenage Baptisms	0	0	3	0	0
Adult Baptisms	0	0	1	1	1
First Communion	0	9	0	6	12
Youth Confirmed	0	9	7	13	7
Adults Confirmed	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Communion Services	48	48	48	55	50
Communed at Least Once	300	337	359	366	360
Couples Married	2	3	4	3	1
Funeral Services	6	11	5	11	5
Committal Services	0	0	0	0	0
Services at Funeral Home	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday Worship Services	51	52	51	51	52
Average Attendance	75	88	94	90	91
Midweek Lenten Services	8	7	8	8	8
Average Attendance	70	85	75	75	78
Wednesday Evening Worship Services	42	48	50	34	39
Average Attendance	19	23	10	10	9
Number in Sunday School & Confirmation	55	53	55	57	67

## SUMMARY OF 2025 STATISTICS

BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP		CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP	
474	2025 Membership	371	2025 Membership
- 6	Transferred Out	- 5	Transferred Out
468		366	
+ 0	Transferred In	+ 0	Transferred In
468		366	
+ 10	Baptized	+ 7	Confirmed
478		373	
- 5	Deaths	- 5	Deaths
473		368	
473	TOTAL ACTIVE BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP - 2025	368	TOTAL ACTIVE CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP – 2025

# President's Report 2025

I, at this time, would like to thank everyone who has served on boards, council, sound, music, PowerPoint, teachers, and everyone else who does things for the church. I would also like to thank all the members for giving and supporting our church, for operation. Also the staff for everything done.

Thanks again for letting me serve as your president, again.

We are all excited about our Holy Experiment, and feel things are progressing well.

God bless everyone,

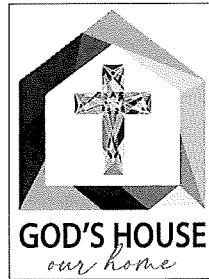
President Bruce Hirchert.

## 2025 PASTOR'S REPORT

### Rev. Amy Kippen

As I look back over my calendar, I am astounded with just how jam packed it was with meaningful ministry. I hope you believe me when I say again, just how honored and blessed I am to be your pastor. Here are a few highlights of my pastoral ministry on 2025:

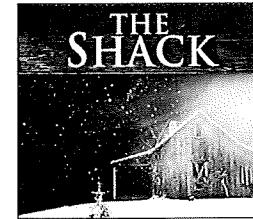
- **Luther League Youth Summer Trip:** What an incredible honor it was to accompany our youth to Medora and eastern MT for 4 days of fun and deep faith formation. We took in all the tourist stuff, hiked the bluffs at Makoshika State Park, and gathered for daily worship and Bible study session. Our theme Scripture was Romans 12:2, which talks about not conforming to the world but confirming our trust in God through transformed and discerning thought, and faithful living.
- **GriefShare:** This grief recovery class will certainly be included in my pastor's report every year because it is perhaps the most meaningful ministry I am privileged to lead. Hurting people from our church and beyond gathered to learn about and process their grief, whether their loss was just a few months ago or many years. Their trust in me and in each other made way for the Holy Spirit to be about her work of healing and making whole. The bravery of attendees beautifully honors the one they grieve.



- **God's House, Our Home Capital Campaign:** We launched this 3-year campaign at the 2025 annual meeting, with a goal of raising \$300,000. The purpose of this campaign is to raise money for our Property Designated Fund, which had dwindled from \$150,000 in 2014 (thank to the Vance Anderson memorial gift) to just \$16,000. The Property Fund pays for all major upkeep of both the parsonage and the church. As of November 30th, 2025, we have raised (in money donated and pledged) \$200,000. This is something to celebrate, as together we ensure the future of our church for generations to come.

- **One Mom's Journey Event:** In February, members of our church were invited to this event where I shared about my journey as a mom of an LGBT daughter. So many of you attended, and showed up with love and curiosity, which means more to me than you will ever know. My goal in hosting this event was nothing more than to help you all, my church family, understand my beliefs and theology regarding the queer community through the story of my own life and learning. This event was recorded and I am happy to share the video with anyone who desires in love to learn more.

- **Women's Retreat:** In late October, we held our FIRST annual women's retreat! We headed north to the Christian Retreat Center @ Lake Metigoshe for three days of drawing near to God in worship, fellowship and Bible study. Hosting a women's retreat has been a longing of mine since arriving in 2020, and it was a highlight of my year!



- **Lent Series:** Our Lent theme this year was "Healing Grace: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit". Together we read the book "The Shack" which tells a heart wrenching story of love, loss and healing through faith. I have loved this book for decades because of the powerful portrayal of the Trinity, and to get to read and discuss it with our church family was so meaningful and joyful. On Palm Sunday we gathered to watch the movie, helping us all to experience Holy Week in renewed power and grace.

What a joy it has been to serve as your pastor in 2025. Here's to 2026 being a year of deepening faith and trust in our Lord Jesus, and expanding love and mercy for all.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024**

**February:** Church activities included the launch of the Capital Campaign, Lent planning with an arts committee, Faith Stepping Stone 3, and early planning for VBS (August 4 through August 7) with Cradle Roll planned for April. The church council voted to approve the agenda with a correction changing the year from 2024 to 2025, approve the annual meeting minutes, approve the financial reports, hold extra benevolence, elect Kathy Ryan to the Lay Ministry and Evangelism board, and designate the Lenten offering to be split equally between The Neighborhood Church and Red Willow Bible Camp. A proposed Community Safety Net drug education sponsorship did not move forward due to lack of a motion. The council also voted to approve Property and Stewardship preapproval for essential-function purchases and repairs up to \$5,000 per incident, and then voted to adjourn.

**March:** Church life included Luther League Youth Group activity, a Mom's Journey event, and continued ministry planning for Holy Week and spring youth and education events, including a spring lock-in on April 26 and the Faith Stepping Stone communion class on April 17. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the February 12 minutes, and approve the financial reports. The council also voted to approve the Governance Structure "Holy Experiment" through January 2027, with the vote recorded as eleven in favor and one abstention, and voted to approve Katie's attendance at a Hunger-Free Food Pantry training in Bismarck with expenses covered by Hunger-Free Food Pantry funds. The council then voted to adjourn.

