

THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH November 2025

Washington Church Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Craig & Shari Hanson

NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Dan Turner
Bob Bilden

Washington WELCA meets for Thankoffering, quilting, business meeting and lunch, 9 am on Thursday, November 13.

NO Wednesday Worship Confirmation or Youth Group, Wednesday, November 12 or 26.

NELC Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 23
in NELC dining hall
12-2 pm
\$10 per meal

Meal includes: turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, bun, and dessert. To-go meal orders will be taken from November 1-20 by calling Ashley Engen at 763-244-7499 or Ginny Sebekow at 612-618-0824. Home delivery available upon request.



“Thanksgiving Together” Join us as we introduce our newest neighbors and recent refugees to the tradition of Thanksgiving on Monday, November 17, 6-7:30 pm at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. Enjoy turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, bread, gravy, and pie! The evening will include conversation, live music, and a greeting from Global Friends Coalition. This event is sponsored by ELCA Lutheran Churches of Greater Grand Forks, Family of God (ELCA/UCC), St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and Christus Rex Lutheran Center.

Thank you to everyone who donated to **CVIC** in September and October. The items were delivered the first week of November. They were very grateful. Thank you for your donations.

Thank you to everyone who donated to **NELC’s Lutheran World Relief drive**. 40 School kits and 14 personal care kits were delivered to the LWR drop-off site in Grand Forks on October 24. Thank you for your continued support of LWR. FYI quilts and personal care kits were distributed here in the United States after Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit Florida last year.



NELC’s WELCA will be hosting a **cookie walk** Friday, November 21, 4-6 pm. in the dining hall at NELC. Let us do some of your Holiday Baking for you. If you would like to bring cookies for the cookie walk, there is a sign-up sheet in the Bethany Room at NELC.

NELC will be hosting the **Kids’ Christmas Corner** on Saturday, December 6. Items needed: kid’s items like toys, games, books, stuffed animals, etc., Men’s items like tools, snacks/candy, games, hats, gloves, books, etc.

NELC is collecting items for the **Northwood Food Pantry** in November and December. Items needed: toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, body wash, pasta sauce, chili, bush beans, hamburger helper, Rice A Roni, juices, soap, cookies, peanut butter, Spam, canned chicken, cold cereal, all canned goods, multiples of each is appreciated. No pasta noodles or Ramen needed at this time. Keep in mind most of the clients need only small, single serving cans, not large family size.



NELC will be decorating the church for the Christmas season following worship November 23. Everyone’s help is appreciated.

NO Sunday School November 30.



From Pastor Steve

Matthew 26:6-13

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

At first glance of this scripture from Matthew you could try to make a case that the disciples are right and Jesus is wrong, but that's until Jesus reminds the angry disciples that even if they had sold the oil that anointed Jesus, the poor would still be among them. Their hearts are in the right place, and I am sure they are just trying to follow the example their teacher set for them, but Jesus is showing them that as he is being anointed for his eventual death that this act is bigger than what his followers think is right and wrong. When Jesus dies, he knows this act will be a change in the way the world works. He knows that through his death and resurrection the Good News he preached will take off, gaining followers and transforming the lives of more than just the few poor the disciples were hoping to help.

Does all this mean we shouldn't help the poor because they are always with us as Jesus says? That answer is emphatically "no". In fact, it means now that the Holy Spirit dwells among God's church and its people that we should use our resources all the more to help feed the hungry, house the homeless and comfort those in pain.

I'm writing this on October 29th, and in just a couple of days many of the benefits that are used to fund our food pantries, support homeless shelters, and provide food assistance to people in need will end. I am praying and speaking out fervently along with my clergy colleagues in faith that the people who run our government institutions can come to some sort of agreement to reopen vital departments and programs that people rely on. I am also praying that the those who have control of emergency funds to support people in need can find it in their hearts to have empathy and compassion for the least of us who just do not have the financial stability to weather this storm and keep their families fed. A country as great as the United States should be able to find a way to lift up its people who are struggling, not use them as a bargaining chip in a budget fight.

As Jesus said, "the poor are always with us" and the solution is not to ignore them and hope they go away. Jesus didn't die on a cross for his personal glorification or for ours. He died so that we could reconcile with the sins we have committed as a world and know that we are forgiven and loved by a God who wants nothing but good for each and every one of us. Our response to that unconditional love is to go and do likewise. There are no distinctions between who is in and who is out in God's kingdom. We are all God's beloved children, and we all deserve the same dignity and respect.

As followers of Christ, as of October 29th, it appears its going to be up to us to help bridge the gaps that people are about to face. The Spirit is moving amongst God's people, and I know we are up to the task. I ask you to pay attention to the local food pantries, shelters and other organizations that are putting out desperate calls for assistance. How can we answer prayers for people who are scared and uncertain? November is a month where we give thanks for all we have. Nobody should feel like they are passed over or ignored. Together we can do so much more than just sell a jug of oil as the disciples wanted. We have a God that has blessed us so that we can be a blessing for others. Amen.

