

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

www.flcnorthwood.org
Office Phone: 641-324-2984
E-mail: flc@flcnorthwood.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus October 2025

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
October 5	Randy & Laure Buehrer	TBD	TBD	Ayden Woodside Max Rugland
October 12	David & Sharron Petznick	Laure Buehrer	TBD	Caleb Johnson Wesley Ballantyne
October 19	Russ & Delores Knudson	Shana Brunsvold	TBD	Ayden Woodside Piper Brunsvold
October 26	Mike & Judy Stevens	Patti Irons	TBD	Kellan Stambaugh Ayden Woodside

Share Shoppe
Saturday, October 4th

PASTOR'S PAGE

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14

I imagine that many of you remember hearing this verse either at the beginning or end of the pastor's sermon while you were growing up. With that in mind, it's easy to apply this verse to the pastor or what you heard in the sermon that day. But let's expand that. What would it look like if you began each day living into this verse? How can you be mindful of all your conversations being acceptable to God. What can you do when you catch yourself doom-scrolling, glued to the news or mentally fixated on what's happening in our world so therefore mentally arguing with someone who you know doesn't agree with you. If that doesn't ever happen, good, maybe you can bottle that up and give it to others.

What's on your heart? What are you meditating on? Is it gratitude? Is it fear? Is it frustration? We are living in a complex time. There is plenty of tension, anger on the national level with harsh words and accusations coming from all sides. What can we do? What should we be doing? Praying. Meditating. Talking to one another which includes listening. It's not a good time to be poking at one another. It's not a good time to dig in our heels and assume we know what another person is thinking or saying.



Living out our faith challenges us to keep God in the center of our daily life. To be open to how the Holy Spirit is at work in and through each of us.

Recently I picked up a deck of 'Curiosity Cards', The deck includes "52 questions designed to deepen the conversation about how and why we are Church." The card that has caught my attention says: What do you think God would say about our community of faith? What about your part of our life together? I would love to hear your answers.

Grateful to be your pastor,
Pastor Becky



PASTORAL ACTS

September

Baptism

Colton Lane Rickertson	9-6-25
Adaja Jean Rickertson	9-6-25
James Michael Rickertson	9-6-25
Ariel Victoria Rickertson	9-6-25
Dorothy Marie Rickertson	9-6-25

YOUTH NEWS

We started September with a lesson on ingredients – and how each of us is made by God to be different than everyone else and why that matters (1 Corinthians 14:26). Sadly our Senior High group also had to say goodbye to one of our members after this lesson. Rudra Patel had only lived in Northwood for about a year, but his family moved to Illinois. He has quite the personality, and the Youthroom is just a little more quiet without him. We continue praying for him that his new home and school treat him well and that he is able to make fast friends like he did here.

The middle of the month had a lesson called The Strong Person Competition – where we focus on how God makes us strong in many different ways and for many different situations. This night was also Kinley Stambaugh's 100th Senior High Youth. The week following that was all about Unity and how we can help each other out in life and faith.

Towards the end of the month we had a lesson about sin and temptation that focused on James 1: 13 – 18. It's so much easier to help others out when you have a strong group of people you can rely on. God blesses us so much with great people and we should be more thankful for them.

This month we also started letting the current 6th Graders show up for Youth on Sunday nights. It's been a great time so far, and I've enjoyed getting to know this next class.

In October we'll be spending a few of the Saturdays going to haunted houses and Valleyfair. Always a fun time to get outside of the building and enjoy time doing other things. Also a huge thank you to Dick and Gladdie Hagen for donating a couch to the Youthroom. It always seems when one of our couches starts to fall apart, a new one finds it way to us!



**Regular Council Meeting
August 12, 2025
First Lutheran Church - Northwood**

In Attendance: Kris, Mariah, Kevin, Mike, Judy, Weston, Kimberly, Hayley, Gina, Connie, Megan, Rev. Becky

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion - Mike Stevens

We Celebrate our Past

Presidential Correspondence - Kris K. - None

Secretary's Report -Megan O. - None

Treasurer's Report- Judy S.- We are currently net positive.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky - Churchwide assembly was July 28-August 2. Starting plans for fall confirmation and Affirmation of Baptism. Over 24 kids in confirmation. On the last day Sunday of October the Council will serve breakfast for the confirmation kids. Wartburg Seminary August 18-20th for Evangelism Retreat. Tri-Synod Fall Conference is September 29-30 in Clive.

Motion made to accept reports - Mariah B./ Hayley M. - **Approved**

We Present our Offering

FINANCE - Judy S. - See above.

WORSHIP- Kimberly A. - Scripture and music selected. No updates.

INSPIRE- Kevin M. - Working through Bible from 30,000 feet program. Will work well with confirmation class. Excited to continue building foundation for Relationship class, hopeful to start in late October.

YOUTH - Weston W.- JR. High Lock in was well attended.

EDUCATION - Mariah B. & Hayley M. - Meeting on Aug 13.

