

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

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

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Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus September 2025

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
September 7	David & Sharron Petznick	Leila Gangstad	TBD	TBD
September 14	Russ & Delores Knudson	Lisa Wangsness	TBD	TBD
September 21	Mike & Judy Stevens	Doug Krull	TBD	TBD
September 28	Stu & Kim Anderson	Stu Anderson	TBD	TBD

Communion Set up: September 7 Mary Jo Senne
September 21 Christa Trenhaile

Altar Candles: September 7-14 Mary Jo Senne
September 15-28 Christa Trenhaile

Share Shoppe
Saturday, September 6th

PASTOR'S PAGE

I'm wondering...



- How does your faith show up in your daily life?
- Is your prayer life: Transactional (you ask for, you promise to give back)
- Personal (you know that God is listening to you)
- Limited to Sunday morning worship and whatever someone else says.
- Is your faith growing? Are you at a different place in your faith life than this time last year or is it the same old journey.
- Does your daily life look more like Jesus? Or, does Jesus and faith something you pull out on occasion. Or, does Jesus look more like you.

Our work together is to journey into a deeper life of faith. Daily devotional reading and prayer, worship, singing, service, our financial giving all are part of our life of faith.

Colossians 3:12-17 from the Message

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives.

Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

I'm wondering....

What would you like us to do together to help you grow in your life of faith? We miss you in worship (your presence and voice matter). Your neighbor needs you to live your faith out loud through caring and sharing AND it is good for you. Your financial giving matters as well. We rely on regular/faithful stewardship. An occasional few dollars in the offering plate is more like a tip to God verses giving a portion of your income for the work of the church here and throughout the world.

Blessed to be your Pastor.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Becky

PASTORAL ACTS

August

Baptism

Penelope Kay Lande 8-17-25

Ronnie Beck Brockman 8-24-25

YOUTH NEWS

A new school year is upon us, and things in the Youthroom get back to normal – if there is such a thing? We're starting this school year off with a big change for Junior High Youth. We have decided to let the current 6th graders show up for the entire year. Just trying this for a year to see how it works, always being open to change and trying new things!

In August we had lessons focused on how much power God gives us in each other's lives (Phillipians 4:13), how we all possess the ability to invite and influence each other (1 Peter 4:9) and searching out the plans that God has for all of our lives (Jeremiah 29:11). At the end of August we said goodbye to the rest of our graduates. Our Senior High group has been soo blessed by having a large group of leaders in that grade, but I am excited to see where this year leads us and to see the next group of kids start taking leadership of the group.

In September we'll focus on being the missing ingredient in life, the strengths (and weaknesses) that can help shape our faith journey, how having unity in Christ makes us all stronger, and how sin sneaks into our lives and tries to bring us down.

I'll be taking 14 of the students on our annual ValleyScare trip on October 4th. I'll be taking 5 Jr. High students and 9 Sr. High – based off of attendance.

Looking way forward to next summer, Lifest (July 8 – 12) plans are already underway. The cost for next summer will be \$180 per student, with the first half of that being due on October 1st. Students will be able to sign up after that, but the cost goes up the closer to the event, so get locked in early so it's the cheapest.



GOODBYE TO OUR SENIORS

Regular Council Meeting

July 15, 2025

First Lutheran Church – Northwood

In Attendance: Kris Kenison, Weston Willand, Mike Stevens,
Judy Stevens, Hayley Maher, Pastor
Becky Sogge, Megan K. Ott, Kevin McClure, Mariah A.
Ballantyne, Connie Kenison, Gina Solberg

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion – Megan Ott - Ephesians 2: 4-10 - We are all GOOD
works in progress.

We Celebrate our Past

- Presidential Correspondence – Kris K. - No updates
- Secretary's Report – Megan O. - Correction of spelling made to treasure's report section.
- Treasurer's Report- Judy S. - We are currently in the negative, though it is to be expected at this point. Insurance came out for its quarterly billing which always hurts, but we are still doing 'okay' for now.
- Pastor's Report – Pastor Becky - enjoyed a week long Vacation, as well as Life Fest for another week. Church wide assembly coming up, which happens every three years. It will be good to be there. Much of the information presented and votes made can be found on the ELCA website. Fall plans are coming together with confirmation and affirmation of baptism.

