

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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320-583-3788

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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.



Friday July 11th

ALC Pie Social at the Gibbon City Park with the Gibbon Band of Renown entertainment.

Sunday, July 20th – Worship Change

FLC at 8:30 / ALC at 10:00

Gibbon City Park – Gibbon Fun Fest

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

July 2025

Volume 10, Issue 7

July Pastor's Message

Dear Members of Neighbors in Christ,

For my message to you this month, I am sending you the weblink to and the text of a message from our Bishop, Dee Pederson.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Leonard

<https://swmnelca.org/2025/06/19/a-message-from-bp-dee-pederson-we-lament/>

June 17, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ –

When tragedy strikes, those affected often lament, “We never thought this could happen here.” Last weekend Minnesota and the nation received the shocking news of the assassination of Minnesota State Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark; and the shooting of State Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette. And we have echoed that question: “How could this heinous crime happen here in Minnesota?”

We cannot imagine the deep grief of the families of the Hortmans. We pray for healing for the Hoffmans. We join our communities in praying for strength for the communities of Brooklyn Park and Champlin where both families were known as neighbors and friends. We pray for comfort for the colleagues and friends of both legislators, who knew their hard work, dedication, and kindness.

On Sunday morning, fears were suddenly known by those in Sibley County, part of our Southwestern Minnesota Synod, as phone alerts went off during worship, law enforcement began house-by-house searches, and we learned that the alleged assassin was possibly headed this direction, to one of his known addresses. I want to praise the pastors in our synod who looked out for their people so that they might be safe as this nightmare unfolded. When Vance Boelter was finally apprehended on Sunday evening, we all lifted up a prayer of relief.

Today, Tuesday, news outlets began to carry more information about the assassination suspect, Vance Boelter. For those of us in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, grief was suddenly amplified as we learned that the individual who planned and carried out this nightmare was raised in a Lutheran congregation in our area. His own social media posts, along with interviews from neighbors and friends reveal more about how this person joined a radical religious movement. It has been called a “Christian” movement, but I refuse to label it as such. Those who follow the way of Jesus Christ do not enact crimes of political violence. We as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America denounce and stand against violence like this and raise our voices for the sake of our communities and our nation.

I recognize that you will be receiving this letter on Juneteenth, the day word finally reached the last group of enslaved people that they were free. This federal holiday is recognized in our synod guidelines and is celebrated as a day of independence and freedom.

I write this on June 17th, the day when our church observes a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine. On this day 10 years ago, a man who had grown up in an ELCA congregation and was lovingly welcomed into a Wednesday-night Bible Study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, murdered nine people in a race-based attack. Two of those martyred by this white supremacist were pastors trained at our own Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. We cannot forget how fear and hatred led to this tragedy we lament today.

Now here, in Minnesota, we grieve that a faithful public servant and her husband have been murdered by someone who spent his early years in a Lutheran congregation but then chose to follow a path of religious extremism and political violence.

How can this be? And what can we do?

Dear friends in Christ, there is much we can do. We can:

- **Confess.** Our liturgy makes it plain:

"We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.... We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves." As a human being who is part of Christ's church today, I must confess the sin that is part of who I am and of life in this world. How can someone enact heinous crimes against other human beings created in the image of God? I cannot understand it. But I must confess the ways that my own actions and inactions could lead someone to hold ideologies and political beliefs that could lead to hatred and violence.

- **Learn.** Dig deeper into our own teachings and those of others.

Stories about Vance Boelter and his ideologies include references to spiritual warfare and draw upon the book of Revelation. We teach that this is a book of hope for early Christians who were suffering; it is not a book of hate. Please, dear friends, do faithful Bible study.

Ground ourselves in Lutheran theology. As Lutherans, we are theologians of the cross, who call a thing what it is; we do not call something good that is evil. Political divisiveness, conspiracy rhetoric, and warmongering are eating away at our country, our communities, and our churches. In baptism, we renounce all the forces, powers, and ways of sin that defy God. We are sent to love our neighbors and work for justice and peace in all the earth.

- **Pray.** This week I have returned again and again to the prayer we all pray every week in worship, The Lord's Prayer.

We pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Mentally, delete the commas from those petitions, and notice that we are praying that God's kingdom might come and God's will *might be done on earth* as it is in heaven. And the prayer goes on, "Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil." What a powerful prayer!

