

# THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH  
December 2025

## *Christmas Worship Services*

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*1 pm & 4:30 pm, Wednesday, December 24  
at Northwood Evangelical Lutheran*

### *Christmas Day Worship*

*9 am, Thursday, December 25  
at Washington Evangelical Lutheran*

**Washington Women** will be having a **bake sale** at the Old Fashioned Christmas craft show Sunday, December 7 at the Northwood Community Center 12 noon—4 pm.

**Washington Women** will be having their Annual Meeting and Potluck, 10 am, Thursday, December 11 followed by cookie gifting.

**NELC Women** will be having their Annual Meeting and Christmas Potluck, 11 am, Friday, December 12.

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

**NO Sunday School** December 21, 28 or January 4.

### **NELC Council Members Needed**

NELC needs to fill 2 spots on their council. One position is to finish this year and the year 2026, the other is to finish this year and years 2026 & 2027. If you are interested in serving, please give Council President, Pete Antonson at call at 218-230-8471.

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

**Thank you** to Ashley Engen and Ginny Sebekow for preparing the Thanksgiving Dinner at NELC. Thanks to everyone who brought desserts.

## **Kids' Christmas Corner**

9:30—12 noon

Saturday, December 6  
in the Dining room 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 14 during the 11 am worship service, followed by a potluck dinner.

Washington's Christmas Program is Sunday, December 21 during the 9 am worship service followed by a potluck brunch.



**NO Confirmation and Youth Group**  
December 17, 24, 31.

The **Youth** will have their **Christmas Party** at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 10.

The **Youth** will be going to Red Ray Lanes 6-8 pm, Sunday, December 14.

**NO Wednesday worship or light dinner in December.**

**NELC Council Meeting**, Sunday, December 14 following the Christmas Program and potluck.

**Joint Council Meeting**, Sunday, Dec. 14 at NELC following the NELC Council Meeting.

**Noisy offering** on Sunday, December 7 will go to the Northwood Food Pantry

## From Pastor Steve

I recently got myself a smoker, and I am absolutely loving it. If you follow me on any social media, you know I use it at least a couple times a week to make something. This was a purchase that I had wanted for several years but never went through with because I already have a grill, and I'm pretty good in the kitchen and so I thought it could wait, I don't need it. Sometimes it's okay to wait for things because when they actually happen, they are all that much better. Smoking meat teaches you patience. This isn't like when you put something in the oven at 350 for an hour and it's ready. Smoking meat, for anyone who does it, takes a full day, depending on what you are making. A good brisket needs up to 18 hours in the smoker and even more if it's really big. You don't open the door often, maybe like every 2-3 hours to spritz it with some liquid, check the temperature of the meat and change the wood chips out. In the end your patience pays off with a delicious meal to share with family and friends.

Now you're probably saying to yourself, "Why is Pastor Steve talking about smoking meat, where's the message?" You're correct, there is a message here. November 30<sup>th</sup> begins the season of Advent. This is the new church year, so Happy New Year!, but also Advent is a season of waiting. We light a candle each week in anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth. Not only that, but we also anticipate Christ's promised return. Nobody knows when or how that will happen, but we wait patiently. The ancient Israelites awaited the coming of a Messiah to save them, and Jesus anticipates and waits for the moment that he will die on the cross so that all people may be saved and fulfill their hopes. There is lots of waiting in our scriptures. Abraham and Sarah wait for a child, Noah waits for a flood to end, the prophets wait for God's judgement on the people and kingdoms, and in the New Testament countless people wait for healing and wholeness from Jesus and later the early church waits for his return while trying to figure out how to be a community of believers together.

The old adage that "Good things come to those who wait" is true in some cases, but during Advent we are reminded that for some there is no time to wait. The suffering people of this world need relief now, and that is why we have been called to serve in God's church. While we wait for Christ's return, we are to step into all the places in the world where pain and sadness and death exist and be with those people. How can you help someone during the season of Advent? Instead of sitting around waiting, we are to actively wait. Help people see the glimpses of God's promises through acts of kindness, compassion and sacrifice. If we take an active role in the season of Advent and live for others, the day we celebrate the birth of Christ will be that much better. Amen

Pastor Steve DeKrey

# NELC Council

## **NELC Council Minutes Sunday, November 9, 2025 (unapproved)**

Council Members Present: President Pete Antonson, Karl Jodock, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Tim Mutchler, Bob Bilden, Angela Lyste, Ed Bina

President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.  
Pastor Steve opened with a devotion.

**Secretary's report:** Minutes from the meeting on October 12, 2025 were reviewed. Ed made a motion to approve the minutes; Tim second; Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report from October 2025 was reviewed. Reviewed financial trends. Trending in the right direction. Karl made a motion to approve the October report; Bob second; October financial report was approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

Property & Management: Bob will reach out to Derek about snow removal; Bob will also be responsible for checking the propane tank since we did not sign up for the new tank monitoring program.

Music & Worship: No report.

