



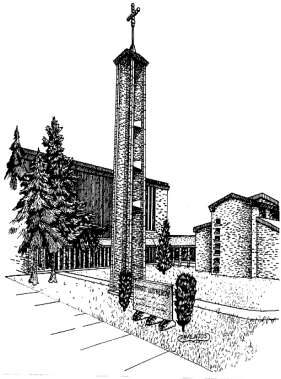
# LACS

## Letter to God's People



Vol. 25 No. 8 A monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Williston

August 2025



**Remember our Mission:**

**"The Mission of FLC is  
To share God's Love  
by Engaging,  
Inspiring and  
Renewing."**

**First Lutheran Staff:**

**Pastor Zach Harris**

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**Lynea Geinert**

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**Evan Lewis**

Facilities Manager

**Isaac Haugen**

Sound Tech

**Hailey Smith**

Church School

Coordinator



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SHARING  
GOD'S  
LOVE



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Rally Sunday-September 14

Rally Sunday, it's not just for kid's anymore. Children, Youth and Family Group would like to invite ministries of First Lutheran to join the circus that is Rally Sunday, September 14.

Think creatively about what your team has to offer.

Some ideas to get you started:  
Grilling hotdogs and hamburgers  
Hosting a church-wide potluck  
Providing a game or two  
Providing music  
Providing an activity such as a quick craft project

There are no limits as to what our imaginations could bring to the event. It could be a day of great fun and fellowship as we prepare for the program year.

Please contact Lynea in the office with questions and/or what your ministry group would like to provide.

#### Rally Sunday Service Project

Food drive for the Gloria Dei Food Shelf. Bring non-perishable food items and let's see if we can create a mountain of food to help feed the hungry of our community.

### Fun facts about Rally Sunday:

- ♦ It is for the **entire** congregation.
- ♦ It's not just an ELCA thing or even a Lutheran thing. Different denominations celebrate Rally Sunday.
- ♦ So, what is Rally Sunday? It is, "A special day at the end of summer to draw "rally" together for a common purpose seeking the Holy Spirit's power to 'renew our energy' for worship, for digging into God's Word, for praying, for serving,





# *Through a Lutheran Lens*

Pastor Zachariah Harris III



## *Sleeper Awake!:*

### *A Skewed Understanding of Jesus, Paul, and Superman*

<sup>4</sup>Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be associated with them. <sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' <sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:4-16

To be honest, no one is more surprised at the subject matter of my articles written for the beginning of August 2025 than me. The monthly article I write for the Williston Graphic has an earlier deadline, more space constraints, and a less defined audience. So, it is in some ways the prelude to the thoughts expressed here. However, even in its toned-down rhetoric, it extols the shock I have that what I have clearly brought to bear as my own peculiar pass time of comic book heroes and geek perspective has jumped to the fore as the cultural touchstone of the moment. It serves to more clearly demark the moral departure that seems to have pervaded a slice of our culture, leadership, and even Christian faith traditions. And it all boils down to a continued critique of one of the fun, pop-corn movies of the summer, 'Superman,' being accused of being "superwoke."

First of all, as I have expressed on several occasions, I don't really get the pejorative usage of the term "woke." As Inigo says to Vizzini in the movie 'The Princess Bride:' "I do not think that word means what you think it means!"

If you were to look the term up and just read the relatively expansive Wikipedia article, you would find that it hearkens back to the Wide Awakes organization supporting the 1860 Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln. It then moves on to 1930's and more modern times to the African American usage about being aware socially and politically of the inequalities that play out in real world scenarios and actions epitomized by racist inspired actors such as the Ku Klux Klan. Eventually, the call to stay "woke" broadened to include all other kinds of discrimination. And then, from what I can fathom, the last step is what I would coin as the "cool kid pejorative:" that is (in my purview) when the elite just don't understand something so they make fun of it by simply saying that from now on, that's a negative (anyone remember when "nerd" and "geek" were the losers and not the ones who earned over \$400 million in just 2 weeks).

However, the edict to be "woke," I think really has its origins in the biblical teachings. Jesus gives all sorts of warnings in Mark chapter 13 (as well as elsewhere) where he pointedly says: "Stay awake!" Paul in the text that starts this article warns about losing one's moral and theological center and cries: "Sleeper Awake!" And the force of the imperative from both our Lord and Savior as well as our esteemed teacher is the same as the more modern meanings of these wordplays about being awake—be alert, pay attention, and don't lose sight of what is right!