Today, we pray for God's peace and comfort for all those impacted by this situation – the families and friends of those who lost their lives, those who were injured, and all of our congregations and communities. We respect their privacy as they begin to heal from this sad event.

- **Stand** with our neighbors in love as we also stand on God's unending grace.

There is so much we cannot understand right now. But dear friends in Christ, St. Paul reminds us: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."* (Galatians 5:22).

Go out into the world in peace:

Have courage.

Hold on to what is good.

Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted,

support the weak,

help the suffering,

and honor all people.

Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Neighbors in Christ Council Minutes
May 21, 2025 at St. John's Lutheran Church

Meeting was called to order by Justin TenEyck at 7:00 pm with the following members present – Lynette F, Cal R, Steve A, Mike T, Justin T, Steve K, Curt O, Bonnie H, Carol Forst, and Pastor Leonard Hummel. Absent – Dan Stark

The agenda was approved as presented with a motion by Steve K and seconded by Lynette F.

Pastor Leonard opened with prayer.

The secretary's report was reviewed and approved by motion Lynette second by Mike.

The Treasurer's report was given by Carol. The account balance as of May 19, 2025 was \$42,229.08. A review of accounts and expenses was discussed. A motion to approve report was made by Cal R. with a second by Bonnie H. he wireless

Pastor Leonard gave his report dealing with WOW, meeting with Winthrop Ministerial Assoc., visitations and devotions at the Lodge in Winthrop, welcome of new members at Augustana, discussion with Lynette and Carol dealing with NIC Pictorial Assistant, meeting with Synod Bishop and staff to discuss "Future Needs for Pastoral Leaders". Meeting on June 1st at First Lutheran Church Lafayette starting at 7:00 pm to discuss these needs.

Christian Education Report dealt with WOW and activities.

Call Committee has been active with another contact for Pastor on Friday May 23rd.

Media Report dealt with the wireless microphone and camera system in place at Augustana.

Formalize the appointment of Carol Forst as assistant to the pastor, a motion was made by Lynette seconded by Bonnie. To assist with her duties a Lap Top

computer was purchased, approval by motion by Mike seconded by Bonnie. A program for anti-virus and other accounting was approved with motion by Lynette second by Steve K.

In a review of accounts it was decided that this year the NIC churches forgiveness will be for June and July with a review for a third month at the July meeting. Motion by Bonnie second by Lynette.

The salary for Carol will be \$5000 and paid out quarterly. Motion by Lynette second by Steve K.

With no president of NIC, Cal Roberts will take on this post if someone will take on the secretary's position. Curt Olson volunteered.

The next meeting date is set for July 23rd at Augustana starting at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn was made by Curt seconded by Steve K., all motions carried.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Leonard

Submitted by Cal Roberts

VACATION

Pastor Leonard will be on vacation from June 30th to July 14th Should pastoral services be required you may contact Pastor Bruce Bringle at Bernadotte Lutheran. 507-381-7301

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Can now be directed to **Neighbors in Christ Parish**
213 N Hennepin St, Winthrop, MN 55396



Our mission is to help with youth education and provide for our three congregations as a whole. Small towns wanting to make an impact and connection with God in our communities

Band Concert in the Park – Friday, July 11th

Augustana Serving

Come and enjoy a night of music by the Gibbon Area Uncommon Band of Renown in the Gibbon City Park. Augustana will be serving BBQ's, hot dogs, chips, pie and root beer floats at the Friday, July 11th concert from 6 – 9 p.m.



Worship Schedule Change for July 20th

Please note the following change to our Neighbors in Christ Calendar for **Sunday, July 20th**. Worship will be held at First Lutheran at 8:30 a.m. with 10:00 a.m. worship in the Gibbon City Park. This will be a community service of scripture and hymn singing, led by Pastor Hummel and Augustana Lutheran.



*Open House Bridal Shower
Honoring*

Taylor Olson & Jenna Grunewald

*Saturday, August 2nd
Augustana Lutheran
10:00 am to 12:00 noon*

Council Meetings Dates

July	7	ALC Council Meeting
July	8	SJB Council Meeting
July	15	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 for announcements or parish information.



