

# Neighbors in Christ

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

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

<https://www.neighborsinchristmn.org>

## Augustana Lutheran

730 Cedar, PO Box 116 Gibbon, MN 55335

507-834-6108

E-mail--Sue Bentz [augustana.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:augustana.secretary@gmail.com)

## First Lutheran

213 North Hennepin Street, PO Box 598, Winthrop, MN 55396

507-647-5750

E-mail--Barbara Johnson [first@mnval.net](mailto:first@mnval.net)

## St John's--Bismarck

24481 561<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Winthrop, MN 55396

28662 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Winthrop, MN 55396 (mailing address)

320-583-3788

E-mail--Amy TenEyck [sjbismarcksecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sjbismarcksecretary@gmail.com)

### *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.*



### Neighbors in Christ Parish Council

#### Augustana Lutheran

2026 Dan Stark \*  
2027 Curtis Olson  
2028 Bonnie Hartmann  
NIC Treas Carol Forst

#### First Lutheran

2026 Lynette Froehlich  
2027 Steve Anderson \*  
2028 Cal Roberts

#### St John's Lutheran

2026 Mike Trebesch \*  
2027 Steve Klukas  
2028 Justin TenEyck

## Pastor's Message, June 2025

Dear Members of Neighbors in Christ Parish,

Grace and peace to you.

At the meeting of our Neighbors in Christ Council at the end of May, the council members and I discussed new forms of ministry that many congregations in our Synod—and also many congregations throughout our national church (the ELCA)—have adopted to carry out their mission to preach the Word of God and to administer the Sacraments.

One newly developed and expanding form of this ministry is called: Synod-Authorized Ministry (or SAM).

Here is a short description of the ministry of Synod Authorized Ministers (or SAMs) from a recent publication by the ELCA:

Most synod-authorized ministers preach, preside, offer pastoral care, teach and lead in ways that ministers of Word and Sacrament [ordained Pastors] would otherwise. Patterns of formation for synod-authorized ministers differ widely, though most of these ministers complete a series of retreats, intensive courses and/or online course offerings, combined with significant mentoring. The increased use of synod-authorized ministers in the ELCA is one of the key indicators that a new, nonprofessionalized model of ministry is emerging alongside the more conventional model of rostered ministry [ordained Pastors].

<https://resources.elca.org/congregations-and-synod-data/synod-authorized-ministers-in-the-elca-2024/>

I believe that the NIC Council and I had a straightforward and helpful conversation about the pros and cons of incorporating Synod Authorized Ministry throughout the ministries of the ELCA and the pros and cons of adopting this ministry for our congregations: Augustana Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church, and Saint John-Bismarck Lutheran Church.

In our discussion, I emphasized the “pros” this new form of ministry as I also tried to be mindful of the “cons”—the difficulties that may accompany adjusting to any form of ministry that differs from what all of us have experienced throughout our lives.

Accordingly, I also believe that, in both the near and not-so-near future, the members of the congregations of Neighbors in Christ will be called on to prayerfully consider the adoption of ministries such as of Synodic Authorized Ministry for the ministries of each of your congregations.

My prayers for you, Members of Neighbors in Christ, as you prayerfully consider how you will carry on the ministries of your congregations.

As your pastor, I will serve you as you prayerfully consider how you will carry on the ministries of your congregations.

Pastor Leonard Hummel

## NIC WOW 2024-2025



Christian education was held Wednesday evenings beginning with supper at 6pm, followed by class and activities. Classes were scheduled for 30 weeks, including the Christmas Program. We have 16 children ages 3 to 13. A total of 19 different children participated. What a blessing to have students bring a friend. There were two weather-related cancellations. Attendance statistics: September to Christmas average 15 students/week; September to Lent average 14 students/week; September to May average 11 students/week. Lent through May 7 students/week.

Students were divided into 3 classrooms: Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> Grade; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades. With one 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Confirmation instruction would begin in the 2025-26 year with 2 or 3 students.

It was a fun filled year. Thank you to the kitchen crew for organizing, cooking, baking, serving and cleaning up. Thank you to all who donated Thrivent cards, food, and cash. Meals could and would not happen without your generous gifts (monetary and your time). Thank you to the students and families for coming. Thank you to those who helped with teaching. And last and certainly not least, a **BIG** thank you to Catherine Schiro, Education Coordinator, for all your hard work!





