

THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH May 2025

Washington Church Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Audrey Pederson
Chris Moore

NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Tim Mutchler Sr.
Larry Groth

Washington WELCA Quilting and Business Meeting 9 am Monday, May 5.

 **Washington's Memorial Day Program and Brunch** is Sunday, May 25. The Memorial Program is during worship and the brunch will follow worship.

mission

NELC is collecting **monetary donations for Lutheran World Relief** personal care kits and school kits. Items for these kits will be purchased and packed to be sent out at the fall in-kind drive.



Thank you to everyone who donated candy to the Easter bags that were delivered to NDHC.



Thank you to everyone who donated candy and eggs for the Easter egg hunt.

Noisy offering on May 4 will go to the Northlands Rescue Mission in Grand Forks.



We will be serving the **summer school noon meals** again June 2-23. There is a sign-up sheet at NELC to help serve meals from 11 am to 12:30 pm each day.



Happy Mother's Day
to all Mothers, Grandmothers, Great
Grandmothers, Aunts, and Sisters.



Senior Recognition is Sunday, May 11 during worship. Our Seniors are: Alora Berke, Freyja Engen Aiden Feickert, Cale Gensrich (W), McKayla Gillespie, Lexis Reynolds, Landyn Veer and Jaida Vivier.

The **Youth** will be going to Northern Air in Grand Forks on Wednesday, May 16. We will meet at Northern Air at 8 pm.

The **last day of Sunday School** at Washington and NELC is May 4.



We had a great time at the **"Feed My Hungry Children"** event in Grand Forks on April 11.

NO NELC Council Meeting in May. The next meeting will be June 8.



NELC is having a **rummage sale**, Saturday, June 14. If you are doing some organizing or spring cleaning and finding treasures you no longer need, they can be donated to NELC for the rummage sale. Your gently used items, they can be put in room #4 in the basement of NELC (no electronics or large furniture, please).

From Pastor Steve

I woke to the news of the death of Pope Francis the morning after Easter Sunday. I was not surprised. He had been battling health issues for quite some time. I was amazed though that he had been fulfilling his duties and working right up until the end. Francis was a very dedicated man and we Lutherans mourn the loss along with our Catholic brothers and sisters.

I always find it sad when the world loses people that have done so much good and have such a high profile. I remember being equally as sad about President Jimmy Carter when he passed on earlier this year. God raises up these good people and uses their gifts to show the rest of us what it truly means to live a Christ like life. God also uses them as an example of what we should expect from the people we pick to lead us.

Right now, our faith in leadership is on shaky ground. The world over we are seeing the more extreme ends of the social and political spectrum vying for power and trying to convince us that their vision is the correct one. I think what these strong personalities fail to understand is that to lead is to do so for all people. You don't get to exact revenge on those who you feel wronged you and only do things to keep your supporters cheering for you.

I am particularly concerned with the treatment lately by our leaders of people who are in our country from other places. While I believe in secure borders and proper vetting of those seeking to immigrate here, I do not agree with the complicated and expensive processes we have that creates barriers to citizenship instead of helping people obtain it. I have close friends and colleagues that would love to be here as legally as possible, but they constantly find themselves up against a system that seems to want to make it as difficult as possible for them.

What is even more difficult for them is that they are being told their work or school status could be terminated at any time, and people could come to take them into custody. These are friends, neighbors, and people I care very much about, and I feel awful when they ask me for advice. I have to tell them things like they shouldn't leave the country to go home and visit family or to take care of things they need to be in person for. They should scrub or delete all their social media in fear that they may have posted something critical that can be used against them. I don't feel good about advising people I know to be good and decent that they need to have their immigration papers on them at all times, and to immediately contact my wife or I in case their kids all the sudden need a place to stay because mom or dad is being detained. These are all real conversations I've had in recent weeks.

This weighs heavy on my mind in the wake of the death of Pope Francis because he was a champion for the poor, oppressed, and the refugees among us. I know that didn't always sit well with people, but he was speaking to the teachings of Jesus Christ who laid all of this out for us. Jesus had to flee his own home to Egypt because of a king who wanted him and his family dead. When he began his ministry, he was some nobody from a low class town called Nazareth and people looked down on him because of his status and upbringing. Jesus ministered to the untouchables of society like lepers, and tax collectors and Samaritans who were especially hated because they intermarried with other cultures. Jesus went to the people nobody else would because they were worth it, and they mattered.

