

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

408 Ninth Street NW  
Mandan, ND 58554

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*Building Faith and  
Transforming Lives  
in Christ.*

[www.firstlutheranofmandan.org](http://www.firstlutheranofmandan.org)  
We're on the web!



**The staff at  
First Lutheran  
Church would  
like to wish  
you and your  
family a Happy  
New Year!**

ADDRESS LABEL

# First Lutheran Church January Newsletter

January 2026

## First Lutheran Staff

**Pastor**

Rev. Phil Leer  
663-3594  
701-341-7784

**Pastor**

Rev. Adam Barden  
663-3594

**Parish Administrator**

Jackie Klein  
663-3594

**Financial Administration**

Curtis Peterson

**Worship Accompanists**

8:30  
10:45  
6:30 (Wed.) Kathy Brandvold

**Bell Choir Director**

Cathy Long

First Lutheran Is A Mission  
Partner with Camp of the  
Cross Ministries



Happy New Year to you all!! It's hard to believe that the Christmas season is coming to an end and that we have Lent on the horizon. Coming into January, we transition from the festive season of Christmas into the season of Epiphany. It is a season of revelation as we have moments in the ministry of Jesus where his divinity is revealed and his identity as the Messiah is confirmed. It all starts with the Magi visiting Jesus in Bethlehem sometime after his birth. They bring with them gifts fit for a king. We then transition to Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River by his cousin John. The spirit of the Lord descends like a dove, and the voice of God professes Jesus to be his son. The end of Epiphany has Jesus and some of the disciples on a mountain when Jesus is transfigured and is joined by Moses and Elijah.

The season of epiphany often brings to mind a particular question I have been asked quite a few times. "Where have you seen God"? It's a question I have not always had an answer to as I have not always been the best at being mindful of where God is present in the world. However, it is something that I have been getting better at over time. I very much see God active in our congregation in all that we are doing. I see God in the giving spirit that we had as we provided presents for our Angel tree to deliver gifts to families in need of some Christmas cheer. I see God in the passion of our youth in church school, confirmation, and our mission trip team. Let's see God present has pastor Phil and myself sit with our members in the hospital and in care facilities.

In this season of epiphany, this season of revelation and seeing God at work in the world, where do you see God? How was God at work in your life? No matter what this new year brings for you, remember that whether you see him at work or not God is with you. Peace and Blessings to you all this year of 2026!

Pastor Adam

We have to stay financially strong. The ongoing ministry of our church is dependent on the tithes and offerings of our people. Electronic giving is the best way to do this. Many of you are already on our giving platform. If you are not giving electronically, this would be a good time to do that. You can sign up here <https://firstlutheranofmandan.com/>. Simply click on the button on the right hand side that says "Give Online". If you prefer to make your gifts by check, you can drop it off at the church or mail it to 408 9th St NW Mandan, ND 58554. Staying strong in worship, caring ministries, and finances are important as we work to love and serve.

OR.....

**DOWNLOAD THE "VANCO MOBILE" APP TODAY!**



**OR TEXT 8449340609 TO DONATE**

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website or contact the church office.



## Blizzards

Q Q L O O S J C O L D P H C T L X W C X J W A B  
 P V R G A A P D D B B B E V F R E E Z I N G L C  
 C M T Q N L E A H W C R T Q D K K P L S L F L C  
 T B K U B R E Y C Q I K P X P T S J L V H E I U  
 G W K U F I Q A Y Z V N X R S W R T I Y L F H G  
 I D G N M Y I A L G E P E O O J A E H I T W C O  
 G P X X Z G L U S T A T R M V U Z M C R M K F V  
 T K E S Q M O W W W N F S E R P B E G D O Z O R  
 G I H U D T U X G I K H P N P F N O I P I L L V  
 H N O R R N A R W J X M A S P K R M B F F Z T K  
 U O G G T F I R S E Z H S C G C M E Z Z V Y Y I  
 E X L J K I A W B J Z Q C W A U Z L E C A Q O U  
 C T I E R W H Z G N H G Z G R D R Z K Z P F O J  
 K L Y X L E P C Y N Y H U Z U V W M D G E R U R  
 U O V R G R M W F H O W L H K I O I B X P M X V  
 H F K W P J U M H H B R D C B A N F U Y K R X Q  
 J K R D N J M T D L M L T O D E S E C I V A H W  
 Z E H O Q O Y U I X F L I S J W I N Q V C W P P  
 D E U I Z B L J R S S T U Z N U V B W F Y V V I  
 V A P B W E Q E J C B C W F Z M F U Q T C S U T  
 H B K Y M Y N K D V H A Q U G A W G L K K P B N  
 Q R N I M N Z D D T Q B J X T X R T Z W X H P A  
 R O F L C X S X U E Y Y L F I N H D A K X O Z Y  
 Q T P F P T N W T J N V C A W E G Q S I A G K F

