



FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Watford City



THE CLARION

A Word From The Minister

"Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."-John 10:7,10

Grace and Peace to You,

I have been noticing that winter has been trying to end and Spring has been fighting its way in. The passage I chose for this month gave me an image of Spring and I thought I would share with you a little reflection on the change of the season. Spring teaches us that life does not end in the barrenness of winter. In much the same way, Jesus speaks to us in this passage as both the Shepherd and the Gate. The one who leads, protects, and opens the way into true life. Jesus reminds us that His sheep know His voice. The question for us is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are listening. To enter through Christ, the gate, is to trust Him, to step away from the false promises that leave us empty and instead walk toward the abundant life He offers. This abundance is not measured in possessions or success, but in peace, purpose, and relationship with God. Just as the fields begin to awaken and the work of the land resumes, we are invited to examine what we are cultivating in our own lives. Ok, that is the farmer in me talking. However, are we following the voice of the Shepherd, or are we wandering towards those silly voices that divide? Abundant life begins not with striving, but with trust. It grows when we listen, follow, and remain close to the Shepherd who knows us by name. May this season, that is trying its best to come, be one where you hear His voice more clearly and find yourself walking in the fullness of life He promises.

Yours in Christ,

Minister Matthew Rolfson

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 3

**9:30 am—Worship/Communion
10:30 am—Fellowship**

Sunday, May 10

**9:30 am—Worship
10:30 am—Fellowship**

Sunday, May 17

**9:30 am—Worship/Communion
10:30 am—Fellowship**

Sunday, May 24

**9:30 am – Worship
10:30 am – Fellowship**

Sunday, May 31

**9:30 am – Worship
10:30 am – Fellowship**

SAVE *the* DATES



WND SYNOD ASSEMBLY

>>> MAY 29TH - MAY 31ST <<<<

ROUGH RIDER CENTER † WATFORD CITY, ND

CONTACT THE OFFICE BY
MAY 15TH IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND!!

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May Special Events:

May 3rd:

Senior Quilt Day during Worship,
9:30 am

May 9th:

Pick Up the Patch, 5:30 pm
(Meet up at Dollar General that's by
Cornerpost Gas Station before we start.)
Pizza afterwards at Stonehome provided
by Steve & Gretchen Stenehjem.

May 17th:

Affirmation of Baptism & Blessing of the Quilts
during Worship, 9:30 am

May 29th-31st:

WND Synod Assembly-Rough Rider Ctr.

May 31st:

BBQ at Tourist Park, 12:00 pm

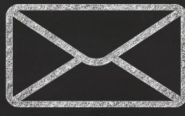


APRIL CHURCH ATTENDANCE

-SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES-

APRIL 5:	159
APRIL 12:	46
APRIL 19:	82
APRIL 26:	50

**THERE WAS NO ATTENDANCE RECORDED FOR THE
MONTH OF APRIL FOR WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES.**



CONTACT US AT:

Mailing: P.O. Box 441, Watford City, ND 58854

Physical: 212 2nd Street NW, Watford City, ND 58854

Office Phone: (701)444-3244

Minister Matthew's Office Hours:

Mon. & Thurs., 9 am-2 pm

Friday by Appointment Only

Reg. Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-2pm

Facebook: First Lutheran Church

Website: www.flcwc.church

Email: office@flcwc.church

Synod Authorized Minister - Matthew Rolfson

Secretary - Lindsay Thall

Website & App Manager - Ardyce Alveshere



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the instructions for a safe &
secure way to give. Your
donation will appear on your
year-end giving statement.

Thank You for your donation!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN May SPRING



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
3 Senior Quilt Day  Property Mtg. 10:45 am	4	5 Food Pantry 5-7 pm 	6 Worship Mtg. 9:30 am	7 S&E Mtg. 5:30 pm (Teddy's)	1 	2 Pick Up the Patch 5:30 pm 
10 Happy Mother's Day 	11 Finance Mtg. 11 am	12 	13	14	15 	16
17 Quilt Blessing Affirmation of Baptism  Council Mtg. 10:45 am	18	19 Food Pantry 2-4 pm 	20	21 	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day The Office will be closed.	26	27	28 	29 WND Assembly May 28th-31st Rough Rider Center	30
 WND Assembly May 28th-31st Rough Rider Center 31 FLC BBQ party Tourist Park 12:00 pm 	-Recurring Monthly- Monday: Quilting, 1 pm Tuesday: Text Study w/Minister Matthew, 10 am Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30 pm		-Building Usage- Monday: Boy Scouts, 6 pm Thursday: NA Meeting, 7 pm			

