



February 2026

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Deb Belquist and Sydney Carr

USHERING:

Sunday, February 1 at 9:40 a.m.: Taylor & Amanda Koeplin family
Sunday, February 8 at 9:40 a.m.: Jordan & Stephanie Grossman family
Sunday, February 15 at 9:40 a.m.: Tammy Longnecker and Marlys Harrison
Sunday, February 22 at 9:40 a.m.: Eric & Brittany Perleberg family

*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, February 1 at 9:15 a.m.: John Schuster
Sunday, February 8 at 9:15 a.m.: Gail Weisenburger
Sunday, February 15 at 9:15 a.m.: Corey Longnecker
Sunday, February 22 at 9:15 a.m.: Annette Duda

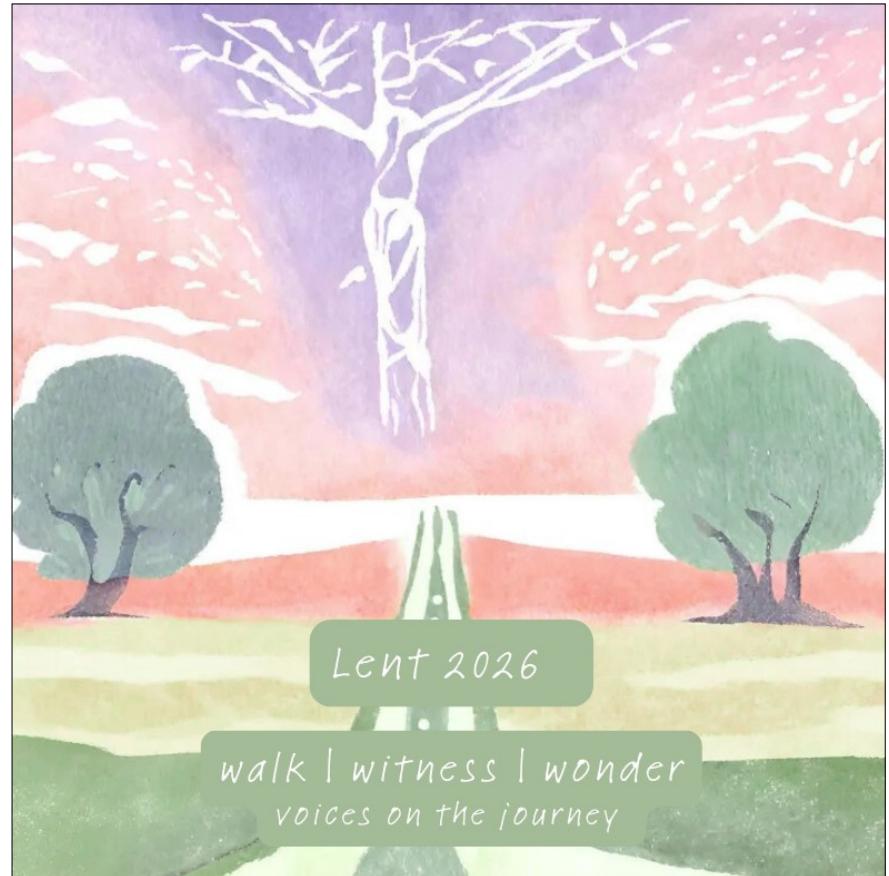
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, February 1 at 9:15 a.m.: Hannah Brandner family and Jean Schuster
Sunday, February 8 at 9:15 a.m.: Gail Weisenburger
Sunday, February 15 at 9:15 a.m.: Rick & Kristi Swenson
Sunday, February 22 at 9:15 a.m.: Janelle Koeplin and Diane Langley

PREPLANNED CONGREGATION MEAL:

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 chair-
person.*



The liturgical season of Lent begins on Wednesday Feb 18th with Ash Wednesday services. Soup supper will be served at 5pm and worship will begin at 6pm.



Then beginning on Feb 25th, and continuing for 5 weeks, we will enter into our mid-week Lenten Series called: walk|witness|wonder, voices of the journey.

As in recent years, supper will be served at 5:00 and worship will begin at 6:00. The service will be about 35-40 minutes and will include first hand accounts of some of the people closest to Jesus. Then we'll gather around tables in the Fellowship Hall for FAITH5 sharing and dessert.

