

# THE GOOD NEWS

THE NORTHWOOD-WASHINGTON LUTHERAN PARISH  
March 2026

## Washington Church Worship Ministers:

Ushers: Steve & Ranae Sotvik

## NELC Worship Ministers:

Ushers: John Hutchison  
Greg Snyder

**Noisy offering** March 1 will go to Red Willow Bible Camp.

**Washington WELCA Quilting and Business Meeting**, Friday, March 13 at 9 am.

We are looking for people who would like to play in the Bell Choir for the Easter Worship Service at NELC. Please call Marcia at 701-520-2614, if you are interested.

The **Thursday 10 am Bible Study** meets:

March 5 & 19 at Washington

March 26 at NELC

NO Bible study March 12

**Washington Council Meeting**, 12 noon,  
Sunday, March 8.

**NELC Council Meeting**, 12 noon, Sunday,  
March 8.

**Joint Council Meeting**, 1 pm, Sunday, March 8  
at NELC.

NELC needs \$14,888 monthly income to meet our 2026 operating budget. Income for January was \$8,323.

NELC is collecting candy for **Easter baskets** for residents at NDHC. Soft candy, no nuts, please. The candy can be left in Deb's office.



## LENTEN Schedule

Each week of Lent, we will have a light supper at 6 pm and worship at 7 pm

March 4 - NELC

March 11 - Washington

March 18 - NELC

March 25 - Washington

## Lenten Supper Menus

March 4 Hotdish and buns

March 11 Soup, Stew with bread

March 18 Hotdish and buns

March 25 Soup and sandwiches

NELC needs 1 - three year position for their Council. Prayerfully consider volunteering. Please let President Karl Jodock know if you are interested.

**No Confirmation or Youth Group during Lent** (February 18-April 1), but students are required to attend Lenten worship services and help with serving and cleanup at supper.

NELC will be collecting items for the **Northlands Rescue Mission** in March. Items needed: toilet paper, washcloths & towels, twin-sized fitted sheets, plastic/rubber flip-flops, tampons, pajama pants or sweatpants (L-2XL), socks, men's underwear (new, S-2XL), women's underwear (new, all sizes) toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash (no sample or travel size), paper towels, shaving cream, razors, combs and hairbrushes, deodorant, blankets & quilts, shower curtains & liners. The shopping cart is in the entry at NELC to drop-off your donations. Thank you.



## From Pastor Steve

In Martin Luther's Sermon on the Estate of Marriage, he said, "for the church to ever flourish again, it is essential to begin by instructing the young." The larger context of this quote is that Luther was talking about how one of the purposes of the family is to bring their children up in the Christian faith. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism specifically for this purpose, and families would even put some of these writings on the wall of their homes for daily observance.

In January, I went to St. Louis for the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza. It's the largest gathering of youth workers, pastors, and creators that work in the space of youth ministry. Now, I'm technically not a dedicated youth pastor, but I do oversee and teach the youth of this parish, and so the conference is a great place to learn, connect with colleagues, and take away some useful things for our church. One of the things at this conference that didn't quite sit right with me is this idea that we've just lost ground to other things, and we will never get it back. Yes, there is excitement for youth ministry from everyone there, but there is this underlying sense of defeat, as if it's only a matter of time before youth ministry is irrelevant. I get it. There was one Wednesday evening where I got all the food ready for Dinner Church at 6pm, and there was maybe six people who came. I think two or three were kids. By 7pm a few more showed up, but it was far less than we normally have. We made the best of it and had fun and called it an early night. I was later told there was some sort of basketball open gym or something going on.

I don't begrudge families for having their kids in sports and activities. My own daughter is in many herself. I will however say that even though my family is as busy as anyone else's, my wife and I, long before I was even a church employee, made the decision that Sunday School, Confirmation and Worship Service were things we would not budge on. It's a hard decision, especially when coaches and teachers and directors are asking more and more of our daughter as she gets older, but she is at our home church every Wednesday from 6pm-9pm unless it cannot possibly be helped. She works for the church running the computer during services and then heads right to her confirmation and youth group after. She's picking things up too, I can ask her what her pastor preached about and she is able to tell me at least one or two things and then give me her thoughts. She understands what it means to be a Christian in the world by responding with kindness, grace and service to people in need. All of this is because she attends her church and she is involved at her church, and because we made the decision that it is important in our lives.

I am not saying this to make anyone feel guilty or ashamed. My situation is not yours. I do however, especially in the season of Lent, want your family to try a Lenten practice of taking your faith life and moving it up the list of things for at least this time until Easter. I am delighted to see all the ways our young people want to be involved when they are here, and it brings a youthful energy to our worship spaces. If you know me, I welcome all young people into our church, and it gives me great joy to see them do things during the service and be actively engaged in what is going on.

