

Neighbors in Christ

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN - GIBBON / ST JOHN'S - BISMARCK TOWNSHIP / FIRST LUTHERAN - WINTHROP

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

<https://www.neighborsinchristmn.org>

Augustana Lutheran

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First Lutheran

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St John's--Bismarck

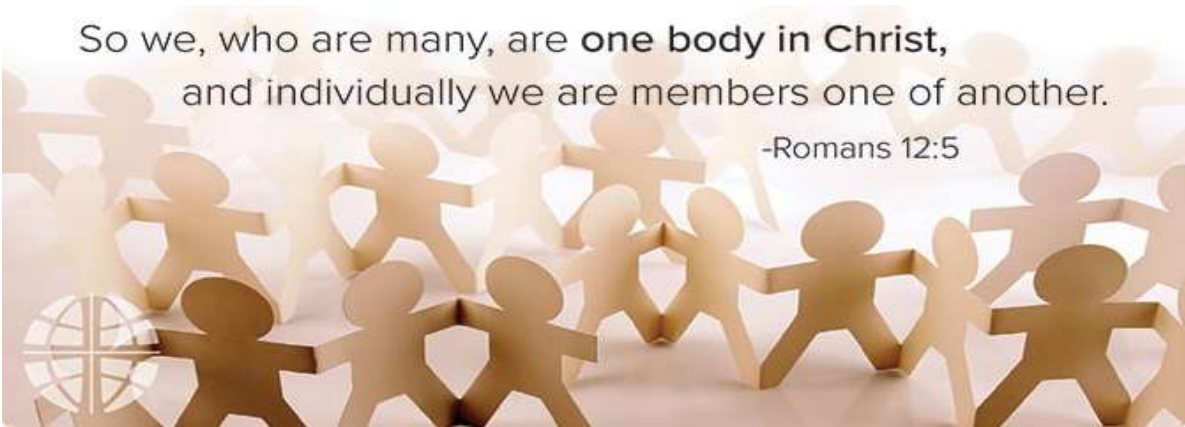
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Mission Statement of Neighbors in Christ

God calls us to mission and ministry in our rural communities and to the world. Gathered in faith and nurtured by Word and Sacrament, we commit ourselves to share a hope for the future, to use our resources and talents guided by the Holy Spirit, and to work together to expand our ministry to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

So we, who are many, are **one body in Christ**,
and individually we are members one of another.

-Romans 12:5



Neighbors in Christ Parish Council

Augustana Lutheran

2025 Lisa Taralseth / Sec
2026 Dan Stark *
2027 Curtis Olson
NIC Treas Carol Forst

First Lutheran

2024 Steve Anderson
2025 Cal Roberts
2026 Lynette Froehlich / VP

St John's Lutheran

2025 Mary TenEyck / Pres
2026 Mike Trebesch*
2027 Steve Klukas

Pastor's Message
Pastor Leonard Hummel

This February, I bring you the message below from Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of our Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through our own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.



We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents. The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2024 Neighbors in Christ Parish Council (term expires)

Augustana Lutheran
Lisa Taralseth (2025) 2nd
Dan Stark* (2026) 1st
Curtis Olson (2027) 1st
_____(2028)

First Lutheran
Cal Roberts (2025) 1st
Lynette Froehlich (2026) 1st
Steve Anderson*(**) (2027)
_____(2028)

St. John's Lutheran
Mary TenEyck (2025) 1st
Mike Trebesch* (2026) 1st
Steve Klukas (2027) 1st
Justin TenEyck (2028) 1st

* = Council representative ** = Filling in until election

Neighbors In Christ Council Minutes

January 8, 2025 @ Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon MN

The meeting was called to order by President Mary T. at 7:30 pm. Members present: Steve A., Lynette F., Steve K., Curtis O., Cal R., Dan S. Lisa T., Mary T., Mike T.; Treasurer Carol Forst and Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel. Members absent: None

Pastor Leonard opened with prayer.

The November 20, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Lynette F. motioned to approve minutes, Steve A. 2nd. Motion approved.

The year end financial report along with the November 20, 2024 "Message to the Members of the Neighbors in Christ Parish" was presented. This same information will appear in the annual report at the upcoming individual church's annual meetings. The bank balance as of 12/31/2024 was \$30,790.71. The transfer of the NIC Youth Group account is complete. A savings account was opened, balance as of 11/27/2024 was \$4,625.45. The year-end workers compensation report has been completed. W2 & 1099 have been submitted to CPA office to be prepared. Steve K. motioned to approve treasurers report, Cal R. 2nd. Motion approved.

Pastor Leonard presented Pastoral report. Highlights: 11/21 Meeting with Call Committee, concluding questionnaire for any available candidates. Attended the Minnesota River Valley Pastor's Conference 12/17 in Glencoe. Meetings with interim pastors and synod staff, led worship and participated in Wednesday night Christian education. Visits with NIC parishioners.

