



FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Watford City



2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



**JANUARY
25TH 2026**

Church Council Ballot

3 Year Positions Available:

1) Lorri Honstein

2) _____

3) _____

1 Year Positions Available:

1) Robin Schwartz

2) Cara Transtrom-Bradley

Trust Committee Ballot

1 Position Available:

1) Nathan Dahl

Old Business

- Food Pantry Update-Mitch Haugeberg
- Building Usage-Cub Scouts, Classical Conversations, Narcotics Anonymous
- Pictorial Directory

New Business

- Updates to the constitution of FLC, and recommended alignment with 2022 and 2025 updates to ELCA constitution.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus.



“I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, *as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*” (Ephesians 3:16–17)

These ancient words from the Apostle Paul gave shape to our 2025 Synod Assembly that was held in Minot in early June. They have continued to shape our shared ministry and mission throughout the year. They remind us that everything we do — from worship and service to leadership and mission — begins with God’s deep, steady love.

As we look back on 2025 across the Western North Dakota Synod, I thank you for the ways we have witnessed together the love of Christ Jesus at work among and through you. People of God, called and sent by God, with faith, courage, and generosity — in small town cafes and office buildings that stand tall along city streets; in communities of learning like our schools and church school classrooms; in holy moments of Christ’s healing touch in local food pantries or at a hospital bedside.



We continue to celebrate the growth of synod-authorized ministry across our synod, where gifted lay leaders are helping congregations thrive as witnesses of Christ’s love in their communities.



This year also brought continued investment in lay formation, faith-in-daily-life conversations, and tools that help congregations deepen discipleship and embrace their callings. Through your congregation’s mission support, our synod supports leaders in transition, strengthens local and global partnerships, and creates spaces of healing, learning, and renewal for people of faith across western North Dakota.

In every corner of Western North Dakota, we see congregations stepping into God’s future with hope — feeding neighbors, welcoming newcomers, walking with the grieving, preparing the newly baptized, accompanying youth, and proclaiming good news in word and deed. These everyday ministries matter. They are changing lives.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your trust. Thank you for being rooted and grounded in Christ’s love — and for embodying that love in your communities.

May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen you in the year to come. And may the peace of Christ guard your hearts and minds as you live out the gospel with courage and joy.



Serving in Christ together,

+The Rev. Craig A. Schweitzer
Bishop, Western North Dakota Synod, ELCA

Property: Robin reported a lot has been done “visually” around the church this year (ie the new Sign, painting the basement bathroom, pantry, and new furniture in the Sunday School gathering area. The parsonage has been sold and that issue may be revisited in the future if there is a need. The main focus has been on upgrading the HVAC system. Robin recognized Glenn for his dedicated service in handling issues concerning our church property. Items on the future agenda for the property committee include landscaping, redoing the windows, and basement kitchen. Robin encouraged FLC members to share any ideas or suggestions with Property Committee. Glenn noted the pews need refinishing as it has been 25 years since Jost Painting completed that project.

Worship: Marcia reviewed the written report presented. She noted the goals of this committee which included meaningful services, engaging the congregation, and creating commitment to Christ and the community. This committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. Marcia gave a special thank you to Anne Beard, Laura Dahl, and Joy Patten for leading worship as lay pastors throughout the year. Special music was provided by the choir twice a month. An abbreviated version of the Holden Service was used for Lent. New member Sunday was held in April with Bishop Craig officiating. A joint church service was held at the close of the McKenzie County Fair. A church service was held in June at the Tourist Park. The Christmas Cantata took place in December which featured a program of beautiful music and narration.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Lynn addressed the activities this committee was involved in throughout the year such as helping with the Youth “Seafood Boil” fundraiser, coordinating the “Feed My Starving Children event, hosting a second annual Ladies Table Party, organizing “Pick Up the Patch”, as well as coordinating “Trail of Treats” and Rally Sunday. The committee was instrumental in arranging the “Live Nativity Scene” for the Parade of Lights as well as planning for the Advent Festival and the Hanging of the Greens. Treat bags were also made up & given to the Sunday School kids during various holidays.