Church is not a place where we draw boundaries between the young and the old and stick to our own areas. Church is done together as one body of Christ. This is my encouragement to all members of our congregation to break down some of those walls the sperate us and rethink what a church can look like. Maybe you taught Sunday School many years ago, and you think you've done your part, the good news is that you still have the ability to be involved and mentor an entire new generation of kids. Your gifts are valuable. Maybe you love to feed people, and you stopped doing it, we certainly could use you because I love feeding people

# Church Council

## **NELC Council Minutes Sunday, February 8, 2026 (unapproved)**

Council Members Present: President Karl Jodock, Pastor Steve DeKrey, Tim Mutchler Jr, Nikki Korsmo, Lori Vivier, Bob Bilden, Angela Lyste, Craig Olson, and Char Voigt (filling 2 year council position)

Pastor Steve opened the meeting at 12:12 pm with a devotion.

**Secretary's report:** Minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2026 were reviewed. Char moved to approve the minutes; Tim seconded; Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report from January 2026 was reviewed. Nikki shared that there is a CD that matures March 13 and the council will need to decide what to do at that time; she also presented a draft of a summary that could be used in the newsletter however it will be two months behind; it was recommended that she put in last months offering amount vs the monthly budget similar to what is put in the weekly bulletin, council members agreed that this would be the most beneficial information for all to see and what members are wanting to see each month. The council also discussed reminding members of the donor box option on the website as well as direct deposit through Deb for offering options. #523 changed name of fund-but not currently a line item. This would have to be approved at joint council along with the youth account. Tim moved to approve the January financial report as presented; Bob seconded; January financial report was approved as presented.

### **Committee Reports:**

Property & Management: Need to take a look at the wood wall below the bell tower. There is an area that is discolored and worried there is possible water damage.

Music & Worship: No report.

Education: No report.

Finance: No report

**Pastor's Report:** Had ELCA Youth Night which was a success and was well attended, they had a speaker on mental health, therapy dogs, and games. Pastor Steve also attended the Youth Ministry Conference. Next year it will be in Minneapolis with the Youth gathering on June 28- July 2, 2027 and the possible cost would be around \$900/kid and would be for high school students. Steve would like a digital clock for the sanctuary. Also received the \$500 Hunger grant and would like to come up with ideas on how to best utilize it.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** New member Committee Appointments: Education- Char Voigt; Finance - Craig Olson

Webinar: "Church Council Training" February 22nd 3-5 pm- Karl will send out a link closer to the date.

Next NELC Council meeting date will be March 8th following church with Joint Council to follow

Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.  
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Angela Lyste, Secretary

## From Pastor Steve cont'd

too and we have many opportunities to do that here. If you have any gifts or talents like leading Confirmation, leading a Bible study for the young people, taking them on trips, I am looking for you.

Part of the reason young people engage in church is because their church engages with them. It's a lot easier to make church a priority in your life when you are excited about being here and looking forward to seeing the people here.

I'm never going to be that Pastor that requires kids to do things at church. I understand they have enough requirements in life, but I'm also not going to just give up, and act defeated that I can't compete with all the outside things kids are involved with. Together we can create a fun, welcoming, holy space for our youth, and we can teach them, and they can even teach us. This is a different way of doing things than most of you are used to, but this is the way we move forward as a church into the future. Take these bold steps with me, stop looking at church as just "another thing on the list" let's build something that is full of the exciting energy only the Holy Spirit can bring. Amen

## Pastoral Acts

### *Wedding*

*Isabell Hermanson & Kyle Verke*

2-7-26

## NELC Gifts and Memorials

### **Marilyn Pederson**

To the General Fund: Claude & Marlys  
Christa

### **Bob Hetler**

To the General Fund: John & Lonny  
Hutchison, Rod & Sandy Gabrielson

### **Keith Anderson**

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee  
Evanson

### **Zach Sawyer**

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee  
Evanson

### **Willard Pedersen**

To the General Fund: John & Lonny  
Hutchison

### **Eldon Englund**

To the General Fund: Jane Tveit

### **Lois Lenz**

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee  
Evanson

### **Gerald Martinson**

To the General Fund: Scott & Shawnee  
Evanson

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
Parish Assistant	Deb Aaland Office number 701-587-5381		-Washington 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](http://www.northwoodwashingtonparish.org)

NELC Council Members: Bob Bilden, Karl Jodock, Nicole Korsmo, Scott Johnson, Angela Lyste, Tim Mutchler Jr., Craig Olson, Lori Vivier, Char Voigt

Washington Council Members: Annette Aird, Gail Ducioame, Craig Hanson, Chris Moore, Tom Mikelson, David Mullet