Pope Francis once said "It's hypocrisy to call yourself a Christian and chase away a refugee or someone seeking help, someone who is hungry or thirsty, toss out someone who is in need of my help. If I say I am Christian, but do these things, I'm a hypocrite."

Jesus warned us to not be like the hypocrites who preach and pray on the street corners to be seen but then do not live it out in our daily lives. This is a time when the people of God need to be ready to aid those who feel like they have no power. I would encourage you to support local organizations like Global Friends Coalition, Lutheran Social Services, Global Refuge (LIRS) and other entities that support our immigrant and refugee communities. These organizations provide housing assistance, support for paths to citizenship, education, and legal services.

Most of our immigrant and refugee communities just want to live in peace and share in the promise of Life, Liberty, and Happiness that our country offers. Too many good people are getting caught up in the fear and hatred that are being unjustly thrown their way. I know this feels like a big ask, but we must lead with empathy and compassion first, so that everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, can share in the promise of new life this Easter season. Amen.

Pastor Steve DeKrey

BITS AND PIECES

Rhubarb Pies for Sale.

Friday, May 30, 2025.



Washington Church,
595 29th St NE, Northwood.

\$12 / pie, limit 2.

Ready for freezer or baking
Also, 3:00-4:00 pm, fresh pie, ice
cream, coffee

To Order, Call:
Audrey Pederson at 701-330-1856 or
Diane Strom at 218-779-5296.



Sytteende Mai

The NELC women will be making and
selling rommegrot and lefse

3 to 4 pm
on Friday, May 16
at the Northwood Evangelical Lutheran
Church, 307 2nd Ave, Northwood

\$8 per pkg lefse (limit 3 packages)
\$6 for a pint of rommegrot
(limit 2 pints)
(no pre-sales)

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS AT EVERY AGE

This May, during **Mental Health Awareness Month**, let's shine a light on the importance of mental health for older adults. Aging comes with unique joys and challenges, but mental health struggles such as depression, anxiety, or feelings of isolation are often overlooked. Mental health is just as essential as physical health, and addressing emotional well-being can improve overall quality of life. Did you know?

- 1 in 4 older adults experiences mental health concerns, yet many go untreated.
- Prioritizing mental health can help strengthen relationships, reduce stress, and restore a sense of purpose and joy.
- Mental health conditions are not a normal part of aging; they are treatable, and support is available.
- Talking openly about mental health can reduce stigma and encourage others to seek help when needed. This month, let's work together to break the stigma surrounding mental health. Take time to check in with yourself or the older adults in your life. Ask how they're feeling, encourage open conversations, and remind them that seeking help is a sign of strength.

Mental health awareness starts with all of us! Together, we can foster a supportive community where everyone feels valued, heard, and cared for.

WE CAN HELP. Our hospital-based outpatient program is designed to meet the unique needs of older adults experiencing depression and/or anxiety related to life changes that are often associated with aging or a chronic diagnosis. Anyone can make a referral to our program, including self-referrals, provider referrals, or community consultations. Call us today at 701-587-6404

NELC Council Minutes

NELC Council Minutes Sunday, April 6, 2025 (unapproved)

Council Members Present: President Pete Antonson, Karl Jodock, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Bob Bilden, Ed Bina, Wade Bilden, Angela Lyste, Nikki Korsmo Member at large- Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth

President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

Pastor Steve opened with a devotion.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the meeting on March 9, 2025 were reviewed. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes; Ed second; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report from March 2025 was reviewed. Wade made a motion to approve the report as is; Bob second; motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management: No report

Music & Worship: No Report

Education: No Report

Finance: Nothing new to report. Nikki shared that they are continuing to work on figuring out the new method for counting and depositing offerings.

Pastor's Report: Easter service and Potluck is coming up. Along with an Easter egg hunt for the kids following the service. Steve shared that there is an event coming up on April 25th at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. It is a Hunger and Homelessness awareness event for the youth. Once there is more information it will be sent out and would like to possibly bring a group. May 14th, there will also be a speaker, Jacqueline Bussie, at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fargo. Steve would also like to thank everyone for coming to the service and potluck to celebrate today. It was a wonderful turnout.

