

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

First Lutheran

213 North Hennepin Street, PO Box 598, Winthrop, MN 55396
507-647-5750 or 507-766-4699
E-mail--Cal Roberts first@mnval.net

St John's--Bismarck

24481 561st Avenue, Winthrop, MN 55396
28662 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Winthrop, MN 55396 (mailing address)
320-583-3788
E-mail--Amy TenEyck 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.



Augustana Lutheran Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday, October 4th
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church
Gibbon, MN (730 Cedar)

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

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple^[a] of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

Pastor's Message

Recently, I became aware of an exercise facility in one of our towns that has started up "Poise and Prayer" exercise classes for anyone who wishes to join in for a small fee. Most of those participating are senior women. Respectfully watching them from afar, I thought that they seemed to be having a good time and to be expressing gratitude to God as they were being carefully guided in their workouts.

The point of such mixing of religion and health is to help us become grateful for God's gift of our bodies—and of God's command that we tend to our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, as the Apostle Paul put it.

Some religions have taught that the material world is a bad world, and, consequently that our bodies are bad, even evil things. Consequently, the goal of these religions is to get us out of the world of physical things, including our fragile bodies, into more enduring "spiritual realms" on earth and heaven.

Christianity does not teach this—and for that matter, neither do Judaism or Islam. They all teach that this world of physical things is a good world, and that God made our bodies to be the means for us to do our good works on earth.

We, Christians, give thanks for the physical gift of our bodies (hand, blood, brains and more) to do God's good work on earth in whatever place in life we find ourselves. I address this section of this message to everyone but especially to our very senior members living in their home or in care facilities.

And we give thanks for those who taught us to honor and respect our bodies as gifts from God to do God's good work in whatever vocation to which we are called (any work, whether it pays or not, and to our families) to serve our neighbors.

And we thank God for the knowledge God brings us through all the sciences (including the health sciences that inform exercise programs like Poise and Praise) to find better ways for us to care for the Temple of the Holy Spirit (our bodies) that God has entrusted to each one of us.

Pastor Leonard

Some of my ministry over the years has been in health-care ministry: chaplaincy in hospitals, outpatient settings in cities for sometimes homeless mentally ill persons, and hospice. Throughout it all, I give thanks for the blessings

mental health matters



Library Hosts Programming During Awareness Week
All programs are offered at no charge! October 5-11

Wednesday, October 1 - Free Journal Kits at the Library while supplies last. Ages 12+.

Monday, October 6 - Mental Health Conversations Training with University of Minnesota Extension, 1:30-3:30 pm (Please RSVP)

Tuesday, October 7 - Story Time & Craft "Emotions" 10:15a.m.
All Day - I'm Grateful Activity - showing gratitude is good for our mental health.

Wednesday, October 8 - "Meet & Greet" with Tammy Diehn, Founder and Executive Director, 2B Continued, 1:00 p.m. - Library
All Day - Coloring Sheets will be available for relaxing and lowering stress level.

Thursday, October 9 - Adult Library Scavenger Hunt
Bring a friend and discover what's at the Library! Be social and do an activity together!

Friday, October 10 - Recognizing Early Warning Signs presentation by NAMI - National Association on Mental Illness. 10:30 - noon (Please RSVP)



WINTHROP
CITY LIBRARY

Drop in all week for stickers, printed resources and other materials!

libtsw@tds.lib.mn.us / 507-647-5308 / 305 N. Main

PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Leonard is always available and can be contacted directly at any time by email: leonard.hummel@gmail.com or cell phone: 410-949-0060

Visitations – please contact the following if someone needs visitation:

- (ALC) Bonnie Hartmann 507.766.5474,
- (FLC) Peggy Jones 507.647.5913, Carolyn Johnson 507.217.6088
- (SJB) Mary TenEyck 507.217.1577

NIC Parish Administrative Assistant – please contact Carol Forst at 507.276.2477 or by e-mail at nicparish1@gmail.com for announcements or parish information.

Refer to the NIC Website for more information - <https://neighborsinchristmn.org/>

There is a new **Worship Schedule** for 2025-2026 on the NIC Website; there are also full-page copies and wallet calendars at your home church.

Thrivent cards are a great way to help with our NIC WoW program. If you would like to contribute to this go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams> or contact Carol Forst for details.

MN Valley Women of the ELCA

Saturday, October 11th 12:00 p.m.

Immanuel Church, New Auburn, MN



The theme of this year's Fall Gathering is, "I Am Worthy". Guest speakers will be from "*Safe Avenues*", an organization providing domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy in SW Minnesota.