Working on building a schedule for teachers.

PROPERTY - Mike S. - Hoping to apply for a WCDA grant for updates and repairs to the boiler. Two estimates for the work have been received.

Motion made to approve the Property Committee applying for the grants by Mariah / Connie. **Approved.**

The Youth room heat and air conditioning also needs attention.

Motion made to apply for a WCDA grant for the Youth air conditioning unit and attention to the heating by Mike / Gina - **Approved.**

MISSION- Gina S. - Feed My Starving Children event - Website www.fmssc.org if you would like more information. Information was presented about minimum goals and guidelines. Ideas of making it an ecumenical and/or community event were discussed to help reach these starting goals. Gina, Judy, and Megan agreed to begin a planning committee. Hoping for a meeting soon to get started.

First Lutheran Missions

August 2025

Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 142.21
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 274.20
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$ 2,730.18
Bremwood - LSI	\$ 326.39
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$ 411.97
Youth Fund	\$ 338.06
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$ 150.20
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 103.93
Northern Lights Shelter	\$ 151.73
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 228.75
TOTAL	\$ 4,934.32

Donations

\$42.68 - Caring Tree

\$36.97 - Children's Ministry

Memorials

\$100 General Fund- Allen Berge

FELLOWSHIP- Connie K. - No updates.

MMSP - Connie / Mariah

Concerns for the Present

Scholarship Committee - Scholarships were presented at the August 10th service. Lindsey Moore and Maddie Hanson were our recipients. Receiving the scholarship funds for last year (their first year at school), and the upcoming year. Kyle Buehrer also received the scholarship and will begin classes this year.

New Members/Baptisms/Funerals

Transfers out: -

Funerals: -

Baptisms -

Communion Servers: August 17 Hayley and Weston
September 7 Kimberley m & Mariah

We Go Out in God's Name

Motion to Adjourn - Hayley / Gina - **Approved**

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: September 16, 2025 6:00PM

Devotions: Hayley Maher

First Lutheran Financial Update

August 2025

Income	\$ 9,953.00
Electronic Income	\$ 3,018.88
Expense	\$12,971.88
End of Month	(\$8,514.28)

YTD as of August

Income	\$106,667.73
Electronic Income	\$24,555.32
Other Income	\$33,015.50
Use of Church	\$560.00
Expense	\$164,798.55
End of Month	(\$3,646.49)

August General Budget Expenses

Payroll:	\$ 13,569.76
E-Giving Expense	\$ 44.82
Church Maintenance	\$ 162.40
Utilities	\$ 1,426.57
Telephone	\$ 189.34
Office Expense	\$ 1,216.71
Insurance	\$ 4,502.00
N. Iowa Synod	\$ 375.00
Total Expenses	\$ 21,486.60
Income	\$ (8,214.28)

A quick reminder to members of First Lutheran Church:

Now that harvest is approaching...
please consider pledging a portion of this year's grain production to First Lutheran.
Even end rows would be appreciated.

Thank you -Congregation Treasurer, Judy Stevens



**On October 26th we celebrate Reformation Sunday and
the Affirmation of Baptism our 9th Grade students.**



Congratulations to Mike and Hannah Rickertson on the baptism of their children, Colton Lane, Adaja Jean, James Michael, Ariel Victoria and Dorothy Marie. They were baptized on Saturday, September 6th and their sponsors are Bethany Hanson, Todd Hanson, Jace Gentz and Olivia Gentz

Thank you to Gary Nerlein for delivering us the message in worship on Sunday, September 28th!

First Lutheran and members, thank you so very much for your generous donation to our Meals on Wheels program. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. -Meals on Wheels

Are you interested in being a Secret Prayer Partner for a confirmation student this year? This involves praying for the student and well as giving a gift once a month through the school year. If you're able to help us out, please let Pastor Becky know.

Couples Sessions

This will be a 6 Session Marriage Series for Dating, Engaged and Married Couples, over the age of 18 and no age limit. Must attend together.

Held on the following Sundays from 6:30-7:30pm

October 26th

November 2nd

November 16th

November 23rd

December 7th

December 14th

Thank You, Leila!

On behalf of the FLC Worship Committee and Council,

we would like to take a moment to thank Leila Gangstad for her 40 plus years as piano player for the FLC Senior Choir and for helping out with many worship services. Over the years, she has provided her talents through committees, displaying banners, making baptismal boxes, and many years of playing piano for the senior choir. She has played piano for over forty years for First Lutheran Church. We ask that you just take this time to acknowledge her years of service. Again, on behalf of all of us, a very warm and heartfelt thanks to Leila Gangstad.

God Bless, Kimberly A - Worship Committee Coordinator and Council Member"

Caring for Our Communities -Lutheran Retirement Home

Lutheran Retirement Home (LRH) in Northwood, Iowa has provided area families with exceptional nursing care since 1962. To address community needs, both services and facilities have grown significantly during the last 63 years. LRH now provides a continuum of high-quality services – skilled nursing care, assisted living, independent living, memory care, and physical / occupational therapy – all made available in a caring, compassionate, and homelike atmosphere.

