



May 2026

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Janet Heskin & Susette Allmaras

USHERING:

- Sunday, May 3 at 9:40 a.m.: Kent & Sheila Brown
- Sunday, May 10 at 9:40 a.m.: Ron & Becky Anderson
- Sunday, May 17 at 9:40 a.m.: Dave & Tasha Skogen family
- Sunday, May 24 at 9:40 a.m.: Kristy O'Connor family
- Sunday, May 31 at 9:40 a.m.: Jim & Michelle Fleming

*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, May 3 at 9:15 a.m.: Travis & Ami Peterson family
- Sunday, May 10 at 9:15 a.m.: Chad & Amy Wobbema family
- Sunday, May 17 at 9:15 a.m.: Bruce & Donna Gedrose
- Sunday, May 24 at 9:15 a.m.: Michael & Chelsey Zeltinger family
- Sunday, May 31 at 9:15 a.m.: Nancy Ludwig

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

- Sunday, May 10 at 9:15 a.m.: Matt & Allison Pfeifer family
- Sunday, May 17 at 9:15 a.m.: Bruce & Donna Gedrose
- Sunday, May 24 at 9:15 a.m.: Heather Bullinger family
- Sunday, May 31 at 9:15 a.m.: Ron & Becky Anderson

PREPLANNED CONGREGATION MEAL: N/A

FUND: VBS

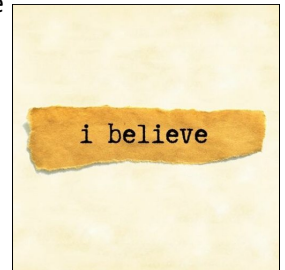
If you are unavailable on your assigned day, please use the group list that was mailed to you to find a replacement. If you are unsuccessful at finding a replacement, please notify a co-chairperson.



The Apostles' Creed is one of the oldest and most widely used statements of Christian faith. For nearly two thousand years, Christians have spoken these words together in worship, at baptisms, and in daily prayer. The creed likely developed from early baptismal confessions used by the church in the first few centuries after Christ. As new believers prepared for baptism, they were asked to profess what they believed about God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Over time, these statements were gathered and shaped into the creed we know today. So no, the Apostles did not write the Apostles Creed!

The Apostles' Creed is definitely not a replacement for the Bible, but is a summary of the core story of our faith. In just a few sentences, it proclaims the Father God who created the world, Jesus the Son who redeemed the world, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit through the church. When we speak the creed together, we join Christians across generations and around the world in confessing this shared faith.

Sometimes people wonder about particular phrases in the creed. For example, the line "the holy catholic church" does not refer to the Roman Catholic Church. The word *catholic* simply means "universal." It reminds us that the church of Jesus Christ is bigger than any denomination or congregation. We are part of a worldwide community of believers. You can always note the difference by noting that the Roman Catholic Church has a capital C, and the universal church has a lower case C.



Another phrase that sometimes raises questions is the line about Jesus descending after his death. Some versions say "he descended into hell," while others say "he descended to the dead." Both are attempts to express the same belief: that Christ truly entered the depth of human death and overcame it.

Each time we confess the Apostles' Creed, we remember who God is, what Christ has done for us, and the hope we share together in the communion of saints.



How blessed are we as a congregation to have such a gifted artist as Sydney Carr?!

She created two original paintings during Lent. Thank you Syd for sharing your immense God given gifts with us.

And thank you to the whole Worship & Arts Team for always enriching our worship experience.



LENT OFFERING

Our Lenten Offering of \$765 will be split between Red Willow Ministries and The Neighborhood Church. Thanks for your generous gifts!



GOD'S HOUSE
our home
2025 Capital Campaign

A friendly reminder from your capital campaign team to make plans for submitting your 2026 pledged gift. Thank you for your generous support of our church's buildings and grounds.

A special "Thank you" to those who sponsored flowers to decorate our church for Easter worship.



