

THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH October 2025

Washington Church Worship Ministers:
Ushers: Tom & Pam Mikelson

NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Gordon Hall
Tom Metz

Wednesday Dinner & Worship opportunity
Pastor Steve will be starting a Wednesday worship service on October 1 at 6 pm at NELC starting with a light supper.

No Youth or confirmation or Wednesday worship on Wednesday, October 15.

No Sunday School on October 19.

Story Telling Group continues to meet at 12 pm in October at NELC.

Washington Council Meeting, 12 pm Sunday, October 12 at NELC.

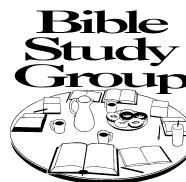
NELC Council Meeting 12 pm, Sunday, October 12.

Joint Council Meeting, 1 pm, Sunday, October 12 at NELC.

Washington Women are serving **apple pie, ice cream and coffee** 3-4 pm on Saturday, October 4 at the church.



Bible studies



Washington meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10 am at the church (Oct. 16).

NELC meets at 6:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the church (Oct. 9 & 23).

NO Bible Study at Washington on Thursday, October 2.

Noisy offering will be on Sunday, October 19 and will go to the EaND Synod Endowment Fund.

Washington WELCA Quilting and Business Meeting is Thursday, October 9 at 9 am.

Washington Women will be quilting on Thursdays at 9 am.



From Pastor Steve

Fall is here and it's my favorite time of year. I love the leaves changing colors. I love the shorter days. I am a pumpkin spice and apple cider lover. My favorite holiday is Halloween, and I am a huge fan of horror movies.

Fall also means lots of things going on at the church. Confirmation and Sunday school are back and by the time this newsletter comes out, I'll have gone to Castaway Camp with our young people. If you see me in a better than usual mood the season has a lot to do with it.

One of the things you may have noticed this year is that in many of our Gospel readings Jesus is talking about the gap between the rich and the poor, the powerful and the meek. This is no coincidence as we have been working through the Gospel of Luke.

Luke is often called the social Gospel because many of the teachings and stories focus on the injustice being done to those who have very little in the world. We know Jesus had a heart for the poor and downtrodden, but in Luke's account, Jesus spends more time preaching and telling parables about what happens when rich people don't use their wealth to take care of those who have nothing. He sets it up as a moral obligation and also one commanded by the prophets. Jesus goes so far as to tell rich people that they can't get into heaven. That doesn't seem very kind, but we often gloss over the harsher words of Jesus because we don't want anyone to feel guilty or excluded. He said these words, and they are pretty clear.

My interpretation is this. Does Jesus mean that we can't have wealth? Likely not because we all know very generous people who use their wealth to help people. Jesus also knew that not every wealthy person got their fortune by dishonest means. We can work hard and be successful.

Jesus is speaking directly to those who accumulate vast amounts of money and power and then use it to generate more for themselves or use it to actively harm those who can't defend themselves. He is equating this to sin, and he is saying those who do this aren't concerned with getting into heaven anyway because all they care about is what they have in this life. Therefore, a rich person can't get into heaven.

The text for this week as I write this is the story of Lazarus and rich man from Luke 16:19-31. In this story Jesus illustrates what happens to rich people who ignore those in need. He says when they die, they will spend eternity cut off from God, and people like Lazarus will go to be with God in heaven. When the rich man begs Abraham to help him, Abraham says that the disparity in wealth and the unwillingness to help the poor has created too great of a chasm between them. When the rich man then begs Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his family, Abraham says that if he and his family wouldn't heed the words of the prophets that they already had why would sending Lazarus make any difference.

Jesus is telling us that if we ignore the poor among us here while we live, that trying to fix that error after we die will make no difference. Jesus is calling us all to use our resources to help everyone and be generous while we can, because tomorrow we could die and be regretful that we did not pay attention to the numerous warnings and teachings.

Like I said, there isn't anything inherently wrong with being rich and successful, it's what we choose to do with it. Right now, at this point in the history of the world there are more people with a larger share of the wealth than at any point. I think Jesus might be surprised at just how rich some people are. I wonder if he was here how his parables and teachings might be received?