strong winds  
 mrfreeze  
 winter  
 warm  
 ice

big chill  
 freezing  
 frost  
 cold

blizzards  
 frozen  
 Chill  
 snow

## Stewardship & Leadership Invitation

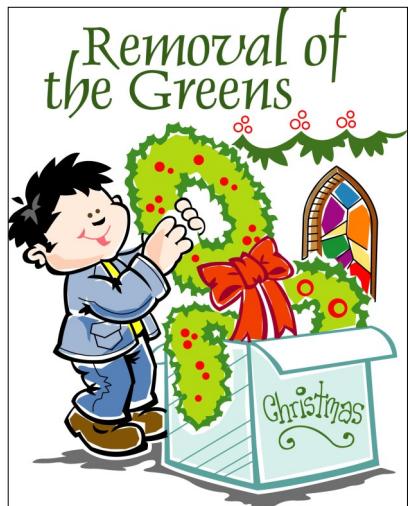
As we reflect on the many blessings God has entrusted to us, we're reminded that stewardship is more than giving—it's about living with purpose, gratitude, and a heart for service. Everything we have—our time, talents, and resources—is a gift to be used for His glory.

This season, we invite you to consider how you can participate more deeply in the life and mission of our church. Whether through financial support, volunteering, or simply being present in prayer and fellowship, your contributions help us grow in faith, serve our community, and share the love of Christ.

We are currently seeking four new members to join our Church Council. If you feel called to help guide our congregation, support our ministries, and be a voice for our church's future, we encourage you to prayerfully consider this opportunity.

For more information, please contact: Brenda Allan – 701-226-1720 or Travis Schmidt – 701-400-2253

Let us be faithful stewards—not out of obligation, but out of joy—knowing that when we give and serve, we reflect the generous heart of our Creator.



The Christmas decorating committee will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. If you can help out please stop by.

# January Youth Page

## Mark Your Calendar...

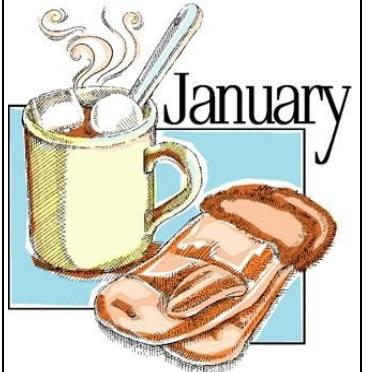
1st: No LAF

8th: LAF ~ Pulled Pork

15th: LAF ~ Nachos

22nd: LAF ~ Hot Dogs

29th: LAF ~ Sloppy Joes



## Pastoral Acts

### Baptisms

Rudy James Berger  
Benson Gary Richter  
Nina Isabelle Schroder

### Funerals:

## Memorial Fund

In memory of Emily Barnhart given by Mark & Barb Evanger, Mike & Becky Barnhart.

In memory of Arlene Brandt given by Marlin Brandt family.

In memory of Jill Roth given by Norm & Audrey Roth (for food for backpacks).



Deadline for  
articles for the  
February  
Newsletter will be  
January 22nd.

## January ~ Mission of the Month

### Weekend Meals for Mandan Kids

Items needed are Chap Stick, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Fruit Cups, Canned Fruit, Granola Bars, Cereal, Pudding Cups, Applesauce, Chef Boyardee', Mac & Cheese, Soups, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pop Tarts, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Rice A Roni, Pasta Roni, Pork and Beans, Baked Beans, Pancake Mix-no eggs required such as Krusteaz Brand, Syrup, Canned Tuna, Chicken, Ham.

### NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!

You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you!