Much more could be said about that Biblical basis, but I'm assuming we've got church folk reading this article, so you would be familiar through Confirmation, Bible Studies, sermons, and Christian living. But what you might not be familiar with is the 87 years of history of the Superman story. Action Comics #1 from 1938 told the story of a baby sent from another planet to earth where he had special powers and grew up to be Superman. That first ever superhero comic book gave the description: "Superman! Champion of the oppressed. The physical marvel who had sworn to devote his existence to helping those in need!" Those couple of details have set up a consistent DNA that has continued for 1,088 issues of Action Comics as of July 9, 2025 as well as thousands upon thousands more under different titles along with TV incarnations, video games, novelizations, newspaper strips, and of course movies. Under his guise as Clark Kent, he's known as kind of a goofy dork, naïve to the world's darker tendencies—polite to a fault with his small-town verbiage speckled with a hometown "golly" enough to make the point. While in his costume, Superman is known as the "Big Blue Boy Scout" because he is always life affirming and on the side of good, truth, and justice. He is the leader of the Justice League BECAUSE he is always their moral compass in the right direction.

SO, what apparently started the 'Superman' controversy was actually a soundbite by the movie's director which may now be read with a little more context: "I mean, Superman is the story of America. An immigrant that came from other places and populated the country. But for me, it is mostly a story that says basic human kindness is a value and is something we have

lost.” At best this is kind of a benign statement. I just finished reading a book about the Lost Colony, England’s first attempt of an English settlement on the Outer Banks of NC in 1587 which recounts how hard it was for the people from Europe to even get a foothold in this new world to start what would become America. Other than the very few pure bloodline Natives who exist today, EVERYONE else is a product of someone having come here FROM somewhere else. Thus, by definition, having immigrated from a foreign (or alien) place. So, as almost by design, it makes someone from a distant world the perfect paradigm of what a representative of the “American-Way” paired with Truth and Justice might look like. And, would not most morally adept folks want a value of kindness to come back in fashion rather than the divisive . . . well check out Ephesians to see what a bunch of society has devolved into? Plus, kindness and looking out for the poor and oppressed is not just what Jesus did and would have us do, it’s what Superman has been about since that tag line in 1938! A Messianic connection likely not by chance as I point out in my Williston Graphic article.

However, for the sake of argument, the criticism of ‘Superman’ being “woke” as a negative means that the opposite would be preferable. That’s kind of the only conclusion one might come to. But did any of those critics think that through? Did they think about what a Superman NOT being “woke” would look like. Did they consider the opposite of the super hero mantra that “With great power comes great responsibility,” is the simple human experience that “absolute power corrupts absolutely?” Ironically the very director that the critics railed against has given the answer in the movie he produced in 2019 called “Brightburn.” The movie explores what might happen if a being with Superman’s abilities lacked his moral compass and conscience. A spacecraft lands on earth with what looks like a human baby. Human parents take it in and raise it as their own, but the story deviates from the Superman mythology in terrible ways. It was classified as a horror movie because the alien character with superpowers has no conscience and follows through with plans to simply kill and “Take the world” as the alien space craft instructs him at puberty. This results in terrible deaths of animals, children, friends, and his adopted father and mother by particularly heinous means. One is left with no hope that there would be any means to stop his cleansing of humankind from earth’s surface. Folks might want to wake up if they don’t want the overly powerful to be ‘woke’ to others needs, because eventually they themselves will be the last “other” to be taken out. This director has ALREADY explored the dark possibilities six years earlier. The message for today: Be careful what you wish for!

And now, my friends, we come to the totally deep-dive into Lutheran theology that all of this brings us to: Martin Luther’s Theology of the Cross. Ironically, the difference between the morally adept Superman versus the dark force of Brightburn is a similar mirroring to what Martin Luther warned us about the difference between the God enfleshed (Jesus) versus the unmediated “pure” God in his Theology of the Cross. If we were to experience God directly (not through the suffering of the cross, through the Jesus whose very weakness on our behalf gives us salvation), that unhidden God, Luther said, would be indistinguishable from Satan. Only the God hidden, mediated in the flesh, seen through the cross, would be able to offer salvation. Those who would seek out the pure power of an unfiltered God would be wiped out (see all those Old Testament warnings), but it is the Love of God THROUGH Jesus that saves us. In many ways, even Luther’s understanding of what God would be like if we encountered him without Jesus would be an example of absolute power corrupting absolutely. That puts the term “Savior” in a whole new light!

