

THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH January 2025

Washington Church Worship Ministers:

Ushers: David Mullet
Michael Loewen

NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Tim Mutchler Jr.
Ed Bina

Washington WELCA Monthly Meeting and Quilting is at 9 am Monday, January 6.

Donations for Kid's Christmas Corner.... Next year

After a successful Kid's Christmas Corner this year, we will be in need of several items for next year. If you would like to plan way ahead, keep your eye out for the following items on after-Christmas sales:

gift bags – especially small bags
tape dispenser refills
kids items – we pretty much ran out this year
men's items

Christmas items are always a big hit.



Annual Meetings

Washington's is Sunday, January 19 following worship and a potluck dinner.



NELC's is Sunday, January 26 following worship and a potluck dinner.

Council Members, please remember to submit your committee reports to the church office. Washington's reports are due by Friday, January 10 and NELC's reports are due by Friday, January 17.

Sunday School starts up again January 12 at 10 am at both Washington and NELC.



Confirmation and Youth Group start meeting Wednesday, January 8. Confirmation at 7 pm
Youth Group at 8 pm.

The **Thursday Bible Study** starts meeting on Thursday, January 9 at 10 am. at Washington Church. Everyone is welcome!

Noisy offering on Sunday, January 5 will go to the Grand Forks Youth Confirmation Gathering in Grand Forks, to be held Wednesday, February 5.



From Vicar Steve

I want to begin this month by thanking everyone for the wonderful season we had here at the Northwood/Washington parish. I want to thank our musicians for their work each week of Advent and Christmas. I want to thank our hard working Parish Assistant Deb, who is the person that makes everything run around here (I'd seriously be lost without her). Thank you to those who keep our churches clean, who take care of communion prep, read, light candles, serve treats at coffee time and run our tech for live stream and our screens. Thank you to our WELCA groups who are so generous and do so much to support this parish. If I've left anyone out, know that you are appreciated.

I think it's important to recognize the people who make this ministry thrive. None of this is my doing, I'm simply "steering the ship" as one of my old pastors once told me. Everything we do together is led by the Holy Spirit who guides our focus and our decisions. The Spirit empowers each of us to use the gifts that God has blessed us with, and because of that we are able to help others see the glimpses of God's kingdom breaking through in the world.

This Holy Spirit we talk about is one of the hardest concepts of the Trinity to understand. I think because it's not ever really well defined in our scriptures. The best description we ever get is the Pentecost story where the Spirit comes to all the believers, and they are able to speak each other's languages, and they are filled with the energy of God and tasked with spreading the Good News of Jesus. This part of the Trinity is hard to understand because we want to give ourselves all the credit for the things we do, but in reality, it is God driving us forward and presenting us with opportunities to be evangelists to those who are downtrodden and in need. That may mean a big thing like donations drives or working at a homeless shelter. It may mean going out of your comfort zone and holding space with someone from a community with which you don't identify. It may just be something simple like a kind word to a person who needs to hear it. The Spirit is in all of this. As Lutherans we believe that ministry does not happen through our own actions, we believe that God guides everything. We don't take God's action in the world to self-gratify or be seen doing the things. That's not what it's about. We can be proud of the work we do, yes, and we should be, but we tell people about our work as an invitation. We ask them to come be a part of what is going on here, and there is lots going on in Northwood and God is up to good things. Amen

Vicar Steve

NELC Church Council

NELC Council Minutes December 15, 2024 (unapproved)

Council Members Present: President Mark Engen, Dan Turner, Angela Lyste, Nancy Hall, Wade Bilden Pete Antonson, Nikki Korsmo, Nate Korsmo, and Vicar Steve DeKrey

President Mark Engen called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

Steve led prayer.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the November 10, 2024 meeting reviewed. Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan second; minutes were approved.

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

Pastor's Report: Vicar Steve shared that the pancake breakfast went really well, thanks to everyone who came out and everyone who helped. They were able to raise almost \$1,000 for the youth group and they made almost \$600 on wreaths. They are now on break for confirmation for Christmas. They had to cancel twice due to weather. They had their Christmas party last week and made goodie bags and brought them up to NDHC.

Steve had his approval meeting last Friday and passed.

They will now be able to draw up a 1-year contract, with a 30-day opt out option if Steve does find another position, starting on February 1st. Pete made a motion to allow Mark and Pete to meet with Cecil to extend and sign Steve's contract; Nancy second; Motion passed. Steve is available to interview now.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management: Mark shared that they are working on putting in paper towel dispensers. 3 upstairs have not been replaced. Dan didn't bring up the power box growing into the tree and how to go about fixing it at the city council meeting, but will put it on January's agenda. Mark also mentioned that the backside of the garage lost some of the soffit and will need to look into replacing it. Brian Danzl has one spot left to fix and has submitted his bill.

Music & Worship: Barb was interested in playing for the Christmas Eve service.

Education: No report.

Finance: Nikki shared that she was able to get in to the safety deposit box and it was empty. Steve recommended putting a copy of the church constitution in there. Nikki will check with Deb about any other important founding documents that could be kept in there.

One of the CDs matured on Friday. Pete motioned to renew it up to 12 months at the best rate; Wade second.

Christmas gifts were also reviewed- Nancy made a motion to leave gifts as is with the exception of changing Joan Huso to \$25 and Barb Maristuen to \$50 and Nate would like to add splitting his bonus between Deb and Steve. Pete second; Motion passed.

Old Business: Karl Jodock would be interested in filling one of the council positions. Mark, Nate and Dan's terms are all up.

New Business:

Mark works with Joe Coonan who lives in town and may be interested in doing snow removal. Mark will see how much it would cost. Wednesday, February 5th there is a confirmation event at Red River High school. Coach Bubba and his wife will be speaking and Vicar Steve would like to take our Confirmation group and is working on getting transportation.

For the Good of the Parish: The turkey dinner went very well and made around \$1450 and served 150 meals. This was all profit as an anonymous donor covered all the food expenses. There are 3 Christmas services coming up.

Next NELC Council Meeting will be January 12th following church.

January 26th will be the Annual Meeting after church/potluck.

President Mark declared the meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste,
Secretary

NELC Memorials

Greg Thingelstad

To the General Fund: John & Lonny
Hutchison, Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Pearl Simunds

To the General Fund: Rod & Sandy
Gabrielson

Duane Isaacson

To the General Fund: Bill & Myrna Johnson

Rev. Wilbur Fisher

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

Robert Phillips

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee
Evanson

Teresa Thomas

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee
Evanson



Blessed
are the poor in spirit
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

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 Desiree McMillan-Washington |
| Parish Assistant | Deb Aaland Office number 701-587-5381 | | Deb Aaland-NELC |
| Organists | Joan Huso-NELC Diane Nelson-Washington | Church E-mail Pastor's E-mail | nelc@polarcomm.com |

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