Committee Reports:

Call Committee: Met November 21, 2024, with Pastor Heather Culuris. Completed questionnaire for candidates. Currently, the call committee is in a holding pattern. Pastor Leonard is available to support but will not be involved in call process at the point a possible name(s) come available.

The Worship Committee – Next meeting, Wednesday January 15, 2025. Carol began sending out weekly announcements to the NIC members with an email on file. If you would like to receive the weekly announcements, send your name and email address to: nicparish1@gmail.com

Education - NIC WOW –Christmas program was held Wednesday, December 11th at 7 pm. Sixteen students participated in the program. Average attendance dropped to 12 with the cold and flu season.

NIC Administrative Assistant: The position has been posted for 6 weeks. Overview of the position is published in newsletters and bulletins. Interested individuals should contact Mary T., Lynette F. or Lisa T.

The next NIC Meeting will be on February 19, 2025, at 7:30 pm at Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon, following NIC WOW.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm by Steve K., 2nd by Cal R. Motion approved.
Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa T



AUGUSTANA WELCA MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5th - 1:30 PM

The Augustana Women of the ELCA will hold their February business meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 1 p.m. We'll be discussing menus for Lenten meals, Bold Women's Sunday, Easter rolls before worship, The MN Valley WELCA Spring Gathering and SW MN Women of the ELCA Conference. All are welcome!

thrivent

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM FUNDS – AVAILABLE FOR ALL TO APPLY

Thrivent Action Team Funds are available to members who carry Thrivent investments or insurance policies. Members can apply twice a year for Thrivent Action Team Funds of \$250 (\$500 total per year). These funds can be used to support a benefit for someone in need, for mission projects and projects that help others in many ways.

BUT, you don't have to have a policy with Thrivent to qualify for applying for Action Team funds. You can become an "Associate Member" for \$19.95 a year and you will then be eligible to apply once a year for a Thrivent Action Team project of \$250. There are no strings attached to being an associate member, just benefits you qualify for.

To apply, go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership>. Scroll down to "*How to Become a Member*" and click on "*Apply to Join*".

Along with the \$250 team funds, you may request up to 25 T-shirts for your team. Please only order the amount of T-shirts you know will get used by your team helping with your event. These T-shirts cost Thrivent \$5 each and take money away from other Thrivent projects if the shirts aren't being used.

Who can you help? There are many in need.

AUGUSTANA ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 9TH

The Augustana Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 9th at 11 a.m. (following 10 a.m. worship). Potluck dinner to follow. Do you hear God calling you to serve the needs of our church? We hope so!

Copies of the Annual Report can be picked up at church prior to the Annual Meeting.

QUILTING CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH

All are welcome to join the fun on Fridays from 1 – 4 p.m. at Augustana as we quilt and work on other mission projects. Come and feel God's love for the world!

**Augustana Lutheran
Church**

Spaghetti Dinner



Sunday, February 23rd
Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free Will Donation
Indoor Dining & Take outs
Gluten Free Available!

Sponsored by Augustana Lutheran Church



Neighbors in Christ Parish
730 Cedar Avenue
Gibbon, MN



Spaghetti Dinner – February 23rd

Augustana members – it's time to plan the Augustana annual spaghetti dinner to be held on Sunday, February 23rd. Set-up will be Saturday, February 22nd at 9 a.m. All members are asked to help. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Please sign-up by February 9th. A planning committee is also needed. You may also volunteer by e-mailing the office: augustana.secretary@gmail.com.

The Minnesota Valley Conference Annual Assembly will be held Sunday, February 16th at Scandian Grove Lutheran Church, Norseland. Join in to provide an opportunity for NIC to learn more about the vision for ministry along with our neighboring congregations. Registration is at 12:30 pm with soup and sandwiches served. The assembly will begin at 1:00 pm.

NIC Parish Administrative Assistant

Our dynamic and welcoming NIC Parish community is seeking a skilled and compassionate individual to fill the role of NIC Parish Administrative Assistant. This essential position will play a central role in supporting the pastor by managing bulletins, newsletters, and overseeing general communication channels to foster a connected and informed congregation.

Please contact Mary TenEyck, Lynette Froehlich or Lisa Taralseth to apply and for more information.

NIC WOW Schedule

- Feb 5 ALC serves
- Feb 12 SJB serves
- Feb 19 FLC serves
- Feb 26 ALC serves
- Mar 5 Lent Service at SJB

Council Meetings Dates	Annual Meeting Dates
February 3 ALC Council Meeting	February 02 FLC 11:00
February 11 SJB Council Meeting	February 09 ALC 11:00
February 18 FLC Council Meeting	
February 19 NIC Council Meeting	

The Augustana Lutheran World Relief quilting season begins on January 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and will meet each Friday through March. The Great News this year is that in addition to serving those in need abroad, the Quilt and Kit Ministry is expanding to reach those in need here in the United States! Please join us in this mission project by contributing your time and talents or giving a monetary donation.