**April:** Spring ministry activity included Lent series coordination, Faith Stepping Stone work, and continued planning for Holy Communion, Cradle Roll, and confirmation. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the March 12 minutes, and approve the financial reports. The council also voted to approve benevolence gifts of \$100 to the Sorenson family and \$100 to the Tony Clifton family, and voted to approve the 2025 confirmands (Beau Baumbach, Megyn Bjerke, Kaylynn Chamberlain, Tatyn Heskin, Jaida Schumacher, Sophie Skogen, and Hannah Wobbema). The council then voted to adjourn.

**May:** Spring programming included Holy Week activities, year-end education events, and continued planning for VBS (August 4 through August 7), along with youth and family ministry activities. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve minutes from April 9, and accept the financial reports. The council voted to give \$100 benevolence to Sheldon Greywater, approve a \$500 Synod Assembly offering from Budget Reserve, adopt Child Protection Policy revisions recommended by the Board of Education, and assign representatives from council and boards to oversee Fall Supper planning. The council then voted to adjourn.

**June:** Summer ministry planning included continued VBS preparation, Luther League planning including a youth trip to Medora in July, and early discussion of fall fellowship options. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the May 12 minutes as amended, and accept the financial reports. The council voted to give \$100 June benevolence and \$100 July benevolence to the Harry Jorgensen family, and then voted to adjourn. The council also scheduled a council retreat for June 22 and agreed there would be no July meeting unless urgent business arose.

**July:** Church council minutes for July were not included in the files provided, and the council had agreed in June that there would be no July meeting unless urgent business arose. Ministry activity referenced in council reports included the Luther League youth trip to Medora, and property work referenced a parsonage deck contractor start planned for late July or early August.

**August:** Ministry highlights included VBS held earlier in the month, Backpack Sunday scheduled for August 24 with a blessing of backpacks during worship, and planning for Children and Youth registration night on September 3 and Rally Day and LAUNCH kickoff on September 21. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the June 11 minutes, and accept the treasurer's report. The council approved extra benevolence assistance for the Weissenburger family to help with Austin's medical costs, and voted to direct the Property Board to approach the adjacent lot owner (the lumberyard) about removing a cottonwood tree due to repeated lightning strikes and safety concerns. The council then voted to adjourn.

**September:** Ministry activity included GriefShare underway, fall kickoff planning for LAUNCH and Luther League, and community involvement activities. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the August 13 minutes, and accept the treasurer's report. The council voted to approve new staff evaluation forms for use in 2025 (Pastor, Office Administrator, Custodian), voted to pay Red Willow Ministries \$2,000 to cover their auto insurance deductible should damage occur while the church is borrowing the vehicle, and voted to designate September benevolence to the Lutheran Home Auxiliary. The council then voted to adjourn.

**October:** Ministries included ongoing fall programming and continued planning for women's retreat and youth activities, along with review of the Faith Family Food and Fun Festival and confirmation that the fall festival will replace Worship in the Park and become an annual event. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the September 10 minutes, and accept the treasurer's report. The council voted to designate October benevolence to the Kathleen Eggermont family to help with medical costs, and voted to split the Advent special offering evenly between Red Willow Ministries and the ELCA Good Gifts Campaign. The council then voted to adjourn.

**November:** The Fall Supper was held on November 9.

**December:** Advent and Christmas activity included a four-week Advent Bible study, Mission Partner Sunday with a free-will meal supporting the Neighborhood Church and the FLC Foundation, the LAUNCH Christmas program on December 21 with a soup and sandwich supper, and preparation of Christmas cards and continued home communion delivery coordination. The church council voted to approve the agenda, approve the prior meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter, and accept the treasurer's report. The council voted to designate November and December benevolence funds to Harry Jorgenson to assist with ongoing expenses, voted to bring recommended ELCA model constitution updates to the congregation at the annual meeting, and voted to continue operating as an Eddy County food pantry while allowing compassionate exceptions in special circumstances. The council also voted to approve the proposed budget framework and then voted to adjourn.

Submitted by Christina Anderson, Church Council Secretary

# 2025 Board of Education Report

## LAUNCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Board of Education implemented our LAUNCH program (Lighting And Uniting New Christian Hearts) in the fall of 2021. The program has grown and gained support over the last five years. The program is grades pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We continue to use Grow Curriculum. In this program, families begin worship together and the children are dismissed after the Children's Sermon and noisy offering into large or small groups (depending upon the week and activity) where they have Bible studies, fellowship events, crafts, games, music and more.

This year, three times, the students begin early for a whole group project and then return to worship service to receive blessings or Holy Communion with their families. Our first project for the 25-26 LAUNCH year was nativity jars. The program runs from September to April and follows the schools' schedules for long weekends to allow families time together or time to travel.

This fall, we have co-teachers for each classroom. All teachers and helpers (18 and older) are required to read and sign the Child Protection Policy implemented by the First Lutheran Church. A background check may be run on an individual, if needed. The LAUNCH children sang in church for Palm Sunday, the last day of LAUNCH, Rally Sunday, and had a Christmas program.

## LiFT! CONFIRMATION

We continue to utilize the Faith Inkubators system for confirmation. This system is relationally based and is highly focused on engaging young people in wrestling with matters of faith. Students are placed in small groups with adult guides. Small groups gather for discussion and faith conversation following a large group learning session in the sanctuary led by Pastor Amy.

In addition, small groups gather for Fellowship Events, which are fun activities planned by the groups, and for Servant Events, where they do service projects in Jesus' name.

Youth are also required to complete twenty sermon notes per year and are encouraged to attend summer Bible camp and youth trips. Occasional overnight retreats are offered as options for the youth, along with serving as helpers in LAUNCH Sunday School.

## LUTHER LEAGUE YOUTH GROUP

In fall 2025, we have one youth group, "Luther League", which is for students in grades 9-12, led by Lauren & Chase Pederson. Katie Jorgensen and Pastor Amy are additional chaperones/advisors.

In July, six youth and five adult leaders traveled to Medora and eastern Montana for four days of fellowship, adventure, and faith formation. We visited Medora, but, unfortunately, the Medora Musical was cancelled due to rain. We went hiking at Makoshika State Park, and spent much time in Bible study and worship, gathered around the theme of Transformation, Renewal, and Discernment (Romans 12:2).

