Neighbors in Christ

Augustana Lutheran - Gibbon / St John’s - Bismarck Township / First Lutheran - Winthrop

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

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[https://www.neighborsinchristmn.org](https://www.neighborsinchristmn.org/)

A cross with leaves around it

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COME TO WORSHIP

ST JOHN’S LUTHERAN

MARCH 5TH – 7 PM

A purple brush stroke with a white cross

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Augustana Lutheran

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| Neighbors in Christ Parish Council | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Augustana Lutheran | |  | First Lutheran | |  | St John's Lutheran | |
| 2026 | Dan Stark \* |  | 2026 | Lynette Froehlich |  | 2026 | Mike Trebesch \* |
| 2027 | Curtis Olson |  | 2027 | Steve Anderson \* |  | 2027 | Steve Klukas |
| 2028 | Bonnie Hartmann |  | 2028 | Cal Roberts |  | 2028 | Justin TenEyck |
| NIC Treas | Carol Forst |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Volume 10, Issue 3**

*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.*

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St John’s—Bismarck

First Lutheran

**March 2025**

March 2025

Pastor’s Message

Pastor Leonard Hummel

“Consolation for Suffering: Good News in Scripture and Luther’s Theology”

In our Lenten Series, I look forward to bringing you Good News that may be found in Scripture and in Luther’s thoughts about how Christians may find consolation when they suffer.

My reflections will refer to earlier reflections of mine in a book I published. Clothed in Nothingness: Consolation for Suffering. **‎**Augsburg Fortress Publishers (January 5, 2003).

I am copying below the internet link to the book itself—as well as copying below a short description of what I shared in it:

[Clothed in Nothingness: Consolation for Suffering | Augsburg Fortress](https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9780800634551/Clothed-in-Nothingness)

 Where is God when one suffers? How may one be consoled? How do people understand their religious beliefs in relation to suffering? When they encounter genuine travail, do their religious convictions come into play? How are they modified or asserted?

Leonard Hummel takes three of the most important insights of the Reformation – the doctrine of justification, the theology of the Cross, and the priesthood of believers – and shows how they have been reappropriated by Christians in consolation as formulated in the early Lutheran tradition and as practiced by contemporary Lutherans. He describes the "religious coping" of six believers who have suffered personal or social ills and how their capacity to cope was enhanced or affected by their belief."

 I look forward to being with you in this coming Season of Reflection,

Pastor Leonard

**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.

Neighbors in Christ Council Minutes

February 19, 2025 @ Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon, MN

No Officers present. The meeting was called to order by Cal Roberts at 7:30 pm.

Members present: Steve A., Cal R., Steve K., Mike T., Dan S., Bonnie H., Treasurer Carol Forst and Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel.

Members absent: Curtis O., Lynette F., Justin T.

Pastor Leonard opened with prayer.

The January 8, 2025 minutes were reviewed. Steve K. motioned to approve minutes, Mike T. 2nd, motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report: The bank balance as of 2/19/2025 was $42,034.94. This includes the NIC Youth Savings Account of $4,626.78 and NIC Checking Account $37,408.16. Total Expenses of $10,682.55 from 1/1/2025-2/19/2025 are Administrative, Education, Insurance, Portico, 2 Pulpit Supply and Salary. Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by Mike T., 2nd by Steve K., motion approved.

Pastor’s Report: Led Worship at NIC Congregations. Visited NIC Parishioners. Participated in WOW activities. Visited Residents at The Lodge in Winthrop. Organized a meeting for Feb. 26 with Pastor Bob Minner and Pastor Bruce Bringle to discuss ministries at our three congregations-now and for the future.

Other Discussion: NIC council discussed who our churches should contact when Pastor Leonard is on vacation or leave due to some miscommunication this past month. It was suggested that Pastor Leonard should contact the NIC Chairman and each of the NIC Church council presidents on whom to contact when he is gone. Pastor said he could do that.

First Lutheran has 9 council members, with a 2–3-year term, but are thinking of going to 7-member council and changing the term limits to as long as that person feels the call to be on council. Augustana had 7 council members but are down to 6 members this year. (2025) St. John’s has 7 council members.

NIC Administrative Assistant: So far no one has come forward to take this job. We will ask Mary T. and Lynette F. to reach out to Fields of Grace and Peace Lutheran to see if there is any interest for the position in those congregations.

Worship: During the Lent season the Feast of Victory song will be replaced with the Gloria song. Lent Worship services schedule is Ash Wednesday, March 5, and March 12th is at St. John’s, March 19 & 26th is at First Lutheran, April 2 & 9th is at Augustana.

Media: Amy S., Carol F., and Lisa T. are meeting with Pastor Karl from St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Moltke Township to show them what they are doing with their media/video/website outreach.

The next NIC meeting will be on March 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm, First Lutheran, Winthrop.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm by Steve K., 2nd by Mike T., motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Bonnie Hartmann

**MN Valley Conference Assembly Meeting Notes**

**Sunday, February 16, 2025**

**Scandian Grove Lutheran**

Scandian Grove hosted the February 16th meeting, beginning with a wonderful meal. Attending from NIC Parish was Sue Bentz.

