



*Miles City, Montana   Founded 1906*

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**and First Lutheran Church Foundation**

***2025 ANNUAL***

***REPORTS***

**to the Congregation, January 11, 2026**





# First Lutheran Church Foundation

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 11, 2026

**Bord members / Attendance** (*X* = present, *R* = remote attendance, *E* = excused)

Terms end 1/2026		Terms end 1/2027		Terms end 1/2028	
Tom Speelman, V. Pres.		Joyce Vera		Melinda Lynnes	
Denise Singleton		Janet Erickson, Sec.		Sandy Rabe	
Mile Milmine		David Pratt, Pres.		Jeff Skidmore, Treas.	

**Call the meeting to order:** David Pratt, Foundation President,

**Review and Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Janet Erickson, Secretary

**Presentation of the Annual Report**

**Financial Report:** Jeff Skidmore, Treasurer

**Election of 3 Board Members**

Expiring Terms – Tom, Denise and Mike. Denise and Mike have agreed to serve again if that is the desire of the members.

Nomination – Carolyn Kimball

Nominations from the floor

**Other Business:**

2026 Scholarship applications due May 1, 2026

**Adjourn**

## LAST ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Foundation President Dave Pratt at 11:32am.

Minutes from the previous meeting held January 21, 2024 were read by Janet Erickson. Motion to approve was made by Joyce Vera, seconded by Blayne Watts. Motion was approved.

President's report was made by Dave Pratt. The Foundation non-profit status (501c3) is separate from that of the church. See attached report from 2024 FLC Annual Report.

Treasurer's report was given by Jeff Skidmore. See attached report. The Foundation provided \$1,245.00 to Church and Preschool in 2024 from their invested funds. Foundation income from interest and earnings had a gain of 8.3% in 2024.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

1. Election of Board members: Melinda Lynnes, Sandy Rabe and Jeff Skidmore have completed their three-year terms. All have volunteered for another term. No nominations were received from the floor. Jim Bott moved the three named be re-elected to the Board. Motion was seconded by Ed Heinle. Motion was approved. Motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Skidmore, seconded by Joyce Vera. Motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Erickson, Sec.

## ANNUAL REPORT for the Year Ending 12/31/2025

*The First Lutheran Church Foundation was established in January of 1987 during the Church's Annual Meeting to provide a living fund for the purpose of supporting the mission and programs of the First Lutheran Church (FLC) of Miles City.*

*The Foundation's basic goal is to hold and wisely manage gifts in perpetuity, using only the annual interest and earnings from such gifts to support the various programs and needs of FLC and ministries in the areas of:*

- *Education in the form of Scholarships*
- *Outreach to Miles City*
- *Outreach to rural congregations*
- *First Lutheran Church Growth such as physical plant and grounds improvements, emergencies and helping with unexpected expenses. (Not intended for normal / annual operating/ maintenance costs.)*

First and foremost, on behalf to the Foundation I would like to thank Tom Speelman and Janet Erickson for their service on the Foundation Board. Tom is retiring from the board after 15 years. Janet continues to serve as a board member but no longer wishes to be the Board Secretary a position she has held since 2009.

2025 was another quiet year from a financial perspective. Total expenses were \$15,281.93. Total assets at the end of 2025 were \$470,098.66, up from last year of \$441,68.94 for a 6.56% gain after expenses. Annual earnings are invested in money market accounts and then reinvested in the bond and equity accounts to keep us balanced with 75% equity and 25% bonds. New gifts to the Foundation total \$2,000.

The Foundation has been managing \$15,000 each for FLC and Let Me Shine Preschool for their future benefit. These funds are not considered part of the gifts held in perpetuity by the Foundation. Interest and earnings are distributed annually to FLC and Let Me Shine Preschool (LMS) - distributions of \$1,245.00 to each were made in January 2025.

2025 Foundation Expenses include \$10,358.43 for the gas line repair, \$500 donation to ST. John's on behalf of the church, \$433.50 for accounting services and a \$1,500 Scholarship to Ashtyn Brugger. Beyond the annual scholarship the Foundation typically supports FLC needs if requested by the Church.

The Foundation was incorporated in October of 1987 under the laws of the State of Montana and in 1988 it was granted 501-C (3) IRS tax exempt status as a non-profit corporation organized for religious purposes. All members in good standing in FLC are members of the Foundation. The Foundation Board of Directors has nine directors who are elected at the Annual FLC Foundation Meeting by the FLC membership to serve three-year terms on a rotating basis.

Gifts to the Foundation are "tax exempt" charitable contributions and tax deductible as allowed by federal and state tax laws. Charitable Gifts can be given directly to the Foundation or through First Lutheran Church. Many individuals discover their spendable income actually can increase by making favored contributions. Contributors are urged to consult an attorney or tax consultant before completing arrangements for major gifts. Please consider naming the First Lutheran Church Foundation in your estate plan. All gifts including Cash, Memorials, Bequests and Wills, Securities and Real Estate, Life Estate Contracts, Deferred Gift Annuities, Life Insurance and Charitable Remainder Trusts among others are gratefully and prayerfully accepted.