Pastor Steve DeKrey

Joint Council Minutes

Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish Joint Council Meeting Minutes- October 12, 2025 (unapproved minutes)

Members Present: NELC President Pete Antonson, Karl Jodock, Nikki Korsmo, Mary Gravdahl, Cecil Tinderholt, Angela Lyste, David Mullet, Karl Jodock, Craig Hanson, Tim Mutchler, Annette Aird, and Pastor Steve DeKrey

NELC President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 12:29 pm.

Secretary's Report- Minutes from the last Joint Council Meeting from July 13, 2025 were reviewed; Nancy motioned to approve minutes; Nancy second; motion carried.

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

Old Business-

-Karl shared that he had checked on the insurance policy regarding the parsonage as a rental. The church and parsonage are under Guide One and under Guide One, it could not be rented out. Guide One wouldn't let us break off parsonage from the church. Current cost of insurance would go from \$11,000/year to \$15,000/year. He also looked into a new company called Lightwell Insurance. This would end up costing \$17,000/year. If we were to be able to keep the parsonage rented year round, it would help offset the rise in cost of insurance. Craig had also checked with the school, but they shared that all teachers currently have housing. After further discussion of the topic, the council decided to stay with the current Guide One policy and no further action was taken at this time.

New Business-

-There are some stumps behind the parsonage that need to be taken care of. Tim said that he would be able to pull them out and then get the holes covered up.

-Pastor Steve shared that they have the Pastor's Conference on Tuesday and will be discussing the Aneta churches and what would be the most appropriate capacity to provide assistance, if at all. Pastor Steve will update the Council following the conference.

For the Good of the Parish

Planning for the future- Looking five years down the road- making sure that church activities, such as pie making are able to last. Can we keep them up? Is it safe to keep them going? Are we looking at trends? What can we let go? What can we reinvent? These are difficult conversations to have, but we need to start having them before it is too late.

Wednesday Dinner Church is going well and has been a fun experience. It has been a great chance to try new things. It is really gaining momentum. All are invited! Dinner starts at 6:00 with service starting at 6:30.

The next Joint Council meeting will be December 14 to review the budget.

NELC President Pete adjourned the meeting at 1:27 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

Washington Council Minutes

Washington Church Council October 12, 2025 (unapproved minutes)

Present: Cecil Tinderholt, Mary Gravdahl, Annette Aird, David Mullet, and Craig Hanson

Secretary's Report: Read, 1st Mary, 2nd Annette. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Read, 1st Mary, 2nd Craig. Motion passed

Old Business: Craig gave an update on replacement of the stairs going to the back door.

New Business: Craig mentioned that the countertop in the kitchen needs to be replaced.

It was mentioned that the countertop should be made of wood instead of laminate because of the possibility that hot items may be placed on the countertop. It was suggested that the decision be made by the WELCA group on what they would prefer.

It was mentioned that a new microphone and stand be purchased that can be placed in different locations up front. This would aid during funerals and other services that would require remote locations. Craig will check prices.

Meeting was adjourned.
Craig Hanson, Secretary

Washington Memorials

Shirley Pederson

To the Cemetery Fund: Keith Bjerke

Delvin Gylten

To the Cemetery Fund: Dennis & Barb Maristuen, Kami Kappedal, Craig & Shari Hanson, Karl & Mary Broeren, Dave & Deb Aaland, Dan & Jan Sponsler, Jordan & Luann Stevens, Jerry & Judy Koesterman, Tom & Pam Mikelson, Audrey Pederson, Ron & Marilyn Roch, Virgil & Marcia Sheggerud, Willard Pedersen, Gary & Joyce Ketchum, Jackie & Dale Hanson, Jeff & Barb Hanson, Craig & Sheri Hanson

To the General Fund: Michael Loewen, Jan Nelson, Keith Bjerke, John & Dona Thorsgard, Steve & Wendy Gylten, Joyce Brown, Mike & Ginger Voglewede

Lavahn Grefsheim

To the Cemetery Fund: Dan & Jan Sponsler

Seth Larson Sr.

To the Cemetery Fund: Dan & Jan Sponsler

Dennis Anderson

To the Cemetery Fund: Dan & Jan Sponsler

Bev Suby

To the Cemetery Fund: Dan & Jan Sponsler



PSALM 136:1, KJV

NELC Church Council

NELC Council Minutes Sunday, October 12, 2025 (unapproved minutes)

Council Members Present: President Pete Antonson, Karl Jodock, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Tim Mutchler, Nancy Hall, Angela Lyste, Nikki Korsmo

President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Pastor Steve opened with a devotion.