Lent is a holy time when we journey with Jesus to the cross in a stance of reflections and penitence. We hope you will join us as together we walk, witness, and wonder along the way.

FLC Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry Team met on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. In attendance: Katie Jorgensen, Marydean Weinmann, Sharon Whitmer, Joan Shroyer, Allison Pfeiffer, Kristen Allmaras and Amy Perleberg. Absent: Nan Taverna.

The meeting was called to order.

Discussion at the meeting focused on the upcoming Bingo Bash which is scheduled for Sunday, January 18th from 2-4 p.m. The event is open to all ladies/girls and all are invited to bring a friend. Katie has done advertising on the community sign. The lunch was planned for 50-60 people. There will be 12 games of Bingo played. A Bingo set was secured for the day. Pastor Amy will emcee the event. Prizes were discussed and planned. The group will meet on Friday, January 16th at 1 p.m. at Pastor Amy's to prep prize baskets for the event.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 18th following the Bingo event. The meeting was adjourned.

Amy Perleberg, Secretary



Sunday, February 1st
Luca Schumacher & Dylan Cudworth
Sunday, February 8th
Casey Ystaas & Jace Ystaas
Sunday, February 15th
Jack Skogen & Livi Skogen
Tuesday, February 22nd
Haley Thompson & Luca Schumacher

Giving Hearts Day

February
12th, 2026

<https://app.givingheartsday.org>

This is a 24-hour event for charities in ND that provides a funding platform for their mission that was founded in 2008. New Rockford Community Ambulance is a local charity in this fundraiser. Our Synod charities participating in it are Red Willow Ministries and EaND Synod.

Property Fund

IMO Dan Shroyer
By Larry Danduran & Glenda Collier

Music Fund

IMO Betty Georgeson
By Larry Danduran & Glenda Collier
IMO Doreen Taylor

By Larry Danduran & Glenda Collier

Altar/Banner Fund

IMO Bev Broin
By Larry Danduran & Glenda Collier
IMO LaDonna Keller
By Larry Danduran & Glenda Collier



2025 Giving Statements

As mentioned at the annual meeting, giving statements will be placed in your church mailboxes this year.

Please ensure you check the mailbox number document on the side of the mailboxes in order to avoid taking someone else's statement.

If you need your statement mailed or emailed, contact Katie in the church office.



First Lutheran

ADULT FORUM

TOPIC DISCUSSIONS

Feb 1- Angels and Demons
What does the Bible actually say about these spiritual beings?

Feb 8- The Bible 101
Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

Feb 15- Singing Our Faith
The stories behind our favorite hymns

Feb 22- Heaven
Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

SUNDAY MORNING FROM 8:30-9:30

The poster features a central image of a brown leather-bound Holy Bible with the words "HOLY BIBLE" embossed on the cover. The Bible is surrounded by green and white decorative elements, including stylized leaves and a cross. The background is a dark green color.

FLC Foundation Board Meeting

January 14, 2026

The First Lutheran Church Foundation Board met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, with Bruce Hirchert, Pastor Amy Kippen, Amy Perleberg, Richard Carlson and Dori Tollefson present. Jeanette Perleberg and Carissa Johnson were absent.

Bruce called the meeting to order. Balances in the various accounts were discussed, as reported by Richard, treasurer.

Discussion was held on scholarship recipients postponing college and whether their scholarship would still be in place. Motion was made by Amy P. to extend a 2-year grace period on the scholarships, with foundation board to decide whether to extend beyond the 2 years in extenuating circumstances. Dori seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A thank-you from Abby Nystrom for her scholarship was read.

Two requests for funds were made:

1. Launch/VBS for \$1500 for supplies/curriculums for \$1500. Richard moved to award the \$1500, seconded by Amy P. All voted aye.
2. Red Willow Ministries for \$500 requested for the 100th Anniversary celebration in August 2026. Bruce moved to fund \$750, seconded by Amy P. All voted aye.

Motions carried.