So, the last piece of this is about the actual movie itself that came out this summer. First of all, anyone who gives any critical thought at all to some of the weird accusations about what this story might mean with hidden metaphors about what’s going on in current society (like some were about what was happening the very week before the movie was released) are just not dealing with reality! Movie making is a LONG process! The script was finished the first few months of 2024. The principal photography was completed right at a year before the movie’s release. Editing, special effects, and marketing and such were all that followed. There could hardly be anything baked into the movie that was much newer than a year old, but the truth is most of what was presented is decades in the making, the most basic parts going back those 87 years.

I’m not going to give any spoilers here, but the main characters, fictional countries, companies, and businesses, and even minor place names institutions and events are all part and parcel of comic books and films down to even some dialogue spoken. The two fictional countries made prominent come from the comic books. The characters in the Dailey Planet are long established figures. And even some of the surprise “twists” come from the comics (87 years gives a lot of source material to draw on!). And of course, the villain is so well established, in an article like this, I need to point out that Martin Luther is spelled with “er,” while Lex Luthor is spelled “or.” But the character of Lex Luthor has been relatively consistent through the years.

Luthor is always presented as a super-wealthy billionaire who sees his wealth and power as two sides of the same coin. He is primarily a businessman with his company bearing his own name, with Lexcorp in the comics or Luthorcorp in the movies being his brand. He is primarily crafting ideas that involve taking over properties, land, or sometimes even whole countries usually through some scientific achievement or complex criminal scheme. He is constantly the bane of Superman’s existence, and though usually caught red-handed, his company continues to thrive; and he even remains popular enough that he is actually elected President of the United States! He eventually creates his own super-suit; and, for a short time, actually becomes a superhero joining the Justice League until he betrays them and ultimately cannot escape his evil nature. He is usually the polar opposite of Superman.

The movie holds true to both the character of hero and villain and even if you don’t know all the references to 87 years of literary back story, it’s a fun ride. It’s got humor, action, a little romance. And yes, that message about kindness. Some of

the dialogue that brings the message home as Superman's alter ego, Clark, questions his own nature which Luthor has made part of public conversation. Lois Lane contrasts her everyday suspicious nature with Clark, "I question everyone and everything. You trust everyone and think everyone is beautiful." But most poignantly, when Clark takes to heart Luthor's accusation that Superman being from another planet is not even human, he questions his adopted dad about it. Pa Kent responds: "Parents aren't for telling you who you're supposed to be. Your choices and your actions, that's what makes you who you are. I couldn't be more proud of who you are!"

Well, there you have it. A bit of rumination all over the spectrum. The center of the topic ironically being what my grandfather used to call, "a funny book." The amazing thing is how much one might be able to learn by simply clarifying some history and misunderstandings and maybe even find something we might have forgotten or lost. At least in the comic books, the ones who are against the good, against kindness, who want to stomp on the weak and downtrodden, well they are clearly the bad guys, the villains. The hero is the one who is the opposite who is for the good, the kind, and wants to save the weak, oppressed and downtrodden. It's the plot of most of those funny books. Not original though. It's the plot of that very old Good Book and its hero who came down from the heavens to adopted parents, not from this world, but here to save it nonetheless.

As the character Max Lord says of the villain unmasked in 'Superman:' "One thing Liberals and Conservatives can agree on . . . Luthor sucks!" And would that everyone could agree, that our hero who comes to save us, comes to save us ALL, while the villain can always be recognized as being the one self-serving and divisive. Jesus inspired folk cheer for the good, the virtuous who reach out with love and kindness That's what it means to have a God of mercy, or in Hebrew, *chesed*. Because we recognize that another translation of that word for mercy is lovingkindness. For shouldn't LOVE and KINDNESS be at the forefront for all we value as children whom our heavenly Father has promised to adopt and take from this world into His heavenly Kingdom?

Living Under His Grace,

*Pastor Zach*



## WESTERN N D SYNOD - 2025 ASSEMBLY

### MINOT, ND

Over 250 members of the Western North Dakota Synod gathered in Minot, ND for the WND Synod Assembly from May 30 - June 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme of the Assembly was based on Ephesians 3:16-17 and focused on our being "Rooted and Grounded in love." Opening Worship was held at First Lutheran Church with everything else held at Minot State Fairground Main Building. Saturday evening dinner was with staff from 3 of our 4 Bible Camps represented and providing dinner entertainment.

