

CROSSWORDS



December 2025

CHRISTMAS *at LCC*

*Christmas
Festival*

Wednesday, December 17th

5:30-6:30 pm Supper for All

6:30pm Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary

7:30pm After Party for All Ages

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, December 24th

Communion & Candlelight at All Services

9:30am | 2:30pm | 4:00pm | 7:30pm

Interactive Kids
Christmas Story

SUN. DEC. 28TH

LESSONS & CAROLS

WED. DEC. 31ST

NO WORSHIP

Regular Worship Schedule Resumes on January 4th
Sundays at 9:30am & Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Worship Schedule

WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM

SUNDAYS 9:30AM

Digital Ministry options available at www.lcc-wf.com

In This Issue:

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- What's New With Faith Education
- Confirmation Updates
- High School Ministry
- Men's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study
- West Fargo Eats Update

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Christmas decorating traditionally happens in our house on the Friday after Thanksgiving. But, our living room isn't typically ready to receive our Christmas tree, and furniture migrates and condenses into other corners to make way. While there is much celebration in the decorating, the relocation of the furniture is not glamorous. This making space that happens every year reveals the areas missed by the vacuum and reminds me that I am progressing in years, and can no longer simply move the couch by myself. I would not have it any other way; wedging the Christmas tree into our living room for a month (or two!) is worth the effort. It is the visible reminder of Christ's birth and the joyous celebrating that comes with it.

Advent reminds us that our usual ways of doing things do not fit this season. In Advent, we need to make room for the coming Christ child, and all that Christmas brings with it: Christmas lights, decorations, ornaments, trees, wreaths, cookies, presents, stockings, eggnog, Ham, meatballs, and so on. Christmas invades our lives, and it does so in remarkably tangible ways. How wonderful it is to see the amazing Christmas lights, to smell the cedar and peppermint and pine, to taste the cookies you only get once a year, and to hear the wonderful old, familiar tunes of Christmas.

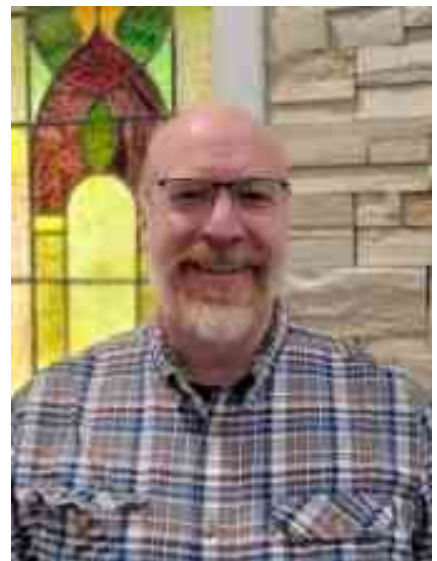
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Prepare him room means that our lives will be upended, but also changed by the new configurations of our lives. One of the lessons we learn as we prepare is that family traditions merge, that time changes who we are and what we can do, that we try to prepare and plan, only to feel like sometimes we've fallen short. Yet, the arrival of the Christ child turns our focus toward grace. Christ's bursting into our world is not meant to create anxiety, doubt, or guilt. Instead, the birth of Jesus declares today and into our future that we are enough just as we are. Christmas is a time to celebrate God has come to live with us. To invade our living rooms, kitchen, and lives with a God who announces that you are loved... forever! The magic of Christmas is realizing just how much the season inhabits our entire lives.

Prepare him room! Christ is coming, breaking into your lives in ways you may not expect. But, bringing grace upon grace. Whether we are ready or not, Jesus comes and lives among us, and so we celebrate on Christmas day with cookies, carols, and gifts. Awake, and greet the new morn! Your grace has come!

Peace,
Pastor Erick Thompson



COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings LCC,

As we enter this holiday season and experience the first snowfall and crisp winter air, I give thanks for the many opportunities to celebrate together as a church family and to spend meaningful time with loved ones. I hope this can be a time of hope, peace, and reflection for you.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent congregational survey! Your input is invaluable as we learn important insights about the life of our church and prayerfully consider possible next steps for our congregation. Your voices help guide the Church Council as we seek to follow where God is leading.

We are also looking forward to the Christmas Festival on December 17th. This is a joyful time to gather, celebrate, and share the hope of Christ together. Mark your calendars and invite friends and family to join us for this special event!