## CONGREGATION MEALS

The Board of Education planned and provided the Ash Wednesday Soup & Bread meal. There is always a large crowd for this meal and making sure we have a variety of soups on the menu, at least a month in advance, helps to make it a success. We also planned and executed a congregational picnic meal in conjunction with the Last Day of LAUNCH. This fall, with the help of Lay Ministry & Evangelism board, we had a successful potluck in conjunction with LAUNCH Kick Off Day and Fall Festival. The

December Helping Hands group and the Board of Ed facilitated the Soup & Sandwich Supper after the Christmas program play, “The Power of the King”.

### **FAITH STEPPING STONES (1-7)**

- 1- Holy Baptism: Each baptism family is gifted with a quilt and a copy of “Holding Your Family Together” which outlines the FAITH5 steps, which help families to grow closer to one another and to God every night in their homes.
- 2- Cradle Roll Graduation: In the spring, pre-k parents joined together for the Faith Stepping Stone 2 class (Sunday School Orientation). Then in April the pre-k kids were celebrated in worship with the Cradle Roll Graduation ceremony. The kids received a “graduate” sash, a diploma, and their very own children’s Bible, along with a blessing as they start their formal Christian education.
- 3- My Bible for 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders: In October, three students along with their parents gather for a 2-hour Bible class. They learned about what the Bible is, where it came from, how old it is, and who wrote it! They also learned all about Bible addresses and how to look them up. Then in worship, their parent presented the Bibles to their children, in fulfillment of one of the promises they made at their child’s baptism. Each Bible contained special notes from parents, grandparents, Godparents, and other loved ones.
- 4- Holy Communion Instruction: Fourth graders and their parents attended this class in April, and the kids were blessed and celebrated on Maundy Thursday during worship. They received their communion wine in a keepsake olivewood cup from Bethlehem.
- 5- Surviving Adolescence/Entering Confirmation: Four fifth graders, one seventh grader, and their parents attended this class in the fall and were blessed and recognized in worship on Rally Day. Students received tie blankets (made by our confirmation groups) as a memento of this important step in faith.
- 6- Confirmation Day: Seven ninth graders affirmed their baptism in May. In advance of this celebration, they attended a retreat where they completed their confirmation projects, looked back over the last three years, had their final interviews and learned about their confirmation vows. Confirmands were gifted with silver keepsake wall crosses from Thrivent.
- 7- Senior Recognition: In May, graduates and their families gathered for a special recognition breakfast, followed by a blessing service in worship. Each graduate was gifted with a keepsake quilt.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

In the summer, the Board of Education hired Red Willow Ministries to facilitate Vacation Bible School. Thirty to forty kids attended August 4-7<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Pastor Amy led a 13-week Grief Share class for those grieving a loved ones’ death in the summer/fall. She also led a 4-week adult Advent Bible study, holding two sessions each week.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

The Board of Education has had a full and fun year guiding the development of faith formation in all ages of the congregation. We look forward to more opportunities in 2026 to help form and shape faith formation in all congregation members.

# **Property/Stewardship Annual Report 2025**

## **Parsonage Projects Completed**

Original deck removed and replaced with a maintenance free deck

Dead trees on lot and neighboring lot removed.

Annual inspection

## **Church Projects Completed**

Carbon Monoxide detectors installed

Furnace repairs and updates

Basement window replaced

Windows on worship area repainted and caulking

Sensaphone for food pantry refrigerators installed

Weather stripping on back doors

Safe room identified and deadbolts installed

Video inventory of church property

Baseboard heater replaced in basement Sunday school room

Submitted by Corey Longnecker, co-chair

## 2025

# Lay Ministry/Evangelism Report

This year the Lay Ministry and Evangelism Board began with one returning member, Fern Schuster, and welcoming five new members. The new members are Michelle Pfieffer, Karen Omoth, Kathy Ryan, Marydean Weinmann, and Nancy Ludwig.

The board elected Fern Schuster and Michelle Pfieffer as co-chairpersons.

### February

Pastor Amy provided the dates she would be out of town for which we would need pulpit fill. We are fortunate that we have four people in our congregation willing to fill in when needed. We coordinated getting last year's palm branches burned for Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### March

We ordered palm branches for Palm Sunday. We checked out the Busy Bags and Communion supplies and assigned board members to handle these tasks for the year.

### April

Purchased a gift for Professional Administrator's Day for Katie. It was determined that Easter Services would be at 8:00 am and 10:00 am with coffee fellowship in between services. Started planning for Senior Recognition Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, and Confirmation Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### May

Marydean Weinmann agreed to fill in for Pastor Amy on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Decided to put Worship in the Park on hold for this year for several reasons. We served 55 people an egg bake breakfast for Senior Recognition Sunday on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We served Confirmation Sunday's coffee fellowship with the assistance of May's Helping Hands group, donuts, sweet breads, and fresh fruit with coffee and juice.

### June

We discussed an alternative to Worship in the Park and what we could do later this year in place of it. We decided to put an announcement in the bulletin and newsletter for anyone who would like to share their flowers from their gardens to decorate our sanctuary.

### July

No meeting was held.

## **August**

We started planning for an event to replace Worship in the Park for Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be held in conjunction with LAUNCH Rally Day. We had a discussion with Pastor Amy about being more welcoming to visitors and members of our church and recommended to the Church Council to have greeters picked by the Helping Hands groups for every Sunday.

## **September**

We called our event “Fall Faith Family Food and Fun Festival”. There was a potluck dinner followed by a craft project of painting wooden cut out pumpkins of various sizes. The event was attended well and those that stayed had fun with the pumpkin craft and fellowship. We decided we need to start planning sooner for the next FFFFF event. We chose board members to serve on the Fall Supper and Nominating Committees.

## **October**

We completed the evaluation forms for church staff and gave to the Council President. We discussed getting cards for Christmas to be sent to shut-ins. We did the final planning for Pastor Appreciation Sunday and Open House in Pastor Amy’s honor. We decided to officially move Worship in the Park to the Fall Faith Family Food and Fun Festival (FFFFFF) going forwards.

