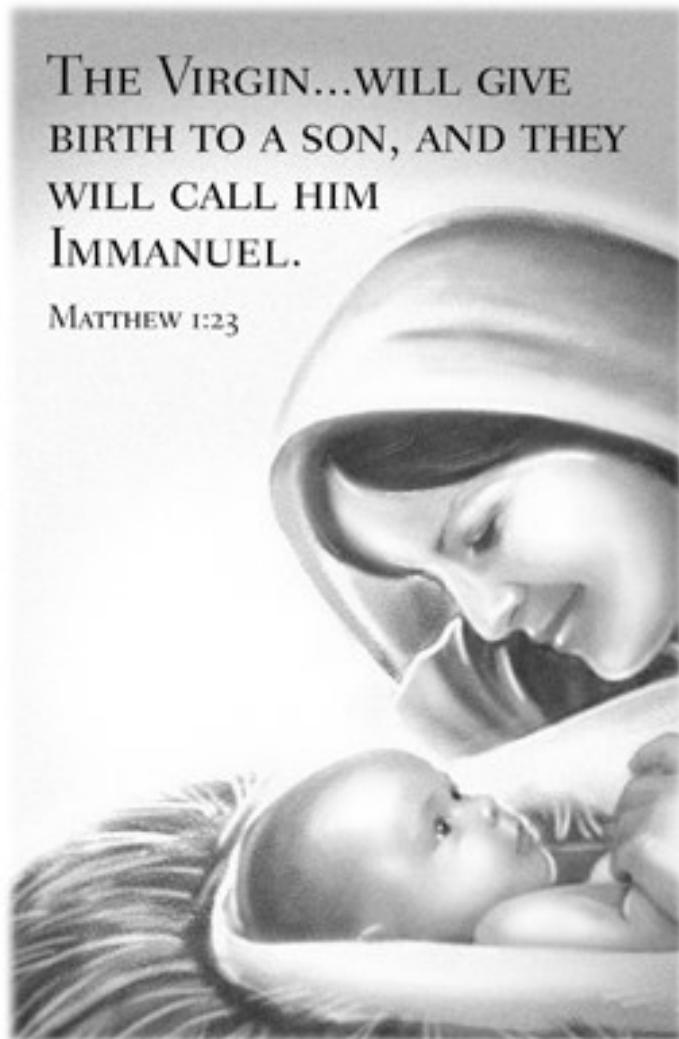


THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH
December 2024

Christmas Worship Services



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:30 pm, Tuesday,
December 24
at Northwood Evangelical
Lutheran

Christmas Day Worship

9 am, Wednesday,
December 25
at Washington Evangelical
Lutheran

We will be having a
Blue Christmas Service
at Washington Church at 6 pm
on Monday, December 23. This
service is a time of worship and
reflection to support people who
are grieving or experiencing a
difficult time during the
Christmas season.

Vicar Steve

Can you believe I've been here 1 year? It feels like it has flown by in a lot of ways. I've essentially been serving the Northwood/Washington parish in some capacity since February of 2023. We are coming up on 2 years since I first met most of you. I cannot say that it has always been smooth because nothing ever is, but I will say that the good things far outweigh any of the challenges. It has been a blessing to be your intern, and I am so proud of all the progress we've made here together.

December is going to bring lots of change for me. I have my meeting with Bishop Tessa to discuss what post internship may look like, and I have my meeting with the synod candidacy committee where I will hopefully be approved as a minister of word and sacrament for the ELCA. Beyond that my rostered minister profile will go live and congregations will be able to start contacting me for interviews. All of that will be happening in the Christmas season, one of the busiest times in the church.

With that in mind, I want everyone to remember to practice pausing. I know there are so many things on the list this month, so many questions about what is happening in the world and our communities and what your church parish may look like moving forward.

One of the practices they teach us as ministers is to stop doing anything for a moment and reflect on nothing but what our minds and bodies are telling us. Recently mine has been telling me that I need to not worry so much about what comes next for me and rest. I don't often take naps, but I fell asleep watching the Vikings game the other day (for shame). I couldn't fight it anymore and I closed my eyes, and it was sort of like when you reboot a computer. We had a busy morning at Washington putting on Breakfast church and then later in the day I had committed to attending the annual meeting at Red Willow Bible camp. It was a full day that began at 6:30am and ended at 7pm. It's a good thing I listened to my body and took that nap because I needed it. When I woke up, I was alert to drive to Red Willow and bring my full self to that meeting and that space for people.