One of the featured voices of the weekend was Rev. Dr. Eric D. Barreto of Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Barreto challenged the participants to revisit the Gospel's message with fresh eyes and consider how

Scripture calls today's church to justice, inclusion and courage. ELCA report was given by Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch. 3 of the 4 Resolutions passed and both of the Memorials presented passed during the business meeting. 11 positions were filled for Synod Council Officers; Discipline Committee and Synod Council by unanimous vote. Bishop Craig presided over the weekend events and closing worship.

Submitted by: Carol Jean and Lowell Sandvik, delegates



# Excuses, Excuses

A few weeks ago we heard the story of the “Good Samaritan” from Luke 10:25-37. Do you remember the lawyer wishing to justify himself by asking, “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus responds by telling the story of the “Good Samaritan.” The road from Jerusalem to Jericho earned the nickname “The Bloody Way” because of the robberies that were known to happen. We might compare it to the South Side of Chicago or other places in our nation with a reputation for violent crime. Sure enough, Jesus says the man was robbed by bandits, stripped naked, beat, and left half dead by the side of the road.



A priest happened by the bloody and beaten man and passed by on the other side of the road. So did a Levite. These “good guys” do the wrong thing. What are the internal processes that go into the decisions we make? For me, it is often involves my making excuses.

Let’s take a moment and put ourselves into the shoes of the Priest and the Levite. What might have been their legitimate reasons?

**Danger.** What if that man laying there was just pretending to need help? Maybe six of his friends were behind the bushes just waiting to waylay any do-gooder that happened by. You never know with strangers.

**Purity.** The condition of the man was difficult to discern from a distance. If he was dead, touching a body would make you ceremonially unclean. It would not do for a priest and the Levite to be unclean, even if their temple service had already ended. If you see someone with a flat tire on your way to church, what is the better decision? You are not dressed to help. Coming in late would interrupt the service.

**Punctuality.** Your family is expecting you back home after a week away. Friends and neighbors have been helping to cover your responsibilities while you were gone. Your spouse will worry if you’re late. The 18-mile walk from Jerusalem to Jericho was do-able in a single day if you started out early and did not make a lot of unnecessary stops. You didn’t want to be caught out at night on such a dangerous stretch of road. Maybe someone more local would happen by and help.

**Skill Set.** This injured man obviously needed help from someone trained in First Aid. You have no such skills. If your wife was with you, she could tie a nice bandage and really do a good job. If you had another person with you, you could maybe offer more help. Probably someone else will come along who could offer the type of help really called for in this situation. After all, you took a spiritual gifts inventory, and you did not rank high on mercy and hospitality. Better let someone else take this one.

**Blame.** This wounded man may not be innocent. Maybe he was a thief knocked in the head by other thieves when it came time to divide the loot. Or maybe he ended up in this situation because of his own foolishness. He might have flashed his money around. Maybe he ventured out on the road without a weapon. Poor planning for his journey should not cause me to stop my own journey. That would not be fair.

**Sympathy.** Just because the priest and the Levite didn’t stop, doesn’t mean they didn’t feel bad for the guy. They were probably grateful to God that their own journey was safe so far. They may have whispered a prayer for the man. “Thoughts and prayers” gets a bad rap these days as a response to tragedy. But thoughts and prayers are a great *first* response. But it shouldn’t be our *only* response.

But what did the Samaritan do?

**He opened his eyes.** The Samaritan didn’t turn his head away. In fact, he stepped closer so that he could see the need.

**He opened his heart.** There is a difference between sympathy and compassion. Sympathy is feeling bad for another person’s plight. Compassion always involves action.

**He opened his hands.** He bandaged the man’s wounds. What did he use for bandages? Remember, the man’s clothes were stolen, too. The Samaritan may have had to tear his own clothes to provide bandages. He poured oil and wine on the wounds. With a lack of actual medicine on hand, he used what he had. Oil is soothing and wine might work as a disinfectant in a pinch.

**He opened his schedule.** He put the man on the donkey he was riding and took him to the nearest inn. There he spent a long night with the man, attending to his needs and making sure that he was going to pull through.