Motion Made to Accept the Reports: Mike / Kim -

Approved

We Present our Offering

FINANCE – Judy S. - see above.

WORSHIP- Kimberly A. - Met July 8, selected hymns.

We need to replace the offering plates. Some of them are beginning to show severe wear. They are planning to look around the church to see if we have backup or additional offering plates around before purchasing anything. They are in need of another calculator with a printer attached.

Donations

\$37.55 - Day Spring
\$36.07 - Children's Ministry

First Lutheran Financial Update

July 2025

Income	\$ 11,758.00
Electronic Income	\$ 3,346.23
Expense	\$16,932.39
End of Month	(\$1,828.16)

YTD as of July

Income	\$96,712.73
Electronic Income	\$21,536.44
Other Income	\$33,015.50
Use of Church	\$560.00
Expense	\$147,794.02
End of Month	\$4,030.65

July General Budget Expenses

Payroll:	\$ 13,361.00
E-Giving Expense	\$ 44.10
Church Maintenance	\$ 121.74
Utilities	\$ 1,493.35
Telephone	\$ 186.78
Office Expense	\$ 127.00
N. Iowa Synod	\$ 375.00
Total Expenses	\$ 16,932.39
Income	\$ 15,104.23
Net	\$ 1,828.16

First Lutheran Missions

July 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	\$ 375.00
Youth Fund	\$ 338.06
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$ 107.52
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 103.93
Northern Lights Shelter	\$ 151.73
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 228.75
TOTAL	\$ 4,854.67

INSPIRE- Kevin M. - Hoping to look at beginning in mid September to begin a relationships class for couples and others using the Bible at 30000 feet teachings, during the school year. Working soon to get members back together for Inspire, will be coordinating with Nikkole and others.

YOUTH – Weston W. - Took 45 people to Wisconsin. It was a GREAT time! Teams participated in volleyball tournaments, as well as many trips away from the fest including food, beaches, arcades. Mark had done a fabulous job with the planning, details, and continuing to bring this “adventure” to life. One tent will be replaced following the Life Fest at Sunny View Expo Center this year.

EDUCATION – Mariah B. & Hayley M. - Waiting for an update for Anika. Hoping to have a meeting early August.

PROPERTY – Mike S. - They currently meet ‘as needed’ and have not met recently. Parsonage did get the new washing machine! The boys bathroom upstairs needs attention from both Topher and the committee.

Thoughts were shared regarding the fans at the top of the sanctuary. They look very dirty and ideas were discussed about how to better circulate the air.

MISSION- Gina S. - working on getting connected with Feed My Starving Children. Hosting a Food pack event with stations and community wide involvement to share food with those in need. We do have a \$5,000 fund from the Trust Fund to get us started. Hoping to look at Mid October to early November to hold the event. It will be a good opportunity to also include the Community and other interested parties. We will need to work on some fundraising to boost how much we are able to give. More information is available here:

<https://www.fmsc.org/>

FELLOWSHIP- Connie K. - No updates

Concerns for the Present

Scholarship Committee - met July 14, 2025 - Scholarship Fund to be handled by the council and the Scholarship Committee. The current outline is funds can be applied for by current and/or future college students attending an ELCA college full-time.

Hopeful to work with our current students that will receive scholarships and have a time during service in early August.

Lindsey Moore \$1,000 for this year, and \$1,000 for last year.

Haddie Hanson \$1,000 for this year, and \$1,000 for last year.

Kyle Bueherer \$1,000 for this year

Vote to present Lindsey, Haddie and Kyle with their respective scholarships by Mariah/ Hayley - Approved.