## **November**

We reviewed the annual budget and decided to make only the change from Worship in the Park to Fall Faith Family Food and Fun Festival. There will be an Advent Bible Study starting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and each Monday in Advent, meeting at 3:00 pm or 7:00 pm. We reminded board members to hand in their Time and Talent Sheets for the next church year. We prepared Christmas cards for congregation members to sign for our shut-in members.

## **December**

We set Worship times for Easter and will try one service this year at 10:00 am, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be at 7:00 pm instead of 6:00 pm. We finished getting the Christmas cards ready for delivery either by mail or with cookies trays. Karen agreed to get Christmas gifts for pastor, office administrator, and end of year gifts for snow removal and lawn care volunteers. Fern is completing the annual report for the board this year. Once again, a big thank you to Glenda Collier for scheduling Scripture Readers, communion servers, and home communion for the year 2026.

If anyone has any concerns they would like to share with our board, we welcome your input and/or suggestions. Fee Free to contact any of the board members.

Respectfully submitted by, Fern Schuster Co-chairperson

## FLC Women's Ministry 2025

The 2025 Women's Ministry Leadership Team consisted of the following members: Katie Jorgensen, Nan Taverna, Kristen Allmaras, Amy Perleberg, Ashley Fleming, Allison Pfeiffer, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sharon Whitmer and Marydean Weinmann. Kristen Allmaras and Allison Pfeiffer were the co-chairs, Nan Taverna – Treasurer and Amy Perleberg – Secretary.

Yearly donation envelopes were mailed out in the January newsletter, requesting that each woman donate \$20 to fund women's ministry events and benevolence gifts. It was decided that benevolence funds for 2025 would be used throughout the year as needs or requests come in from church groups. The total amount collected was \$950.

Throughout the year, we purchased new soup bowls for the kitchen and covered the cost for funeral food inventory to be kept at the church. Funds were also used for baptism blanket supplies.

Spring Roundup for ELCA Synod Women was held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Stump Lake. We heard from wonderful Christian women speakers, enjoyed lunch, and did some shopping with vendors.

'Draw Near' Fall Women's Retreat was held at Metigoshe Retreat Center October 30<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup>. Eight women attended the event and enjoyed days and evenings filled with Bible study, creating an art installation, prayer, wonderful food and fellowship. We also had some fun adventures around the Metigoshe area. Everyone left with strengthened faith and friendships, and we look forward to Fall Women's Retreat 2026 with details coming soon!

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Women's Ministry coordinated the creation and delivery of Christmas goodie platters to shut-ins from our church family. We thank all who brought goodies and helped plate and deliver these gifts of Christmas joy!

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited about upcoming events. On Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., we will host a Ladies Bingo Bash in the fellowship hall. There will prizes (real and gag!), along with coffee and goodies, of course! This event is open to all ladies/girls of all ages in the community so invite a friend to join you! There is no charge for this event. Instead, a free will offering will be collected and donated to an area women's shelter.

If you are interested in being a part of the Women's Ministry team or helping with an event in the future, please call the church office.

Thanks to all who sent in their yearly donation. Look for the 2026 request in your mailbox soon. Thanks to all who participated in the 2025 events, and we look forward to more participation in 2026!

Amy Perleberg, Secretary

## Thrivent Advocate's Report for 2025

### 2025 Distributions

Thrivent Choice Dollars that were gifted to First Lutheran Church during 2024 & 2025 totaled \$1050. There was only one application for funds, which was the Men's Group for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bibles and Bible Camp Scholarships. Other disbursements were decided by the advocates based on previous years' applications. The Men's Group was gifted \$350. Women's Ministry, Board of Education, and the Property Boards were each gifted \$200. Finally, the Altar/Banner fund was gifted \$100.

### It's Not Too Late

Thrivent participants please continue to gift your Choice Dollars to FLC or an organization of your choice or these funds will be lost. You have until March 30, 2026, to move your 2025 funds. All gifts designated to our church are so appreciated by the various groups and ministries of First Lutheran. *Remember, you must designate your funds every year, your choice does not carry over from one year to the next.*

### ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

The church office was recently made aware that we have over 70 members of our church who are apparently Thrivent Financial customers! If you are a Thrivent member, will you please let the church office know? We want to help ensure that you are utilizing your Thrivent Action Team and Choice dollars. Thank you!

### Need Help Designating Your Choice Dollars?

Thrivent has a great toll-free support line, 1-800-847-4836, to answer any questions you may have or to help you move your funds. You can also call Katie Grager, local Thrivent Representative with an office in Carrington, 701-652-1250; Vicki Ryan at 947-5433; or the church office at 947-2478, and they will try to answer any questions.

We thank you in advance for designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to First Lutheran Church!

Report Submitted by First Lutheran Thrivent Advocates: Vicki Ryan, Shelly Ehni, and Traci Harrington.

# Hunger-Free Food Pantry Report 2025

The Hunger-Free Food Pantry has a board of volunteers that helps it run efficiently. These volunteers are the heart of our program. They help with things such as unloading the monthly truck, packing boxes, restocking shelves, and are always willing to hear new ideas that will help fight hunger and food insecurities in New Rockford and our surrounding communities. The board of volunteers is also responsible for other programs that fall under the Hunger-Free Food pantry including senior commodities, backpack program, second helpings program, Christmas boxes, and promoting the food pantry.

Our 2025 Food Pantry stats are as follows:

<b>2025 Stats</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pounds</b>	<b>9530</b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Adults (18-59)</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>Children (0-18)</b>	<b>171</b>

This year we have continued with the “Item of the Month”, and it continues to have community support. Some examples are peanut butter and jelly, cereal, boxed meals, juice, etc. The item is posted on social media each month, published in the New Rockford Transcript, and emailed to the local clergy to help bring awareness.