Birthdays of the Month

Nolan Dahl 5/2	Robert Wisness 5/16
Steve Holan 5/2	Judy Dahl 5/17
Amelia Honstein 5/2	Jeffery Kummer 5/17
McKayla Haugeberg 5/3	Oliver Roscoe 5/18
Weston Poliuka 5/3	Griffin Tschetter 5/19
Philip Riely 5/3	Maria Berglund 5/20
Edward Schilke 5/4	Neil Dahl 5/20
Collin Ledahl-Berger 5/5	Nathan Hill 5/20
Jager Shattuck 5/5	Debra Larsen 5/20
Daina Swenson 5/5	Kevin Sullivan 5/20
Kelly Peterson 5/6	Darren Curren 5/21
Sharon Brown 5/7	Jarvis Sorenson 5/21
Scott Wisness 5/7	John Johnston 5/23
Arnold Swenson 5/8	Harper Lass 5/25
JB Johnson 5/9	Elyce Linseth 5/26
Liam Ledahl 5/11	Camden Poliuka 5/27
Lilly Ledahl 5/11	Levi Forbes 5/29
Gretchen Stenehem 5/12	Shane Jorgenson 5/29
Milana Johnson 5/14	Alyssa Holen 5/30
Kimberly Bryson-Rolfson 5/15	Matthew Wisness 5/30
Beverly Olson 5/15	Nathan Dahl 5/31
Amanda Shattuck 5/15	Kally Sorenson 5/31

Happy Anniversary

Gary & Kyla Beagles 5/6
 Clifford & Tarri Wenstad 5/11
 Cameron & Jan Dodge 5/15
 Jason & Peggy Leiseth 5/21
 David & Donna Lou Sanford 5/21
 Keith & Jill Helmuth 5/29



Missionaries Visit First Lutheran Church



On April 21st, we had the honor of having Stephen & Lara Nash visit First Lutheran Church. Stephen & Lara are Bible Translator Missionaries who travel all over the world with their young family sharing God's Word. Stephen is a Data Analyst/Researcher & Lara is a City Connector. Their positions allow them to seek out areas in need of Bible translation in specific languages not available at the moment along with preparing language assessments to investigate possibilities for Bible Translation & language development. To read more about The Nash Family or to donate to their mission, scan the QR to the right.

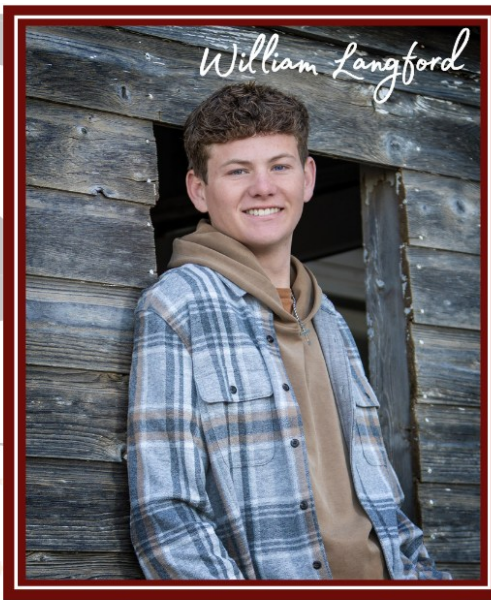
Thank you for praying for us!



www.wycliffe.org/partner/nashfamily



Benjamin Honstein



William Langford



Laura Riely

Congratulations

CLASS OF

2026

Dear Graduating Seniors,
 Grace & peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We thank God for guiding you to this important milestone in your lives. Your years of study, growth & perseverance have brought you to this moment & we give thanks to God for guiding you every step of the way. As you step into this new chapter, remember these words:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You have been nurtured in faith, grounded in God's Word & strengthened by His grace. Carry these gifts with you wherever you go. Whether your path leads you to college, work, service, or new adventures, know that God walks beside you. You are never alone. In the Lutheran tradition, we are reminded that we

are saved by grace through faith—not by our own doing, but as a gift from God. Let this truth give you confidence & peace as you face the unknown. Your worth is not measured by success or failure, but by the love of Christ, who calls you His own.