Pastor Matthew Garavalia, Conference Dean, welcomed everyone.

Byron Norell, chairman, called the Assembly to order. Robert’s Rules of Order and the Agenda were adopted.

Rory Rohloff presented the minutes which were approved.

Joyce Plamann presented the treasurer’s report with a bank balance of $26,733.24, of which $20,155.96 is designated for the Vryheid Circuit partnership. Only 7 of the 23 churches in our conference have paid their conference dues of $.25 per member. Eleven of the 23 churches contributed to the African partnership. Dues paid for 2024 were $542 and for 2025 are $201.75. Motion to approve report was carried.

Pastor Garavalia gave a Dean’s report.

Elections were held with a motion for a unanimous ballot as follows:

* Conference Dean (2 years) Erik Karlson
* Synod Nominating Committee (3 years) Amy Karlson
* Synod LYO (Youth Org.) Board (2 years) Carly Ballman
* Treasurer (2025) Carla Klawitter
* Secretary (1 year left in term) Rory Rohloff

Maria Lokensgard gave a Synod report. There are 40 open pastoral positions in our Synod. Fifteen lay minister positions are in place.

The Synod Assembly is June 6 -7. “Joy” is the theme. Early registration is due March 31st at a cost of $155 per person. It will be held at the Jackson Center Alumni Hall at Gustavus.

Rev. Amy Karlson invited women to attend a women’s retreat at First Lutheran in Hector on May 17th. Deb Hadley will be speaking on her journey through grief and sharing God’s love and guidance.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

**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!**

A logo for lenten day

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**Council Meetings Dates**

March 3 ALC Council Meeting

March 11 SJB Council Meeting

March 18 FLC Council Meeting

March 19 NIC Council Meeting

**NIC WOW Schedule**

Feb 26 – FLC serves at ALC

Mar 5 & 12 – Lent at SJB – No WOW Meals

Mar 19 – Lent at FLC – No WOW Meals

Mar 26 – Spring Break – NO WOW

**Lenten Schedule**

Wednesdays at 7 pm

March 5 Ash Wednesday - SJB

March 12 Lenten Worship – SJB

March 19 Lenten Worship – FLC

March 26 Lenten Worship – FLC

April 2 Lenten Worship – ALC

April 9 Lenten Worship – ALC

A calendar with gnomes and words

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# 2025 Council Members

# NIC Representative \*

St John’s – Bismarck

Bruce Pagel         President

Mindi Pagel          Secretary

Peter Hahn      Treasurer

Mike Trebesch \* Deacon

Nate Pagel            Deacon

Doug TenEyck     Trustee

Brian Fredin        Trustee

Augustana Lutheran

Don Bentz President

Dan Stark \* VP

Jesse Taralseth Secretary

Otto Hartmann

Randy Olson

Larry Neville

First Lutheran

Cal Roberts \* President

Lynette Froehlich \* VP

Patti Edlund Secretary

Carolyn Johnson Treasurer

Deb Burgstahler

Rodney Fischer

Roger Jones

Steve Anderson

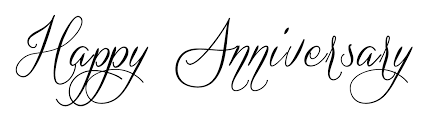
Barbara Johnson Comptroller

*Neighbors in Christ*

*Worship Schedule*

Prayer List of

Neighbors & Friends



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | 12 | 1977 | 48 | Paula & Tony Kachelmeier |
| 3 | 25 | 1972 | 53 | Les & Diane Pettis |
| 3 | 27 | 1976 | 49 | Mark & Kathy Campbell |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Ryan Turtle |
| 2 | Charles Eckstrand |
| 3 | Bernice Minihoefer |
| 3 | Kaylee Neville |
| 4 | Jeff Meyer |
| 4 | Madeline Regner |
| 7 | Luke Holmquist |
| 8 | Marlene Woods |
| 8 | Paula Kachelmeier |
| 9 | Gary Schimelpfenning |
| 9 | Olivia Zins |
| 12 | John Johnson |
| 12 | Paul Loftness |
| 12 | Richard Isakson |

**Orville Alsleben, Ila Anderson, Steve Saxton,  Christy Johnson, 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, Arlys Schiltz, Jerome Sabo, Lynell Van Asperen** (sister of Carol Forst), **Lisa Trebesch, 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), **the families of Erma Turtle and Mary Lou Otto**

A cupcake with a candle and a cherry on top

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | Emily Heimkes |
| 17 | Mark Weber |
| 20 | Harlen Gehrke |
| 22 | Sydney Schmidt |
| 24 | Elaine Kent |
| 24 | Sheila Halstead |
| 26 | Debbie Burgstahler |
| 27 | Evan Olson |
| 27 | Noreen Beranek |
| 27 | Robert Sievert |
| 27 | Kollin Lange |
| 28 | Patrick Bentz |

A table with a number of days and dates

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March Birthdays