The day will begin with registration at 11:30 a.m. followed by a meal, program and brief meeting. Registration is due by October 3rd.

WINTHROP AREA MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION (WAMA)

MONTHLY PRAYER LUNCHEONS

Serving the community through prayer and fellowship, WAMA presents the "Monthly Prayer Luncheons" on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month at 12 noon. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken. Upcoming dates are:

- October 8th at Evangelical Covenant Church
- November 12th at Faith United Church
- December 10th at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
- January 14th at Peace Lutheran

VRYHEID CIRCUIT FALL MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

The fall gathering for the Minnesota Valley ELCA Conference partnership with the Vryheid Circuit will be held on Thursday, October 2nd at First Lutheran in St. Peter from 6 - 8 p.m.

NIC & FOG CONVERSATIONS UPDATE

Conversations between Neighbors in Christ (NIC) and Fields of Grace (FOG) Parishes have been ongoing in the past couple months. Swan Lake withdrew from FOG, effective September 1st. Discussions were held with representatives from each church (FOG & NIC) to see if there would be a possibility of sharing pastors between the two parishes. FOG needed an answer by early October in order to revise their contract with their pastor. Following the committee meeting on September 17th, with consensus from those attending meetings from NIC, the letter below was sent to FOG & NIC council members and committee members.

September 22, 2025

Dear Fields of Grace - Friends in Christ,

Thank you for starting conversations with us and others in the area to think about the future of our rural area churches. We all have concerns about the future of our congregations. Sharing ideas and working together is always a benefit for all involved.

There are so many operational and financial details that need to be worked out in forming a shared pastoral faith family. Once those details are worked out within our committees, we need to hold congregational informational meetings, followed by congregational meetings for each congregation to vote for approval - which is required by our individual Constitutions and NIC Joint Parish Agreement. Our FOG and NIC parishes have been through this process and we know it takes time to fine tune all the details. For these reasons, we can't (at this time) meet the deadline that you need for an answer in sharing pastors and working together. We pray you find the answers you need to move forward at this time.

We trust God's Word in Jeremiah 29:11 - *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

We hold you in our hearts and in our prayers.

May God Bless You,

Don Bentz

On behalf of Neighbors in Christ Parish Committee Members

NIC Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Members present: ALL

President Cal Roberts called meeting to order at 7:30

Pastor Leonard led in opening prayer

Motion to approve agenda motion by Steve K seconded by Steve A Motion carried.

Treasurer report was given as of 9-08-2025 Balance was \$16,286.67. The WOW coordinator and other budgeted items were discussed. Motion by Steve K to approve second by Steve A motion passed.

Secretaries report motion made by Justin T, seconded by Mike T motion approved.,

Pastors report was read, He has met with Winthrop ministries, also has started WOW confirmation classes. Pastor Leonard has been asked to Serve on the Synod Lay Ministry Committee more information to follow. Met with NIC parishioners for visits. Will be attending with representatives NIC and FOG meeting on Sept 17th. Met with Pastor Scott Richards on future of ministry in MN River Valley. Motion made to approve by Curtis O second by Dan S motion carried.

Worship committee WOW is up and running about 20 kids the first night. Thrivent cards are useful towards meals. Celebrate inserts are ordered .

Mutual Ministries: continuation education and Pulpit supply were discussed.

Website was discussed will get feedback from Amy S. Motion to adjourn, motion by Steve K seconded by Curtis O motion carried

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting is set for Nov 12th at 7:30 at ALC

submitted by Curtis O

Council Meetings Dates

Oct	6	7:00 p.m.	ALC Council Meeting
Oct	14	7:00 p.m.	SJB Council Meeting
Oct	21	7:00 p.m.	FLC Council Meeting
Nov	12	7:30 p.m.	NIC Council Meeting/ALC

African partnership meets in person and online

The fall gathering for the Minnesota Valley Conference African partnership is 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2 at First Lutheran in St. Peter. All are welcome to attend in person, plus view online for the first time. The gathering starts with a simple meal involving a free will offering.

The purpose is to learn how to best walk together in ministry with the Vryheid Circuit in southern Africa. It is hoped that each conference congregation can send at least one representative/contact to gatherings, while all are welcome. If attending in person send RSVP four days prior to Dave Pedersen, dlpeders@msn.com. Also ask Dave for the zoom link.

Funding actions at April gathering in Gaylord:

The annual funding for nutritional food meals was set at \$3,500, which was matched for a total of \$6,700 that resulted in 202 boxes of meals that were received in Vryheid in July.

The group Approved to send \$6,000 to the Home Based Care program in the Vryheid Circuit. This covers funding for 2024 and 2025.