As we continue to grow and dream together, please keep our leadership and congregation in your prayers. We remain committed to approaching every decision with discernment, transparency, and trust.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

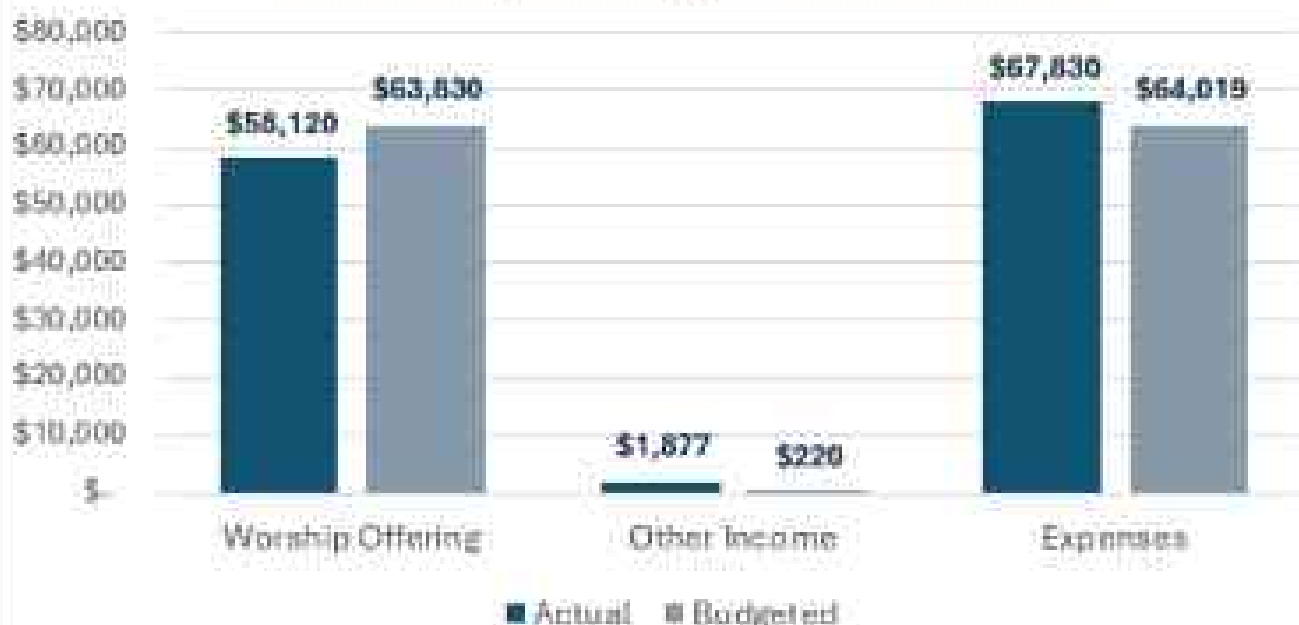
**God Bless,
Mitch Wolden
LCC Church Council President**