Luke's social commentary is as relevant today as it was in the ancient world. The disparity between rich and poor does not feel like it's going to go away. It is up to us as followers of Christ to ensure that the gap does not become so wide that it destroys people and lives. We are called to live in such a way that when we leave this world, people remember us for our kindness and care and that we used what we had to leave this place better than we found it. Amen

NELC Church Council

NELC Council Minutes Sunday, September 14, 2025 (unapproved)

Council Members Present: President Elect Karl Jodock, Wade Bilden, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Tim Mutchler, Ed Bina, Nancy Hall Angela Lyste, Nikki Korsmo

President Elect Karl Jodock called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

Pastor Steve opened with a devotion.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the meeting on August 10, 2025 were reviewed. Ed made a motion to approve the minutes; Tim second; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report from August 2025 was reviewed. Nikki shared that there is no credit card payment this month as we switched credit cards. We will also need to decide on prepaying propane. We got the same price as last year of \$1.59. Will discuss in new business. Nancy made a motion to approve the August report; Tim second; August financial report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management: Tim was able to check the shingles. There are extra shingles available to use. Tim and Jimmy will attempt to fix it towards the end of September/October when the weather gets colder.

Music & Worship: Wednesday evening worship will start October 1st; this will include a light supper at 6:00, a 30-minute service at 6:30, and then confirmation at 7:00.

Education: Church School is ready to start next Sunday and have curriculum through January. They will do the Christmas story early as this often gets skipped in preparation for the program. Pastor Steve will come to do music with Church School every other week. Confirmation will also be starting this week with an orientation meeting with parents. Pastor Steve ordered 4 new Bible/Study Books (2 for each table). They include QR codes for lessons. There are 16 kids in confirmation and 24 in youth group. There are 7-8 signed up for Castaway Camp.

Finance: No Report

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Steve shared that he received a letter from Sundahl Church in Aneta asking if he would be willing to fill in one Sunday every other month but would also

take turns being on call. Steve talked with Pete and Cecil. They shared that this is not part of the current contract. Steve put a call in and is waiting to hear back from the Bishop. Would be willing to do one service a month at 5:30, but was not sure at this time. Steve feels that there is more discussion coming with more small rural churches losing pastors

-October 2nd Pastor Steve is invited to the Synod office with the new pastors to check in with the Bishop to see how things are going.

Old Business:

Church/Parsonage Insurance-Still waiting for GuideOne to get new quotes. Would be unable to remove parsonage from policy and insure separately. If we wanted to rent out the parsonage, our insurance would go up 20-30%. Also checked through Lightwell Insurance which sells Brotherhood Mutual. Total cost for a \$10k deductible plan is approximately \$17,000 (current plan is \$10,500). Different options to think about. Can discuss at the next joint council meeting.

New Business:

Resignation letter from Nancy Hall-she is willing to stay on until replaced. We will need to get the word out to get 2 spots filled.

October 19th Endowment Sunday-Deacon Erin Power will be here. Will save noisy offering until then to give back to the Endowment Fund.

Propane-can prepay at a rate of \$1.59. The last two years the church has used around 3,000 gallons. Karl made a motion to prepay for 3,000 gallons at \$1.59/gallon. Tim Second. Motion carried.

Nancy asked if we can have whoever is mowing, please blow the grass out the rocks. The edging is starting to come up. The council discussed that the landscaping is 20 years and could use some work. Will need to be looked at in the spring.

Next NELC Council meeting date will be October 12 following church; followed by Joint Council Meeting.

Wade motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tim second.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

NELC Gifts and Memorials

Janice Gabriel

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

Shirley Lunski

To the General Fund: Renee Johnson

Bill Johnson

To the General Fund: Joan O'Bannon, Renee Johnson

Betty Beck

To the General Fund: Myrna Johnson, Carol Morrison, Blanche Thingelstad, Dennis & Barb Maristuen, Dave & Deb Aaland, Scott & Shawnee Evanson

To the Elevator Fund: Marie Christen

Louis John Thompson

To the General Fund: Dennis & Barb Maristuen

Jean Smestad

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Donald Vigen

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Louise Ostlie

To the General Fund: Ronald & Ericka Anderson, Brian and Alane Jodock, James and Karen Tangen, Wade & Karen Bilden, Scott & Shawnee Evanson, Jason & Heidi Gader, Dennis & Barb Maristuen, Ed & Tracy Bina

To the Elevator Fund: Rodney & Gladys Peterson, Marie Christen

Brenda Axline

To the General Fund: Ed & Tracy Bina

Brian Severinson

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Dean Geiselhart

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Hilman Knudsvig

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Eddie Gordhammer

To the General Fund: Wade & Karen Bilden

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

William Johnson
5-28-2025

Louise Ostlie
7-10-25

Rodney Peterson
9-29-25

Transfer Out

Jaden Johnson Voigt, Navy and Nova
6-30-25

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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3

Address Service Requested



STAFF OF NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH

Minister	Steve DeKrey	Custodians	Austin & Tera Brucker -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