# Camp Omega Traveling Day Camp

ST. PETER'S GIBBON, MN

JUNE  
16-20

Camp Omega and our VBS staff will share the Gospel message of Christ through skits, games, songs, and Bible Studies!

Campers going into grades 1-6

Mon-Thurs 9:00am- 3:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12pm

Must fill out registration form.

Morning snack will be provided,

but campers are responsible for bringing their own lunch.

Campers will need to be signed out when picked up.

Preschool and Kindergarten

Preschool is 3 years and older and potty trained

Mon-Thurs 9:00am-11am

Friday 9:00am-12pm

Must fill out registration form.

Morning snack will be provided

Campers will need to be signed out when picked up.

Sponsored by



**ST. PETER'S  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
GIBBON, MINNESOTA

63924 240th St.  
Gibbon, MN 55335



SCAN ME

To register, go online:  
[www.splcgibbon.org/register](http://www.splcgibbon.org/register)  
OR Scan the QR code

## NIC Council Update

At the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting it was voted to forgive the pastoral assessments for June & July.

Officers were realigned:

Next meeting – July 23, 2025 at ALC

President     Cal Roberts  
VP             Justin TenEyck  
Secretary     Curtis Olson

Full minutes will be appear in the July newsletter

## Congratulations Graduates!

On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we honored our GFW High School graduates, Ethan Stark and Desirae Schmidt, with fellowship following worship at Augustana.

Ethan is the son of Dan and Ann Stark of Gibbon. Ethan was involved in FFA and Trap Shooting in high school. He has also completed his first year at South Central College in Mankato and will finish up his degree in HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) this next school year. He also plans to get his boiler license through South Central.

**Ethan** does a great job at Augustana keeping our lawns mowed and maintained. He is also on our NIC Call Committee. We appreciate his willingness to help when asked.

In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, trap and skeet shooting.

**Desirae** is the daughter of Benjamin and LaNae Schmidt. Desirae will be attending Gustavus Adolphus this fall majoring in Elementary Education.

Desirae is the current Miss Winthrop. She was involved in theatre, choir music, knowledge bowl, D & D Club and Art Club in high school. We have enjoyed her many roles over the years in the GFW and community musical productions. She is in training to be on the Winthrop Ambulance team as an EMT.

We thank both Ethan and Desirae for being part of our communities and wish them well in all their future endeavors.



## Clear Lake Midsummer Worship

Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m.



The annual Clear Lake Lutheran Church Mid-Summer worship service will be held on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. A potluck dinner will follow worship at Augustana Lutheran in Gibbon.

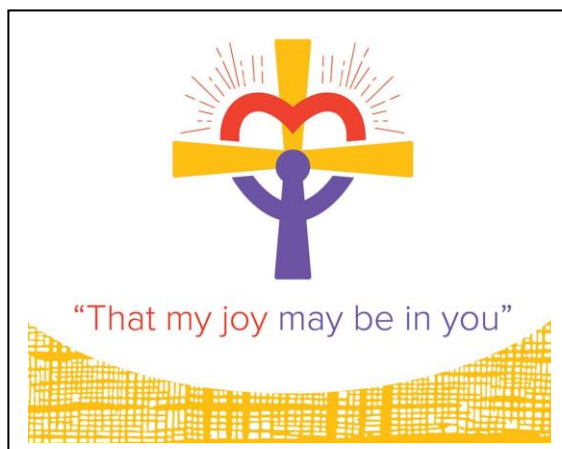
Clear Lake Lutheran Church, rural Gibbon, was established on October 30, 1871 with the church being built in 1890. Clear Lake Lutheran held its final service on October 30, 1988. An annual summer worship service, organized by Augustana Lutheran, has been held the last Sunday in June at Clear Lake since it closed.

**Cleaning at Clear Lake will take place on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.** Many hands make for a quick and a rewarding morning.

**2025 SW Synod Assembly Conference** will be held June 6 & 7, 2025. Onsite location: Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter Online: Zoom

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be once again be hybrid and tentatively begin around 1 pm on Friday, June 6 and tentatively end around 5 pm on Saturday, June 7.

<https://swmnelca.org/synod-assembly/> Please refer to the website for additional information and registration.



### Council Meetings Dates

June	2	ALC Council Meeting
June	10	SJB Council Meeting
June	17	FLC Council Meeting
July	23	NIC Council Meeting

### NIC Parish Administrative Assistant

Please reach out to Carol Forst at 507.276.2477 or [nicparish1@gmail.com](mailto:nicparish1@gmail.com) for announcements or parish information.