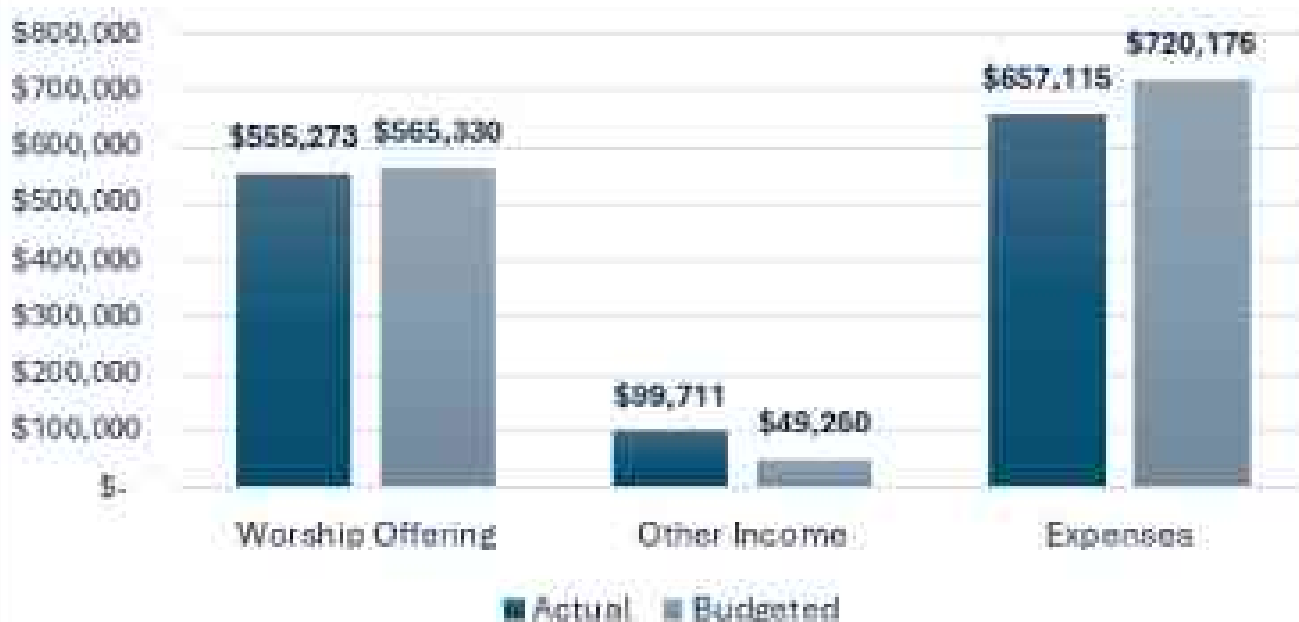
FINANCIAL UPDATE



General Operating - October 2025



2025 Year-to-Date





You are invited to the
**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE CROSS**

Christmas Festival

Wednesday, December 17th

- 5:30-6:30 pm Supper for All
- 6:30pm Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary
- 7:30pm After Party for All Ages

You are invited to bring your
Love Offering to support the
mission we share at LCC!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

CHURCH SCHOOL & MILESTONES @ LCC

Church School is led by INCREDIBLE Volunteers!!

Church School is only possible because of volunteers! Please prayerfully consider teaching and leading alongside our amazing kids! Find a friend (or 3) and lead together or rotate each week. Our goal is to have (at least) 2 Leaders per class/group.

Leader Needs:

- Wednesday 5:30pm
- Wednesday 6:30pm
- Sunday 9:30am



Milestone Ministries @ LCC

Each month an age or grade level and their families are invited to engage with faith in a new way. We'll wonder about Bible stories, learn about creation, discover the sacraments, and so much more. Let's equip, engage, and empower faith together!

November 16th will be our Kindergarten Milestone - God made YOU special! We will meet at 10:45am in the Fellowship Hall.



**CHURCH SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AT 2:00 PM



Upcoming Dates



Nov. 30th - No Church School (Thanksgiving)
Dec. 7th - Rehearsal during Church School for Christmas Program
Dec. 14th - Christmas Program @2pm
Dec. 24th - No Church School (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 28th - No Church School (Christmas Break)
Dec. 31st - No Church School (New Years Eve)

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY @ LCC

High School Youth Group

Every Wednesday from 7:20pm
to 8:20pm!

Nervous? Bring a friend! All are
welcome!

Follow our Youth Page on
Instagram for the latest updates!

@YOUTHMINISTRYLCC

High School Bible Study

Will be held on Sundays' once a
month!

December Date & Time:
21st @ 6 pm in the Youth Room



Upcoming Events:



Holiday Hoopla - Fundraiser Dec. 19th
6th-12th grade Sledding/ Snowshoeing
January 30th

Lock - In at the church January 2nd-3rd

Y O U T H F U N !