Youth and Education: Joy reviewed the list of events and highlights of the year written in the report. Joy indicated there is a lot of overlap between committees so there ends up being a significant amount of teamwork in the activities at FLC. This committee doesn’t have a consistent meeting date as they meet when the team and youth are available or as events dictate. Sunday School has been meeting twice a month and singing in church once a month.

to manage this program and about 100 hours/week of manpower. The members of the food pantry are very thankful to be part of FLC mission.

***Building Usage:** President Jennifer indicated FLC's basement is busy accommodating a variety of groups to serve out their missions. We host Cub Scouts, Classical Conversations Youth for Christ, as well as Narcotics Anonymous.

Steve Sanford made a motion to adjourn. Lynn Haugeberg seconded. Motion carried.

The Annual Meeting was concluded with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Haugeberg, FLC Council Secretary

This year, our church maintained a visible and positive presence in the community. Through acts of kindness, local service, and participation in town events, we have sought to reflect Christ's love in practical ways. We are making meaningful connections, and our church is known as a place of welcome, compassion, and faith.

I am thankful for the faithful stewardship shown by this congregation. Financial giving has been steady, allowing us to meet our obligations and support ministry without undue strain. Volunteers have generously given their time and talents, often stepping in quietly wherever help was needed.

With the addition of a Wednesday night service, the congregation is reaching more families and expanding its mission to support spiritual growth throughout the week. Wednesday night has seen a growth in attendance from youth coming to classes and now adding an adult bible study.

As we move into the coming year, we do so with hope and trust in God's guidance. Our goals remain simple and faithful: to worship God sincerely, to care for one another deeply, and to serve our community lovingly. I believe the Lord will continue to use this church not because of size or resources, but because of faithfulness.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your commitment to this church. It is a joy, an honor and privilege to serve in your trust as Minister.

Yours in Christ

Minister Matthew Rolfson

Pastoral Statistics for 2025

Baptisms: Noah Wisness, Avery Monk, Ivelyn Dillard, Cole Nelson & Atlas Dokken

Confirmations: Faith Langford, William Forbes & Griffin Tschetter

Weddings: Adam & Kaila Herrold, Jakobus & Jessica Axmaker

Funerals: Jeanette Anderson, Olga Hovet, Norman Sondrol, Jerald Leiseth, Ruby Fritel, Cornell Wollan, Carol Dodge, Katherine Larsen, Marie Trefz, Donald Schmidt, Lynn Wahus, Herb Lundin, Jeanette Thorgramson, Bjarne Norstog, Philip Loomer, Pembra Christenson & Harold Rolfsrud

Transfers In: Judy Opsta, Matthew, Nora & Leah Rolfson, Mark & Lori Honstein, Benjamin Bradley & Cara Transtrom-Bradley

Transfers Out: Kenneth & Milani Berg, Janelle Berg

10:16 AM

01/06/26

Accrual Basis

First Lutheran Church
Transactions by Account
As of December 31, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
10000 - Buildings & Fixtures						
Bill	06/19/2026	3323	Indigo Signs	Remaining Balance for New Pylon Sign	7,284.13	272,153.64
Bill	07/07/2026	3120	Top Gun Asphalt	Ultra seal of parking lot	10,800.00	279,417.77
Check	11/21/2026		Woods Church Interiors	Down Payment on new Church Pews	37,269.00	327,176.77
Total 10000 - Buildings & Fixtures					55,022.13	327,176.77
TOTAL					55,022.13	327,176.77