## Special Thanks

*Thank you to all the greeters, ushers, communion servers, readers, communion set-up, coffee hour workers, and to all who have supplied goodies for the last month. Your help is greatly appreciated!*

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday ~

8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship  
9:45 am ~ Church School  
10:45 am ~ Contemporary Worship

### Wednesday ~

5:45 pm ~ Church School  
6:30 pm ~ Worship  
7:30 pm ~ Confirmation

November	Nov-25	YTD	2025	Percentage
<b>FINANCIAL GIFTS</b>	2025	2025	ANNUAL	2025
ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	%
Total Receipts	42,194.20	520,227.16	634,158.69	82.03%
Total Disbursements	58,896.36	482,651.23	634,158.69	76.11%
Receipts Over or (Under)				
Disbursement	(16,702.16)	37,575.93		
<b>BUDGET 2025</b>				
<b>ACTUAL INCOME vs. BUDGET</b>				
	Received	Weekly	Difference	
November 2, 2025	12,133.00	12,195.36	(62.36)	
November 9, 2025	10,809.59	12,195.36	(1,385.77)	
November 16, 2025	6,849.37	12,195.36	(5,345.99)	
November 23, 2025	9,962.00	12,195.36	(2,233.36)	
November 30, 2025	1,780.24	12,195.36	(10,415.12)	
Interest Earned on Checking	\$ 660.00			
	42,194.20	60,976.80	(18,782.60)	
<b>BUDGET 2025</b>				
<b>DEBT RETIREMENT</b>				
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>	Received	Weekly	Difference	
November 2, 2025	1,568.00	1,153.85	414.15	
November 9, 2025	994.72	1,153.85	(159.13)	
November 16, 2025	714.72	1,153.85	(439.13)	
November 23, 2025	1,037.44	1,153.85	(116.41)	
November 30, 2025	167.41	1,153.85	(986.44)	
	4,482.29	5,769.25	(1,286.96)	

### IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER 2025

### ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER 2024

November 2, 2025	246	November 3, 2024	168
November 5, 2025	104	November 6, 2024	62
November 9, 2025	141	November 10, 2024	147
November 12, 2025	87	November 13, 2024	77
November 16, 2025	207	November 17, 2024	187
November 19, 2025	117	November 20, 2024	49
November 23, 2025	192	November 24, 2024	152
November 26, 2025	35	November 27, 2024	19
November 30, 2025	184	Total Attendance for Month	1,313
			861

**Thank you** to everyone who took an angel tree name and/or donated money. We had 229 kid's names from 6 Mandan Public Schools and all of the names were spoken for! Your thoughtfulness helped 77 families in need. Also, thank you to everyone who helped prepare and decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season!



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
Date: December 18th, 2025

**Members Present:** President Brenda Allan, Vice President Kenton Holle, Veronica Barnick, Travis Schmidt, Tim Faller, Kristy Mindt, Greg Grube, Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam

**Members Absent:** Desiree Reile

**Additional Present:** Jackie Klein, Curtis Peterson

**Meeting was called to order by** President Brenda Allan

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim. Kristy seconded. Approved.
- Motion to approve the November minutes was made by Kristy and seconded by Kenton. Approved.

**Correspondence:**

- Mandan Golden Age Club Thank You for home delivered meals

**Devotion:** Pastor Adam – Matthew Chapter 6 - Each day has troubles of its own but take a moment to enjoy time right now without worry.

**Pastor Phil's Report:** 2 funerals and 2 baptisms. Sunset Nursing home worship service with Pastor Adam, weekly hospital calls shared with Pastor Adam. Some care center/nursing home calls. Sr. Choir practices and Christmas Cantata performance this Sunday. Lead Confirmation large group gatherings weekly. Exec Team meeting. Weekly LAF gatherings. Helped with "Deck the Halls" event Nov 29th. Met with several youth group/mission trip kids with Pastor Adam after worship Nov 26th. Met with Joyce Sayler, Gail Mayer and Lori Meyers to discuss visitation ministry. Discussing a plan for Lent with Pastor Adam as we move into the new year. Played "arrange the poinsettias" last week. Attended "Sister Kathleen Day" at Ministry on the Margins on Dec 10th. She retired. I will host staff, accompanists, choir director and a few volunteers at my house on Sunday.