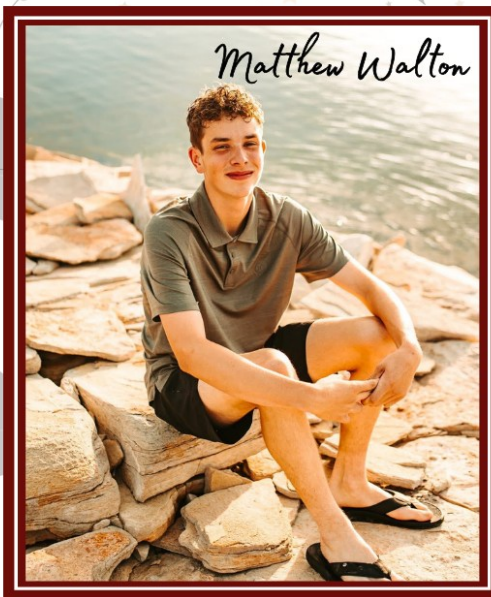
Stay rooted in His Word. Remain active in a community of faith. Serve others with compassion & humility. And trust that God will continue to work in & through you for His good purposes. We are proud of you, we are praying for you & we rejoice with you during this special time in your lives.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

With love in Christ, First Lutheran Church



Kally Sorenson



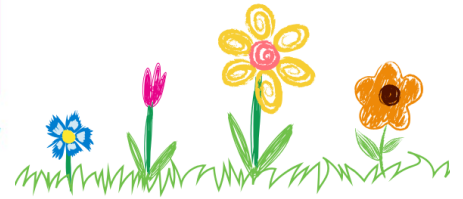
Matthew Walton



Kara Wold

YOUTH MINISTRY

WELCOME TO THE
YOUTH MINISTRY
corner!!



Message from the Minister

By Minister Matt

Hello Beloved Children of God,

"I am the good shepherd. The good Shepherd calls his sheep by name...and the sheep follow him because they know his voice..- John 10:3-4

Have you ever tried calling a pet, like a dog or a cat? I had a German Sheperd named Sophie and if I said her name she would come running when she heard my voice. However, I noticed that if a stranger tried calling her, she usually ignored them. Jesus says we are like sheep, and He is our Shepherd. That means He takes care of us, keeps us safe, and knows each of us by name. Out of everyone in the whole world Jesus knows you!

Sometimes life can feel confusing. There are lots of "voices" telling us what to do. That may be our friends, a TV show, the internet, and even our own feelings. But Jesus wants us to listen for His voice the one that speaks with love, kindness, and truth.

And here's the best part: Jesus says He came to give us a full and happy life! That doesn't mean everything is always easy, but it means we are never alone. Our Shepherd is always with us. So, the next time you hear your name, remember Jesus knows you, loves you, and is always calling you to follow Him.

And just like a good shepherd who takes care of sheep, or you may be taking care of your pet. Jesus is taking care of you every single day.

Easter Resurrection Gardens



HOLY WEEK 2026 – Wednesday Evening Worship on April 1st our normal schedule looked a bit different. Instead of a worship service, our youth & adults created resurrection gardens out of numerous items such as plants, soil, cups to help create a tomb, rocks & sticks.



FLC Forty Forty Challenge



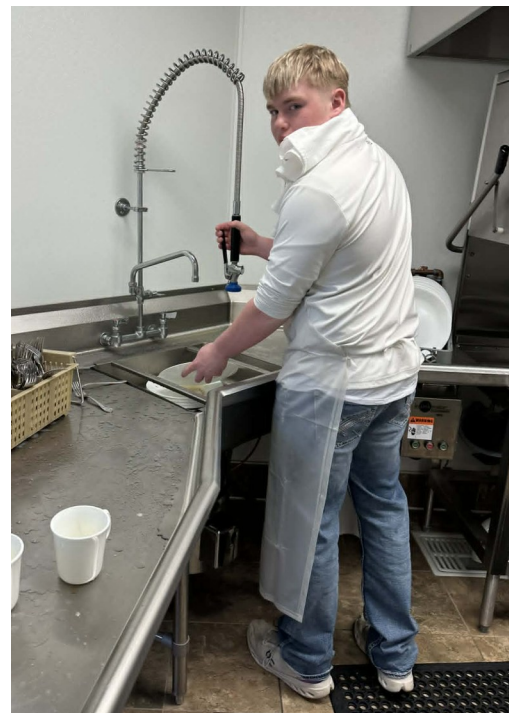
LENT FORTY FORTY CHALLENGE – This year, a group of members of First Lutheran Church participated in the 40-40 Challenge. This began on Ash Wednesday & continued all the way to Easter. During that time, each challenger would set aside time to walk or un 1 mile per day. They would read daily scripture that was assigned to them out of the Book of Acts. This was a time for self reflection & to bring your closer to God's Word. This challenge is able to be done as a group or as individuals. If you would like to know more about Forty Forty, go to www.fortyfortychallenge.com. (Pictured is some of our participants from the challenge. Anne Beard, Lynn Haugeberg, Sue Jorgenson, Jennifer Sorenson & Steve Stenehjem.)

