



December 1, 2025

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you in this holy season of Advent and Christmas.

As we hear John the Baptist's cry again, "*Prepare the way of the Lord,*" I find myself giving thanks for the ways you have done just that across Northwestern Minnesota this year. You have made space for Christ's love to be known in worship and witness, in generosity and prayer, and in the ordinary yet extraordinary ways you serve your neighbors in Jesus' name.

Advent invites us to prepare not only for a baby born in Bethlehem, but for the presence of Christ who continues to be born among us today. Through your faithfulness and generosity, God's love takes on flesh in real and tangible ways: in meals shared, prayers spoken, baptisms celebrated, and communities strengthened. Together, we are living signs of Emmanuel, God with us.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we also be renewed in the joy of giving. Every act of generosity, every offering of time, prayer, and resources, is part of how we prepare the way for what God is still doing among us. I am deeply grateful to serve alongside you in this season of hope, love, and light.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership. Together, we trust that God is at work through us all. It is GREAT to be church together, AMEN!

With deep gratitude and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebel Hurd".

Rev. Rebel Hurd  
Associate to the Bishop for Mission/Director for Evangelical Mission  
Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA 218.299.4447 or [rebelhurd@cord.edu](mailto:rebelhurd@cord.edu)



# TREASURER 101

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A PRACTICAL SESSION DESIGNED TO SUPPORT CHURCH TREASURERS IN CONGREGATIONS OF EVERY SIZE. WHETHER YOU ARE BRAND NEW TO THE ROLE OR HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS, THIS CONVERSATION WILL OFFER CLARITY, CONFIDENCE, AND COMMUNITY.**

**THE EVENT IS FREE, BUT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO HELP US PLAN WELL AND PROVIDE MATERIALS IN ADVANCE. REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2026.**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2026  
MONDAY 6-7 PM**

REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.NWMNSYNOD.ORG/EVENTS/TREASURER-101](https://www.nwmn synod.org/events/treasurer-101)

**YOUR GUIDES FOR THIS EVENT:**



DORI CARLSON  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY AT OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH, PARK RIVER, ND



PAUL HAARSTICK  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AT FIRST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, DETROIT LAKES, MN

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- **HIGH-LEVEL BEST PRACTICES FOR TREASURER WORK**
  - **HOW TO INTERPRET FINANCIAL DATA**
  - **HOW TO CLEARLY COMMUNICATE REPORTS TO YOUR CONGREGATION**