



November 2026

WORSHIP ROLES

USHERING:

Sunday, November 1 at 9:40 a.m.: Avolt & Jen Baumbach family
Sunday, November 8 at 9:40 a.m.: Colleen Semmens and Jake Clelland
Sunday, November 15 at 9:40 a.m.: Donny & Kristen Allmaras family
Sunday, November 22 at 9:40 a.m.: Bruce & Jodi Hirschert
Sunday, November 29 at 9:40 a.m.: Gary Weigum and Rick Swenson

GREETERS:

Sunday, November 1 at 9:15 a.m.: Cheryl Sandager
Sunday, November 8 at 9:15 a.m.: Bruce Hirschert
Sunday, November 15 at 9:15 a.m.: Holly Christopherson & Dennis Hegland
Sunday, November 22 at 9:15 a.m.: Cody & Emilee Larson family
Sunday, November 29 at 9:15 a.m.: Eric & Sara Myhre family

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, November 1 at 9:15 a.m.: Karla Burgland
Sunday, November 8 at 9:15 a.m.: Bruce & Jodi Hirschert
Sunday, November 15 at 9:15 a.m.: Kristi Swenson
Sunday, November 22 at 9:15 a.m.: Colleen Semmens
Sunday, November 29 at 9:15 a.m.: Tom & Kathy Ryan

MEALS AND FUNERALS

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Vicki Ryan, Holly Christopherson and Kerstin Allmaras

PREPLANNED MEALS:

1. **Fall Supper** - Although Helping Hands has no designated job, they are members of the congregation and asked to help where they are available.
2. **Funerals** - as scheduled

FUND: Capital Campaign

THINGS TO NOTE

1. *Families are always welcome to help. Congregation members love seeing the children helping right alongside the adults.*
2. *Households not assigned to a monthly task will be called on to help with funerals and congregational meals as needed:*
 - *Providing food*
 - *Setting up, serving, or cleaning up*
 - *Donating \$10-\$20 to help cover costs*



pastor's ponderings

Thankful to Be Covered in Grace, Free to Love

November is a month when we pause to give thanks for the blessings in our lives. As a pastor, I am especially thankful to be part of the ELCA, a church rooted in the beautiful, life-changing promise that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther spent much of his life reminding people that God's love is not something we earn. It is a gift freely given. As Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

We don't have to prove ourselves worthy of God's love. We don't have to get everything right. We don't have to carry the burden of earning our place in God's kingdom. In Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free. And that freedom changes how we live.

Luther wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." In other words, because we are freed by grace, we are free to turn our attention toward others. We can love without keeping score, give without seeking recognition.

I am thankful for a Lutheran faith that proclaims grace so boldly, for a congregation that puts that grace into action, and for the countless ways God works through ordinary people like you and me to bring extraordinary love into the world.

As we enter this season of gratitude, may we remember the words of 1 Peter 4:10: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

May our gratitude overflow into accepting unconditionally, caring faithfully, and giving joyfully, as we strive to live out our faith in Jesus as the people of First Lutheran Church.

With gratitude and joy, Pastor Amy



1st – Meah Gehrtz
 2nd - Lisa Longnecker
 Christian Nystrom
 Ava Peterson
 Drake Skogen
 3rd - Curtis Larson
 Riley Longnecker
 Scott Taverna
 4th - Elliott Belquist
 6th -Oaklynn Bachmeier
 Jacob Lommen
 Jean Schuster
 Roger Topp
 8th - Judy Belquist
 Richard Carlson
 Gary Weigum

10th - Kalli Anderson
 Mitch Bjerke
 Bradyn Collier
 Joey Wobbema
 11th - Kristy O'Connor
 12th - Heather Bullinger
 16th - Avolt Baumbach
 Lauren Pederson
 18th - Sandy Koepplin
 Avery Weber
 19th - Brekken Zeltinger
 23rd - Wade Burkhardtsmeier
 Marlys Harrison
 Chad Wobbema
 24th - Sophie Skogen
 Michael Thompson
 25th - Gina Clifton
 27th - Lucas Langley
 Kristi Swenson
 28th - Brody Weisenburger
 30th - Keaton Cudworth



Important Message from Church Council

In recent months, there has been an effort underway to remove our current Eastern ND Synod Bishop Tessa Moon-Leiseth, from office. This effort has been unsuccessful. Pastor Amy and President Bruce

Hirchert were made aware of this a couple of months ago, and the Council was informed last week, after a letter was sent to all congregants from the EaND Synod Executive Committee.

Copies of this letter are available in the Narthex. If there are any further developments, we will be sure to keep you informed. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce or Pastor Amy.