CONFIRMATION 2025



**Logan
Englestad**



**Maggie
Jacobson**



**Ian
Shaffer**



**Charlie
Richman**



**Nora
Rye**



**Brynn
Rudolph**



**Morgan
Kummeth**



**Pierce
Doll**



**Mason
Ristvedt**



**Luke
Hettenbaugh**



**Olivia
Thompson**



**Drew
Fuchs**



**Bentley
Mortenson**



**Lily
Amundson**



**Claire
Kratcha**



**Jordyn
Rosenthal**



**Rowan
Schneck**



**Camryn
Peterson**



**Braelyn
Peterson**



**Evelyn
Meyer**

CONFIRMATION 2025



**Ayla
Andersch**



**Carson
Isane**



**Nash
Senger**



**Reed
Klein**



**Mackenzie
Utke**



**Oliver
Poziembo**



**Carson
Lee**



**Julia
Rerick**



**Henry
Haugen**



**Cortland
Hallaway**



**Andrew
Carson**



**Easton
Hovland**



**Brody
Mauch**



**Leona
Crone**



**Garett
roy**



**Leo
Hapala**



**Ellie
Volk**



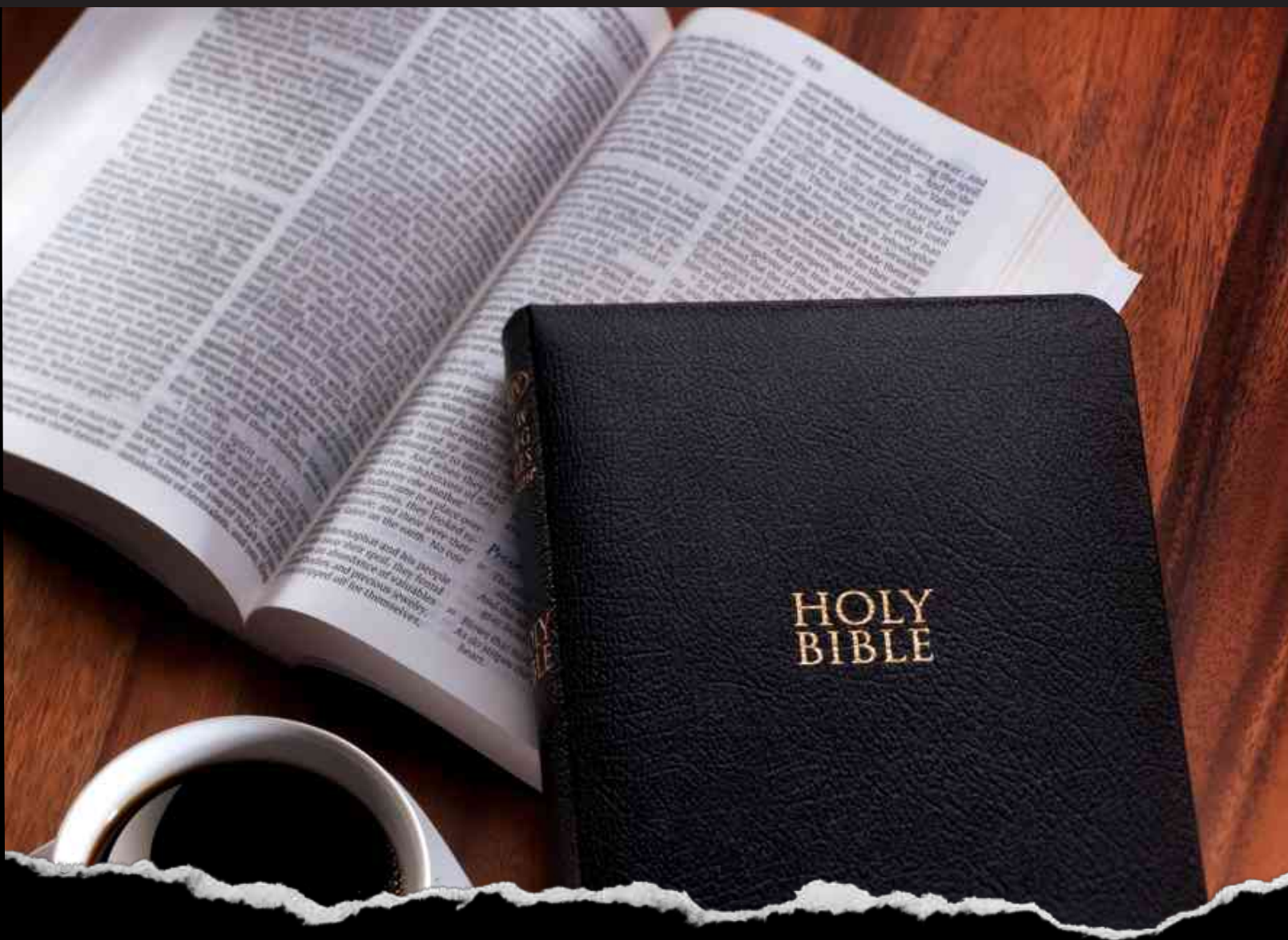
**Bella
Flores**



**Kingston
Bucholz**

Lutheran Church of the Cross

UPDATES



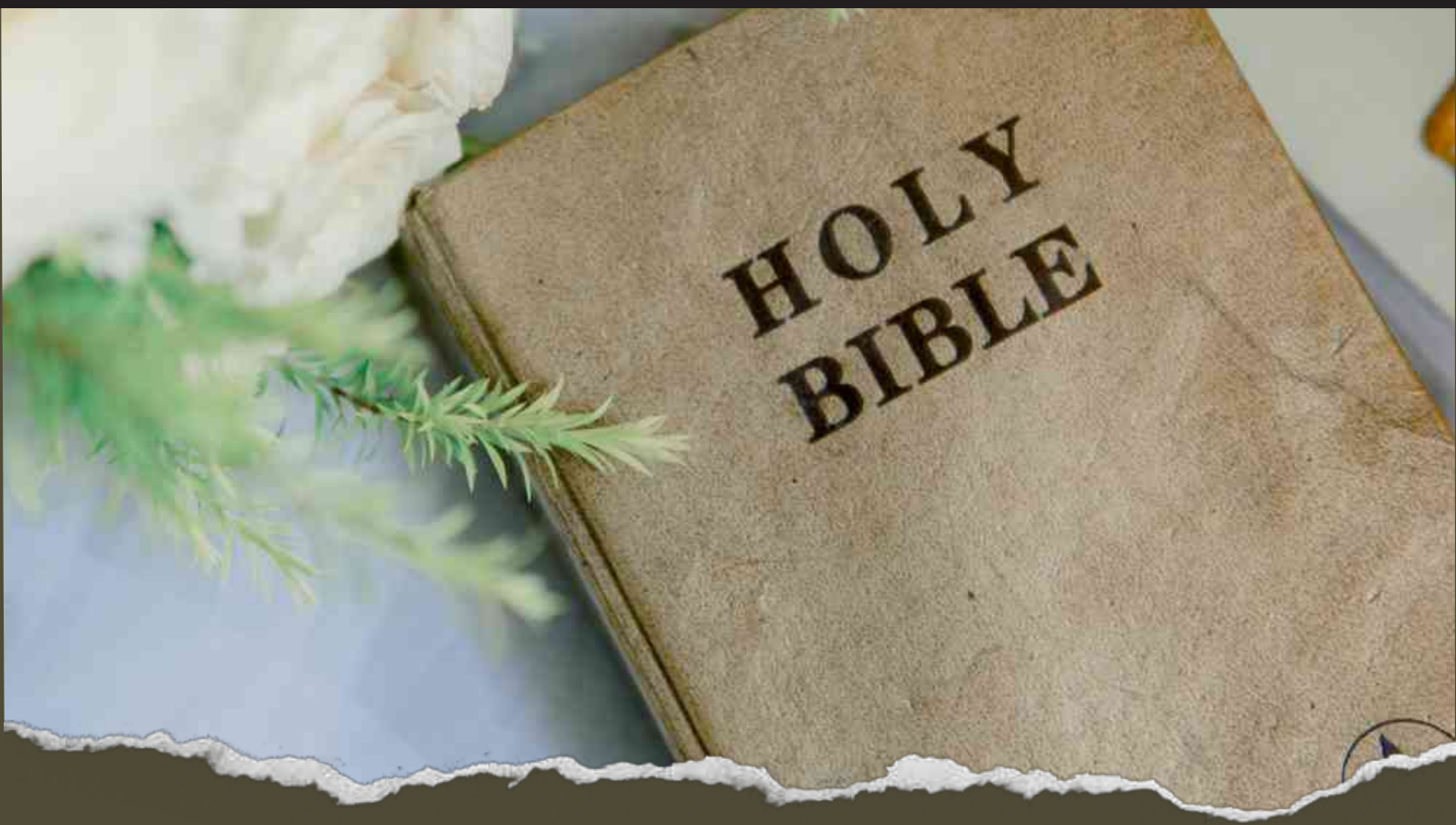
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS 6:30AM-7:30AM

Men's Bible Study meets weekly from 6:30am-7:30am or whenever you need to leave. To get on the email list or with questions, reach out to Pastor Joel (jbaranko@lcc-wf.com).