Discussion was held on a large CD coming due on Friday, including different rates and terms locally. Richard moved to go with the 3% for 5 years (60 months) at Bank Forward. Dori seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Dori Tollefson, Secretary

Radio Ministry



Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

Feb. 1: IHO Blake, Jameson, & Carter Hirschert and Arabelle & Ivy Johnson by Bruce & Jodi Hirschert

Feb. 8: IMO Don & Jeanette Hovey, by Karen Hovey

Feb. 15: IMO our parents, Harold & Mavis Roberts & Marlys & Laverne Fornshell by David & Gail Roberts

Feb. 22: IMO Mick Thompson by Mike & Jill Thompson

CHURCH NEWS

- ♦ BAPTISMS:
- ♦ WEDDINGS:
- ♦ FUNERALS:
- ♦ TRANSFERS:



**February
2026**

Christina Anderson
And
Michelle Pfeiffer

SUNDAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



February 1: Kevin Cartwright, sound; Linda Lies, lay reader; Bruce Hirschert, communion coordinator

February 8: Kenny Thompson, sound; Jon Johnson, lay reader

February 15: Gail Weisenburger, sound; Whit Burkardsmeier, lay reader; LuAnn Meehan, communion coordinator

February 18: Cherry Heinz, sound

February 22: Mitch Bjerke, sound; Michelle Pfeiffer, lay reader

February 25: Kenny Thompson, sound

2025 Advent Offering

Thank you to everyone that donated to our 2025 Advent Offering.

We were able to raise \$765. This will be split evenly between Red Willow Ministries and ELCA Good Gifts!

Thank you for your support of our outreach ministries!

Thank you!
Lysuk Loni

Thank you for thinking of me on my birthday and for the gift card to Flair! I am so blessed to be able to serve FLC in this position.

Katie J.

Reports:

President Report: Bruce reported that board sentiment is that the Governance Holy Experiment continues to go well. Bruce also reported that the custodian plans to conclude employment at the end of the year; council discussed beginning to look for candidates.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Pastor Amy to accept the Secretary's Report as printed. Second by Colleen. All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Jon reported that a small discrepancy between bookkeeping reports is being reconciled, and offerings were confirmed as accurate. Year-to-date offerings were reported as \$178,645.91, exceeding year-to-date budgeted offerings of \$178,285. Jon reported that offerings exceeded expenses by approximately \$4,309.09. Motion by Bruce to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Christina. All in favor, motion carries.

Office Admin Report: Katie shared correspondence received and presented monthly cards of care.

Old Business:

Council reviewed the Holy Experiment report for inclusion in the annual report and proceeded with a budget update that includes salary adjustments.

Budget Update with Salaries: Council reviewed the 2026 budget figures with salary updates. Jon noted the projected total is approximately \$189,000, representing about a 6 percent increase, largely due to salary changes. Council expressed confidence in the budget work completed and continued attention to keeping expenses aligned with offerings.

Staff Evaluation Report: Council noted that staff evaluations were completed. Council members discussed that the updated process, including broader input and written comments, resulted in a more meaningful and balanced evaluation experience.

New Business:

Extra Benevolence: Motion by Christina to designate January and February extra benevolence in the amount of \$200 to Sharon Donegan to assist with expenses related to medical treatment. Second by Colleen. All in favor, motion carries.

Lent Offering Designation: Motion by Bruce to split the Lent offering between Red Willow Bible Camp and The Neighborhood Church. Second by Jon. All in favor, motion carries.

Nominating Committee Report: Council reviewed the ballot and clarified openings for one Nominating Committee position and two Property / Stewardship positions. Motion by Christina to approve the ballot with recommended changes. Second by Bruce. All in favor, motion carries.

Auto Pay Authorization: Council discussed shifting vendors to ACH and auto-pay while maintaining appropriate oversight. Council agreed that any new auto-pay setup will be brought to council for approval prior to implementation.

Work Agreements: Council reviewed the work agreements for Joan Shroyer (Custodian) and Katie Jorgensen (Office Administrator) and discussed recommended edits. Motion by Christina to approve. Second by Jon. All in favor, motion carries.