Our backpack program, which is in partnership with New Rockford-Sheyenne Public School, provides food weekly during the school year to families that may struggle with food insecurities at home. Every week, any children registered (by their parent/guardian), will receive food for the weekend. The bag contains some breakfast, lunch/supper items, drinks and a few snacks. Items like cereal, soup, mac ‘n cheese, milk, chocolate milk, juice, etc. are often found in the bags. In 2025, we had the following statistics for our backpack program:

<b>2025 Stats</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Backpacks</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>Highest/week</b>	<b>N/A</b>

The Senior Commodities program serves Eddy County through our Food Pantry. This program is for Senior Citizens, aged 55 and over, that are at or below the income guidelines for their household size. The program provides two large boxes of food, every other month, to those that qualify. Seniors supply their proof of income and are certified for a three-year period. During this period, they are asked to verify if their income has changed or not every six months as a recertification process. Items found in these boxes include cereal, juice, beans, rice, canned goods, shelf-stable cheese, etc. In 2025, our stats for this program were:

<b><i>2025 Sr. Comm. Stats</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
<b>New Rockford</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Sheyenne</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Warwick</b>	<b>0</b>

In December 2025, the Hunger-Free Food Pantry made large food boxes to go to the families that participated in the “Share the Joy” program. This partnership is the reason for our high numbers in December through the Food Pantry stats. We assist families by gifting items such as a ham, turkey, potatoes, \$10 gift certificate to Baker’s Dozen, canned goods, juice, pie fillings, stuffing, and so on to ensure that those families can have a holiday meal. Each box weighed approximately 95 pounds – before the hams, turkeys, and potatoes! The New Rockford Lions were able to help cover the costs of the hams, turkeys, and potatoes this year with the help of gaming funds in the community. We were able to help our students in the backpack program and our seniors in our senior commodities program with a little extra Christmas joy as well through gift certificates (senior commodities) and chamber bucks (backpack program) for our local businesses.

Submitted by Katie Jorgensen, HFFP coordinator

## **Governance Structure Holy Experiment Report**

Submitted by your Church Council

At the January 2025 annual meeting, we voted yes to entering a Governance Holy Experiment from April 2025- January 2027. This action taken was to separate the three administrative boards from the church council.

### **Primary Hoped for Outcomes Identified:**

- Provide consistent council leadership from month to month to aid with visioning and strategic planning.
- Help with recruitment because commitment of time will be lessened.
- Allow Boards to focus solely on their area of ministry.
- Improve efficiency and mission impact of our church.

### **Decisions to be Made During Experiment:**

- Optimal size of Council and Boards
- Optimal terms and term limits for Council and Boards
- Optimal number and focus of each Board

### **Experiment to Date Data:**

- Having a smaller Church Council makes conversation more productive.
- Consistent leadership from month to month creates deeper knowledge and commitment to Council level governance.
- In depth discussion is much more the norm, partially because of the smaller group, and partially because Pastor Amy brings more conversations forward.
- Meetings are more efficient.
- Bruce's monthly visits to the Boards are going very well. They appreciate the check-in, and it creates good connection between the Boards and Council.
- Boards are being encouraged to meet when it is most convenient for them and to take as long as they need to accomplish their ministry goals and tasks.
- Pastor Amy feels better supported by the smaller consistent Council.
- Morale of the Council is high.
- Current Council members are stepping into the role of church leader at a higher level of accountability and responsibility.

Thank you for your willingness to enter into this Holy Experiment! We look forward to continuing this experiment through 2026 and bringing proposed constitution and bylaw changes before the Annual Meeting in 2026.

**2025 GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS**  
**2025 BUDGET REPORT**

Category Description	2025 Budget	2025 Actual
BENEVOLENCE:	11,600.00	12,100.00
CONFERENCES:	2,000.00	2,039.36
EDUCATION:	2,180.00	1,152.04
LAY MINISTRY:	4,675.00	3,624.95
PROPERTY:	30,660.00	30,949.70
MILEAGE	3,200.00	2,350.20
STEWARDSHIP:	700.00	779.00
OFFICE	4,355.00	5,149.47
STIPENDS / SALARIES:	<u>118,915.00</u>	<u>116,556.69</u>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b><u>\$ 178,285.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 174,701.41</u></b>

**2025 GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT REPORT**

<b>Balance Brought Forward - January 1, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 32,194.62</b>
DEPOSITS:	
Envelope Offering	\$ 151,945.31
Plate Offering	4,723.02
Initial Offering	126.00
Use of Church	0.00
Memorials*	50.00
Online (autopay) Offerings	6,240.00
Vanco Offerings	<u>\$ 15,141.58</u>
 TOTAL DEPOSITS	 <u>\$ 178,645.91</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$ 210,840.53</u></b>
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Disbursements	\$ 174,701.41
Moved to Budget Reserve	\$ 0.00
 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	 <u>\$ 174,701.41</u>
<b>Ending Balance - December 31, 2025</b>	<b><u>\$ 36,139.12</u></b>

Katie Jorgensen, Office Administrator

**2025 DESIGNATED FUNDS FINANCIALS**  
 Receipts from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

DESIGNATED FUNDS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

PROPERTY FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 16,682.35
Receipts	+ 15,710.00
Disbursements	<u>- 23,529.41</u>
Ending Balance	\$8,862.94

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,346.75
Receipts	+108,631.05
Disbursements	<u>- 18,256.94</u>
Ending Balance	\$93,720.86

HOPES & DREAMS FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,224.35
Receipts	+ 0.00
Disbursements	<u>.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,224.35

CARPET FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 10,936.09
Receipts	+ 835.00
Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$11,771.09

ALTAR/BANNER FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,353.14
Receipts	+ 704.00
Disbursements	<u>- 975.50</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,081.64

MUSIC FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,803.01
Receipts	+ 2,695.00
Disbursements	<u>- 78.30</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,419.71

BUDGET RESERVE

Beginning Balance	\$ 19,007.36
Receipts	+ 0.00
Disbursements	<u>- 500.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$18,507.36

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Beginning Balance	\$ 502.00
Receipts	+ 828.00
Disbursements (to Cap. Camp. per donor request)	<u>- 215.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,115.00

**LENTEN OFFERINGS**

Beginning Balance (overpaid in 2024)	\$ (82.00)
Receipts	\$ 1,780.00
Disbursements (found in audit prep, paid January '26)	0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,698.00

**NOISY OFFERING**

Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Receipts	+ 1,815.00
Disbursements	- 1,815.64
Remaining change (not deposited)	+ .64
Ending Balance	\$0.00

**ADVENT OFFERINGS**

Beginning Balance (2024 Advent Offering)	\$ 750.00
Disbursements (pd Jan. 2024 to Red Willow Ministries)	- 750.00
Receipts for 2025 Advent Offering	+ 745.00
Ending Balance	\$745.00