Jesus sets a wonderful example for us in the Gospels when he retreats to pray or meditate on his own. If its good enough for Jesus, I guess its good enough for us. Whatever will happen tomorrow or in the coming weeks or months should not be where our minds are occupied. How can we be church together right now in this moment? How can we as a church practice a collective pause and lay down some of the "what ifs" that constantly plague us? December is so busy. My hope and prayer for all of you is that you can find some small joys in the quiet moments, be with the ones you love and remember that we never get this time back. Be present. Amen

Vicar Steve

Joint Council Meeting

**Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish
Joint Council Meeting Minutes-
November 10, 2024
(unapproved)**

Members Present: Mark Engen, Craig Hanson, Nancy Hall, Cecil Tinderholt, Mary Gravdahl, Ed Bina, Nate Korsmo, Nikki Korsmo, Dan Turner, Bob Bilden, Chris Moore, Angela Lyste, and Vicar Steve DeKrey

Members at large: Diane Strom, Desiree McMillan

NELC President Mark Engen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's report- The minutes from the last Joint Council Meeting from October 13, 2024 were reviewed; Dan motioned to approve the minutes; Nancy second; minutes passed.

Treasurer's report was reviewed; Cecil motioned to approve the report; Bob second; report passed.

Vicar Steve shared that the chili feed went well and the youth group made around \$850. He also shared that the wreath order went in, but we did lose some money. The pancake breakfast will be held next Sunday out at Washington. Confirmation and youth group are going well. He also shared that if everything is submitted and approved, he should be getting the okay to graduate in the middle of December and could be interviewing in January. His contract is up January 31st. Steve shared that we have people in the congregation who are capable of carrying out confirmation and would like to see that happen.

Budget- Parsonage insurance will need to be increased in the budget to \$1,500. The council agreed to increase the Parish Assistant's wage to \$18.50/hr which would end up being \$28,700/year. Social Security would also need to be adjusted. Mileage-Parish Assistant will also need to be increased to \$900. Vacation Bible School increases with increasing costs of materials to \$1,200.

Vicar Steve then left the meeting as he is unable to be a part of the following budget discussion. The council felt that the Pastor's salary should start at a base of \$50,000 as we are unsure at this time. Social security will be dependent on the salary. Continuing Education for the Pastor was higher this year given our current situation but could be left at \$1,500 moving forward. Pastor's convention could also be left at \$850. Pension/medical would also go back up to \$28,000. All other items were left the same as proposed for 2024. Chris motioned to send the proposed budget to the annual meeting; Dan second; motion approved.

For the Good of the Parish

Joint service with pancake breakfast next Sunday, November 17th at Washington. Turkey dinner on Sunday, November 24 at NELC from 12-2.

The next joint council meeting will be held on February 9th.

NELC President Mark adjourned the meeting at 1:41 pm.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

NELC Church Council

NELC Council Minutes November 10, 2024 (unapproved)

Council Members Present: President Mark Engen, Dan Turner, Ed Bina, Angela Lyste, Nancy Hall, Bob Bilden, Nikki Korsmo, Nate Korsmo, and Vicar Steve DeKrey

President Mark Engen called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Steve led prayer.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the October 13, 2024 meeting reviewed. Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes. Ed second; minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was shared for both October. Nancy made a motion to approve the report; Nate second; Report approved.

Pastor's Report:

Vicar Steve shared that the chili feed went really well and the youth group made around \$850. There were a lot of youth and parents who were there to help out and it was great to see. Wreath sales are over and should be delivered next week. Steve didn't have the exact numbers but thought we lost some money. There will be a pancake breakfast next Sunday at Washington. October 27th there were 7 who were confirmed and this went well. Steven had faculty approval last week and should be approved on November 20th and could have interviews starting in January. His contract ends here January 31st. Steve will need some parents to take over confirmation and can get the information to them so they would be step in for him.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management:

Mark shared that basement paper towel dispensers have been put in. As they are getting emptied out, they are getting replaced so we aren't wasting paper towels. 5 trailer loads of bushes and tree branches were hauled out when they did the clean up around the church. That all went really well. He did mention that there is a tree that is pushing up against a power box that wasn't touched. Dan is going to bring it up at city council meeting to see what to do with it. The heat tape was also put up to help with ice dams. The blackout curtains have not been put up yet.

Nate shared that Brian Danzl would fix the drywall and was talking with Deb about what needed to be fixed.

Music & Worship: No report

Education: We will have Confirmation for the 9th grade group on October 27th.

Finance: Nikki shared that we need to remove Suzanne Ellingson's name from the safety deposit box at Bravera. The council agreed that Nikki Kormso should be added. They also agreed that Pete Antonson should also be added as he is next in line to be president of the council. Nancy motioned to remove Suzanne Ellingson's name from the safety deposit box at Bravera and add Nikki Korsmo and Pete Antonson; Bob second the motion; motion passed.

Old Business:

Call committee members were found and will be meeting after the joint council meeting today. Karl Jodock would be interested in filling one of the council positions. Mark will meet with Scott or Derek in the next few weeks about snow removal.