Prayerfully submitted,  
David Pratt, President

# First Lutheran Church NALC

Miles City, Montana

## Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 11, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Parochial Report and Establishment of Quorum

Approval of the Minutes of the January 19, 2025 Annual Meeting

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee/President's Report:

recognition of Council members and those ending their term

Audit Committee

Finance Committee: vote on approval of 2025 report; vote on 2026 proposed budget

Building and Property Committee

Call Committee : vote on FLC Profile to be published on NALC website

Nominating Committee: vote on nominees

Designated and Special Committee Reports as printed

Old Business

New Business

Vote on proposed changes to NALC Constitution and Bylaws

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

### Congregation Council Members and Terms

Terms ending 1/2026	Terms ending 1/2027	Terms ending 1/2028	Terms ending 1/2029
Kristine Harding	Zelda Stairs	David Pratt	
Mark Joblinske*	Mollie Phipps	Lea Moore	
	Mike Milmine		
	Sam Giordanengo		

\*finished part of one year for Anna Matthews

**First Lutheran Church Staff**

Pastor – Mike Fiske (left June 2025)  
Secretary – Jan Pratt  
Organist – Joyce Vera  
Custodian – KaT’lynn Erickson  
Preschool Director – Becky Watts,  
Heather Notsch

**First Lutheran Church Council**

Chairman – Sam Giordanengo  
Vice Chairman – Mike Milmine  
Secretary – Anna Matthews,  
Mollie Phipps  
Treasurer – Jeff Skidmore

**Parochial Report**

Name	Baptized + or -	Confirmed + or -
Eric Moore	1	1
Wells Steven Stickney	1	
Paige Tennyson Williams Watts	1	
James Axell Williams Watts	1	
<b>Received by Transfer or Other</b>		
Cathy Filler	1	1
Sharon Stein	1	1
<b>Removed by Transfer or Other</b>		
Joe Kilen	-1	-1
Jon Kilen	-1	-1
Alex Kilen	-1	-1
Pastor Mike & Sue Fiske	-2	-2
<b>Removed by Death</b>		
Sandra Lockie	-1	-1
Danny Lounder	-1	-1
Erna Schock	-1	-1
Al Olson	-1	-1
John Potts	-1	-1
Chris Lund	-1	-1
Kaylee Parsons (infant)		
<b>Ending number for 2025</b>	?	217

**Other Pastoral Acts**

**Non-member Funerals:** Jeffrey Wallace

# Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

First Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2025

**Voting Members Present:** Jim Bott, Geneal Bott, Janet Erickson, Mike Fiske, Sue Fiske, Sam Giordanengo, April Giordanengo, Kristine Harding, Mason Harding, Kinley Harding, Ed Heinle, Mavis Heinle, Mark Joblinske, Carolyn Kimball, Melinda Lynnes, Anna Matthews, Mike Milmine, Lina Moore, Lea Moore, Janelle Notbohm, Tom Ostendorf, Lillian Ostendorf, Mollie Phipps, David Pratt, Jan Pratt, Wayne Rolf, Melissa Rolf, Kane Rosenbaum, Keaton Rosenbaum, Jeff Skidmore, Bernie Skidmore, Zelda Stairs, Joyce Vera, Blayne Watts, Becky Watts, Ethana Zumpf and Paul Zumpf

A printed 2024 Annual Reports packet was available for all attendees.

Council president Kristine Harding called the meeting to order at 11:45am, upon the conclusion of the annual Foundation meeting.

A quorum was established, as there were 37 voting members out of a current total of 225. The 10% attendance requisite was satisfied.

A huge thank you to Mollie Phipps and Geneal Bott for organizing lunch and providing a main dish!

## **Minutes:**

- Anna Matthews (Council secretary) read the 2024 annual congregational meeting minutes as transcribed by Kris Lohrke. It was noted that some spelling will be fixed. Lillian Ostendorf stated that Carolyn Kimball's name needs to be added to the audit committee.
- **Motion:** Blayne Watts moved to accept the 2024 congregational meeting minutes as amended. Zeda Stairs seconded. Motion carried, unanimous.

## **Reports** (refer to the 2024 Annual Reports packet for details)

### **Pastor:**

- Pastor Mike presented the pastoral report.

### **Executive Council:**

- Kristine stated that this has been a year of change for FLC. She thanked Jim Bott and Pam Griffin for their service on the Council, thanked Jan Pratt for stepping in as church secretary and mentioned that the janitorial position is currently open. She also encouraged all congregation members to be involved in the church.