FAITH5 Step 4- Pray Together

FAITH5 Step 5- Bless One Another with the sign of the cross

Submitted by: Christina Anderson, Secretary

By the Numbers

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

January 4	59
January 7	7
January 11	80
January 14	20
January 18	60

JAN. GENERAL FUND OFFERING

January 4	\$1,495.00
January 7	\$0.00
January 11	\$2,346.00
January 14	\$140.00
January 18	\$1,535.00
Automated Gifts (MTD)	\$520.00
Vanco	\$500.53

GENERAL FUND YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 12/31/25)

BUDGET:	\$178,285.00
EXPENSES:	\$174,701.41
OFFERING:	\$178,645.91

DESIGNATED FUNDS

(as of 12/31/25)

Property Fund:	\$8,862.94
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$1,081.64
Music Fund:	\$4,419.71
Budget Reserve:	\$18,507.36
Thrivent Choice:	\$1,115.00
Noisy Offering:	\$0.00
FLC Men's Group:	\$1,186.16
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$93,720.86
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,771.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35



February (Group 1)

Kathleen Allard

Bob & Deb Belquist

Jim & Judy Belquist

AJ & Stacy Benz

Hannah Brandner

Tyler & Sydney Carr

Duane & Annette Duda

Jordan & Steph Grossman

Dennis Haugen

Taylor & Amanda Koeplin

Janelle Koeplin

Roger & Diane Langley

Corey & Tammy Longnecker

Roger & Patti Longnecker

Eric & Brittany Perleberg

Neal & Deb Rud

John & Jean Schuster

Mike & Jill Thompson

Allan & Gail Weisenburger



1st - Emilee Larson
 Chaztin Wobbema
 2nd - James Marsaa
 Oliver Swenson
 3rd - Lillian Gedrose
 Lois Jacobson
 5th - Eden Weisenburger
 6th - Gracelyn Dockter
 Dylan Rossow
 Casey Ystaas
 7th - Cole Weber
 9th - Jordon Meier
 Kolton Sorensen
 Gail Weisenburger
 Michael Zeltinger
 11th - Lainee Langley
 12th - Justin Ystaas
 13th - Jim Fleming
 14th - Tim Perleberg

15th - Millie Carr
 Amy Cudworth
 Amy Wobbema
 16th - Cathy Anderson
 Brenda Bachmeier
 Cherry Heinz
 Kenna Munson
 18th - Christina Anderson
 Laura Reis
 19th - Helen Duda
 Sharon Norton
 20th -Easton Perleberg
 21st -Sunny Guler
 Carter Homelvig
 22nd -Norris Kjos
 Raegyn Lange
 25th - Eric Longnecker
 26th - Hannah Brandner
 28th - Forde Langley
 LuAnn Meehan
 29th - Kristen Allmaras

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



January 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES (UNAPPROVED BY COUNCIL)

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes January 14, 2026

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, Pastor Amy Kippen – Pastor, Katie Jorgensen – Office Administrator and Board of Education, Property & Stewardship – Corey Longnecker, Lay Ministry & Evangelism – Fern Schuster.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Colleen to approve the preliminary agenda with the addition of a staff evaluation report under Old Business. Second by Pastor Amy. All in favor, motion carries.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Amy reported on ministry activities for the month, including two nursing home worship services, one pre-marriage session, and one Luther League gathering. Luther League summer trip planning to North Carolina is underway. Pastor Amy completed four sessions of Advent Bible study. The Worship and Arts Committee met to review Christmas worship and to plan for Lent. Pastor Amy also reported continued synod work as a mentor for a lay ministry cohort and ongoing service with RWBC, including participation on the 100th anniversary planning team.

Board of Education Report: Katie reported on upcoming worship and education planning, including Ash Wednesday on February 18 with soup supper and continued planning for Lent and Palm Sunday. Katie also shared positive feedback received about the Christmas program and supper.

Property / Stewardship Report: Corey reported that the Board completed light bulb replacement and is installing additional smoke detectors. The main water shutoff valve in the furnace room was stuck. Board also discussed unused adjustable tables stored in the furnace room and will contact the daycare to see if they would like them; if not, the items may be offered to the public.

Lay Ministry / Evangelism Report: Fern reported that the Board met with Pastor Amy for annual ELCA emphasis and Bible camp emphasis Sundays. The Board reviewed year-end financials and felt the Board stayed in good shape with the budget. Fern also noted questions about offering envelopes and recommended a newsletter notice for those who no longer want envelopes.

FAITH5 Step 1-Share Highs & Lows: Council members shared personal highs and lows.

FAITH5 Step 2- Read Bible Verse: Bible verse was shared by President Bruce.

FAITH 5 Step 3: Talk about the Bible verse and then move to agenda