

THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH January 2026

Washington Church Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Chris Moore
Mary Gravdahl



NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Timothy Mutchler Jr.
Ed Bina

Noisy offering on Sunday, January 4 will go to Christus REX on the UND campus.

Quilting at Washington will resume Monday, January 5 at 9 am.

The Winter **“Christ in Our Home”** devotionals are here. Be sure to pick one up for your family.

Washington Church will be taking down Christmas Decorations following worship and coffee on Sunday, January 4.

NELC will be taking down Christmas Decorations following worship on Sunday, January 4.

Bridal Shower for Esabell Hermanson, bride-to-be of Kyle Verke, 10:30 am, Saturday, January 10 at NELC



Annual Meetings

Washington's is Sunday, January 18 following worship and brunch.

NELC's is Sunday, January 25 following worship and potluck.



Committee Reports for the Annual Report are due at the church office:
Friday, January 9 for Washington
Friday, January 16 for NELC

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 11 at 10 am.



Confirmation and Youth Group resume on Wednesday, January 7. Confirmation at 7 pm and Youth Group at 8 pm.

The **Bible Study** will resume just 2 days in January:

Thursday, January 8 at 10 am at NELC
Thursday, January 22 at Washington

From Pastor Steve

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

I was sitting with a friend one day and he was talking about taking his family on a trip to Winnipeg for the holiday, that seems like a fun time except because he is not from America, he was worried about leaving the country and getting stopped at the border either going or coming back. His immigration lawyer told him it should be fine because he has done all the proper things as far as immigration requirements go, but that there is always a chance that someone might just decide it's a good day to detain him. My friend cancelled the trip because he has several young children and cannot risk any chance that he may be taken away from them for any amount of time. I felt sad that we live in an environment right now where even people who have done all the things they are supposed to do don't feel safe enough to live their lives without fear.

Hospitality and welcome are themes that are woven all throughout our scriptures. It was key to the culture of the ancient Hebrews. The lack of hospitality according to the prophets was the cause of some of the greatest calamities that befell the Hebrew people. Jesus came later and much of his ministry was about welcoming the strangers, the outcasts and preaching to the gentiles (the non-Jews). Scholars think this emphasis on welcoming and including foreigners was because if the exodus from Egypt happened like the story says, then many other slaves went with the Hebrews. The Ancient Hebrews had to learn to live with people from other lands and cultures as part of their group, and when they settled in the land God promised to them, they had to learn to live with people who were already there.

That is why when Moses is laying down the laws of the covenant in Leviticus to the people it is said that the alien among you shall be treated as a native born. The people are also reminded that they were once aliens in a foreign land.

I am not writing this to excuse people from following the immigration policies of the countries they reside in. I am highlighting this piece of scripture because we should always lead with empathy, kindness and care for our fellow human beings. We must remember that our families are not originally from here either. Generations ago, our ancestors were also aliens in this foreign land. Imagine how they felt. Many didn't know English, they had no people to rely on, the customs and culture of this country were vastly different than the places they had come from. None of us would be here if the people who came before us hadn't learned to live together and treated each other well.

I feel for my friends who don't know what to do in this hyper charged political climate when it comes to their immigration status. The path to citizenship for them shouldn't be scary and confusing. It should focus on the fact that these individuals and their families want to be here. They want to contribute to what makes this country great. They have found a better life here, and it is up to us to help them achieve their dreams, not drive them away because they are different. Laws exist to keep order in society. I have no problem with that. Yes, some people are trying to skirt the path that my friends painstakingly walk and that is not fair, but for each and every one of these people we should be treating them with dignity. I know that's hard but that is what grace is.

Loving your neighbor as yourself means showing kindness to even the people we don't want to. Welcoming the stranger is difficult, but that is our call as followers of Christ. Topics like immigration and deportation have the ability to tear communities apart, but as a community centered in God's love, let us have fruitful conversation, see each other as God's children and work to understand each other. We are stronger together and we can accomplish more as one church for the sake of the world.

Amen. Pastor Steve DeKrey

Joint Council

Northwood-Washington Lutheran Parish Joint Council Meeting Minutes- December 14, 2025 (unapproved)

Members Present: NELC President Pete Antonson, Karl Jodock, Nikki Korsmo, Cecil Tinderholt, Angela Lyste, David Mullet, Chris Moore, Tim Mutchler, Wade Bilden, Ed Bina, Lori Vivier, and Pastor Steve DeKrey

NELC President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 12:48 pm.

Secretary's Report- Minutes from the last Joint Council Meeting from October 12, 2025 were reviewed; Tim motioned to approve minutes; Chris second; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- The Joint Council reviewed the 2026 Joint Council Budget and proposed recommended budget changes.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Steve shared that the Bishop election is coming up in June. Bishop Tessa will need to be forwarded on. She will likely not be running unopposed this election. The Synod delegates who attend the Synod assembly this summer will get information about the Bishop nominees and it will be important that they are informed.

-Congregational reports will be coming due in January and are important and are part of how they determine delegate numbers.

New Business-None

For the Good of the Parish-

The next Joint Council meeting will be in March.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

one LORD,
one Faith,
one Baptism....

EPHESIANS 4:5

NELC Church Council

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

Council Members Present: President Pete Antonson, Karl Jodock, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Tim Mutchler, Nikki Korsmo, Wade Bilden, Angela Lyste, Ed Bina, and council members-elect Lori Vivier

President Pete Antonson called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

Pastor Steve opened with a devotion. He wanted to share a big thank you from the Northwood Food Pantry. He had brought up items that had been donated and they were very grateful for all that we have given.

New council Member- Wade made a motion to appoint Lori Vivier to finish Nancy Hall's term as council member; Tim second. Motion passed.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report from November 2025 was reviewed. Karl made a motion to approve the financial report; Tim second; November financial report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Property & Management: Will have Bob contact Derek about getting here earlier to do snow removal. With the last storm, it wasn't done right away and it was difficult for Steve and Deb to get in and out.

Music & Worship: No report.

Education: No report

Finance: Christmas gifts- Wade made a motion to approve Christmas gifts for the same amounts as 2024; Ed seconded the motion; Motion approved.

Nikki reviewed budget recommendations by the council and had some information regarding budget items and revisions; Karl motioned to adjust items in the budget as Nikki revised; Tim second; Motion approved.

Pastor's Report: There will be two Christmas Eve services at NELC at 1:00 and 4:30.

Bishop election coming up in June. This will be discussed at Annual Meeting. This is the first time in 7 years it will be done in person. The Synod Assembly Delegates will be very important this year as they will be voting on the Bishop.

Youth activities are going well. Confirmation wrapped up with their Christmas party and will resume the second week in January.

Old Business: None

New Business: There is one more open Council Member position (Amy Sheggerud's). There will be 3 more vacancies opening up in January. The council could do a re-organizational meeting at the annual meeting.

Next NELC Council meeting date will be January 11th following church.

NELC Annual Meeting- January 25th Meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

NELC Memorials

Jan Noblin

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

Lenore Bilden Kaste

To the General Fund: Karen Larson

Steve Ostlie

To the General Fund: Jason & Heidi Gader

Ruth Jacobson

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

Bob Fetters

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee Evanson

Pastoral Acts

Memorial

Ruth Jacobson

December 6, 2025

Put in the February newsletter

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

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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., Lori Jo Vivier

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