**Audit Committee:**

- Carolyn Kimball presented the audit committee report.
- **Motion:** Jeff Skidmore moved to accept the audit committee report. Lillian Ostendorf seconded. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Finance Committee:**

- Jim Bott presented the finance committee report and the proposed 2025 budget.
- The gas line repair was a major expenditure this year (approximately \$20,000); fortunately, we were able to hire locally for this repair, which lessened the expense.
- We were very close to our proposed budget for 2024.
- It has been decided that Pastor Mike will go to half time employment to help alleviate the budget.
- The St. John's United donation came from the Council this year, and Lina Moore thought that it had been established that this donation would come from the Foundation. She stated that she would provide the letters establishing as such. Dave Pratt stated that the St. John's donation is not budgeted by the Foundation, but they are happy to consider requests. It was also noted that FLC gave more than other churches this year.
- April Giordanengo commended the finance committee on their efforts compiling the 2025 budget.
- **Motion:** Zelda Stairs moved to accept the 2025 budget as presented. Geneal Bott seconded. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Building and Property Committee:**

- Jim Bott presented the building and property committee report.
- The gasline leak was the biggest concern this year. Some concrete still needs to be poured. Thank you to Dave Pratt for repairing the siding on the LMS shed.
- Thank you to Janet Erickson for paying for the fertilizer and weed control.
- The submersible pump for the sprinkler system, along with some valves, needs to be replaced.
- We are currently seeking bids to replace at least two of the fuse panels.
- Our riding lawn mower needs to be replaced.
- The floors need to be waxed soon.
- We also need to replace lights with energy efficient LED ones.

**Nominating Committee:**

- Outgoing committee Jim Bott, Pam Griffin, Janelle Notbohm and Jeff Skidmore presented candidates for Council: Dave Pratt and Lea Moore.
- **Motion:** Geneal Bott moved to appoint Lea Moore and Dave Pratt to each serve a three-year term on the Council. Zelda Stairs seconded. Motion carried, unanimous.
- Audit committee: Carolyn Kimball has completed her three-year term and Geneal Bott has completed year 1 of 3. **Motion:** Becky Watts moved to appoint Janelle Notbohm to a three-

year term on the audit committee. Lina Moore seconded. Motion carried, unanimous. The committee for 2025 will be Geneal, Janelle, and a third person appointed by Council later.

- The nominating committee will include Kristine Harding and Anna Matthews as outgoing Council members. Ed Heinle has offered to join the committee. Geneal Bott asked for an explanation of the nominating committee's role (to appoint Council, audit committee and nomination committee members) and subsequently nominated herself. It was clarified that Geneal may serve on the audit and nominating committees concurrently.
- **Motion:** Carolyn Kimball moved to appoint Kristine Harding, Anna Matthews, Ed Heinle and Geneal Bott to the nominating committee. Mike Milmine seconded. Motion carried, unanimous.
- St. John's United: Pam Griffin and Lina Moore would both like to continue as our representatives to SJU. Lillian Ostendorf volunteered to be an alternate. **Motion:** Mollie Phipps moved to appoint Pam Griffin, Lina Moore, and Lillian Ostendorf to be our SJU representatives. Jeff Skidmore seconded. Motion carried, unanimous.

#### **Worship and Music Committee:**

- Pastor Mike presented the worship and music committee report. He thanked Joyce Vera and Sam Giordanengo's faithful service.

#### **Altar Guild:**

- Sandy Rabe submitted the altar guild report. More members are needed to assist.

#### **Social Media:**

- Mike Milmine said the goal is to keep our website and Facebook account up to date.

#### **Let Me Shine Preschool:**

- The Let Me Shine committee submitted their report.
- Becky Watts will be stepping down as director after this school year, so the position will be open. Many thanks to Becky for her service!

#### **BLAST and Fun Faith Fridays:**

- Lina Moore presented the BLAST and Fun Faith Fridays report and provided missions work report handouts. Fun Faith Fridays have not been held this past fall but will hopefully start again soon.
- The VA will move to the old Friendship Villa location. FLC has been very active in supporting the VA nursing home.

#### **Youth Group and VBS:**

- Mollie presented the youth group and VBS report.

#### **Confirmation:**

- Pastor Mike stated that seven were confirmed in FLC this year: Kinley Harding, Nate Muggli, Kash Rosenbaum, Kane Rosenbaum, Keaton Rosenbaum, Kanin Brugger and Peyton Hubbel.

**Men's Fellowship:**

- Mark Joblinske submitted the men's fellowship report. The men meet Saturday mornings at 7am for coffee, breakfast and fellowship.

**Video Study:**

- Mike Milmine stated that the video study of The Chosen will start again this spring with season 3.

**Quilters:**

- Meliss Rolf submitted the quilters' report.

**Meals on Wheels:**

- Janet Erickson presented the Meals on Wheels report. We have completed two out of our four weeks so far.

**Parish Nursing:**

- Janet Erickson submitted the Parish Nursing report. This ministry began in 1997 and has provided office hours and medical support to the congregation. Bonnie Hofer, Denise Singlton and Janet Erickson are the remaining nurses, though Denise is the only one still registered. The nurses have decided to cease office hours but will continue to offer medical advice and medical equipment as needed. Thank you to our nurses for your wonderful service!

**St. John's United:**

- Lina Moore presented the St. John's United report discussing the many services they provide.

**Food Drive:**

- Mollie suggested that we begin a food drive the following Sunday and deliver the contributions to the food bank around Valentine's Day.

**Motion:** Jeff Skidmore moved to adjourn the meeting. Kinley Harding seconded. Motion carried, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm.