5 DAYS OF FUN!

WOOHOO!

FOR AGES 5-12!

NOTE TO PARENTS:

BIBLE LESSONS

MEMORY VERSES

SONGS

WHAT HAPPENS AT A 5-DAY CLUB?

PRIZES

FUN ACTIVITIES

GREAT GAMES

Your child is invited to attend a fun club for boys and girls ages 5 to 12! 5-Day Club® meets for 90 minutes every day for five days. Clubs are sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship®, a Bible-centered ministry serving in over 190 countries around the world. All teachers and helpers have been trained and screened to ensure your child's protection. Parents are welcome to attend.



FREE!

When: July 14-18
6:00-7:30 PM

Where: Winthrop
Covenant Church
107 3rd St W
Winthrop, MN

Contact: Gary Wilkinson
507-995-7471



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
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Sdayclub.com/



2025

Neighbors in Christ

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

<https://neighborsinchristmn.org/events>

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
29	30	01	02	03	04	05					
		Pastor Leonard - vacation									
06 8:30 Worship - SJB 9:00 Fellowship - FLC 10:00 Worship - FLC	07 ALC Council Mtg 7 PM	08 SJB Council Mtg 7 PM	09	10	11 ALC Pie Social Gibbon City Park	12 					
13 8:30 Worship - SJB 9:30 SJB Cemetery Mtg 10:00 Worship - ALC	14 Pastor Leonard - vacation	15 FLC Council Mtg 7 PM	16	17	18	19 GIBBON FUNFEST					
20 GIBBON FUNFEST 8:30 Worship - FLC 10:00 Worship - ALC/Park	21	22	23 NIC Council Mtg 7 PM/ALC	24	25	26					
27	28	29	30 Newsletter deadline	31 Anastasia - GFW Arts 7/31 - 8/03	01 Anastasia - GFW Arts 7/31 - 8/04	02 Open House Bridal Shower - ALC Olson/Grunewald					
03 Anastasia - GFW Arts 7/31 - 8/04	04	05	06	07	08	09					

2025 Council Members

Augustana Lutheran

Don Bentz President
 Dan Stark * VP
 Jesse Taralseth Secretary
 Otto Hartmann
 Randy Olson
 Larry Neville

 Barb Covell Treasurer

First Lutheran

Cal Roberts * President
 Lynette Froehlich * VP / Treas
 Patti Edlund Secretary
 Deb Burgstahler
 Roger Jones
 Steve Anderson

 Barbara Johnson Comptroller

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

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)

Neighbors in Christ

Worship Schedule

Jul 2025	S	6	SJ	FL
	S	13	SJ	AL
	S	20	AL	FL
	S	27	9:30 - Joint Worship - FL	

Worship change – July 20th
 Worship will be at FLC at 8:30 am
 and ALC Worship will be at 10:00 in
 the Gibbon City Park for Fun Fest

July Birthdays

16 Kathy Matray
 17 Kathleen Eckstrand
 17 Loren Evenson
 17 Eric Larson
 18 Diane Pettis
 19 Debbie Trebesch

 1 Brian Beranek
 2 Larry Neville
 3 Steve Seeboth
 3 Todd Sievert
 4 Otto Hartmann
 4 Diane Fredin
 6 Duane Eckberg
 7 Jan Larson
 7 Mavis Klukas
 10 Cindy Rubendall
 12 Michael Crain
 13 Dorothy Johnson
 13 Dan Stark
 14 Bryan Weber



21 Karl Pagel
 21 Cody Schimmelpfennig
 21 Mikayla Neville
 22 Henry Eckerman
 23 Bruce Pagel
 23 Jessica Covell-Schmidtke
 23 Kimberly Neuman
 23 Randy Olson
 24 Pastor Leonard Hummel
 27 Oaklynn Holmquist
 28 Amy Schimmelpfennig
 28 Johanna Forst
 28 Sharon Schiro

Happy Anniversary

	Years
7 3 1998 Brian & Diane Fredin	27
7 10 1971 Greg & Bev Woods	54
7 12 1975 Bruce & Lynette Froehlich	50
7 17 1981 Delayne & Kay Pagel	44
7 19 2013 Jeff & Jessica Meyer	12
7 20 2002 Chris & Amanda Beranek	23