New Members/Baptisms/Funerals

Transfers Out:

Funerals: Carl Dralla -- July 8

Baptisms: Boone Smalley – July 6

Communion Servers: July 20 - Mariah, Kimberley and Gina

August 3 Mariah and Hayley

August 17 Hayley and Weston

We Go Out in God’s Name

Motion to Adjourn by Gina, Mariah - Approved

Lord’s Prayer

Next Meeting: August 12, 2025 6:00PM

Devotions: Mike Stevens

1st Day of Sunday School Kickoff

**Sunday, 7th
September
Following Church
Service**

Bring your backpacks
for 'Blessing of the
backpacks' during
church

- Register for
Sunday school
- Parent sign up to
help teach
- Food
- Games

First Lutheran Church
Northwood, Iowa

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

CHILD'S NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

GRADE _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS _____

ADDRESS(ES) _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

EMAIL ADDRESSES _____

OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE _____

ALLERGIES/HEALTH CONCERNS _____

I GRANT PERMISSION FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TO PUT MY CHILD'S
PHOTO ON FIRST LUTHERAN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE) YES OR NO

I GRANT PERMISSION FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TO CONTACT ME VIA
EMAIL REGARDING UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE) YES OR NO

I GRANT PERMISSION FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TO CONTACT ME VIA
PHONE/TEXT REGARDING UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSE) YES OR NO

Adult Bible Study Review of Catechism

This class is not about memorization of Catechism but a review. All of us in years gone by have had Catechism but how much have we remembered about it? In this class we will review:

The Ten Commandments and what does this mean

The Creeds and what is its meaning

The Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Office of the Keys and Confession

The Sacrament of the Altar

Christian questions with answers

The Bible

And much more as time permits. I pray that I will get a lot of feedback and participation from those that attend as I believe this will be a very fun and informative class.



Mark your calendar!

**On Wednesday, September 17th at
6pm is our confirmation meeting for
parents and students.**

Mission Project for September

Caring Tree



Confirmation class will be from 4-6 each Wednesday beginning on September 24.

"The Bible from 30,000 Feet: A Walkthrough of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation". This will be the theme for Inspire. This midweek worship begins Wednesday, September 24 at 6:15. If you are interested in leading and/or planning or weekly Inspire worship please contact Pastor Becky, Nikkole Koenig or Kevin McClure.

We are always looking for more help in just about any part of what happens at First Lutheran. If you are interested in being a confirmation prayerpal,,singing in choir, quilting, teaching Sunday School, singing in the Inspire Band, serving Sunday morning coffee, serving at funerals, helping set up communion, being a lay reader.... The list can go on and on. Please talk to Pastor Becky or the church office and we will get you connected.

We are trying something new. To help serve supper for the confirmation crew we will be meeting once a month to do meal prep/freezing and you can help! If you want to be a part of this group or able to come on Wednesdays to help serve, please sign up in the office.

Congratulations!!! First Lutheran Scholarship Committee is pleased to present \$1,000 in annual gifts to Kyle Buehrer, Haddie Hanson, and Lindsey Moore as they begin the school year at Wartburg College.

Congratulations to Thor and Karlynn Lande on the baptism of their daughter, Penelope Kay, who was baptized on Sunday, August 17th. Her sponsors are Emman Stephens and Joseph Stephens.

Thank you for taking the time to make my basketball quilt, I can't wait to take it to college and get good use of it! – Colby Eskildsen

First Lutheran, thank you for the two quilts, "Flower Garden" and "Sampler Squares" that were donated to the Riverside quilt auction this year.

Please feel free to use the library for quiet reading or praying. Books may also be checked out and taken home.

Congratulations to Brandon Brockman and Makenzie Schmidtke on the baptism of their son, Ronnie Beck Brockman, who was baptized on Sunday, August 24th. His sponsors are Gabe Kramer, Raine Sipple and Kyler Sipple.

Thank you to Kim Katuda for taking the time to speak with us on Sunday, August 24th about Dayspring Children's Village.



When Yehiel Curry considers his vision for the future of the church, he sees an important distinction. “Part of the work is naming it,” he said, “but that next phase is embodying it.”

“When we’re talking about casting a vision, I think people want to be part of a vision because they want to share in the process. But they typically will also share in the burdens as well. So part of my vision is [about] those things we’ve lifted up as a church that we said we need to do, we’re going to do, and find a way to bring more people to the table so that we might embody that work instead of it just being a written document.”

Curry, who was [elected July 30](#) to serve a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop, knows something about embodying a vision and discerning a call.

Before he became a pastor, then a bishop, then the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and now presiding bishop-elect, he was a social worker, then a teacher, then in sales. “I went from being a social worker to a teacher in the same community where I was helping those families, and in both cases, what I learned is passion is very important. And if you can align a person’s passion with a need, then it doesn’t feel like work sometimes.