A colorful poster for a Vacation Bible School event. At the top, it says 'VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL' in large, colorful letters. Below that, it says 'MAY 31ST BBQ at NOON in the TOURIST PARK' with an illustration of a boy painting. The main event is 'BIBLE CAMP JUNE 1ST 5:00PM TO 8:30PM COME TO THE CAMP and LEARN THE LESSON FROM JOHN 4'. A banner reads 'Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.' with an illustration of Jesus and a woman at a well. At the bottom, there are four boxes with icons and text: 'LEARN THE LESSON FROM JOHN 4', 'PLAY GAMES AROUND THE CHURCH', 'SING SONGS', and 'MAKE A CRAFT'. The address 'FIRST LUTHERAN is LOCATED at 212 2ND STREET NW, WATFORD CITY' is at the very bottom.

Easter with FLC



EASTER SUNDAY- Easter this year, came a bit earlier than normal on April 5th. It was a beautiful, busy morning with a full house & a joyful congregation. Cindy Geiger helped to coordinate an amazing french toast & sausage brunch which included a homemade Kulich by Anastasia Johnson. Kulich is a traditional Russian Easter bread which is significant to Anastasia's culture. There were also plenty of helpful hands this year including Birch Tschetter, heading up clean up duty & little Miss Molly Romine, doing her best to make sure all the tables were clean. Thank You to all who were able to join us for another memorable Easter Service.



Congratulations ON AFFIRMING YOUR BAPTISM



Eldon Beard



Marrah Langford



Wyatt Ledahl-Benger

Congratulations to each of you for affirming your baptism & publicly embracing your Lutheran faith! This is a meaningful & sacred milestone—one that reflects not only your personal commitment to Christ, but also the promises first made at your baptism now claimed as your own. As you take this step, may you feel strengthened by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word & supported by your church community. May your faith continue to grow deeper with each passing day, guiding your choices, shaping your character & bringing you peace & purpose. Remember that you are part of a larger body of believers who walk alongside you, encouraging & uplifting you in times of joy & challenge alike. May God bless you abundantly as you continue this journey of faith, trusting in His grace, living in His love, and sharing His light with the world.

With love in Christ, First Lutheran Church



FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS

On Sunday March 15th, the following
Sunday School students received their
First Holy Communion:

Ayda Glover **Addison Hill**
Ryker Graham **Henley Hill**
Hardy Kronberg
Weston Polivka
Leah Rolison



*We are so proud of you all on your First Communion Day.
May your faith continue to grow & bring you strength and joy!*



Giving a Helping Hand April 2026 Spotlight

We just wanted to take the time to recognize all of our April Volunteers & Special Musical Performers to say, **"Thank You!! We couldn't do it without you!"**

Jeremy Olson
Glen & Anne Beard
David & Celeste Berg
Kevin Sullivan
Sue Jorgenson

Marcia Hellandsaas
Val Williams
Donna Slais
Cindy Geiger
Carol Sanford

Joy Patten
Ardyce Alveshere
FLC Choir
John Yale
FLC Choir Ladies

MAY

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

3rd Communion

Reader: Ben Honstein

Greeter: Cindy Geiger

Usher/Communion:
****AVAILABLE****

Slideshow: Kevin Sullivan

Fellowship: Welca & Committee's

10th

Reader: Benjamin Bradley

Greeter/Usher: Donna Slais

Slideshow: ****AVAILABLE****

Fellowship: Kathleen Johnson & Gretchen Stenejem

17th Communion

Reader: ****AVAILABLE****

Greeter: ****AVAILABLE****

Usher/Communion:
****AVAILABLE****

Slideshow: ****AVAILABLE****

Fellowship: Carol Sanford

24th

Reader: ****AVAILABLE****

Greeter/Usher: ****AVAILABLE****

Slideshow: ****AVAILABLE****

Fellowship: ****AVAILABLE****

31st

Reader: ****AVAILABLE****

Greeter/Usher: ****AVAILABLE****

Slideshow: ****AVAILABLE****

Fellowship: ****AVAILABLE****

Church Council ANNOUNCEMENT



Introducing our 2026 Council Representatives, are a group of individuals who have stepped forward in faith to help guide our congregation into this year. With hearts rooted in service and eyes fixed on God's purpose, they will help shape the life and ministry of our church. We look forward to what God will accomplish through their leadership and our shared commitment to faith. *First Row: Cara Transtrom, Joy Patten, Ardyce Alveshere, Sue Jorgenson, Lorri Honstein, Donna Slais & Birch Tschetter. Second Row: Minister Matthew Rolfson, Robin Schwartz, Steve Williams & Kevin Sullivan.* If you would like to contact any of them, please go to our website. www.flcwc.church, listed under "Who We Are—Council Members".