Old Business: Hunter Twete will mow this summer and will be charging \$75 per time. Room darkening curtains will be needed for the youth room by fall.

New Business: NELC Bible study will be held in the evening starting in the fall. Steve would also like the Men's group to start meeting and do events starting in the fall. Karl also brought up that now that there is no longer the need for the call committee, it may be a good idea to have some sort of personnel committee to have some sort of check-in once a year. They could meet with the Pastor to see what things are going well, what changes may be needed, etc. This will be put on the joint council meeting agenda for the upcoming meeting to discuss.

For the Good of the Parish: Next NELC Council meeting will be Sunday, June 8th following church- No May meeting unless something arises.

President Pete declared the meeting adjourned at 2:07. Bishop Tessa closed with prayer.

Angela Lyste,
Secretary

Joint Council

Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish Joint Council Meeting Minutes- April 6, 2025 (unapproved)

Members Present: NELC President Pete Antonson, Wade Bilden, Karl Jodock, Nikki Korsmo, Bob Bilden, Ed Bina, Mary Gravdahl, Cecil Tinderholt, Chris Moore, Angela Lyste, and Pastor Steve DeKrey Member at large- Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth

NELC President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Bishop Tessa opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report- Approved the minutes from the last Joint Council Meeting from February 2, 2025; Chris motioned to approve minutes; Bob second; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- Nikki presented the Treasurer's report. Karl motioned to approve the report; Bob second the motion; motion carried.

Pastor's Report- Steve wanted to thank Washington for giving up their Easter service in order to join for one service. The Easter service and Potluck is coming up. Along with an Easter egg hunt for the kids following the service.

Steve shared that there is an event coming up on April 25th at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. It is a Hunger and Homelessness awareness event for the youth. Once there is more information it will be sent out and would like to possibly bring a group. May 14th, there will also be a speaker, Jacqueline Bussie, at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fargo.

He would also like Pastor Aaron from Campus Ministry to come out one Sunday similar to Red Willow.

Steve would also like to thank everyone for coming to the service and potluck to celebrate today. It was a wonderful turnout.

New Business- Steve is wanting a bigger screen TV for the fall for confirmation/youth group, possibly a 40" Smart TV. Mary motioned to approve the purchase of a TV for the confirmation room; Chris second; Motion approved. July 6th will be the cookout at Washington Church. The Joint Council meeting will take place afterwards. Karl also brought up the Parsonage and what we could do with it as opposed to it sitting empty. Some possibilities that could be explored may include: VRBO, selling it, leaving it empty, or using it as a rental. With those options, the council would also need to look into: what would the legal implications be? What would that involve regarding insurance? Should it be explored? The council felt that it is something that should be explored and will have one representative from each church to look into it further. Karl Jodock from NELC and Craig Hanson from Washington will be the representatives from each church. They will continue to look into it further and bring back more information to the Joint Council to explore the options further before making a decision.

For the Good of the Parish- Bishop Tess wanted to thank both churches for the investment, work, and care that they have put into having Steve as an intern. She is so excited for all of us. We represent so many components of what the Eastern Synod is and this has been a wonderful opportunity for both Steve and the churches.

The next Joint Council meeting will be July 6th following the cookout.

NELC President Pete adjourned the meeting at 1:43 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste,
Secretary

NELC Gifts and Memorials

Gifts and memorials given the month of April:

Marion Bjerke

To the General Fund: Virgil & Marcial Shegerud

To the Music Fund: Bill & Myrna Johnson

Ada Thompson

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Ron Sheets

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

David Vold

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Joyce Nelson

To the General Fund: Rod & Sandy Gabrielson

Charlotte Hutchison

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

Jeannen McMillian

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

In Honor of Blanche Thingelstad's 90th Birthday

To the General Fund: Dave & Deb Aaland

Russ Pittsley

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Chris Yeargan

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Janice Grotte

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson, Blanche Thingelstad

Lenore (Bilden) Kaste

To the General Fund: Wade & Karen Bilden



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

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STAFF OF NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH

Pastor:	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	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, Nancy Hall, Karl Jodock, Nicole Korsmo, Angela Lyste, Tim Mutchler Jr., Amy Sheggerud

Washington Council Members: Annette Aird, Mary Gravdahl, Craig Hanson, Chris Moore, David Mullet, Cecil Tinderholt