Education: No report

Finance: Reviewed Budget; Proposed increasing the following expenses:  
#432 Worship Expenses from \$200.04 to \$250  
#437 Other Employee Fed Tx, SS-Me.. From \$999.96 to \$1,030  
#439 Treasurer Salary 3% from \$3,499.92 to \$3,600.10  
#441 Church Utilities from 8,499.96 to \$8,900  
#442 Church Fuel  
#443 Church Insurance from \$9,000 to \$9,500  
#444 Misc Exp #450 Eastern ND Synod from \$6,000 to \$7,000  
#452 Red Willow Bible Camp

Also discussed adding an Emergency Assistance Fund of \$500 to help families/ individuals when emergencies arise (ex-fire, illness, hard times, etc) to the budget. Pete will review the proposed increased expenses with Nikki. Interparish budget will be reviewed at the December Joint Council Meeting.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steve has several things coming up:  
-January 12-14- He will be at the Region 3 Leadership Summit in Alexandria Supporting Female and Lay Leadership  
-January 15- Professional Development- Anti-racism training  
-January 30-February 2- Youth Ministry Training in St. Louis

Thursday December 4th there will be a prayer vigil at United Lutheran Church that Pastor Steve will be a part of instead of doing the Blue Christmas service this year.  
Dinner church has been going really well. Won't be doing it in December, but will start again in January. ELCA was giving out \$500 grants for anything that had to do with feeding people. Pastor Steve applied for it. This would help cover the cost of meals for dinner church which Steve is currently covering.  
There will be two Christmas Eve services at NELC at 1:00 and 4:30 pm.

**Old Business:** Tim will patch up the hole from the tree stump that was pulled with dirt and grass seed in the spring in the northwest corner of the parsonage lawn.

**New Business:** None.

Next NELC Council meeting date will be December 14th following church.

Next Joint Council meeting will be December 14th following regular Council meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm.  
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

# NELC Memorials

## **Delvin Gylten**

To the General Fund: Robert & Stephanie  
Vaagene, Ed & Tracy Bina

## **Carol Morrison**

To the General Fund: Robert & Stephanie  
Vaagene, Bob & Shari Bilden, Ed & Tracy  
Bina

To the Elevator Fund: Marie Christen

## **Rodney Peterson**

To the General Fund: Bob & Shari Bilden, Ed  
& Tracy Bina

To the Elevator Fund: Melanie Bergevin

## **Marlene Tveit**

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

## **David Holter**

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

## **Steve Ostlie**

To the General Fund: Renee Johnson, Ed &  
Tracy Bina

## **Marilyn Pederson**

To the General Fund: Robert & Stephanie  
Vaagene, Mike & Ginger Voglewede, Virgil &  
Marcia Sheggerud, Myrna Johnson, Dave & Deb  
Aaland, Bob & Shari Bilden, Renee Johnson, Rod  
& Sandy Gabrielson, Ed & Tracy Bina, Carey  
Thingelstad, Kory & Susie Sondreal, Kyle &  
Layne Smith, Kathy Offerdahl, Merri Mooridian,  
Perry & Susie Johnson, Jill Chandler, Jim &  
Karen Tangen, Audrey Pederson, John & Lonny  
Hutchison, Northwood School Teachers and  
Staff, Scott & Shawnee Evanson, Robert &  
Carolyn Jordahl, Mark & Faye Duncan, Gaylen &  
Bonnie Rosenow, Sharon Johnson, John & Dona  
Thorsgard, Dave & Ginny Sebekow, Adam &  
Amanda Thorsgard, Gordon & Sharon Delano,  
John & Lynae Wingate, Wade & Karen Bilden

To the Elevator Fund: Marie Christen

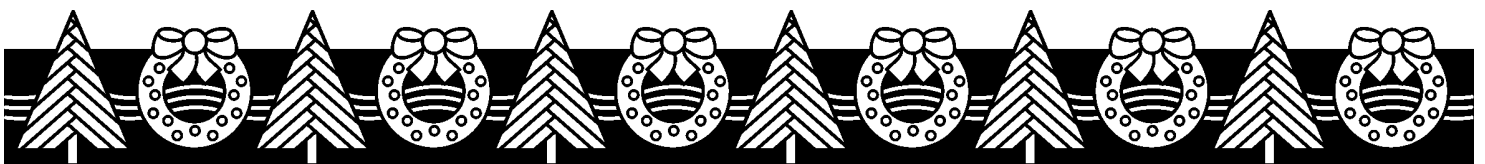
Neighbor with Neighbor Program: Gladyce  
Peterson

## **Ruth Jacobson**

To the General Fund: Myrna Johnson, Bob &  
Shari Bilden

## **Audrey Ostlie**

To the General Fund: Renee Johnson, Scott &  
Shawnee Evanson



Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish  
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Northwood, ND 58267

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#### STAFF OF NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH

Minister	Steve DeKrey	Custodians	Austin & Tera Brucker
Parish Assistant	Deb Aaland		-Washington
	Office number 701-587-5381		Deb Aaland-NELC
Organists	Joan Huso-NELC	Church E-mail	nelc@polarcomm.com
	Diane Nelson-Washington		

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](http://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