In Christ,
 Your Church Council



Sunday, November 1st
 Dylan Cudworth & Luca Schumacher

Sunday, November 8th
 Kelsy Larson & Kaliyah Whitetail

Sunday, November 15th
 Gracie Pister & Christian Nystrom

Sunday, November 22nd
 Lincoln Langley & Manny Meier

Sunday, November 29th
 Jack Skogen & Livi Skogen

Fall Turkey Supper Sunday, Nov. 8th

- 13 & over \$15
- 65+ \$10
- 6-12 years \$5
- Under 6 Free
- Family Rate \$40



Delivery
 Available for
 \$5 fee from
 4:30 to 5:30
 pm. Call
 947-2478
 after 3:30 pm
 on November
 8th.

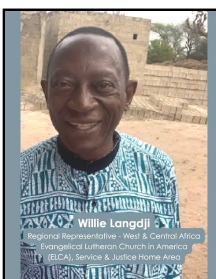
4:30 - 7:00 pm
First Lutheran Church
436 1st Ave. N., New Rockford



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

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

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



Sunday, November 29th, 2026, we will be holding our 5th Sunday special offering for our international missionary, Willie Langdji, who is stationed in Central Africa. Please consider a monetary donation to this great cause.



We are in need of empty egg cartons for our distributor that brings in eggs for the Hunger Free Food Pantry. If you have any that you are willing to donate, please drop them off at the church. Thanks!

By the Numbers



ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
October 4 - 136	\$ 21,911.00
October 7 - 8	\$ 130.00
October 11 - 151	\$ 2,181.00
October 14 - 8	\$ 40.00
October 18 - 137	\$ 3,550.00
October 21 - 8	\$ 100.00
October 25 -	\$ 1,196.00
Vanco MTD	\$ 629.62

*Weekly Offering Needed to Meet
Budget \$3,640.00*

YEAR-TO-DATE

(As of September 30, 2026)

BUDGET:	\$ 157,730.83
EXPENSES:	\$ 139,412.38
OFFERING:	\$ 133,547.16

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS (SAVINGS)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Property Fund:	\$10,574.9
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$456.64
Music Fund:	\$3,726.96
Budget Reserve:	\$16,124.86
Thrivent Choice:	\$1,241.00
Noisy Offering:	\$1,116.00
FLC Men's Group:	\$1,009.03
Capital Camp. Fund:	\$133,060.85
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,801.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35)



November(Group 2)

Donny & Kristen Allmaras family
Kerstin Allmaras
Avolt & Jen Baumbach family
Karla Berglund
Ed Brecto
Dennis Hegland & Holly
Christopherson
Chad & Kali Clelland
Jake Clelland
Bruce & Jodi Hirschert
Cody & Emiliee Larson family
Eric & Sara Myhre family
Sharon Norton
Tom & Kathy Ryan
Richard & Vicki Ryan
Cheryl Sandager
Colleen Semmens
Scott & Jerri Severs
Rick & Kristi Swenson
Gary Weigum
Roger & Betty Westby

KDAK RADIO BROADCAST: WAYS TO LISTEN



1. On the radio!
1600am or
100.1fm
2. Online streaming
through the KDAK
app on your com-
puter, tablet, or
phone. Just head to
your app store and
search "KDAK the Cardinal".
Look for the logo above, in-
stall the app and listen!





Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

Nov. 1: IMO Delbert & Janice Clelland, by their children & grandchildren
 Nov. 8: IMO Norman Hirchert by Sharon Hirchert and family
 Nov. 15: IMO Lyle & Helen Christianson, Marion Omoth, Kathy Bonderson, & Nate Omoth, by Kevin & Karen Omoth
 Nov. 22: IMO Merv & Jeff Bjorson by Bev Bjorson
 Nov. 29: IHO our beautiful grandchildren by Norris & Becky Kjos



November 1: Gail Weisenburger, sound; Nancy Ludwig, reader, Tammy Longnecker, communion coordinator
November 8: Cherry Heinz, sound; Jon Johnson, reader
November 15: Mitch Bjerke, sound; Allmaras family, reader; Deb Stafford, communion coordinator
November 22: Kevin Cartwright, sound; Marilyn Gedrose, reader
November 29: Kenny Thompson, sound; Judy Belquist, reader

Office Admin: Katie presented correspondence and cards of care. Council reviewed a letter from the EaND Synod Executive Committee and agreed to make copies available and inform the congregation.

Old Business:

Staff Evaluations: Evaluation forms were distributed to all Board and Council members.

Fall Supper: Katie reported that plans for the Nov 8 meal are underway. Members are signing up for shifts and to sponsor food costs. All Board and Council members are expected to participate if available.