Lutheran Church of the Cross

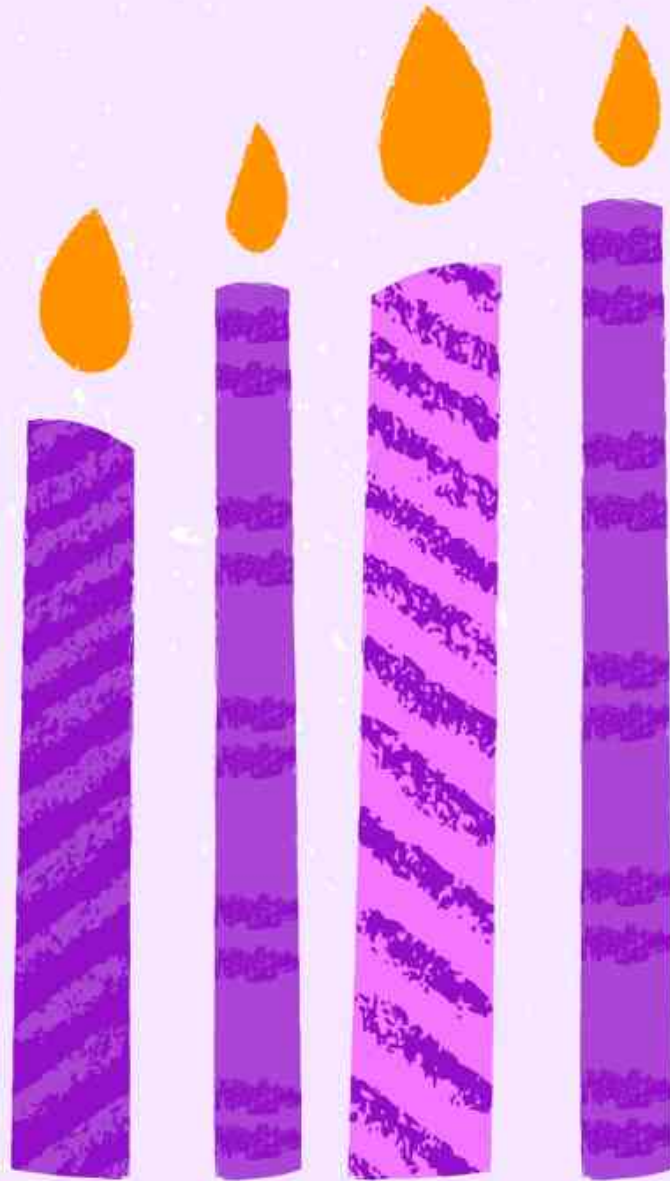
UPDATES



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TUESDAYS 11:00AM-12:00PM

Dec. 2 | Final Thoughts on the Finding I Am Study
Dec. 9 | Holiday Potluck
Dec. 16 | Christmas – Grief Support
Dec. 23 | Advent/ Christmas – Time of Sharing

Mark your calendars for the next six-week series beginning Jan. 6th through Feb. 10rd. The study will be the **Women of the ELCA: Listening to God**. An introduction to some of the tools a woman has for discerning God's hopes and desires in her life as well as discern what gifts for ministry.



Advent Study

Pastor Erick will be leading an Advent Study titled, **"Inbreaking and Incarnation"** on Sundays, Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, and Dec. 14th at 6:30pm in the Hospitality Room. We will be exploring what Advent means, why it's not really so much about preparation, and what might incarnation really mean? Join us as we deepen our understanding and enjoyment of the Advent and Christmas season.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

UPDATES

LCC ANNUAL GRACE GARDEN GIVING TREE



THANK YOU FOR LIVING & LOVING LIKE JESUS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