### Rural Ministries Invitation

Jacob Sjostrom, Fields of Grace President, has set up a 'gathering' to discuss possible Rural Ministries options for our area churches. I know that FOG, and NIC may have an interest in such a 'coop' down the road. We have also invited Pastor Minor at Peace in Winthrop, and Pastor Richards for his two Gaylord church's.

This would be an Open Conversation about possibilities of working together to cover some things like: Sharing of pastors, saving some money, be more vital, and a little more secure in our congregations'/parish's futures.

We do have some Reference material from a couple other parishes that have done this. If you have more reference material, feel free to bring it also.

Please know you are invited, as are members of your council/congregations. It is **Sunday , June 1 at 7 pm**...at First Lutheran church in Lafayette.

Jim Bartels

FOG council



## Neighbors in Christ

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

<https://neighborsinchristmn.org/events>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 8:30 Worship - SJB 9:00 Fellowship - FLC	02 ALC Council Mtg 7 PM	03	04	05	06	07
08 10:00 Worship - FLC	09	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 8:30 Worship - SJB 10:00 Worship - ALC	16	17 SJB Council Mtg 7 PM	18	19 Juneteenth Day	20	21
FATHER'S DAY 8:30 Worship - ALC 10:00 Worship - FLC	22	23 FLC Council Mtg 7 PM	24	25	26	27
29 9:30 Joint Worship-FLC	30	01	02	03	04 Newsletter deadline	05 9:00 Cleaning at Clear Lake Church
06 9:30 Clear Lake Joint Worship Potluck follows @ ALC	07	08	09	10	11 Independence Day	12
Pastor Leonard - Vacation						





## 2025 Council Members

<u>Augustana Lutheran</u>	
Don Bentz	President
Dan Stark *	VP
Jesse Taralseth	Secretary
Otto Hartmann	
Randy Olson	
Larry Neville	
Barb Couelle	Treasurer

<u>First Lutheran</u>	
Cal Roberts *	President
Lynette Froehlich *	VP / Treas
Patti Edlund	Secretary
Deb Burgstahler	
Roger Jones	
Steve Anderson	
Barbara Johnson	Comptroller

<u>St John's – Bismarck</u>	
Bruce Pagel	President
Mindi Pagel	Secretary
Peter Hahn	Treasurer
Mike Trebesch *	Deacon
Nate Pagel	Deacon
Doug TenEyck	Trustee
Brian Fredin	Trustee

### Prayer List of

### Neighbors & Friends

**Orville Alsleben, Ila Anderson, Steve Saxton, Christy Johnson, Tom Rabe, Dale & Pat Ericson, Wyatt Fischer** (grandson of Don & Sue Bentz), **Dean Dilger, Reiden Cichoski** (grandson of Kim & Steve Neuman), **Mark Campbell, Barb O'Brien, Felesha Dreimeier, John Johnson, Arlys Schiltz, Jerome Sabo, Dean Schreiner, 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) **Family of Katie Rehbein**

### *Neighbors in Christ*

### *Worship Schedule*

Jun 2025	S	1	SJ	FL
	S	8	SJ	AL
	S	15	AL	FL
	S	22	9:30 - Joint Worship - FL	
	S	29	9:30 - Clear Lake Worship - AL	

*June Birthdays*



2 Wendi Wright  
5 Larissa Halstead  
5 Delayne Pagel  
6 Rachel Holmquist  
7 Jean Pagel  
8 Ross Regner  
8 Amanda Beranek  
9 Alexander Johnson  
9 Brian Fredin  
11 Pat Ericson

16 Peggy Jones  
17 Abbie Ahlbrecht-Bue  
17 McKray Schmidt  
17 Micah Pagel  
18 Amber Neville  
18 Evalynn Johnson  
20 Benjamin Wersal  
24 Kinley Pagel  
27 Mary Humphrey  
29 Brian Magnusson  
30 Kendra Pogose

*Happy Anniversary*

June	3	1977	Doug & Mary TenEyck	48
June	10	2000	Chad & Audra Forst	25
June	11	1977	Bob & Terri Sievert	48
June	12	1982	Rick & Jane Klement	43
June	14	1986	David & Arlys Schiltz	39
June	16	1984	Otto & Bonnie Hartmann	41
June	22	1984	Randy & Linda Olson	41
June	22	2024	Arthur & Nicole Forst	1
June	30	1956	Duane & Melva Eckberg	69
June	30	1973	Thomas & Bonnie Rabe	52