**He opened his wallet.** The next morning, the Samaritan made arrangements with the innkeeper to look after the man so that he could continue to rest and heal. He gave him two denarii. A denarii is roughly equivalent to a day’s wages for a laborer. The Samaritan told the innkeeper he would drop by in a couple days to pay any additional expenses the man may have incurred.

Do you see what Jesus did there? He defined neighbor based on need, not on kinship. In doing so, he provided a definition of love that is bigger than anything previously considered by the Pharisees. The expert came to Jesus feeling very sure of his own righteousness. But Jesus provided a new definition that none of us have lived up to perfectly.

Love does not ask how a person voted. Love does not inquire into lifestyle. It simply sees the need and gives. A neighbor is not someone who thinks like us, looks like us, and acts like us. A neighbor is anyone that needs our love and care.

(Continued on page 6)

In telling this story, Jesus is pointing us toward the very kind of love that he would exemplify on the Cross. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I don't know about you, but the type of love Jesus describes takes me back to my own need for divine grace. This type of love doesn't happen, at least not consistently, in our hearts apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. I need to reflect on the Cross and to seek divine grace to strengthen me to love everyone as my neighbor.

Deacon Lynea,

# WELCA

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

### BACK TO SCHOOL

#### Lutheran World Relief Kits

## SCHOOL KIT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Include the following items in each School Kit:



One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17", with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no loose-leaf paper



One box of 16 or 24 crayons



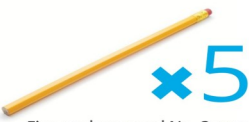
One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



One pencil sharpener



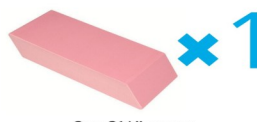
One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



One 2½" eraser

## Project of the Month

**School Kits; bags are made by women**  
See list for what is needed in each kit. Drop off items at the church.



## Women's Bible Study

Faith and Hope Circles will resume Bible Study in September.



**For more information contact:**

Lisa Zunich  
(701)570-4604  
lzunich@me.com

**Next Board Meeting:**  
Sept 8 @ 11am



First Lutheran Church

# RALLY SUNDAY

September 14th, After Worship @ 10:30

**REGISTER FOR  
CHURCH SCHOOL  
AND  
CONFIRMATION**

**GAMES  
& A  
CRAFT**

**CANNED  
FOOD  
DRIVE**

**BACKPACK  
BLESSING**

**FOOD**





# Fall 2025 Children & Youth Programs

## Sunday School:

**Who:** 3 year old to 5th Grade

**What/How/Where:** Learning the Word of God and fellowship with peers while building your relationship with God  
(Stop in during Rally Sunday, September 14th, after worship to register, pick up a calendar, and ask any questions you may have.)

**When:** First Day is September 21st

## Wednesday School:

**Who:** 1st Grade to 5th Grade

**What/How/Where:** Learning the Word of God and fellowship with peers while building your relationship with God  
(Stop in during Rally Sunday, September 14th, after worship to register, pick up a calendar, and ask any questions you may have.)

**When:** First Day is September 24th

## Confirmation classes:

**Who:** 6th grade to 9th grade

**What:** Learning the Word of God and fellowship with peers while building your relationship with God  
(Stop in during Rally Sunday, September 14th, after worship to register, pick up a calendar, and ask any questions you may have.)

**When:** First Day September 17th

## Mentorship Program:

**Who:** 10th Grade

**What/How/Where:** Guided fellowship with a mentor

**When:** TBD



**We love our volunteers—and we're inviting new ones to jump in this fall! If you enjoy helping with kids, Sunday School and Wednesday School is the place for you to serve.**

**Question? Does this mean I need to be available every week?**  
No! We are looking for volunteers to sign up for a month at a time. Teaching Teams of two are encouraged to sign up.

**Question? Why Teaching Teams of two?** Schedules, change, kids get sick. Teams of two provides a built-in substitute when you need to be available.

**How many Teaching Teams are Needed?**

Four teams are needed for Sundays and two for teams for Wednesday School.

**Do I have to sign up as a Team of two?** NO! We encourage individuals who wish to volunteer to sign up also. We will help match you with another individual.