Pastor Mike closed the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Following the meeting, Jim and Geneal Bott drew the winning name for their Half a Hog raffle. Congratulations to Mike Milmine!

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Matthews Secretary

## Pastor's Report

Dear Saints of First Lutheran Church,

This past year has placed First Lutheran in a meaningful season of transition. Following the conclusion of Pastor Mike's ministry last spring, and mindful of the faithful thirty-year ministry of Pastor Steve that concluded in January of 2021, this congregation continues to walk a path that calls for patience, prayer, and trust in the Lord's provision.

Seasons of vacancy often invite mixed emotions. There is a desire for stability and normalcy, even as there is anticipation for what the Lord will yet do. In many ways, this season resembles the Church's seasons of waiting—times like Advent or Lent—when God's people are reminded that waiting is not inactivity, but faithful attentiveness. In such seasons, the Lord forms His people not by their strength, but by His promises.

Jesus reminds us that He is the Good Shepherd, and that His sheep are known, kept, and sustained by Him. While the under-shepherd may change, Christ remains present and active among His people. He has not left this congregation without care, nor has He ceased to guide His Church through Word and Sacrament.

Throughout this past year, the life of the Body of Christ has been evident among you. Worship has continued. Teaching and learning have continued. Prayer, service, music, and mutual care have continued as well. Many have served faithfully, often quietly, ensuring that the Church's life together remains centered on Christ rather than on any one person or role.

As you move forward in the call process, this season invites not only confidence, but humility. The Church does not belong to us; it belongs to Christ. Discernment is best carried out not through comparison or certainty, but through prayerful dependence on the Lord, trusting that He alone knows what His Church needs and when it is needed. Humility keeps us attentive to God's leading and open to His work, even when that work unfolds differently than we expect.

Be encouraged. This season is not permanent. God, who has faithfully provided shepherds for this flock in the past, will do so again. Until that time, continue in faithful stewardship, patient prayer, and humble trust, confident that the Lord who has sustained you thus far will lead you forward in His time.

Grace and peace to you in Christ,

Pr. Blayne J. Watts, Congregation member providing interim pastoral care and pulpit supply

## **President's Report: Executive/Personnel Committee**

*Chm. Sam Giordanengo (Council Pres), Mike Milmine (VP), Mollie Phipps (Sec), Jeff Skidmore (Treas)*

Council officers were elected following the Annual Meeting and were installed during worship February 16. Anna Matthews left Council midyear and Mollie Phipps took over as secretary. Mark Joblinske was appointed to complete this year of Anna's term. Pastor Mike Fiske was released from his call in April, and the Call Committee was activated in June to begin the search for a new pastor.

The council tightened financial controls for purchase orders and credit card use, resulting in the adoption of a formal purchasing policy. New credit cards for FLC and Let Me Shine Preschool were later approved. The finance committee maintained oversight, consolidated bank accounts, and prepared for the 2026 budget.

The council oversaw a transition in Let Me Shine Preschool leadership, culminating in the hiring of a new director, Heather Notsch. The council provided support with budget oversight via continuing resolutions and operational guidance. LMS activities, including Butter Braid sales and Christmas programs, continued successfully.

Significant attention was given to maintaining and improving church facilities. Major projects included replacing two aging electrical panels, repairing plumbing leaks and a broken window, addressing issues with the well and sprinkler system, and planning for future work such as sidewalk repairs and ceiling tile replacement. A dedicated Building and Property Committee, led by Dave Pratt, managed a proactive work plan.

Council committees were active throughout the year. The Worship Committee coordinated pulpit supply, Lenten services, and special events. A standard honorarium for guest pastors was approved. The Education Committee oversaw confirmation classes, baptism and first communion classes, and youth education programs. The Fellowship Committee organized monthly lunches, a chili cookoff, a farewell BBQ for Pastor Fiske, and Christmas events. The Stewardship Committee managed donations to community organizations. The Council focused on improving checks and balances and began discussions of long-term strategic planning and potential dual rostering with the LCMC. The council held several closed executive sessions to address sensitive personnel and legal matters.

The 2025 council year was marked by faithful stewardship amid significant transition and challenge. The council navigated pastoral change and property demands while sustaining the core ministries of worship, education, and outreach. The establishment of stronger financial policies and the activation of a Call Committee have positioned the congregation for a stable and hopeful future.