Custodian Position: Council discussed the hiring committee, advertising, and training. Motion to approve two weeks of overlapping training for the current and new custodian. Second by Jon. All in favor, motion carries. Council identified an hourly salary range.

Holy Experiment: Stewardship Committee: Council revisited its September decisions regarding the Stewardship Committee. Motion to amend the proposed language so Stewardship Committee members are elected, their terms are 2 years, with a 4-term limit. Second by Jon. All in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

Extra Benevolence: Motion to give \$200 in extra benevolence to Byron. M/S/C
Advent Special Offering: will go to the Women's Auxiliary Cemetery Association.

Bible Camp Fund: Pastor Amy reported that a new requirement for confirmation is to attend Bible camp after 6th and 7th grades. In order to ensure that every student will be able to attend, she proposed establishing a Bible Camp Scholarship Fund. This designated fund will provide financial needs-based scholarships to ELCA camps and will be funded through an annual fund drive campaign. Motion by Christina to establish the fund. Second by Bruce. All in favor, motion carries.

Synod Assembly Delegates: Council agreed to table this item.

Governance Holy Experiment: Council discussed future Church Council structure, officer roles, elections, terms, and term limits. The Council's recommendations will be presented at the 2027 annual meeting, where all the proposed governance changes (that have come out of the Holy Experiment) will be voted on by the congregation. Pastor Amy will prepare the constitution language for Council review.

Budget: Council reviewed the General Fund budget timeline. Katie, Jon, and Pastor Amy will create a 2027 draft budget for Council consideration in November.

Next Meeting: Council will meet at the parsonage on Wed, Nov 11 at 11am. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Christina Anderson, Secretary

Unapproved First Lutheran Church Minutes
October 14th, 2026

FLC Council & Administrative Boards Joint Meeting

The joint meeting was held at 7:15pm.

Present: Executive Board Members and Church Council

New Business:

- **Nominating Committee Report:** Christina Anderson of the Nominating Committee reviewed the terms and term limits of current Board members. Boards chairs will assess who is leaving and report to the Nominating Committee after the November Board meetings.
- **Governance Holy Experiment Report:** The council thanked the Boards for their thoughtful feedback regarding future board structure, terms, and term limits. They then reported their decisions which will go before the Annual Meeting as recommendations in January 2027.

Submitted by Christina Anderson, Secretary

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Present: President Bruce Hirschert, Pastor Amy Kippen, Secretary Christina Anderson, Treasurer Jon Johnson, and Office Admin Katie Jorgensen.

Absent: VP Colleen Semmens

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

Reports:

Pastor: Pastor Amy reported 2 nursing home worship services, 2 baptisms, and several pastoral care and counseling sessions. She continues her monthly online continuing education cohort with the Moses Project. FLC activities included 2 faith stepping stone 3 sessions, the women's retreat, a LAUNCH parent meeting, 2 overnight youth retreats, 2 sessions of Luther League, and the youth gathering trip interest meeting. She also reported participation in the Lutheran Home annual meeting, ministerial association, and synod activities.

Board of Education: The board reported on the LAUNCH parent meeting and Friday Night Live retreat. The Christmas program will be held December 13 at 5:00 p.m., followed by soup and sandwiches.

Lay Ministry / Evangelism: The board reported on current ministry activities, including the Fall Supper.

Property / Stewardship: No board report was presented. FLC received a security grant of \$3,810 for cameras and emergency buttons. The Board agreed to pay approximately \$600 in overage costs.

Secretary: Motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer: Jon reported \$16,401.43 in offerings in September and \$15,094.46 in expenses. Year-to-date expenses remained under budget and offerings were approximately \$13,000 ahead of the prior year. Offering totals matched; Jon and Katie will continue to reconcile a small difference in expense records following the Quicken data issue. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. All in favor. M/S/C



- ♦ **BAPTISMS:**
Boden Myhre
- ♦ **WEDDINGS:**
- ♦ **FUNERALS:**
- ♦ **TRANSFERS IN:**
Madison Myhre

November
Vikki Cartwright
and
Sheila Brown





HELP US FIND JOAN'S REPLACEMENT!
First Lutheran Church
— CHURCH —
— NEW ROCKFORD, ND —

Custodian
POSITION OPEN

First Lutheran Church in New Rockford is seeking a dependable, detail-oriented **custodian** to help care for our church facilities.



This part-time position offers a flexible schedule of **up to 6 hours per week.**



Responsibilities include general cleaning, maintaining a welcoming and orderly environment, keeping cleaning supplies stocked, and room set up for church events.



The ideal candidate is reliable, takes pride in their work, and is able to work independently.



Hourly pay is based on experience.