## How Do I sign up?

**Contact Hailey Smith via email [hailey2555b@gmail.com](mailto:hailey2555b@gmail.com) or text 701-770-6299 or sign up at the receptionist desk located outside the sanctuary.**



## STEWARDSHIP

### YTD Contributions 2025

2025	7/30/25	7/27/25
Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
\$620,000	\$ 361,667	350,188

### WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

#### Sunday

July	06	65
July	13	64
July	20	90
July	27	81

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### LIVESTREAM

You can sit in the Director's Chair! We are looking for more people to run the Sunday Morning Livestream. Contact the church office @ 572-6363 or join us upstairs during the service.

### SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Please prayerfully consider signing up to help with Sunday services: greeters, ushers, communion servers, readers, and coffee hour!! Call the office to sign up!!!

## MEMORIALS

### RADIO/MEDIA

#### Beth Darr

Lowell & Carol Jean Sandvik  
Ron & Liz Lund  
Earl & Lois Rennerfeldt  
Marilyn Sandaker

#### Jean (Bartz) Tande

Ron & Liz Lund  
Lowell & Carol Jean Sandvik  
Marilyn Sandaker

#### Jane Slocum

Ron & Liz Lund  
Friends of Jane Slocum  
Lowell & Carol Jean Sandvik  
Earl & Lois Rennerfeldt  
Marilyn Sandaker

#### Toni (Sundby) Jorgenson

Ron & Liz Lund  
Dennis Farthum



### MUSIC

#### Eleanor Olson

Mary Ann Gaudreau

#### JoAnn Olson

Les & Karen Luther

#### Jerry Stordahl

Les & Karen Luther

#### Beth Darr

Mary Ann Gaudreau

### YOUTH LEGO FUND

#### Robert Sundet Ann Arnson

#### Beth Darr Ann Arnson

#### Toni (Sundby) Jorgenson Ann Arnson Marilyn Sandaker

#### Marge Clark Ann Arnson

### UNDESIGNATED

#### Jean (Bartz)Tande Kathleen Ekblad

#### Toni (Sundby) Jorgenson Marilyn Sandaker

#### Jane Slocum Marilyn Sandaker



## **STEWARDSHIP**

It's all about gratitude.  
It's all about giving back'  
It's all about God.

**Direct** – Cash or check donation into the plate, always welcome!

**Online** – Make a donation on our website:

[www.flcwilliston.com](http://www.flcwilliston.com)



**Text to Donate** – Make a donation via Text message.  
Simply text the word  
“Give” to: **833-934-3039**

Click on the link in the response and follow the prompts to complete your donation!

**Tithe.ly Church App** – Search “Tithe.ly Church App”(the Blue one, not the green icon) in your phone App Store or Google Play. Simply download and find First Lutheran Church, Williston ND

Click on the Give button

**First Lutheran Church,  
916 Main Street, Williston, ND  
58801**

**Thank you for your generous support!**

## **email addresses for FLC**

**Pastor Zach: Zachariah Harris:**

**pastorzachfirstlutheran@gmail.com**

**Randi Jangula: office@flcwilliston.com**

**Lynea Geinert: LGeinert@flcwilliston.com**

**Meriel Lora: meriel@flcwilliston.com**

**Evan Lewis: evan@flcwilliston.com**

**Carmen Delaney: edelaney@flcwilliston.com**

**Travis Feiring: twfeiring@gmail.com**

**Beckie Youngs: Rebecca@flcwilliston.com**

**Hailey Smith: haileyb2555@gmail.com**

**Isaac Haugen: Isaac@flcwilliston.com**

## **Tithe.ly**

Tithe.ly is our online donation processor when giving through our Facebook page, Livestream, and Website. If you are set up with a username and password through Vanco, they will not work with Tithe.ly.

## **PRAYER & VISITATION REQUESTS**

Please contact the office staff or Pastor with any of your prayer requests or if you would like a visit from the Pastoral staff!!

Those listed on the Weekly Bulletin Prayer list will remain there for a period of four (4) weeks unless a request is received to be removed earlier.

# **COMMUNITY**

## **BAPTISMS**



**Scout Allen Steiner**



#### What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

#### What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!

#### Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:11, KJV

## God's Left Hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

## The Gift of Music



I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther



**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**





**Monday & Thursday 3:30 pm**  
**September 8 and 11**  
**Quilting for Kids**  
**Classes Resume**

**Sunday**  
**September 21**  
**First Day of**  
**Sunday School**

**Sunday**  
**September 14**  
**Rally Sunday**

**120th Years Celebration!**  
**Watch for**  
**more information**  
**shortly**



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The cost of one broadcast sponsorship is \$150.