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Giordanengo, FLC Council President

## Audit Committee

*Chr. Geneal Bott (Year 2 of 3), Janelle Notbohm (Year 1 of 3), Cole Prell (volunteer)*

Tasked by the Church Council, the Audit Committee, consisting of Geneal Bott, Janelle Notbohm, and Cole Prell, reviewed the fiscal activities of the Church and Let Me Shine Preschool for 2025. Accounts reviewed included General, Dedicated, Parish Nurse, Building, and Let Me Shine Preschool. The three months reviewed for both the General and Let Me Shine Preschool were January, June and November, the committee found the months reviewed in good order. Payroll for both First Lutheran Church and Let Me Shine Preschool was not reviewed as it is prepared by a local CPA firm. The checking accounts titled Dedicated, Parish Nurse and Building were also reviewed for the entire year. The accounts were in good order and all accounts were closed in December, with funds moved to the General account.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Geneal Bott

## Finance Committee

*Chr. Jeff Skidmore (Council Treas), Mike Milmine*

First Lutheran Church financial position as of November 30, 2025

FLC General Fund Checking		\$25,095.45
FLC Building Fund Money Market		\$38,329.75
FLC Pastoral Travel Debit Card		\$1,128.96
FLC Parish Health Checking		\$603.16
FLC Dedicated Checking		\$11,411.40
*Front Entryway Proposed Project	\$9,355.00	
*Youth	\$1,303.91	
*Quilters	\$752.49	

*Standing Committee Reports*

	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Actuals</b>	<b>Proposed 2026 Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Congregation Offering	\$ 98,000	\$ 105,494	\$ 146,500
Radio Broadcast Sponsors	\$ 4,680	\$ 4,575	\$ 4,800
Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ 3,385	\$ 2,000
Foundation Int. on Investment	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,245	\$ 1,500
AL Contractual Payback	\$ -	\$ 3,375	\$ 2,284
LMS Tithe	\$ 7,200	\$ 9,200	\$ 12,000
Transfer from Pastoral travel	\$ -		\$ 2,000
Transfer from MMKT	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Donation from Foundation	\$ -	\$ 10,358	\$ -
Transfer from Dedicated: Quilters	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -
Special donations	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 111,880</b>	<b>\$ 158,132</b>	<b>\$ 171,084</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Pastor Payroll & Benefit/Savings	\$ 36,956	\$ 26,860	\$ 95,000
Secretary	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,558	\$ 13,260
Janitor	\$ 1,400	\$ 574	\$ 2,000
Organist	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,507	\$ 4,800
Payroll Liabilities tax & Ins	\$ 1,100	\$ 7,028	\$ 2,600
Transfer to MMKT New Pastor	\$ -	\$ 17,000	\$ -
Accounting/Legal	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,563	\$ 2,500
Office Supplies, comp programs	\$ 2,988	\$ 2,290	\$ 2,200
Building Taxes & Ins	\$ 14,602	\$ 13,224	\$ 12,500
Utilities	\$ 10,384	\$ 9,727	\$ 9,500
Supplies, Mtc. & Snow Removal	\$ 6,430	\$ 31,579	\$ 6,500
Hall Ceiling tile & electrical	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000
Radio Broadcast	\$ 4,680	\$ 5,016	\$ 4,800
Pulpit Supply		\$ 750	\$ 200
Supplies, printed material, Sola	\$ 1,300	\$ 190	\$ 1,200
Altar & Communion Supplies	\$ 500	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,000
NALC Offering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Conferences	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Education: supplies / events	\$ 3,000	\$ 877	\$ 2,000
Mission: Food bank & Quilters	\$ 50	\$ 811	\$ -
St. John's United donation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 105,090</b>	<b>\$ 134,889</b>	<b>\$ 171,060</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 6,790</b>	<b>\$ 23,243</b>	<b>\$ 24</b>

## Building and Property Committee

*Chr. David Pratt, Lea Moore, Tom Speelman, Jim Bott*

A huge thank you to the volunteers who always seem to step up when something needs doing at the church. Several critical projects required attention this past year including:

- Cleanup and landscaping after the gas line repair. This included fixing the irrigation line under the playground and replacement of the concrete sidewalk section outside the kitchen.
- Replacement of the electrical panel was completed in May
- Patched the exposed sewer line between LMS bathrooms
- Replaced irrigation pump and replumbed well pit
- Fixed leaking shutoff valve in Pastors office and burst pipe in the hallway
- Replaced Circuit board in stove
- Snow removal by contract is ongoing. Lawn mowing is a big volunteer effort in the summer.
- Fall and spring cleanup days are critical in keeping the church presentable. A huge effort by church members prepared the church and sanctuary for a couple funerals.

As a result of some unexpected expenses and critical needs being addressed the upgrade of a lawn mower has been placed on hold.

Present needs include replacing the ceiling tiles and lighting in the sanctuary and narthex. The curbing and sidewalks along South Cale have deteriorated to the point that they are a safety issue as is the sidewalk from the south Earling to the back entrance of the church. The council is currently exploring funding alternatives to implement part of Phase 2 of the front entrance remodel to address these issues. A setback for angle parking is also being explored along South Cale as part of the curb and sidewalk replacement.

The Building and Property committee has developed an Annual Work Plan and a task punch list (available in the office) if you want to help out. If you see a need or want to help please let someone from council or the building committee know.

Respectfully  
David Pratt

## Building & Property: Community Use of FLC

Permission was given to the Miles City Unified School District to use the church facility for its Child Find Preschool Screening, as in years past.