OPERATING EXPENSES CONTINUED	2024 Proposed	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed
UTILITIES (CHURCH & PARSONAGE)					
Natural Gas	\$ -	\$ 4,256.74	\$ -	\$ 3,943.36	\$ 4,200.00
Electricity	\$ -	\$ 12,761.20	\$ -	\$ 11,333.92	\$ 12,000.00
Water, Sewer and Garbage	\$ -	\$ 2,697.07	\$ -	\$ 2,323.18	\$ 2,500.00
Telephone-Church, Elevator, and Verizon	\$ -	\$ 4,764.43	\$ -	\$ 3,707.50	\$ 3,650.00
Total Utilities (Church & Parsonage):	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 24,479.44	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 21,307.96	\$ 25,000.00
STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM MINISTRY					
Stewardship/Evangelism		\$ 3,376.45		\$ 10,020.87	
Total Stewardship:	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,376.45	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,020.87	\$ 10,000.00
WORSHIP MINISTRY					
Candles		\$ 380.78		\$ 128.20	
Sacramental Elements		\$ 314.53		\$ 197.47	
Poinsettias & Easter Flowers		\$ 1,013.84		\$ 290.75	
Indoor/Outdoor Decorations		\$ 95.25		\$ 460.36	
Worship Equip/Misc		\$ 6,321.26		\$ 8,514.71	
Total Worship:	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 8,125.66		\$ 9,591.49	\$ 10,000.00
EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY					
Sunday School		\$ 109.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Confirmation				\$ 269.49	
Vacation Bible School		\$ 1,183.75		\$ 3,951.00	
Youth Education		\$ 8,473.74		\$ 824.70	
Other				\$ 3,088.89	
LYO		\$ 5,963.89		\$ 3,384.73	
Total Education & Youth:	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,730.97	\$ -	\$ 11,518.21	\$ 10,000.00
PROPERTY MINISTRY					
Property Insurance		\$ 18,971.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,131.00	\$ 25,000.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 75,022.03	\$ 116,500.00	\$ 188,018.05	\$ 200,000.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 773.43	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 959.77	\$ 1,000.00
Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,537.50	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,513.70	\$ 6,000.00
Janitorial Services	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 11,128.29	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 11,871.69	\$ 10,500.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 133.49		\$ 914.71	
Parsonage Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,816.25			
Total Property:	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 112,381.99	\$ 154,000.00	\$ 229,408.92	\$ 242,500.00
FINANCE MINISTRY					
Outsourced Accounting		\$ 8,596.70		\$ 8,306.74	\$ 8,500.00
Offering and Pew Envelopes		\$ 261.09		\$ 637.89	
Treasurer Supplies/Comp and Postage		\$ 975.55		\$ 1,362.33	
Non Profit Annual Filing Fee				\$ 50.00	
QB Monthly PR Employee Fees		\$ 80.00		\$ 412.25	
Total Finance:	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 9,913.34	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,769.21	\$ 10,000.00
OTHER MINISTRIES					
Advertising		\$ 2,392.50			\$ 500.00
Music		\$ 502.58		\$ 74.20	
Conference Dues		\$ 123.52		\$ 225.00	
Assembly				\$ 526.00	
Total Other Ministries:	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,018.60	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 825.20	\$ 5,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES					
Gifts (Employee, SA, WW & MCHS)		\$ 13,890.44		\$ 3,237.06	
Other (Bank fees, Reim to Trust for Int Ck)		\$ 1,008.04		\$ 1,330.39	
Total Miscellaneous:	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,898.48	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,567.45	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL PROPOSED & ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 410,644.32	\$ 548,511.51	\$ 384,540.00	\$ 523,145.95	\$ 434,790.00
Budget Surplus/ (Deficit)				\$ 122,763.89	\$ (74,340.00)

Projects:
Pews-80K, Security-20K, Bsmnt-100K

Miscellaneous = \$10K

Newspaper Ads

Worship Committee Report

The Worship Ministry team consists of: Jennifer Sorenson, Joy Patten, Anne Beard, Caroline Schwartz, John Yale and Minister Matt Rolfson. Frequently and as of the last few months, Cara Transtrom, Ardyth Alveshire and anyone who would like to join the meeting is welcome.

The team reviews the church services and makes changes if needed to stay in accordance with the theology of the Lutheran Church. Hymns are selected by members of the worship team in accordance with the ELW and other approved hymnals. Copyright is secure.

The team plans weekly and special services such as Lenten services; Holy Week; Graduation; Confirmation; Quilt Sunday, Christmas. We organize volunteers to assist with services to enhance worship for festive holidays or events, and organize the removal of decorations as needed. We change the order of Liturgy as needed, to compliment the season. In summer months the liturgy is less than in Winter.

This past year we have been involved at the fair with our annual County-wide worship service and picnic. We had VBS the week following the fair and it was well attended. Going into fall, we had a Great Rally Sunday. This was the kick-off for the Wednesday night services. On Wednesday night, we provide Sunday School and Confirmation activities. There is a Chapel service on Wednesday evening as well. A meal is provided along with Adult Bible study, Communion with the Chapel service on the first Wednesday of the month.