New Business:

The Sunday school Christmas program will be December 8th at NELC and December 22nd at Washington.

For the Good of the Parish:

Pancake breakfast at Washington on the 17th Thanksgiving Dinner on the 24th at NELC from 12-2. Vicar Steve will be off Wednesday-Friday the week of Thanksgiving.

Budget:

Nikki shared the current budget with the council. - Stewardship had gone over budget. This covers envelopes. Nikki shared that although we use fewer envelopes, the prices have gone up. Council agreed to up the budget of Stewardship to \$350. -Miscellaneous- Was well over budget. Nikki shared that this included our noisy offerings, expenses from our Anniversary celebration, and the Consensus Council cost. Without those three costs, we were only \$800 over budget. Council agreed to leave Miscellaneous budget at \$1000, but would like to look at making noisy offering a separate line item.

-Update Lay delegate to \$800 to cover Hotel room costs as these will rise in the next year.

Next year's total budget \$51,650

Dan made a motion to send the budget to the annual meeting; Ed seconded the motion; Budget will be sent to annual meeting for approval.

Next NELC Council Meeting will be December 8, following church.

President Mark declared the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

NELC Memorials

Janet Kalilikane

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee
Evanson

Loren & Muriel Wegge

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Ken Povilonis

To the General Fund: Bill & Myrna Johnson

Linda Tinderholt

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee
Evanson, Bill & Myrna Johnson

Tom Welte

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

To the Elevator Fund: Rodney & Gladysce

Peterson

Pastoral Acts

Baptism—NELC

Lennie Roux Evenstad

11-24-24



Bit and Pieces

Washington Women will be having a **bake sale** at the Old Fashioned Christmas craft show Saturday, December 7 at the Northwood Community Center.

Washington Women will be having their Annual Meeting and Potluck, 10 am, Monday, December 9 followed by cookie gifting.

NELC Women will be having their Annual Meeting and Christmas Potluck, 11 am, Friday, December 13.

Thank you to all the women who donated cookies and candy for the cookie walk in November.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Northwood Food Pantry in October and November. Every little bit helps.

Members of the Northwood-Washington call committee: Mary Gravdahl, Deseree McMillan, Diane Strom, Nikki Korsmo, Beth Johnson, Dan Turner, Dorothy Turner, Karl Jodock, and Ginny Sebekow. Thank you for serving on this committee.

Thank you to Ashley Engen and Ginny Sebekow for organizing Thanksgiving Dinner and help from the NELC council and confirmands.

NELC has updated the Bi-Laws and Constitution. We will be voting to approve the changes at the Annual Meeting, January 26, 2025

NELC Council Meeting 12:30 pm, Sunday, December 8.

Kids' Christmas Corner
Saturday, December 7
9:30 am to 12 pm
Kids ages 4 -12 are invited to shop at NELC.

This store is for kids to shop for Christmas presents for their parents, grandparents and special people at a price they can afford. Most gifts will sell for \$1.00 or less. Parents are asked to send a list of people your child is shopping for along with their money. Children will be assigned a personal shopper to help them. Parents are invited to have a cup of coffee and a treat in the kitchen while you wait. Sponsored by the NELC Women.

Christmas Programs

NELC's Christmas Program is Sunday, December 8 during the 11 am worship service, followed by a potluck dinner.

Washington's Christmas Program is Sunday, December 22 during the 9 am worship service. There will be a potluck brunch following the program.



NO Confirmation December 18, 25 and January 1.

NO Sunday School at NELC December 22, 29 and January 5.

The Church offices will be closed December 25 and January 1.



Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish
P.O. Box 394
Northwood, ND 58267

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STAFF OF NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH

Intern Minister	Steve DeKrey	Custodians	Les Wheeler-Washington
Parish Assistant	Deb Aaland		Deb Aaland-NELC
	Office number 701-587-5381	Church E-mail	nelc@polarcomm.com
Organists	Joan Huso-NELC	Pastor's E-mail	

Pastor's office hours: 8 am -2:30 pm, Monday & Tuesday; 8 am—5 pm Wednesday;
8 am—3 pm Thursday

Parish Assistant's office hours: 8:30 am to 3 pm Monday thru Friday

Sunday Worship services at Washington Church start at 9 am

Sunday Worship services at Northwood Evangelical Lutheran Church start at 11 am

The worship service is livestreamed on our website: www.northwoodwashingtonparish.org

NELC Council Members: Pete Antonson, Bob Bilden, Wade Bilden, Ed Bina, Mark Engen, Nancy Hall, Nate Korsmo, Nicole Korsmo, Angela Lyste, Dan Turner

Washington Council Members: Mary Gravdahl, Craig Hanson, Michael Loewen, Chris Moore, David Mullet, Cecil Tinderholt