**FLC MEN**

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,140.79
Receipts	+ 50.00
Disbursements	- 1,004.63
Ending Balance	\$1,186.16

**MISSIONARY OFFERINGS**

Beginning Balance	\$ 309.00
Receipts for 2025 Missionary Offering	+ 1,212.00
Disbursements	- 1,009.00
Ending Balance	\$512.00

**TOTAL IN SPECIAL ACCOUNTS 12/31/25 \$144,828.31**

Katie Jorgensen, Office Administrator

## Dollar Ranges - All Funds

Date Range: 01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025  
Status: Active

Given Range: \$0.00 to \$999,999.00  
Dollar Increment: 500  
# of Periods in Range: 1

Range	# Givers in Range
\$0 - \$499	101
\$500 - \$999	32
\$1,000 - \$1,499	18
\$1,500 - \$1,999	5
\$2,000 - \$2,499	4
\$2,500 - \$2,999	7
\$3,000 - \$3,499	4
\$3,500 - \$3,999	2
\$4,000 - \$4,499	5
\$4,500 - \$4,999	4
\$5,000 - \$5,499	1
\$5,500 - \$5,999	1
\$6,000 - \$6,499	1
\$6,500 - \$6,999	2
\$7,000 - \$7,499	2
\$7,500 - \$7,999	1
\$8,000 - \$8,499	2
\$8,500 - \$8,999	1
\$9,000 - \$9,499	1
\$9,500 - \$9,999	1
\$10,000 - \$10,499	1
\$16,000 - \$16,499	1

**2025 Sunday School  
Statement of Income and Expense**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE OF CHECKING:</b>	<b>\$2,049.72</b>
Income:	
Interest	\$ 1.51
Ash Wednesday Soup	\$ 313.05
EOY Special Offering	\$1,109.34
VBS Registrations	\$ 800.00
FL Foundation	\$1,500.00
Interest from CD	\$1,016.53
Noisy Offering donation	\$ 905.81
Christmas Program Soup Supper	\$ 373.00
Misc. income	<u>\$1,358.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	<u>\$7,377.24</u>
	<b>\$9,426.96</b>
Expenses:	
Misc. Exp.	\$1,134.73
LAUNCH Curriculum	\$ 947.00
EOY Meal	\$ 437.73
Christmas Program Meal	\$ 152.22
MiM Events	\$ 560.55
VBS contract with RWM	\$1,900.00
VBS supplies	\$ 304.36
VBS Picnic	\$ 282.00
LAUNCH Supplies	<u>\$ 788.53</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE:	<u>\$6,507.12</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE OF CHECKING:</b>	<b>\$2,919.84</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE OF SAVINGS:</b>	<b>\$3,802.41</b>

**2025 Luther League  
Statement of Income and Expense**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE OF CHECKING:</b>	<b>\$ 694.53</b>
Income:	
Soup & Bread Suppers	\$ 1,223.00
Other Income	\$ 6,793.19
Total Interest	<u>\$ .83</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 8,017.02</u>
	<b>\$ 8,711.55</b>
Expenses:	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 7,415.08</u>
<b>ENDING BALANCE OF CHECKING:</b>	<b>\$ 1,296.47</b>
<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$10,627.56</b>
<b>YOUTH CD BALANCE: (\$50,000 is principle, interest is spendable)</b>	<b>\$51,247.67</b>

## **RADIO FUND ACCOUNT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Beginning Balance:** **\$3,698.84**

Total income from sponsorships & memorials  
**\$2,230.00**

Expenses:  
Radio Broadcast fees paid: **\$2,340.00**

**Ending Balance as of Dec. 31, 2025:**  
**\$3,588.84**

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY TREASURER'S REPORT**

January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025

**BALANCE ON HAND - JANUARY 1, 2025** \$ 354.45

**RECEIPTS:**

Women's Monetary Gifts (winter '25)	\$ 950.00
Women's Retreat	\$1,614.00
Kristen Allmaras (Betty Georgeson's funeral)	\$74.00
Interest	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,638.00</u></b>
	\$ 2,992.45

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

1517 Media (Devotionals)	\$68.40
Lake Metigoshe Retreat Center	\$570.00
Amy Kippen (Women's Retreat)	\$1,191.49
First Lutheran Church (Baptism blankets)	\$100.00
Beloved Art (Women's Retreat)	\$50.00
First Lutheran Church (bowls for kitchen)	\$154.64
First Lutheran Church (funeral food)	\$267.51
Augsburg Fortress (devotionals)	\$136.80
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,538.84</u></b>

**BALANCE ON HAND AS OF 12/31/25** \$ 453.61

**SAVINGS BALANCE ON HAND AS OF 12/31/25** \$ 3,239.72

Nan Taverna, Treasurer

# HUNGER-FREE FOOD PANTRY FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

CHECKING ACCOUNT - JANUARY 1, 2025 \$ 2,096.54

RECEIPTS:

Donations	\$16,365.21
Interest	<u>\$ 1.29</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$16,366.50</b>

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Great Plains Food Bank	\$ 1,960.83
NR-S School (Second Helpings Program)	3,389.25
Miller's	800.00
Christmas boxes (meat & potatoes)	\$2,000.00
CCU Visa	1,440.25
NDTC (Sensaphone for fridges/freezers)	245.16
NR Chamber	260.00
Baker's Dozen	370.00
Miscellaneous Exp.	\$ 613.63
	<b>\$11,079.12</b>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 7,383.92

**ENDING BALANCE OF CHECKING:** **\$ 7,383.92**

**ENDING BALANCE OF SAVINGS:** \$ 10.04

**ENDING BALANCE OF MARKET SHARE:** **\$19,539.87**

Katie Jorgensen, HFFP Program Coordinator

## **First Lutheran Foundation Treasurer's Report for 2025**

### Gifts Paid out in 2025:

First Lutheran Board of Ed	\$1,500.00
The Neighborhood Church	500.00
Lucy Meier	300.00
Ashton Reimche (returned)	300.00
Katie Allmaras	300.00
Lora Wubbema	300.00
Kelsie Belquist	300.00
Keaton Cudworth	300.00
First Lutheran Retreat	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
	\$4,600.00