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**Kathy Sinclair**  
**Council Treasurer**

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 8, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM by Council Chair Travis Feiring.

Prayer was shared by all.

**Roll Call:** Travis Feiring, Jean Lindvig, Kathleen Sinclair, Beverly Conway, Steve Slocum, David Brevik, Sjon Zurich, Lynea Geinert.

Absent: Phyllis Stokke, Pauline Everson, Steve Rehak - excused Guest:

**Devotions:** Deacon Lynea read from Psalm 100:2, serving should not be just a duty but also with joy, gladness, and commitment.

**Minutes** 6-10-2025 Minutes – Motion by David Brevik and seconded by Steve Slocum to accept and file the minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Consent Agenda** Discussion. Added 12 b. Consultant, 12 c . Prayers of the Church, and 12 d. Personnel Recommendation. Motion by Steve Slocum and seconded by David Brevik to accept the agenda with the three additions. **Motion passed.**

**Pastor Report** – No report with pastor absent.

**Deacon Report** - *Attached.* Providing the rural churches with church bulletins, and has a preaching schedule with them. Requested Temple Talk time in September. This was approved. 2026 event will be a half-day dementia workshop open to the community. Good Sam requests have been lower.

**Staff Reports** –None

**Financial Report** –Kathleen Sinclair reviewed the packet report. Giving is at 58% which includes the trust match of \$100,000. We would be at 42% without the grant. Office Supplies, Maintenance and Synod Assembly budgets items were high. Motion by Steve Slocum and seconded by David Brevik, to accept the financial report. **Motion passed.**

## Committee reports

**Marketing Committee** had nothing to report. He is still waiting for materials and assistance request from upcoming events.

**Call Committee.** Met recently and received survey results from consultant. Council members requested to see these materials and asked about a target date for outreach. David Brevik will call Dave Hanson regarding the report.

**Personnel committee:** Has item 12 d. Isaac will be done Aug 24. Coffee hour will in his honor and for a farewell. Nothing further to report.

**Property** – David Brevik reported at their meeting they discussed the 120<sup>th</sup>. Rally day will be September 14. The grand opening for the education wing will be after a month of operation. Discussed when the banner should go up. Building project is ahead of schedule. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor are being painted and the sprinkler system is in process. 823 1<sup>st</sup> Ave East is having some refurbishing to make it a liveable duplex; a little work on the roof edges otherwise it is in good condition, the garage may be demolished. A taller privacy wall will be built between the north Main Street home and the new Deja Brew property. The preschool lease will be revisited due to updated space, possible increase in presence and enrollment.

**Music and Worship Arts Committee:** Did not meet but Jean reported that the July 12 concert has been delayed to possibly September.

## OLD BUSINESS

a/ **Building update** – covered in committee report.

b/ **Stewardship** Kathy updated on her research and recommends Letters for All Seasons plan. Motion by Steve Slocum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Brevik to look further into this plan. **Motion passed.** Jean or Kathy will email Peter Reuss with gsb to let them know we won't be engaging them.

c/ **Emergency Preparedness** – Executive committee feels this is urgent to install #'s on doors. They will be installed this week. Locking doors 15 minutes after Sunday Worship begins. Discussion on importance of knowing a door to designate for emergency purposes, and training ushers to watch doors when they are locked.

Kathy mentioned flip charts with actions to take in incidents that could be handy. Motion by Steve Slocum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Brevik, that the council chairperson creates a subcommittee to lead emergency preparations with the current primary purpose being services and office security. **Motion Passed.**

d/ 120<sup>th</sup> – discussion tabled until pastor returns.

**e/ Church App Update** – Travis reported the website is being built and could be ready for review in 3 weeks. Actions are being taken to have it pixel perfect, aligned with multiple devices. Council will then decide a ‘go live’ date and training for use will be set up. It will be a hub of information for services and giving. We will ask for council members input on the website as well as other committees. Subcommittee could be Mark Conway, Zach M., David B, Tucker and Jean.

**f/ Pictorial Directory** – Tabled for Jean to acquire package and date and cost information from Creative Dove. Travis mentioned having a congregation picture board with names in the Narthex for face recognition and to build familiarity among the congregation and guests.