## Call Committee

*Chr. Ric Rabe, Co-Chr. Mike Milmine, Mallorey Kassner, Janelle Notbohm,  
Mark Joblinske, Lea Moore, Jan Pratt, Sam Giordanengo*

The Call Committee was formed on July 28, 2025 by vote of a specially called meeting of the Congregation. It has been meeting monthly on the fourth Monday since August, 2025. A remote access video call between NALC Call Process Coordinator Pastor Shelly Schultz was held in September to provide guidance to our committee and for Pastor Schultz to get to know us.

A Congregational workshop was held in the evening November 18, 2025, led by NALC Mission District Dean Pastor David Baer. The workshop was well attended by approximately 25-30 church members.

A survey was developed by the Committee and given to Congregation members. A draft Congregational Profile was completed based on input from those surveys and will be presented to the congregation for a vote of approval at the FLC annual meeting January 11, 2026. Once the Congregational Profile is approved, it will be sent to the NALC Call Process Coordinator, hopefully by the end of January 2026.

Ric Rabe

## Nominating Committee

*Chr. Kristine Harding, Ed Heinle, Geneal Bott*

### Church Council

1) Jeff Skidmore                    2) Chris Wacker                    3) Mark Joblinske

### Audit Committee (three-year term)

1) Cole Prell

### Nominating Committee (Four total. Two outgoing from Council, two from Congregation)

1)    2)  
3)    4)

### Appointment of Delegates to St. John's Lutheran Ministry

1) Pam Griffin?                    2) Lina Moore?                    3) Lillian Ostendorf, alternate?

## NALC Affiliation

We come together around God's Word and Christ's presence, then go into the world to make disciples, love our neighbors, and live out the gospel. We do this through renewing congregations in disciple-making, equipping disciples for disciple-making, and transforming communities through disciple-making.

NALC congregations are Christ centered, mission driven, traditionally grounded and congregationally focused. Over 500 congregations are divided into "Mission Districts". We are part of the district including western North and South Dakota and Wyoming, directed by Mission District Dean Pastor David Baer of Whitewood, South Dakota. The only other NALC congregation in Montana is New Hope Lutheran in Circle, which Pastor Blayne Watts serves.

## Worship Committee

*Chr. Jan Pratt, Joyce Vera, Sam Giordanengo, Mark Joblinske, Lea Moore*

The Committee met frequently to plan weekly worship and the bulletin, often using the Sola Publishing Company resources. Pastor Blayne Watts led worship and served Holy Communion the second Sunday of each month after Pastor Mike left. Altar Assistants received training and continue to assist with Holy Communion and preparation of communion to the home-bound. Several members stepped up to lead worship and preach. They sometimes joined the pastors' lectionary study weekly through our NALC Mission District as they prepared their sermons. Pastor Blayne Watts provided pastoral service for baptisms, confirmation and funerals.

Youth act as acolytes and we routinely include a children's sermon, children's bulletins and busy-bags for young children. Children's Church is held, where young ones may go with a teacher for a lesson or craft during the sermon.

We held special worship services on Ash Wednesday, Lenten Wednesdays, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunrise (at the Eastern Montana Veteran's Cemetery), Easter, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Talented musicians from the Congregation offered vocal solos and duets, and we remain so blessed to have Joyce Vera as organist and pianist on our Moller pipe organ and grand piano. Mallorey Kassner continued as cantor and as the dedicated operator of our sound system, ensuring proper transmission of our Sunday worship service to KATL Radio.

### *Designated Committee Reports*

Use of name tags was encouraged, and prayer requests were received and shared as appropriate. Service Team leaders (mostly Council members) organized weekly volunteers to greet, usher, read lessons and Psalms, and count offering. Our corporate worship is greatly blessed by all who volunteer!

Jan Pratt

## Worship Committee: Altar Guild

*Chr. Sandy Rabe*

Members: Janelle Notbohm, Mark Joblinske, Jan Pratt, Geneal Bott, Zelda Stairs, Melissa Rolf, Bernie Skidmore, Marla Prell, Liane Vadheim, Mollie Phipps, April Giordanengo, Sandy Rabe

The altar guild changes the Paraments on the Communion Table, using the Church Year Calendar for the correct colors of the church season. We dust, wash communion linens, put oil in the candles and any other task as needed for every Sunday service. Each of us do these tasks for a month.

The altar guild also decorates the sanctuary for the holidays and was thankful for donations of Easter lilies for our Easter service. We encourage the congregation to be involved with the decorating. We appreciate the assistance of the men, who can help get totes out of top of the closets in the back.

If anyone is interested in joining, please contact me. This is a fulfilling task of the church. I use this time for reflection, prayers, and find it very comforting.

Sandy Rabe

## Outreach/Marketing Committee

Members have continued to support the weekly broadcast of our Sunday worship service on KATL Radio. The cost per broadcast is \$90, and sponsors can make a dedication in honor or memory of someone or in thanks or praise. Broadcasts started in 1955! Sunday worship bulletins are posted every week on our website [flcmilescity.com](http://flcmilescity.com), but otherwise posting to the website is a work in progress. We have been posting event announcements, pictures of activities, and some worship services on Facebook. We have two Facebook pages "First Lutheran Church NALC, Miles City, Montana", which is a public page, and "FLC Miles City Members" where information shared is more personal and those accessing the page must be approved.