There is always a need for Thrivent Action Team funds to purchase kit supplies plus white cotton bedsheets for rolled bandages.

In 2024 LWR quilters were able to send 44 quilts, 41 personal care kits, 40 school kits and 25 fabric kits to those experiencing hardships. Thank you for caring.

2025 FEBRUARY

Neighbors in Christ

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

<https://neighborsinchriststlm.com/events>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02 8:30 Worship - SJB 9:00 Fellowship - FLC 10:00 Worship - FLC FLC - Annual Mtg	03 ALC - 7pm Council Mtg	04 ALC WELCA Mtg 1:30 pm NIC WOW 6-7:30 / ALC	05 ALC WELCA Mtg 1:30 pm NIC WOW 6-7:30 / ALC	06 Quitting @ ALC 1pm	07 Quitting @ ALC 1pm	08
09 8:30 Worship - SJB 10:00 Worship - ALC ALC - Annual Mtg	10 SJB - 7pm Council Mtg	11 SJB - 7pm Council Mtg	12 NIC WOW 6-7:30 / ALC	13 Quitting @ ALC 1pm Valentine's Day!	14 Quitting @ ALC 1pm	15
16 8:30 Worship - ALC 9:00 Fellowship - FLC 10:00 Worship - FLC	17 President's Day	18 FLC - 7pm Council Mtg	19 NIC WOW 6-7:30 / ALC NIC Council Mtg 7:30 ALC	20 Quitting @ ALC 1pm Newsletter deadline	21 Quitting @ ALC 1pm	22
23 9:30 Joint Worship - ALC	24 Pastor Leonard -	25 NIC WOW 6-7:30 / ALC	26 NIC WOW 6-7:30 / ALC	27 Quitting @ ALC 1pm	28 Quitting @ ALC 1pm	01
02 Spaghetti Dinner - ALC	03	04	05			08



Augustana Lutheran

Don Bentz President
 Dan Stark * VP
 Jesse Taralseth Secretary
 Noreen Beranek Treasurer
 Randy Olson
 Kevin Dreier
 Larry Neville

First Lutheran

Cal Roberts * President
 Lynette Froehlich * VP
 Patti Edlund Secretary
 Carolyn Johnson Treasurer
 Deb Burgstahler
 Rodney Fischer
 Roger Jones
 Steve Anderson

St John's - Bismarck

Bruce Pagel President
 Mindi Pagel Secretary
 Peter Hahn Treasurer
 Mike Trebesch * Deacon
 Max Pagel Deacon
 Doug TenEyck Trustee
 Brian Fredin Trustee

Prayer List of

Neighbors & Friends

Barbara Johnson Comptroller

Neighbors in Christ

Worship Schedule

Orville Alsleben, Ila Anderson, Steve Saxton, Dale & Pat Ericson, Wyatt Fischer (grandson of Don & Sue Bentz), Alex Braulick, Kevin Bjerke, Dean Dilger, Reiden Cichoski (grandson of Kim & Steve Neuman), Mark Campbell, Barb O'Brien, Felesha Dreimeier, Jerome Sabo, Lynell Van Asperen (sister of Carol Forst), Alicia Rathmann (daughter of Doug & Mary TenEyck), Tony Kachelmeier (husband of Paula Kachelmeier), Lynn Ahlbrecht (husband of St. John's organist, Loretta Ahlbrecht), Charlotte Pagel (daughter of Micah Pagel; granddaughter of Bruce & Jean Pagel), Jennifer Hart (sister of Jean Pagel), Lisa Trebesch, Arlys Schiltz

Feb 2025	S	2	SJ	FL
	S	9	SJ	AL
	S	16	AL	FL
	S	23	9:30am - AL Dinner	

Mar 2025	S	2	SJ	FL
	W	5	7pm - Ash Wed - SJ	
	S	9	SJ	AL
	W	12	7pm - Lent - SJ	
	S	16	AL	FL
	W	19	7pm - Lent - FL	
	S	23	9:30 - Joint Worship - AL	
	W	26	7pm - Lent - FL	
	S	30	9:30 - Joint Worship - SJ	

February Birthdays

2 2	Marjorie Lindstrand	2 18	Moriah Mueller
2 2	Stacy Johnson	2 18	Greg Johnson
2 3	Kari Fritz	2 18	Ann Seeboth
2 4	Mindi Pagel	2 20	Grant Burgstahler
2 9	Ben Beranek	2 21	Aaron Humphrey
2 10	Bradley Wersal	2 22	Steve Saxton
2 10	Dianne Gehrke	2 23	Sandra Ulrich
2 12	Jordon Halstead	2 24	Mary Roberts
2 15	Nate TenEyck	2 24	Brooke Neuman
2 15	Jim Berger	2 25	Gregory Woods
2 16	Emily Zins	2 26	Lincoln McCue
2 16	Kristin McCue	2 27	James Sallstrom
2 16	Noah Bue	2 27	Roxann Sabo
2 17	James Evenson		



Happy Anniversary