Secretary's report: Minutes from the meeting on September 14, 2025 were reviewed. Karl made a motion to approve the minutes; Tim second; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report from September 2025 was reviewed. Nikki shared that budgeting will be coming up. Nancy made a motion to approve the September report; Karl second; September financial report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management: Deb wanted to order a new rug for the front entryway. Karl made a motion to get a new rug ordered for the front entryway; Tim seconded; motion passed.

-Wade Bilden, Jane Engen, and Pete Antonson cut back some plants around the church. There were some plants along the north side that they cut way back. Pete wasn't sure what wanted to be done along the north side. There are some drainage issues. We may need to put some money into the budget for 2026 to invest in some alternative options to help with water getting in along the north edge like it did this year.
-Tim and Jimmy were able to replace the shingles up on the roof.

Music & Worship: No report.

Education: Confirmation and Church school are off to a good start. Pastor Steve leading music with Church school every other week at NELC is going really well and the kids really seem to be enjoying it!

Finance: No Report

Pastor's Report: Will present at Joint Council meeting.

Old Business: None.

New Business: We have two spots to fill on our council- Amy Sheggerud and Nancy Hall. We will need to announce this in the bulletin.

Next NELC Council meeting date will be November 9th following church.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

N-Carol Morrison
10-3-2025

W-Delvin Gylten
10-5-2025

N-Marilyn Pederson
10-28-2025

NELC Memorials

Rodney Peterson

To the General Fund: Tom & Jane Engen, Blanche Thingelstad, Rod & Sandy Gabrielson, Allen & Clarene Wasness, Myrna Johnson, Scott & LuAnn Pedersen, Dennis & Barb Maristuen, Renee Johnson, Jim & Char Voigt, Kathy Offerdahl, John & Lonny Hutchison, Jay & Susan Lucke, Mark & Joyce Magnus, Jerome & Judy Fladeland, Larry & Diane Strom, Joan O'Bannon, Brian & Laurel Johnson, Wade & Karen Bilden, Virgil & Marcia Sheggerud

To the Elevator Fund: Jason & Heidi Gader, Marie Christen, Dave & Deb Aaland, Brian & Alane Jodock, John & Dona Thorsgard, Carol Luecke, Mike & Denise Adams, Jan Nelson, Robert & Stephanie Vaagene, Sandra Johnson, Richard & Elaine West, Gertude Behm, Paul & Tammy Hofer, Willard Pedersen, Gordon & Nancy Hall, Lowel & Annette Stanlake, Joel & Carolyn Tangen, Jeff & Susan Meland, Doug & Linda Moen, John & Susan Steinke, Dan & Michelle Bueide & Family, Scott & Stephanie Ostlie, Mark & Deborah Peterson, James & Karen Tangen, Steve & Pam Eider, Benjamin & Stacy Hoiland, Barry & Sheri Hanson, Dale & Jackie Hanson, Jeff & Barb Hanson, Kelsy Boyd, Becky Korsmo, Janice Anderson, Ron & Marilyn Roch, Kent & Daneen Braaten, Annette Ulberg, Mark Ulberg, Family & Friends

Delvin Gylten

To the General Fund: Blanche Thingelstad, John & Lonny Hutchison, Scott & Shawnee Evanson, Wade & Karen Bilden

Mel Stone

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Steven Ostlie

To the General Fund: Blanche Thingelstad

Carol Morrison

To the General Fund: Rod & Sandy Gabrielson, Dennis & Barb Maristuen, Jane Tveit, Dave & Ginny Sebekow, Kathy Offerdahl, Jon & Carol Campbell, John & Lonny Hutchison, Renee Johnson, Blanche Thingelstad, Patricia Erickson, Jim & Karen Tangen, Brian & Alane Jodock, Willard Pedersen, Laurie Christianson, Mark & Joyce Magnus, Kami Kappedal, Virgil & Marcia Sheggerud, Scott & LuAnn Pedersen, Dave & Deb Aaland, Joan O'Bannon, Scott & Shawnee Evanson, Brian & Laurel Johnson, Myrna Johnson, Wade & Karen Bilden, Richard & Yvonne Mandt

To the Elevator Fund: Gladys Peterson, Jason & Heidi Gader, Larry & Diane Strom, Marie Christen

Eunice Fleischman

To the General Fund: Jason & Heidi Gader, Renee Johnson

Christa Lee Schneider

To the General Fund: Jim & Char Voigt

Richard Hanson

To the General Fund: Virgil & Marcia Sheggerud, Scott & LuAnn Pedersen, Blanche Thingelstad

Ruth Jacobson

To the General Fund: Blanche Thingelstad

Verdell Gilbertson

To the General Fund: Mark & Joyce Magnus

Suzann Thomsen

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee

Marilyn Pederson

To the General Fund: Joan O'Bannon, Tom & Jane Engen, Blanche Thingelstad

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

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November

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, Karl Jodock, Nicole Korsmo, Angela Lyste, Tim Mutchler Jr.

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