## Evangelism/Membership Committee

*Chr. Mark Joblinske*

We are focused on reaching souls and developing one-on-one relationships for Christ, with the prayer that those touched would in turn reach someone else with the Good News that Jesus offers peace for each of us personally.

MEMBERSHIP: Lea Moore, Mollie Phipps, Jan Pratt and I met to review our church membership roster and connect with each member.

VISITATION AND TAKING HOLY COMMUNION TO THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND: Pastor Mike visited the homebound regularly while he was here, and lay people are organizing to continue these visits.

HOLY ROSARY RESIDENTIAL LIVING VISTIATION, WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION: Pastor Mike visited HRH Res. Living regularly, leading worship and music and serving Holy Communion. Lay people are continuing these visits and services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, in the afternoon.

I am looking forward to 2026 being to his honor and Glory.

Mark Joblinske

## Education Committee

*Chr. Lea Moore, Kacie Eayrs, Marie Wacker, Mollie Phipps, Jan Pratt*

The education committee gathered last August to map out a plan to begin addressing the needs of our youth. Children's Church was established this past fall for Preschool - Second grade students and often led by Kacie and Marie along with other volunteers. These students participate in an enrichment activity based on the Gospel reading during the sermon. Mollie spearheads the Bible Mailbox Club for Grades 3 & 4. This past fall, eight different lessons have been mailed out to these students. Lea Moore has organized lessons for our 5th and 6th graders, with Bible Buddies Mike and Melissa (adult volunteers from the congregation) checking in with our two sixth grade students. Confirmation is led by Lea and Jeff Skidmore with a total of six seventh graders and one eighth grader.

An organizational meeting with our 9-12th graders will be held early this month. Thanks to everyone for the help and prayers for our youth education! ***Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children"***

*Lea Moore*

## Education: Let Me Shine Preschool

*Chr. Skye Arndt, Kate Hoff, Kacie Eayrs, Lea Moore, LeAnn Harrison, Kassy Harding, Justin Hughes*

Let Me Shine Preschool began classes on September 2 with two classes for 3- and 4-year-olds and one class for 4-and 5-year-olds. We kicked off the year with an Ice Cream Social and a chance to meet the teachers on August 27. It was well attended by the excited preschoolers and their families.

Heather Notsch was hired as Director with curriculum and administrative responsibilities . We offered the following classes:

- Lisa Kuntz returned as a teacher and is teaching two 3- and 4-year-old classes (22 students total). Her aide is Sierra Stevenson. Those classes are Mon-Wed AM and Tue-Thurs AM
- Heather Notsch, hired this year, teaches the 4- and 5-year-old class (13 students) on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday Mornings. Alexis Chapmon is the aide in this class.

Automatic payments are being offered to parents again this year, both to cut down on the need for contact, and to provide families with an efficient way to make their tuition payments in a timely manner. A majority of our families are utilizing this service. We have continued to take steps to establish and implement a payment policy making our payment expectations transparent for everyone.

Our Butterbraid fundraiser was very successful for our program once again, selling over 600 items and the top seller selling 46 pastries. The top seller from each class received a Dairy Queen gift card to thank them for their efforts. We had a three-way tie for top sellers in the 4-5 class, and a single top seller for each 3-4 class. The funds from the fundraiser were put on hold at this time until our board can determine the cost for a change in the playground surface. We are looking into changing out all surfaces for one continuous rubber surface. This would improve play and decrease the continued maintenance and clean up needed to maintain our playground. Both age groups prepared and performed Christmas programs for their families during the last week of school before Christmas break. They all worked very hard and had a lot to be proud of. Each child went home with a gift from the Preschool and one from First Lutheran Church.

We will open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year in February and are excited to welcome another group of eager learners. We appreciate the continued prayers and support of the congregation as we continue this mission of the church.

Heather Notsch, LMS Director

## Education: Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship has grown from just a few men meeting at the church a year ago to a dozen men of all ages meeting weekly (Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm) at Otium Brewery. We started out discussing a Bible Study for Christian men and recently have been studying the upcoming Sunday's Bible readings. The Holy Spirit is the guiding force behind our Men's Fellowship.

Mark Joblinske

## Education: Women's Group

Monthly women's luncheons and Bible study commence in October. About eight women participate, and a book study of "Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey" by Wm. Weedon will begin in January.

Jan Pratt

## Education: "The Chosen" Video Study

Eight to ten people met Tuesday evenings (with a light supper) for eight weeks last fall to watch "The Chosen" and about six women met Thursday afternoons for the same. We will continue with Season 4 episodes starting in January, 2026.

Mike Milmine and Jan Pratt

## Education: Bibles & Books

"Faith Alive" study Bibles, English Standard Version, were presented by the Congregation to students in confirmation classes. Bibles for all ages and other Christian printed material were offered to order for Christmas gifts, which was well received.