**Pastor Adam's Report:** Held Holden Advent services the first two Weds of Advent. Met with the mission trip team for the first time on Dec 3rd. We decided on a couple of fundraisers. The bake sale was a success. Participated in the Church School Christmas programs Dec 14th & 17th. The choir cantata will be this Sunday. Coming up: Christmas Eve services. Pastor Phil will be preaching. Will be going to Iowa to celebrate the holidays the week of Dec 28th. We will leave after worship on the 28th and will be back Jan 4th in time for worship. Jan 11th & 14th, the mission trip team will be kidnapping a pastor. The kids will have one of them in jail, collect a "ransom" to free the captured pastor and will take on assisting with worship. Caramel Rolls will be sold Jan 18th. Pizza with the Pastor will be held Jan 18th at 5pm. This is an opportunity for 7-12th grade students to come and talk about youth ministry here at First Lutheran. Will start to provide worship services at Maple View memory care every third Tuesday of each month beginning Jan 20th. First Lutheran will be hosting the next Mock-in for area youth on Jan 30th 6-8pm. Had a family funeral Dec 11

**Financial Report:** Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.

- A motion was to approve the November financial report as presented was made by Kenton. It was seconded by Greg. Motion carries.
- Curtis provided a draft of the 2026 proposed budget

**Jackie's Report:**

- Council Committee Reports for the annual meeting are due to Jackie Jan 6th

**Team Reports:**

- **Executive Team:** All items covered in the agenda
- **Worship Team:** Dec 21st and Dec 28th we will have one worship service at 10am. Christmas Eve Services will be at 2:00pm (livestreamed) and 4:00 pm. No Weds service Dec 31st
- **Evangelism & Outreach:** nothing new to report
- **Property Management:** Nothing new to report
- **Stewardship:** A reminder has been put in the bulletin and newsletter about our council openings and other ways to contribute to the mission of the church.
- **Youth & Parish Education:** The kids did great at their Christmas programs. See Pastor Adam's report for other youth updates.

**Old Business:**

- Property Project – nothing new to report
- West sidewalk – nothing new to report
- Gutter screens – we need to think about getting these on the gutters in the Spring
- Missouri Slope relationship – keeping open communication. New Foundation Director
- Confirmation photos – Brenda plans to work on this after the new year
- Church School task force – Still in process
- 2026 Budget – draft presented to review
- Fellowship Hall Chairs – we need to make these a priority. There are not enough good ones for bigger events such as funerals. We will bring this to the congregation at the annual meeting to discuss.
- New council members/agenda for new council member orientation session – Still working on finding new members for the council. We have one person interested.

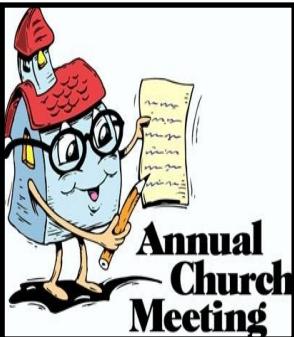
**New Business:**

- Annual meeting Sunday, January 25th, 2026, between services – reminder to submit committee reports to Jackie for the annual meeting booklet.
- Annual reviews for Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam, and Jackie – these will take place soon
- Tim made a motion to include a statement in the policy handbook that meetings are conducted under Robert's Rules of Order. Travis seconded. Motion approved.
- Call committee has planned their next meeting with Pastor Adam for Jan. 19th

**Next Meeting:** January 15th, 2025

**Lord's Prayer**

**Meeting Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn by Kristy. Seconded by Greg. Meeting Adjourned.



**What:** First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

**When:** Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 A.M.

Please join us as we discuss our ministries of the past year and plans for the coming year.

Happy New Year • Happy New Year • Happy New Year

Now that it is cold outside our food boxes are getting used A LOT and are always in need of food. If you can help out that would be great! Just drop your food off at the church office or right in the boxes.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN FILLING THEM SO FAR!**



**Special thank you to the Sr. Choir and Bells for the wonderful job you did on the Cantata! Thank you to Kathy Brandvold & Cathy Long for putting the Cantata together.**

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Have you directed your Thrivent Choice Dollars to a charitable organization?

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Your WND Synod and all three synod endowment funds are participating organizations (Ministry Endowment, Mission Endowment, Accompaniment Endowment). It's an easy way to support the ministries of our church. Members have until March 31, 2026 to direct choice dollars from 2025. Thank you!