IMO Nathan Ludwig by Robert & Carmen Ludwig

IMO Alice Puhr by Adam & Ashley Fleming

IHO Marlyss Fleming by Adam & Ashley Fleming

IMO Marty & Charlotte Koeplin by Janelle, Taylor & Amanda Koeplin

IMO Cliff Gedrose and Marvin & Emma Anderson, by Greg & Janine Anderson

IMO Kathryn Jorgensen and Caryn Jorgensen, by Cory & Katie Jorgensen

IMO James & Doris Fortney and Emanuel & Mabel Dockter, by Paul & Janel Fortney

IMO Cliff Gedrose and Debbie Kruse, by Marilyn Gedrose

IMO Darlene Tennyson by Tim & Amy Perlebert

IMO Darla, Mom, Dad, 4 brothers, Abe, & Erma by Richard Carlson & family

IMO our parents and Kerin Pierson by David & Gail Roberts

IMO Scott Harrington by Traci Harrington & family

IMO Freddy & Gladys Carlson by Johnny & Theresa Carlson

IMO James & Verna Guler and Dean & Elizabeth Gehrtz, by David & Patti Gehrtz

IMO Jack McDowell by Metta McDowell

IMO Margaret Bollingberg by Donnie & Kristen Allmaras family

IMO Jean Lessner by Donnie & Kristen Allmaras family

IHO Jason & Jana, BrayLee, Hayden and Ava Stafford & Kelly Stafford, by Deb Stafford

IMO Angela Crooks Bercier by Rev. Amy Kippen

IMO Hartley, Pearle & Viola Carlson by Rev. Amy Kippen

IMO our grandparents and the kids' great grandparents by Matt & Allison Pfeiffer family

IMO Gary & Betty Georgeson by Kerstin & Jamie Allmaras & family

FLC Women's Ministry

5th Annual Women's Night Out

On Sunday, April 12th, 2026, thirty women gathered at the Garden Gate in Carrington for an evening of fellowship and faith. The evening started with a "social hour" and then our emcee, Kristen Allmaras, took the mic to welcome everyone and introduce our speaker for the evening – Kayla Houchin, originally from Fessenden, ND, but now in Fargo.

Kayla describes herself as an advocate for Charity Water, founded by Scott Harrison, not an employee and her passion for this charity is beyond measure. She is a dedicated advocate that has hosted galas in Fargo on the charity's behalf. She has also run the New York City Marathon to bring awareness to and benefits to Charity Water to help the one in ten that live without access to clean drinking water worldwide. She shared testimonials from those who have been affected first hand as well.

After Kayla spoke, we had a luncheon of appetizers that included: chicken salad croissants, charcuterie skewers, taco bites, pasta salad, margarita flatbread pizza, and cream puff skewers with black raspberries. A great time was had by all attendees.

To learn more, visit <https://www.charitywater.org> as there is a lot of information on there and you can see everything from finances to history to real stories and more!



Left: Kayla Houchin, Women's Night Out speaker.
Above: Group shot from Women's Night Out.

By the Numbers



ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
April 2 - 97	\$ 428.00
April 3 - 42	\$ 215.00
April 5 - 60	\$ 22.00
April 8 - 3	\$ 0.00
April 12 - 88	\$ 3,200.00
April 15 - 6	\$ 40.00
April 19 - 63	\$ 10,058.00
Vanco MTD	\$ 449.53

*Weekly Offering Needed to Meet
Budget \$3,639.00*

GENERAL FUND as of 3/31/2026

BUDGET:	\$ 47,306.75
EXPENSES:	\$ 48,627.64
OFFERING:	\$ 50,049.35

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Property Fund:	\$8,862.94
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$1,224.35
Worship & Music Fund:	\$4,151.30
Budget Reserve:	\$18,507.36
Thrivent Choice:	\$1,115.00
Noisy Offering:	338.50
FLC Men's Group:	\$1,256.16
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$102,195.26
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,791.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35)



May (Group 4)

Susette Allmaras
Ron & Becky Anderson
Tom & Sheri Anderson
Bev Bjornson
Kent & Sheila Brown
Heather Bullinger & family
Jim & Michelle Fleming
Bruce & Donna Gedrose
Marilyn Gedrose
Janet Heskin
Nancy Ludwig
Metta McDowell
Barry McNett
Kirsty O'Connor & family
Chase & Lauren Pederson
Larry & Beverly Pederson
Travis & Ami Peterson & family
Matt & Allison Pfeiffer & family
Dave & Tasha Skogen & family
Chad & Amy Wobbema & family
Michael & Chelsey Zeltinger & family

A special thank you to all who donated to our Bible Camp Sunday special offering for Red Willow Ministries! Your generous gifts totaled just under \$900! What a wonderful donation as Red Willow celebrates their 100th anniversary this summer! Mark your calendars for August 7-9 for the big weekend celebration!





Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

May 3: IMO Darla Carlson, by Richard Carlson & family

May 10: IMO Kenny Ihringer by his family

May 17: IMO John & Tekla Gedrose and Homer & Ophelia Collier
by Larry Danduran & Glenda Collier and Cindy Collier

May 24: IMO Kathryn Jorgensen, by Cory & Katie Jorgensen

May 31: IMO Grandma Anna Mae Tollefson, by Eric & Brittany Perleberg family



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 8, 2026

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

Present Council: Bruce Hirschert, Pastor Amy Kippen, Katie Jorgensen, Jon Johnson, Christina Anderson, Absent: Colleen Semmens. Present Board Chairs: Property & Stewardship – Corey Longnecker, Lay Ministry-Michelle Pfeiffer, Board Of Education -Carissa Johnson

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

Continued on page 7



Faith Stepping Stones

*Marking Milestones
from Cradle to Graduation*

Tis the season to celebrate Faith Stepping Stones!
Faith Stepping Stones is a family ministry program of our church that marks seven significant milestones in the lives of our kiddos from baptism through graduation. In April, we celebrated Stones 2 and 4. In May, we will celebrate Stones 6 & 7!

#4 Holy Communion

On Maundy Thursday, our 4th graders celebrated their Communion Stepping Stone. In advance of Maundy Thursday, parents and students gathered for a 3-hour retreat where they learned all about the Passover, the Last Supper and Holy Communion today!

Back row: Arabelle Johnson, Eden Weisenburger, Isaac Lange, Pastor Amy.

Front row: Allie Weber, Kylie Grossman, Rylen Heskin, and Noah Alderman.



#2 Cradle Roll Graduation



On Sunday April 26th, eight littles graduated from the Cradle Roll to the BIG kid LAUNCH Sunday school roster! They each received a Bible, a diploma, and a graduation sash. Parents learned all about our faith formation programs and how the church and parents will partner up over the next 14 years to raise up faith filled, respectful, resilient adults!

Left to Right: Tessa Koeplin, Lillian Lommen, Wade Burkhardtsmeier, Laine Langley, Avery Weber, and Sawyer Hochhalter. *surrounded by their families* Not pictured: Carter Homelvig and Hendrik Zeltinger

Old Business:

Council Retreat Dates: Council discussed retreat timing and agreed to table retreat planning until June. Council asked that it be noted in May so members remember that it will be discussed in June.

Lenten Service Recap: Council reviewed the Lenten services and received positive feedback. Members appreciated the consistent worship framework, the monologues, youth involvement, readings, and the 30-minute service length. Soup supper participation was strong, and the youth group made more than in recent years.

Holy Week Recap: The 7 p.m. Holy Week service time worked well for many people, although it was later for families with young children. Easter attendance was lower than the prior year, but the service was positive, included strong hymns and singing, and was completed in about an hour.

New Business:

Extra Benevolence: no action was taken.

Synod Assembly Delegates: Bruce and Colleen will serve as Synod Assembly delegates. If anything changes, council will address it at a future meeting.

Summer Worship Plans: No action was taken.

Parsonage Allowance: Pastor Amy requested that her parsonage allowance increase from \$1,500 to \$2,250. Motion by Jon to increase the parsonage allowance to \$2,250. Seconded by Christina. All in favor, motion carries. Pastor Amy also reported that she and Katie are reviewing the proper W-2 treatment of the parsonage allowance and will consult further before deciding whether any prior year W-2 correction is needed.

Quarterly Governance Holy Experiment Review: Council noted that the hoped-for outcomes are being met in several areas, including providing consistent council leadership, right-sizing council for the church size, helping with board recruitment, allowing boards more time to meet, improving board focus, supporting the pastor with a smaller consistent group for planning, improving governance, and reducing micromanagement. Council discussed that board experience appears positive and that congregation feedback has been generally good. Council reviewed the decisions that still need to be made for possible constitution and bylaw changes. The goal is to make the needed decisions by October 2026, craft final language by December 2026, and present proposed changes to the congregation at the January 2027 annual meeting. Holy Experiment decisions will be added to New Business for the next two months so council can continue working through the list.

Electronic Newsletter: Katie reported that postage and mailing costs continue to increase, including the annual permit cost and monthly newsletter mailing expenses. Council discussed moving toward an electronic newsletter, collecting email addresses, using church mailboxes for printed copies, and gathering congregational input. Motion by Pastor Amy to table until May. Seconded by Christina. All in favor, motion carries.

FAITH5 Step 4 & 5 - Pray Together and Bless One Another

Submitted by: Christina Anderson, Secretary

SUNDAY
**Sound, Lay Readers, &
 Communion Servers**

May 3: Cherry Heinz, sound; Colleen Semmens, lay reader; Fern Schuster, communion server.
May 10: Cherry Heinz, sound; Christina Anderson, lay reader.
May 17: Kevin Cartwright, sound; Sharon Whitmer, lay reader; Curt Weinmann, communion server.
May 24: Mitch Bjerke, sound; Melanie Homelvig, lay reader.
May 31: Kenny Thompson, sound; Nancy Ludwig, lay reader;

April Memorials

Capital Campaign

IMO Anne Erickson
by Jim & Fern Schuster
IMO Anne Erickson
by Al & Gail Weisenburger
IMO Debbie Krause
by Greg & Janine Anderson
IMO Anne Erickson
by Greg & Janine Anderson
IMO Anne Erickson
by Curt & Marydean Weinmann
IMO Anne Erickson
by Bev Lesmeister
IMO Charlotte Koeplin
by Janelle Koeplin

Capital Campaign cont.