To apply, stop by the church office or contact us at flcnewrockford@gmail.com or **701-947-2478.**





Approved First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 9, 2026

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

Present Council: Bruce Hirschert, Pastor Amy Kippen, Christina Anderson, Colleen Semmens, Jon Johnson, and Office Admin Katie Jorgensen.

Board Chairs: Education- Carissa Johnson, Property/Stewardship- Corey Longnecker, Lay Ministry & Evangelism- Michelle Pfeiffer.

Approval of Agenda

Reports:

Pastor: Pastor Amy reported 6 days of vacation taken, attended the 4-day Moses Project (continuing ed event for rural pastors) in Des Moines, Nursing Home Worship- 2, Baptisms- 1, and Weddings- 1. She provided 6 Pastoral Care visits, and 3 Pastoral Counsel Sessions. FLC ministry highlights included yearly calendar Planning w/Katie, Stewardship Committee Meeting, 5 GriefShare sessions, Women's retreat planning, and meetings for a LiFT! Confirmation rework. Pastor Amy continues her work with the synod as a mentor for lay ministers, and her work on the Red Willow Board of Directors, helping lead the 100th anniversary celebration and the annual quilt auction.

Board of Education: Abigail Nystrom resigned from the BOE. VBS went well being organized and led by BOE. After much discussion, they will facilitate VBS again in 2027. LAUNCH teachers are needed. BOE has contracted with Metigoshe in Motion (MiM) for four youth events again this year- two for LAUNCH children and two for the confirmation youth. Backpack Sunday is planned in conjunction with the Fall Family Festival on September 13. Carissa Johnson will be the Fall Supper Committee Representative and LaShane Wobbema will be the Nominating Committee Representative for BOE.

Lay Ministry / Evangelism: The Fall Family Festival will be held September 13. Crafts and indoor games are planned. Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 11. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., with no Christmas Day service. Council discussed the possible need to change the time of worship on Sunday July 4, 2027 due to All School Reunion activities.

Property / Stewardship: The large cottonwood tree at the parsonage was struck by lightning, causing minimal damage to the siding and deck fencing, and causing quite a mess of tree shards around the neighborhood. The minimal insurance payout will be used to pay for the tree to be removed. The board continues to explore options regarding landscaping at the parsonage.

Secretary: July 29th and August 5th, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed. Jon made a motion to approve the minutes and Colleen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Jon reported August offerings of approximately \$10,800 and expenses of approximately \$14,782. Year-to-date offerings were approximately \$117,001 and expenses were approximately \$123,003, with expenses remaining under budget. Katie reconstructed January through August records after a system issue. Jon will review the updated records and resolve the small difference between their reports. Motion by Christina to accept the Treasurer's Report with the noted items requiring follow-up. A second was recorded, but the speaker attribution does not establish who seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Office Admin: Katie reported a request from the Lutheran Home Auxiliary for birthday party supplies and gifts. Cards of care were reviewed, signed, and prayed over by Pastor Amy.

Old Business:

Investments: Bruce reported that Dan Taylor of Invest Forward was on vacation and no follow-up information had been received. No action taken.

Fall Supper: The Fall Supper will be held November 8. Motion by Christina to nominate Bruce to help plan the Fall Supper. Second by Jon. No vote on the nomination was recorded. Jon also offered to help plan, and Katie will assist with ordering, records, and volunteer arrangements. Pastor Amy will coordinate confirmation students.

New Business:

Extra Benevolence: Motion by Christina to give the \$100 September benevolence to the Lutheran Home Auxiliary. Second by Bruce. All in favor, motion carries.

Holy Experiment Decisions Regarding Administrative Boards: Council reviewed the recommendations from the three administrative boards regarding board names, membership, term lengths, meeting schedules, and term limits. Much discussion followed. The Council's decisions will be reported to the Boards at their October meetings. These decisions will then go before the congregation as recommendations at the 2027 annual meeting, where all Holy Experiment proposed changes will be voted on by the congregation.

Pastor's Insurance: Katie reported to keep Pastor Amy's current health insurance plan will mean a 15% premium increase for the church in 2027 (through Portico, the insurance ministry of the ELCA). Motion by Christina to continue the current insurance with the increase. Second by Jon. All in favor, motion carries.

Custodian Position: Council discussed forming a custodian hiring committee to replace Joan Shroyer who will be done on December 31. Steps will include preparing a job description and advertisement and approving a salary range. Joan's existing work agreement and job description will be used in developing updated documents. Bruce will recruit the hiring committee, and Pastor Amy will create the job description and ad. Salary range will be discussed at the October Council meeting.

Closing Prayer and Blessing.

Submitted by: Christina Anderson, Secretary