More recently, however, retirement communities and nursing homes throughout the United States have experienced major challenges. Organizations in rural areas have been especially hard hit, forcing many to close or be sold, a trend further accelerated by the COVID epidemic.

In recent years, across the country, nursing homes have been closing at an alarming rate, including more than 500 facility closures since the start of the pandemic. In Iowa, at least 40 nursing homes have closed since 2020, due primarily to a persistent nursing shortage.

At the same time, Iowa's population over the age of 60 is growing. The state currently ranks among the top five for the highest proportion of residents aged 75 or older. By 2030, Iowa will reach a historic milestone: *more residents aged 65 and older than those under 18.*

Rural nursing homes face especially difficult obstacles in providing high-quality care. Medicaid is the primary payer for 62 percent of all nursing home residents, making adequate Medicaid payments essential to continued services. Yet, in Iowa, the average nursing home receives just 86 cents in reimbursement for each dollar spent caring for a Medicaid recipient.

LRH has not been spared the dual challenges of aging facilities and limited financial reimbursement. Now, without decisive action, the organization is at risk of being unable to care for a growing senior population. Accordingly, Lutheran Retirement Home has developed plans to address this situation: **to update facilities and support operations by expanding the organization's financial base.**

Now, for the first time ever, LRH is in the early stages of seeking generous financial support from the communities it serves. The organization has established a \$1 million goal for its *Caring for Our Communities Appeal*. Funds generated by this appeal will sustain the high-quality care that has characterized Lutheran Retirement Home from the day its doors first opened, six-plus decades ago.

Thank you in advance for your interest and for your thoughtful consideration.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND GET INVOLVED!

Hungry – Hungry – Helpers Feed My Starving Children Community Pack will be taking place March 23-25, 2026. Our goal is to pack 101,088 meals which involves lots of volunteers. We need your help a couple of different ways. First, pray for this packing event as we make the plans and get people involved. Also, we need to raise \$30,000. to fund the event. There is \$5,000 in the account thanks to the Trust Fund Feeding Grant. Please consider giving a gift to this project.

Mission Project for October

**ELCA World Hunger &
Disaster Relief**



- 1 Randy Buehrer, Ila Jensen, Tegan Trenhaile
- 2 Daryl Hennigar, Lisa Irons, Tyler Mills
- 3 Lane Ballandby, Larry Perkins, Rachel Ritzert, Dale Sime
- 4 Janet Reeder, Ryan Wahl, Bentley Eilertson
- 5 Dustin Hodson, Russell Olson, Jill Willand
- 6 Harley Severson, Sandra Thoen
- 7 James Medlang
- 8 Katie Baker, Trey Gonzales, Maggie Rye
- 9 Keith Braun, Linda Loken, Paige McClure, Daniel Reeder, Dennis Reeder
- 10 Lisa Christianson, Sharron Petznick, Judy Wangen
- 11 Gloria Fallgatter, Douglas Krull, Tayah Lande, Danneka Love
- 12 Mitchell Athey, Kimberly Helgeson, Vivian Peterson, Mark Severson
- 13 Gavin Hankins, Kelvin Hendrikson, Tony Katcher, Knox Iverson
- 14 Anthony Hauge, Ben Johnson, Reese Nielsen, Jessica Paulsen, Ashton Kroneman
- 15 Deanna Gentz, Michael Kuhlmann, Bryan Odegaard
- 16 Becky Logemann, Ronnie Stricker
- 17 Kenneth Schmidt
- 18 Harold Van Sabben, Frankie Reding
- 19 Lynn Schaub
- 20 Chris Thofson
- 21 Sydney Harris, Suzanne Senne
- 22 Arly Hillman
- 23 Axel Flattum, Sandra Madden, Marcia Price
- 24 Mark Midtgaard, Lawson Perkins
- 25 Becky Haberman
- 26 Marcia Kraft, Kaelix Iverson, Journey Thompson, Emmalee Van Sabben, Lisa Wangsness
- 27 Allix Braun, Jacob Katcher
- 28 Dwayne Wright
- 29 Sue Anderson, Kali Butler
- 30 Candace Low, Camden Trenhaile, Sawyer Amundson
- 31 Baylor Abrams, Patricia Brekken, Damon Reyerson, Raegen Reyerson, Dennis Schutz, Alex Shoger, Ella Stevens, Daniel Turner, Weston Willand

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	2 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	3	4
5 <u>Pentecost 17</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	6	7 Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	8 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	9 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	10	11
12 <u>Pentecost 18</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: J.H Youth	13	14 1:00pm: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	15 2:00pm: Maple Court 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	16 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	17	18
19 <u>Pentecost 19</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	20	21 Manna Truck 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	22 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	23 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	24	25
26 <u>Pentecost 20</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: J.H Youth 6:30pm: Couples Session	27 	28 1:00pm: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	29	30 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	31 	