# First Lutheran Foundation

## Treasurer's Report for 2025

Our 12/31/25 balances are as follows:

Credit Union CD (1 yr.)	\$ 84,833.96
Credit Union CD (1 yr.)	\$ 40,000.00
Credit Union Savings	\$ 9,352.83
Credit Union Market Share	\$ 3,281.75
Credit Union General Account	<u>\$ 10.00</u>
Total:	\$137,478.54

Endowment Fund	\$ 98,296.88
Community Fund	\$ 2,793.81
Church Fund	\$ 34,790.58
Missions Fund	<u>\$ 1,587.27</u>
Balance 12/31/25	\$137,478.54

Balance 12/31/2024	\$136,405.77
Gifts Received	\$ 92.36
Interest Earned	<u>\$ 5,280.41</u>
	\$141,778.54
Paid Out	<u>\$ -4,600.00</u>
Balance 12/31/25	\$137,478.54

Balance 12/31/24	
Checking Account	\$ 64.09
Interest Received	<u>\$ .06</u>
	\$ 64.15
Stamps	<u>\$ 14.60</u>
Balance 12/31/25	\$ 49.55

## First Lutheran Church

### 2026 Budget for General Fund and Accounts With a Budget

#### Expenditures - Operating Expenses

##### 1.0 Benevolence Expense

1.1 Benevolence EaND Synod	\$8,400.00
1.2 Benevolence LHGS	\$1,000.00
1.3 Benevolence Global Refuge	\$500.00
1.4 Benevolence Local Missions	\$1,200.00
1.5 Benevolence Red Willow Ministries	\$500.00

Subtotal for 1.0 Benevolence Expense

\$11,600.00

##### 2.0 Conference Expense

2.1 Conference Expense Fall Theological	
2.1.1 Conf. Exp. Fall Theological Hotel	\$300.00
2.1.2 Conf. Exp. Fall Theological Reg.	\$100.00
Subtotal for 2.1 Conference Expense Fall Theological	\$400.00
2.2 Conference Expense Synod Assembly	
2.2.1 Conf. Exp. Synod Assem. Reg.	\$600.00
2.2.2 Conf. Exp. Synod Assembly Hotel	\$1,000.00
Subtotal for 2.2 Conference Expense Synod Assembly	\$1,600.00

Subtotal for 2.0 Conference Expense

\$2,000.00

##### 3.0 Education Expense

3.1 Education Expense Adult Education	
3.1.1 Education Exp. Adult Ed. Curric	\$300.00
3.1.2 Education Expense Adult Ed. Treats	\$125.00
Subtotal for 3.1 Education Expense Adult Education	\$425.00
3.2 Faith Stepping Stones	
3.2.1 FSS Class Snacks	\$325.00
3.2.2 FSS Curriculum	\$100.00
3.2.3 FSS Mementos	\$350.00
Subtotal for 3.2 Faith Stepping Stones	\$775.00
3.3 LiFT Confirmation	
3.3.1 Guide Gifts	\$50.00
3.3.2 Huddles	\$250.00
3.3.3 LiFT Confirmation Curriculum	\$350.00
3.3.4 LiFT Confirmation Prizes	\$100.00
3.3.5 LiFT Confirmation Retreat	\$200.00
3.3.6 LiFT Confirmation Treats	\$100.00
Subtotal for 3.3 LiFT Confirmation	\$1,050.00

Subtotal for 3.0 Education Expense

\$2,250.00

##### 4.0 Lay Ministry & Evangelism Expense

4.1 LM&E Expense Copyright	
4.1.1 LM&E Expense CCLI	\$475.00
4.1.2 LM&E Expense One License	\$350.00
4.1.3 LM&E Expense Sundays and Season	\$375.00
4.1.4 LM & E Expense Presbyterian Outloo	\$30.00
Subtotal for 4.1 LM&E Expense Copyright	\$1,230.00
4.2 LM&E Expense FSS Mementos	
4.2.1 LM&E Exp. FSS Mem. Baptism Candles	\$50.00
4.2.2 LM&E Exp. FSS Mem. Conf. Crosses	\$130.00
4.2.3 LM&E Exp. FSS Mem. Com. Stoles & C	\$75.00
Subtotal for 4.2 LM&E Expense FSS Mementos	\$255.00
4.3 LM&E Gifts	
4.3.1 LM&E Gifts Admin Appreciation	\$50.00
4.3.2 LM&E Gifts Birthday	\$150.00
4.3.3 LM&E Gifts Christmas	\$150.00
4.3.4 LM&E Gifts Leader Out	\$50.00
4.3.5 LM&E Gifts Pastor Appreciation	\$50.00
4.3.6 LM&E Gifts Year-end	\$200.00
Subtotal for 4.3 LM&E Gifts	\$650.00
4.4 LM&E Meals	
4.4.1 LM&E Meals Confirmation Breakfast	\$150.00
4.4.2 LM&E Meals Graduation Breakfast	\$150.00
4.4.3 LM&E Meals New Member	\$100.00
4.4.4 LM&E Meals Fall Festival	\$300.00
Subtotal for 4.4 LM&E Meals	\$700.00
4.5 LM&E Worship Supplies	
4.5.1 LM&E Supplies Altar Flowers	\$100.00
4.5.2 LM&E Supplies Backpack Sunday	\$150.00
4.5.3 LM&E Supplies Bulletins	\$100.00
4.5.4 LM&E Supplies Busy Bags	\$100.00
4.5.5 LM&E Supplies Childrens Sermon	\$150.00
4.5.6 LM&E Supplies Communion	\$650.00
4.5.7 LM&E Supplies Music	\$100.00
4.5.8 LM&E Supp Special Worship Services	\$600.00
4.5.9 LM & E Worship Supplies Celebrate Inserts	\$450.00