**g/ Personnel request for emergency procedures and policies.** Discussion on staff safety, panic buttons in sanctuary and staff areas, and review camera location and function ability.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**a / Weekly communion** has been attended to.

**b / Consultant reports.** This has been handled in Call Committee report.

**c / Weekly prayer list in bulletin.** Beckie asks for direction. It was confirmed she should follow the 4 week policy.

**d / Personnel Recommendation.** Personnel interviewed Zach Myhrer on request of Meriel in consideration of replacement of Isaac. Personnel recommends to council to offer Zach the position of Sound and Technology Director with the package determined by council. Motion by Steve Slocum and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Brevik to accept the recommendation and hire Zach. **Motion passed.** Jean will draft an offer letter for tomorrow.

**Consent agenda.** Motion by David Brevik and second by Steve Slocum to accept all items and reports as presented that were not already voted on, to include Girls **Motion passed .**

#### **Ideas/Exchanges/ Reflections.**

Steve Slocum commented that this month’s article in the Graphic by Pastor Zach is the best to date.

David Brevik mentioned that the 3-floor renovation is almost complete and it is a good time to proceed with a fundraiser for finishing Stage 1 and moving on. Steve Slocum identified it as a capital campaign. Kathy Sinclair suggested waiting until January.

The meeting closed with prayer for congregation members and Blessing. Exec Committee meeting will be Aug 5, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m..

Next Council meeting, Aug 12, 2025 @ 6 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Jean

Lindvig, Council Secretary.



#### **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The 2025 Elevator Installation and Education Wing Renovation Project is under way. A Folder with Information on Project Progress is available for review at the reception desk. If you have questions regarding the schedule, please Contact:

Bill Glen – email – [bill.glen@gmail.com](mailto:bill.glen@gmail.com) or Text (703) 244-9797 or

Evan Lewis – email – [evan@flcwilliston.com](mailto:evan@flcwilliston.com)





**2025**

**Friday, August 1**

**Saturday, August 2**

**Sunday, August 3**

9:30 am Worship Service-S

10:30 am Coffee Hour-FH

**Monday, August 4**

8:00 am Pastors/Lay

Preachers text study

1-3 pm Quilting for adults resumes - FH

7 pm Property Committee - P

**Tuesday August 5**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

Gramma Sharon's

5 pm Executive Committee - P

6 pm Personnel Committee - P

**Wednesday, August 6**

1:30 pm Construction Meeting P

**Thursday, August 7**

10:00 Coffee Group - P

1:30 pm Pray, Knit, Chat - P

**Friday, August 8**

**Saturday, August 9**

**Sunday, August 10**

9:30 am Worship Service-S

10:30 am Coffee Hour-FH

**Monday, August 11**

8:00 am Pastors/Lay

Preachers text study

1-3 pm Quilting for adults - FH

6 pm Youth Ministries Committee - P

**Tuesday, August 12**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

Gramma Sharon's

6 PM Church Council - P

**Wednesday, August 13**

1 pm Golden Estates

1:30 Construction Meeting P

**Thursday, August 14**

10 am Coffee Group - P

1:30 Pray, Knit, Chat - P

**Friday, August 15**

**Saturday, August 16**

**Sunday, August 17**

9:30 am Worship Service - S

10:30 am Coffee Hour-FH

**Monday, August 18**

8:00 am Pastors/Lay

Preachers text study

**Tuesday, August 19**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

Gramma Sharon's

**Wednesday, 20**

1:30 Construction Meeting P

**Thursday, August 21**

10:00 Coffee Group - P

11:00 am Finance Committee - P

12 noon Trust Committee - P

1:30 pm Pray, Knit, Chat - P

**Friday, August 22**

**Saturday, August 23**

**Sunday, August 24**

9:30 am Worship Service-S

**Monday, August 25**

8:00 am Pastors/Lay

Preachers text study

1pm Arbor House

1-3 pm Quilting for adults - FH

**Tuesday August 26**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

Gramma Sharon's

**Wednesday, August 27**

1:30 Construction Meeting P

**Thursday, August 28**

10:30 Coffee Group - P

1:30 pm Pray, Knit, Chat - P

**Friday, August 29**

**Saturday, August 30**

10:00 am Doris Lindvig Funeral - S

**Sunday, August 31**

9:30 am Worship Service-S

**Monday, September 1**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**- LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**



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