IMO Anne Erickson
by Colin Gedrose
IMO Anne Erickson
by Paul & Janel Fortney
IMO Anne Erickson
by Dr. Robert & Judith Johnson
IMO Anne Erickson
by Lonnie & Lisa Thompson
IMO Anne Erickson
by Frank Erickson
IMO Anne Erickson
by Mary Ellen Rue
IMO Anne Erickson
by Janice Manly

Carpet Fund

IMO Anne Erickson
by Bev Bjornson

Scholarship Fund

IMO Anne Erickson
by Scott & Nan Taverna

Hunger Free Food Pantry

IMO Gary Boyer
by Barb Perleberg



1 st	Jim Dockter	20 th	Gail Roberts
4 th	Kaci Weisenburger	22 nd	Greg Anderson
5 th	Jesse Anderson		Curt Weinmann
	Everly Perleberg	23 rd	Jake Burkhardtsmeier
8 th	Kaelyn Ystaas		Janet Heskin
9 th	Layne Allmaras		Stu Richter
	Raelynn Fleming		Lonnie Thompson
	Oliver Pister	24 th	Lynnae Lies
10 th	Lillian Lommen		Judy Meier
14 th	Melony Allmaras		Kaiya O'Connor
15 th	Lenni Smith		Terik Pfeiffer
16 th	Luann Thompson	27 th	Chantel Heskin
17 th	Tasha Skogen	29 th	Bryn Thorsell
18 th	Noah Alderman	30 th	Ross Homelvig
	Susette Allmaras		Brian Perleberg
	Lynn Homelvig		
19 th	Adison Bullinger		
	Leah Bullinger		

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

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Amy reported that Holy Week and Easter services went well. The later 7 p.m. Holy Week services received positive feedback. Lenten Wednesday services went well with positive feedback regarding the monologues, youth involvement, soup suppers, and worship attendance.

Board of Education Report: The Board of Education reported on upcoming spring events. Last day of LAUNCH with a congregational meal will be April 26th, with a lock-in for grades 2-5 on the 25th.

Property / Stewardship Report: Corey reported that the Property Board has developed a detailed list of church and parsonage projects. Items discussed included carpet cleaning, caulking, painting steps, furnace filters, south church doors, parsonage window trim, uneven ground at the parsonage, final deck improvements, landscaping, weed control, and possible concrete edging.

Lay Ministry / Evangelism Report: Lay Ministry/Evangelism reported that Lenten services and Holy Week services went well. The Board will continue reviewing worship and fellowship needs as part of the Holy Experiment. The Board is coordinating a full breakfast for Sr Recognition Sunday on May 3rd, and Coffee Fellowship for Confirmation Sunday on May 17th.

FAITH5 Steps 1-3 Share highs & lows, Read a Bible verse, and Talk about the verse, then talk through the meeting agenda

President's Report: Bruce reported that the boards appear to be working well under the Holy Experiment. Property and Lay Ministry both shared that they have good teams, and the current governance structure is improving board work by allowing them to focus on their areas of ministry.

Secretary's Report (last month's minutes): Motion by Bruce to accept the Secretary's Report as printed. Seconded by Jon. All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Jon reported that total offerings for March were \$20,479 and expenses were \$18,948. March included three payroll periods. Year-to-date offerings were \$50,049.35, and the church is at 25.70% of the budget for the year. Offerings are ahead of last year at this time. The capital campaign account balance is \$115,210.70. Motion by Christina to move \$382.50 from budget reserve to cover the extra Advent offering payment to the ELCA. Second by Pastor Amy. All in favor, motion carries. Katie reported on Hunger Free Food Pantry finances. Motion by Pastor Amy to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Christina. All in favor, motion carries.

Office Admin Report: Katie presented correspondence, including donation acknowledgements from ELCA Good Gifts and the Synod for 2025 mission support. Katie reported that Jeanette Perleberg submitted a letter of resignation from the Foundation Board. Motion by Jon to accept the resignation. Seconded by Pastor Amy. All in favor, motion carries. Katie reviewed the "Cards of Care" list and Pastor Amy prayed for those receiving the cards.

Continued on page 8