Subtotal for 4.5 LM&E Worship Supplies	\$2,400.00
Subtotal for 4.0 Lay Ministry & Evangelism Expense	\$5,235.00
<b>5.0 Property Expense</b>	
5.1 Church Beautification	
5.1.1 Church Beau. inside	\$400.00
5.1.2 Church Beau. outside	\$150.00
Subtotal for 5.1 Church Beautification	\$550.00
5.2 Insurance & Leases	
5.2.1 Property Exp Copier Lease	\$2,700.00
5.2.2 Prop Exp Copier Lease Overage	\$300.00
5.2.3 Property Exp Insurance	\$7,500.00
Subtotal for 5.2 Insurance & Leases	\$10,500.00
5.3 Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	
5.3.1 Bathroom Supplies	\$500.00
5.3.2 Kitchen Supplies	\$1,500.00
Subtotal for 5.3 Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	\$2,000.00
5.4 Property Exp. Special Assessments	\$1,240.00
5.5 Property Exp. Utilities	
5.5.1 Property Exp. Utilities Electric	\$5,000.00
5.5.2 Property Exp. Utilities Gas/Heat	\$5,300.00
5.5.3 Prop Exp. Utilities Phone/Internet	\$2,000.00
5.5.4 Prop Exp. Utilities Water/Garbage	\$2,500.00
Subtotal for 5.5 Property Exp. Utilities	\$14,800.00
5.6 Property Exp Equipment & Repair	
5.6.2 Prop. Exp. Equip & Repair Elevator	\$1,200.00
5.6.3 Prop. Exp. Equip & Repair Furnace	\$800.00
5.6.4 Prop. Exp. Equip & Rep Sound Sys	\$300.00
5.6.6 Prop. Exp. Equip & Rep church	\$1,000.00
5.6.7 Prop. Exp. Equip & Rep Fire Ext.	\$330.00
5.6.8 Prop. Exp. Equip & Rep Parsonage	\$200.00
Subtotal for 5.6 Property Exp Equipment & Repair	\$3,830.00
Subtotal for 5.0 Property Expense	\$32,920.00
<b>6.0 Salaries Expense</b>	
6.1 Salaries Expense Custodian Salary	\$5,760.00
6.1.1 Salaries Exp. Custodian SS/Medi	\$441.00
Subtotal for 6.1 Salaries Expense Custodian Salary	\$6,201.00
6.2 Salaries Expense Fill In Pastors	\$800.00
6.3 Salaries Expense Musicians	\$1,600.00
6.4 Salaries Expense Office Ad	\$30,414.00
6.4.2 Salaries Exp. Off. Admin. SS/Medi	\$2,327.00
6.4.4 Salaries Exp. Off Admin Cont Ed	\$300.00
Subtotal for 6.4 Salaries Expense Office Ad	\$33,041.00
6.5 Salaries Expense Pastor Salary	\$50,807.00
6.5.1 Salaries Exp. Pastor Cont. Ed	\$1,000.00
6.5.2 Salaries Exp. Pastor Pension/Ins	\$27,453.00
6.5.3 Salaries Exp. Pastor SS/Medi	\$4,925.00
Subtotal for 6.5 Salaries Expense Pastor Salary	\$84,185.00
6.6 Workmens Compensation	\$250.00
Subtotal for 6.0 Salaries Expense	\$126,077.00
<b>7.0 Staff &amp; Volunteer Mileage Expense</b>	
<b>8.0 Stewardship Expense</b>	
8.1 Stewardship Exp Offering Envelopes	\$700.00
Subtotal for 8.0 Stewardship Expense	\$700.00
<b>9.0 Office Expense</b>	
9.1 Office Exp Ann Subscriptions	
9.1.1 Office Exp Ann Safety Deposit Box	\$20.00
9.1.2 Office Exp Ann Subs ICON	\$660.00
9.1.3 Office Exp Ann Subs Office 365	\$110.00
9.1.4 Office Exp Ann Subs Website	\$25.00
9.1.5 Quicken	\$80.00
Subtotal for 9.1 Office Exp Ann Subscriptions	\$895.00
9.2 Office Exp Cards of Care	\$150.00
9.3 Office Exp Miscellaneous	\$650.00
9.4 Office Exp Postage	
9.4.1 Office Exp Newsletters	\$550.00
9.4.2 Office Exp Stamps	\$1,400.00
9.4.3 Office Exp Postage Bulk Permit	\$350.00
Subtotal for 9.4 Office Exp Postage	\$2,300.00
9.5 Office Exp Supplies	\$1,250.00
Subtotal for 9.0 Office Expense	\$5,245.00
Totals for Operating Expenses	\$189,227.00

Revenues	
Cost of Sales	
Expenditures	\$189,227.00
Other Revenues	
Other Expenditures	
Other Financial Sources-Uses	

# ELECTION REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## January 2026

### AUDITORS (2 years, **vote for 1**)

Janet Heskin

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### STEWARDSHIP / CHURCH PROPERTY (2 years, **vote for 6**)

Curt Weinmann  
 Corey Longnecker  
 Lucas Schumacher  
 LuAnn Meehan

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### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (1 year, **vote for 4**)

Becky Kjos  
 Shelly Ehni  
 Linda Lies  
 Nan Taverna

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### EVANGELISM / LAY MINISTRY (2 years, **vote for 2**)

Fern Schuster  
 Kristy O'Connor

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### DELEGATES TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Bruce Hirchert  
 Colleen Semmens

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### EDUCATION (2 years, **vote for 3**)

Katie Jorgensen  
 LaShane Wobbema  
 Megyn Bjerke

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### NOMINATING COMMITTEE – 2023

3 from congregation (1 yr, **vote for 3**)  
 Glenda Collier  
 Christina Anderson

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### FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION (3 yr. term, **vote for 1**)

Bruce Hirchert

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### DELEGATE TO RED WILLOW BIBLE CAMP (1 yr. **vote for 2**)

Nan Taverna  
 Marydean Weinmann

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### DELEGATES TO LHGS (1 yr, **vote for 12**)

<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Ryan	<input type="checkbox"/> Gail Weisenburger
<input type="checkbox"/> Vicki Ryan	<input type="checkbox"/> MarJean Pfau
<input type="checkbox"/> Terry Koepplin	<input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Anderson
<input type="checkbox"/> Janel Fortney	<input type="checkbox"/> Gina Clifton
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Koepplin	<input type="checkbox"/> Janine Anderson
<input type="checkbox"/> Gail Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/> Bev Lesmeister

Presented by 2025 Nominating Committee:

\*Gina Clifton                    \*Corey Longnecker  
\*LaShane Wobbema            \*Kathy Ryan  
\*Lisa Longnecker              \*