“It wasn’t until I was in the church that I said, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

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‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

Now that Curry has been elected the fifth presiding bishop of the ELCA—and the first of African descent—how does he feel? “That reality hasn’t really set in,” he said. “Even at this moment, I’m feeling a certain kind of way in understanding the weight and the impact.

“I’m hopeful that, if presence matters, me being here does something for allowing others to consider, ‘Someone who looks like me, or is from my community, or speaks with an accent, or their mother tongue isn’t English [could take on a similar role].’ Hopefully that’s what that means.”

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>



The Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills was elected Aug. 1 to serve a six-year term as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Mills was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 782 ballots cast, with 392 votes needed for an election. Mills received 404 votes to 378 votes for the Rev. Matthew Riegel, bishop of the ELCA West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. Mills will be the first Black secretary of the ELCA.

“I have to echo our newly elected presiding bishop (Yehiel Curry) — I’m the product of you. I’m also a TEEM candidate,” Mills said to the assembly following her election. The Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts such as ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings.

“I do believe it’s a new season for our church,” Mills said. “I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman who stands before you with no degrees in a church that cares so much about education, ... is because you saw the gifts and potential in me. I celebrate with you that we listen to God’s call and that we will become God’s beloved community.”

Mills has served as an assistant to the bishop in the ELCA North Carolina Synod since 2019. Previously she served as an interim pastor, as program associate for African Descent Ministries with the ELCA churchwide organization in Chicago; and as pastor of Rejoice Lutheran Church, Chesapeake, Va. She received a TEEM certification from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C., in 2002.

This churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme “For the Life of the World.” The assembly is participating in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They are also spending time in worship and engaging in various ways of theological reflection.

<https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/lucille-cecee-mills-elected-secretary-of-the-elca>

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God’s grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

SEPTEMBER

1. Bryson Hennigar, Kooper Julseth
2. Kathleen Berg, Laure Buehrer, Laura Twedt, Ashley Ernster
3. Ellissa Allbright, Chloe Breitsprecher, Caysen Chodur, Toby Mills, Tyler Roppe, Caitlyn Rops, Michael Stevens
4. Jolene Berg, Olivia Hodson, Bryn Pangburn, Heidi Vansteenbure
5. Ryan Severson
6. Nathan Berg, Keeghan Severson, Mark Taylor, Jennifer Wahl (Rural)
7. Melissa Heiken
8. Daniel Julson, Cinda Rustad
9. Kelsea Koch, Jaxon Reyerson, Nikolas Werner
10. Eric Foss, Mindy Tenold
11. Austin Foss, Ashlee Stephens, Sadie Johnson
12. Jennifer Krotzer, Teresa Stehn
13. Walker Ogea
14. Emma Hengesteg, Morgan Wilson, Samuel Krull, Maeghan Petznick
15. Frances Pixley, Tory Rheingans, Collyns Schulz, Steven Thompto
16. Linda Anderson, Wanda Hillman, Colleen Olson, Cindy Pangburn, Vicki Stricker
17. Jo Jaspers, Gregory Nystuen, Lee Okerlund, Kenneth Quam, Janet Rye, Zeke Thompson
18. Heather Chambers, Brianne Kilborn
19. Sonya Dahle
20. Chandler Jacobsmeier, Lynn Tenold, Suzan Waller, Suzanne Elliott
21. Alex Breitsprecher, Karen Foley, Dylan Hahn, Chad Watts
- 22.
23. Erika Hertle, Bruce Johnson, Carl Rye
24. Jennifer Breitsprecher, Cory Hengesteg, Marty Hopperstad, Beverly Madsen, Braelynn Reinartz, Valerie Johnson
25. Stacy Adams, Teresa Olson, Riley Pangburn, Jessica Perkins, Janelle Thompson
26. Denise Dahl, Elizabeth Patterson, Angela Sime
27. Lauren Heiken, Joshua Iverson
28. James Eskildsen, Wyatt Hahn, Madalynn Hanson, Mitch Hanson, Sharon Swanson, Tim Thofson,
29. Dianne Roerish, Richard Smallwood
30. Zachary Hengesteg, Rod Loken

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