The delay in sending was because the program was in transition to new director Thabani Khumalo.

Approved to send \$3,000 to the Vryheid Circuit partnership committee for education programs. Another \$1,000 went for undesignated needs. It turned out Vryheid had an emergency need for about \$1,000 to repair the wood floor in the Deanery, which was destroyed by termites.

The ministry is made possible by financial donations from congregations and individuals. It is requested each congregation provide around \$500 per year with some able to do more and some less. Make check out to your church with a memo for MVC African Partnership. Church treasurers are asked to send a check for the total of the gifts received with the same memo. Mail to conference treasurer Carla Klawitter at PO Box 62, Morgan, MN, 56266. Email- carlaklawitter@hotmail.com. Send donations to the conference, not the synod.

Plus, people are sought to be on a working committee that does much of the communicating with our partners behind the scenes. Information: contact either partnership chair Jim Roebke jeroebke@gmail.com or secretary Dave Pedersen dlpeders@msn.com.





Augustana Lutheran Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday, October 4th
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church
Gibbon, MN (730 Cedar)

Morning Coffee: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Cinnamon Rolls & Muffins

Lunch Served: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hot Turkey & Beef Sandwiches
American & German Potato Salad
Desserts

Raffle

Bake Sale, Produce, Lefse, Greeting Cards
and more!

Join us for food, fellowship and fun!



2025



Neighbors in Christ

Interim Pastor Leonard Hummel

<https://neighborsinchristismn.org/events>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
			NIC WoW 6:00 pm	ALC Bazaar set-up 5 pm	ALC Bazaar prep 2-7 pm	ALC Fall Bazaar/Bake Sale 9:00-1:00
05 8:30 Worship - SJB 9:00 Fellowship - FLC 10:00 Worship - FLC	06 <u>Pastor at Fall Theological Conf 10/05-10/07</u>	07	08 12 pm Prayer Luncheon Ev Covenant Church	09	10	11 MN Valley WELCA Fall Gathering 12 noon
12 8:30 Worship - SJB 10:00 Worship - ALC	13	14	15 NIC WoW 6:00 pm	16	17	18
		7:00 pm SJB Council Mtg	NO NIC WoW	----- MEA -----		
19 8:30 Worship - ALC 9:00 Fellowship - FLC 10:00 Worship - FLC	20	21	22	23	24	25
		7:00 pm FLC Council Mtg	NIC WoW 6:00 pm		Newsletter deadline	
26 9:30 Joint Worship FLC Dinner to follow	27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	01
			NIC WoW 6:00 pm			



2025 Council Members

Augustana Lutheran

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

 Barb Couell Treasurer

First Lutheran

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

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

Steve Saxton, Christy Johnson, Tom Rabe, Mary Roberts, Carolyn Johnson, Dale & Pat Ericson, Wyatt Fischer (grandson of Don & Sue Bentz), **Dean Dilger, Reiden Cichoski** (grandson of Kim & Steve Neuman), **Mark Campbell, Barb O'Brien, John Johnson, Arlys Schiltz, Jerome Sabo, Dean Schreiner, Lisa Trebesch, Tony Kachelmeier** (husband of Paula Kachelmeier), **Charlotte Pagel** (daughter of Micah Pagel; granddaughter of Bruce & Jean Pagel), **Neil Burns, Pastor Cathy Hoffbeck, the families of Orville Alsleben, Melvin Eckstein** (brother-in-law of Otto and Bonnie Hartmann) **and Ila Anderson**

Neighbors in Christ

Worship Schedule

		8:30	10:00
Oct 2025	S 5	SJ	FL
	S 12	SJ	AL
	S 19	AL	FL
	S 26	9:30 - FL Dinner	

3 Nancy Neville
 8 Darlene Voss
 10 Justin TenEyck
 10 Barbara O'Brien
 12 Brittany Petersen
 12 Steven Neuman
 14 Trevor Regner
 15 Ben Schmidt
 16 Melva Eckberg
 18 Lori Radtke
 18 Ronald Martin
 18 Connor Olson
 20 Carolyn Johnson
 20 Mark Larson
 21 Leo Zins
 22 Robert Mueller
 22 Trevor Pagel
 22 Kathy Kent
 22 Tara Ernst
 24 Caleb Mueller
 28 Gregory Martin

October Birthdays



Happy Anniversary

October	8	2011	14	Mitch & Dana Lietzau
October	20	1990	35	Duane & Wanda Lange
October	29	1977	48	Kevin & Vickie Dreier
October	30	1970	55	Steve & Linda Martin