Lutheran Church of the Cross

UPDATES

Novel Ideas

November 20, 2025 @ 10am

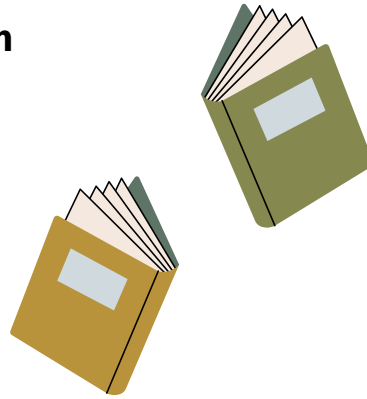
***Winter Garden*
by Kristin Hannah**

December 18, 2025 @ 10am

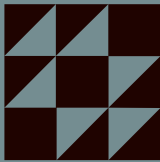
***Blind Your Ponies*
by Stanley Gordon West**

January 15, 2026 @ 10am

***The Measure*
by Nikki Erlick**



Anyone is welcome to attend; even if you just want to come once in a while to enjoy the discussion of the book-of-the-month if that's what interests you.



Piecemaker Quilting Group

The Piecemaker Quilting Group will meet the following dates:

- December 4th - 9:30 am
- January 8th - 9:30 am
- January 22nd - 9:30 am

Everyone is welcome! Contact Pat at pkmaas@yahoo.com with any questions.



Lutheran Church of the Cross

UPDATES

Piecemaker Quilting Group



The Piecemaker Quilt Group has been busy creating for those in our community. In November, 165 quilts & 108 scent clothes were blessed during worship service.

Since they started in 2017, the LCC Quilters have made:

1,967 total quilts

- 1,710 to RRCAC
- 257 to RMHC

652 scent clothes for Sanford NICU

Thank you for your dedication to and love of your community.





West Fargo Eats Updates

We are grateful to share several meaningful updates from the past month.

First, West Fargo Eats received a generous \$2,500 donation from the West Fargo Exchange Club, which will directly support our food security work in the community.



We have continued to work closely with counselors in the West Fargo Public Schools. Together, we'll be preparing monthly food boxes for families in need and helping keep school counselor offices stocked with staple items for students who seek support.

October Distribution Recap

Including our final fall pop-up, October's impact reached:

- **415 households** (1,212 individuals)
- **426 children, 513 adults, 273 seniors**
- **14,177 pounds of food distributed**

Current Urgent Needs:

- **Small bag/box of rice**
- **Small canned chicken**
- **Cereal**
- **Cream soups**
- **Egg noodles**





November Community Food Crisis Response

Thanks to remarkable community support and volunteer power, we held two significant emergency response events in November.



November 14 Distribution

- 190 families served
- 327 children, 303 adults, 72 seniors
- 5,240 lbs of food distributed
- 72 volunteers giving 138 hours
 - This total includes the **efficient and dedicated work of volunteers who organized and packed 250 boxes on November 13** in preparation for the distribution.

November 20 Pop-Up

- 183 families served
- 253 children, 311 adults, 98 seniors
- 5,240 lbs of food distributed
- 51 volunteers giving 76.5 hours

Combined Two Day Community Crisis Response Event Totals

- 373 families served across both events
- 10,480 pounds of food distributed
- 123 volunteers contributing 214.5 hours



With Gratitude

Thank you, church family, for your continued prayers, support, and generosity. Your compassion makes this work possible and ensures that vulnerable neighbors receive the care they need, especially during difficult seasons.



Volunteer Opportunities

As our programs grow, so does our need for helping hands. If you have a few hours to spare—whether during distributions, restocking days, personalized shopping assistance, or behind-the-scenes preparation, we would love to welcome you to the volunteer team. Every role, big or small, makes a meaningful impact.

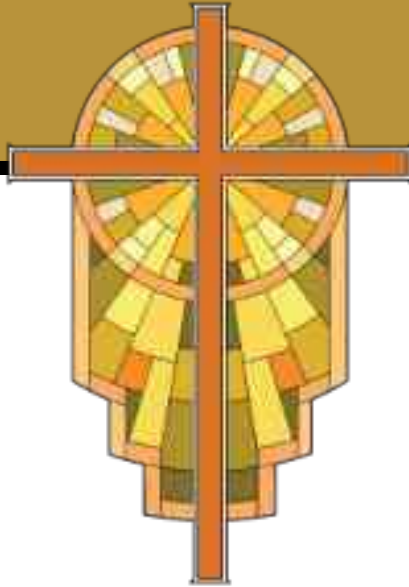
Please reach out if you'd like to get involved!

Wishing you blessings, peace, and joy in this season,
Chelsie Bormann
Director, West Fargo Eats



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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