## Fellowship Committee

Coffee and snacks were served each Sunday before and after worship. A lunch was provided after worship on the second Sunday of each month. Some themed lunches were a taco bar for Rally Day, a chili cook-off, brauts and beer to honor Martin Luther, and a Feliz Navidad meal in December. We also hosted Lenten soup suppers, an Easter breakfast and a send-off luncheon for Pastor Mike and Sue Fiske. Two funeral lunches were catered but required help of our members. A graduation reception was held.

Coffee and treats were served most Wednesdays at 10 am. A Men's Breakfast was held the second Saturday of the month. Members provided cookies for the Let Me Shine Preschool Christmas programs, and faithful lefse makers made and sold lefse in November.

Obervance was held for Mother's Day (each mom received a rose), Father's Day (dads got a Christian token), All Saint's Day (families of those deceased this past year received a rose), and Veteran's Day. A monthly calendar of FLC events was distributed which included birthdays and anniversaries of members.

## Stewardship/Mission Committee

The Congregation gave generously to First Lutheran Church this past year, supporting its activities, staff and building and property expenses through tithes and offerings. Some members donate by way of our Simply Giving automatic monthly withdrawal, which reduces bookkeeping.

We are grateful to Thrivent members who direct their Thrivent Choice dollars to First Lutheran Church or Let Me Shine Preschool.

## Stewardship/Mission: Rummage Sales

A "trunk sale" was held in the parking lot in the spring and a bazaar/rummage sale/soup lunch was held in the Fellowship Hall in the fall. Members and their friends are encouraged to gather items for the next rummage sale in 2026!

Melissa Rolf and Crew

## Stewardship/Mission: Quilters

The quilters had another productive year. We want to thank all who have supported us by dropping off fabric, old sheets, scrap material, it is always a surprise to see on our quilting table, fabric of all kinds donated. We do not know most of the time who donates, but it is all much appreciated, and you are all saints! From January to December of this year we have made and distributed quilts to Social Services in Miles City, the Dialysis Center, the Food Bank, the Outreach Clinic and Billings Clinic. We have 35 quilts as of now ready to ship to Colorado for NALC Disaster Response. We made a couple of quilts that were raffled at the church and numerous baby quilts were given to members of the church. The high school graduates have also been able to choose their own quilt to take with them on their new journey in life. We are thankful that we can share our time and talents to bring joy to all who receive the quilts each year. We are all called out into the mission fields of life, to help spread and show our God's love, and the quilts we make have been blessed by prayers of the Congregation, to send them off with that love!

In His grip, The Quilters (Melissa Rolf, Anita Scheeler, Judy Stichman, Sandy Rabe)

## Stewardship/Mission: Parish Nursing

Parish Nurses no longer have an office at the church but can be reached through the church office. We have the following equipment for short term loan: wheelchairs, walkers (one is a wheeled walker with seat), a raised toilet seat, a bath chair and a bedside commode. If you have questions or wish to borrow something please contact Janet Erickson 853-5298 or contact the church office.

Janet Erickson

## Stewardship/Mission: Outreach Clinic

The local Outreach Clinic is a pregnancy and young family resource center. FLC once again participated in their "Baby Bottle" Fund Drive in May, and this year we sponsored a table at their annual banquet in October which gave more financial support as well as us learning more about the Clinic. Mark Joblinske will soon be serving on their board of directors. The Clinic is building a mentorship program for both mothers and fathers that several members of our group are planning to become involved in. If you are interested, contact Mark.

Mark Joblinske

## Stewardship/Mission: Meals on Wheels

FLC members delivered Meals on Wheels in Miles City Dec. 30 2024 - Jan 10, 2025; and again Aug. 4-8 and Aug. 18-22, 2025. When you next see the following people please thank them for giving their time and energy to this mission of our church: Mavis and Ed Heinle, Jacob Harrington, Kash, Kane, and Keaton Rosenbalm, Hazel, Jim, and Sophia Parker, Melissa and Brian Lynnes with their granddaughters Paige and Dana, Janet and Joseph Erickson, Anita and Jim Scheeler, Jan and Dave Pratt, Mike Milmine and Sabrina Carter, Marie and Cara Wacker, Sharon Stein, Denise Bosckis, Melissa and Wayne Rolf

Janet Erickson, Coordinator

## Stewardship/Mission: Custer County Food Bank

Food items and cash donations were gathered in November and were delivered to the Food Bank by the youth and leaders Lea Moore and Jeff Skidmore

## Stewardship/Mission: Salvation Army

Donations were requested in December and sent to the local Salvation Army to support their work with homeless and transient folks. We direct these visitors to the local sheriff's office for vetting, and they in turn connect them with the Salvation Army, which makes our donations an important support in our community.

## Stewardship/Mission: St. John's United

*Lina Moore, Pam Griffin, Lillian Ostendorf*

Our Congregation has been a supporting member of St. John's United for many years, supporting them financially when we can and sending delegates to their meetings. We were blessed by a visit and sermon from Pastor Tom Schlotterback, retiring SJU Foundation chairman, and gathered a special offering to send back to SJU with him. Pastor Schlotterback stayed for coffee after the service, gave more information on SJU activities and answered questions. The SJU Annual Report is attached.