Cara Transtrom and Ben Bradley are helping more with the services as volunteers, especially for Wednesday night. This is a great help to Minister Matt. Plan: to have more contemporary music and keep chapel service within the 1/2 hour time frame.

We had a summer event, where we took a bus to Medora for the Gospel Brunch. It was great and everyone enjoyed the fellowship. We had 40 participants for the event. Hoping to do another bus event summer of 26.

New items for the church: New keyboard and speaker system for services in the Fellowship hall New Baptismal font, (purchased by Matt Rolfson), New Paraments for the Red and White Sundays, Two pillar candles in the Fellowship hall to enhance fellowship on Wednesday Evening. A committee was formed in October to review our need of repairing pews or buying new pews for the sanctuary. After reviewing costs and comparing the costs for repair versus new, it was decided to purchase pews which will be cushioned on the back and seat. They are set to arrive prior to Easter. We are very excited about this. The old pews which are usable are going to the Springbrook Bible Camp and they are thrilled to get 28 pews that match for the chapel. We will also receive new kneelers for communion, communion table, and material to upholster the chairs at the Altar.

Our Lay ministers performed services when Minister Matt was out of town. He was gone 4 weekends. Our lay ministers are Laura Dahl, Joy Patten and Anne Beard. Thank you ladies.

Faithfully submitted: Annette Beard

**First Lutheran Church of Watford City
Youth and Education Committee Report
January 25, 2026**

The Youth and Education Committee has been comprised of council member Joy Patten, SAM Matthew Rolfson, and Sunday School/Confirmation parents Amy Polivka, Cari Forbes, Katie Tschetter, and various others for specific projects.

The youth and education programs have grown both in scope and numbers of kids involved. In September, a Wednesday night meal/church service/youth classes/ adult Bible study format was implemented. Minister Matthew established a schedule for council committees and confirmation families to partner in providing and serving the weekly meals. Response to the new schedule has been strongly positive. Cara Transtrom and Ben Bradley were brought on board to help with music and other aspects of the Wednesday night activities.

In June, camp counselors from Springbrook Bible Camp came and conducted the four-day program. It was held during the day, which was a change from recent previous years when it was held in the evening. Attendance was lower and we may need to reconsider how best to serve our youth and families with this opportunity.

The following are some of the highlights of the past year:

- March 20th Communion Class, made communion bread with congregation members after lenten service.
- April 20- Easter Brunch and egg hunt.
- Singing in church monthly.
- Noisy buckets offering monthly.
- April-Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism
- May Senior Quilt Day.
- June VBS.
- Sept. 7 Rally Sunday
- Sept. Homecoming Parade Float.
- October State LYO Convention.
- Oct. Mystery Dinner.
- Nov. Lefse Making fundraiser.
- Movie night and supper at Six Shooters Theater-Jesus Revolution
- Nov. Parade of Lights Float.
- Dec. Christmas Program.

WELCA
ANNUAL REPORT
2025

First Lutheran Church Ladies meet the second Monday of each month except in the Summer, (June, July and August). We met in the Fellowship hall; after having afternoon coffee. Our meeting is at 2:30 pm. We have our usual business meeting followed by Bible Study from the Gather Magazine. General attendance is approximately 8 to 12 ladies.

Line items that the WELCA is very involved in are:

- Funeral reception after the service. We had 20 funerals in 2025.
 1. Serve potato casserole with ham during fall and winter
 2. Serve macaroni vegetable salad in the spring and summer
- Provide cake and boutineers for our confirmands, help serve fellowship
- Provide Cake and serve at the Senior Recognition.
- Provide snacks or food for VBS/ help serve noon meals as needed.
- Wednesday night services, we help with serving the evening meal.

We are willing to assist with activities of the church as needed. We try to keep the kitchen well stocked and ready for fellowship events and meetings. This year we have helped with the Lefsa making event for the youth and that was fun!! We will be of assistance with the Shrove Sunday event in February. Soup and Sandwich meals are coming soon, the different committees will take the lead in the kitchen, however, WELCA is available for assistance as needed.

Yours in Christ;
Annette Beard