

# First Evangelical Lutheran Newsletter

November 2025

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*"Proclaiming the Good News of Grace and Forgiveness in Jesus Christ to Our Community and World"*

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Greetings FELC,

We are starting up the holiday season with Halloween on October 31. Halloween is always a joyful time where children dress up in costumes and let them gorge themselves on candy. Traditionally, Halloween was called "All Hallows Eve", Hallow meaning Saint. In the church, Halloween started off as a time to prepare for All Saints Sunday, which is in November shortly after *All Hallows Eve*. As we celebrate "*All Hallows Eve*" and *All Saints Sunday*, my mind turns to the many saints in faith who have gone before us. From parents, grandparents, ancestors, and friends, to those throughout the history of the church who lived in the life of grace and faith. For many of us, when we think of remembering saints we think of people we know. But the Church has over 2,000 years of saints who have made a difference in the lives of others through faith. It inspires me how all the saints, all believers both living and dead are a part of Christ's one body. That people from all over the world, with many differences, are one together in him. I think of the early church at Pentecost who were brought together despite their many differences. May the church always remember that it is one in our Lord and that nothing can ever separate it from the life-changing love known in Christ Jesus! Happy Halloween and happy All Saints Sunday!

*Pastor Ben Dyrhaug*



## November Birthdays

November 4 John Noga  
November 4 Kathleen Martinson  
November 8 Pat Sukraw  
November 10 Kayla Lorine  
November 12 Bette Brunson  
November 17 Bob Huckle  
November 18 Tammy Ellsworth  
November 19 Gyda Gustafson  
November 20 Landon Wiirre  
November 26 Kasey Huckle  
November 28 Evan Lahman  
November 28 Kavik Lahman



### In Our Prayers

Amanda Steinbeisser,  
Tim Andree – grandson of Phyllis Haugen,  
Barbara Syverson, Jody Lange, Andy Bowman,  
Donna Hegg -mother of Nancy Noga  
Pete Baugh -brother-in-law of Ken Bowman

### Extended Care

Lucille Trisko, Carol Hanson, Avis Larson

### May God Watch Over You During Your Service to Our Country:

Matthew Westad, Jordan Olson, Lukas Johnson, Jean Barbee- daughter of Bea Skoglund  
Mitchell Cooper, Patrick Rubner, Dr. Drew Long – grandson of Carol Hanson



# Children's Ministry

On Sunday October 19 the children sang for the residents of St. Williams Living Center. It is always so fun to see the joy on the residents' faces each time the children share their music!

**Sunday November 2** - Children sang in church

**Sunday November 9 & Sunday November 17** - No Sunday School

**Sunday December 7** - Sunday School Christmas Program with refreshments to follow in the basement.

**Sunday December 14** - Christmas Caroling event after church. *Please see additional information below.*

**Sunday December 28** - No Sunday School

**Sunday January 18** - Children will sing in church.



## Christmas Caroling Event on Sunday December 14:

There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering space for those interested in joining the caroling event.

We will ride around on a trailer to the two apartment buildings, homes of member shut-ins and St. Williams to sing. If it is too cold or you prefer you can follow in your vehicle as well.

Prior to heading out we will have a potluck meal in the basement.

The Hotdish Lady will be providing the main dish.





Confirmation Classes will continue for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 12, 19. We will meet at 5-5:30 pm for a shared meal, and class time. There will not be class on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving. Please attend a Thanksgiving Eve Service that evening.



**FELC Church Council** will meet on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.



Paizley Douma, Finn Olson and Gracie Oeltjenbruns received their NSRV Bibles during worship on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. God's blessings to our young members on this step in their faith journey.



We gathered for an outdoor service on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, to offer our gratitude for the animals that enrich our lives. Whether wild or domesticated, great or small, these creatures are gifts from our Creator, bringing us joy, companionship, and unconditional love. In this service, we celebrated their loyalty and gentle spirits, and our commitment to be good stewards of all creation. Let us give thanks for the animals who remind us of God's bountiful mercy and the interconnectedness of all life on Earth.



*"All God's creatures have a place in the choir"*





**Early Bird Registration for Summer 2025 at Luther Crest Bible Camp** opened on November 1 and will run until February 14, 2026. Visit [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org) to view the programs offered at this camp and get your kiddos registered! FELC has funds available to help send our kids to camp! With any questions, please contact Pastor Ben.



***Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 26 6:30 pm***



Again this year, we are having a combined Thanksgiving Eve worship with Faith Lutheran of Miliona and Esther Lutheran of rural Parkers Prairie and inviting members of other congregations or the community to join us. Sharon Bridges and Kevin Lee serve as Deacon and Synod Authorized Minister at Faith, and Jewel Townsend serves as Synod Authorized Minister at Esther and all four of us will help lead worship. Invite a friend or family member and come enjoy this special worship. A pie social will follow worship, so be sure to set aside the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> and join us in

giving thanks for God's goodness and guiding hand in our lives.



Immanuel in Parkers Prairie will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Day meal on Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>. The meal will be served from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. No reservations are needed. A freewill offering will be taken.



**PP FOOD SHELF** The Parkers Prairie Food Shelf will be open on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3:30-6:30 in the Church basement. You may stop in at any time during those hours as there will be someone to assist you. If you know someone in need, please pass this schedule on to them. If you need immediate assistance, please call the church office at 218-338-5731 and we will try to help you with your needs.

## November Worship Helpers

	11/02	11/09	11/16	11/23	11/30
<b>Reader</b>	Joe Bridges	Joe Bridges	Mark Helgeson	Mark Helgeson	Kelly Olson
<b>Usher</b>	Nathan & Stephanie Uecker family	Joe Bridges	Mark & Barb Helgeson	Mark & Barb Helgeson Amy Bitzan	
<b>Communion Asst</b>	Stephanie Uecker				
<b>Music</b>	Dale Plasek	Dale Plasek	Julie Lindgren	Brad Lambrecht	Brad Lambrecht
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kaleb Uecker	Madison Bundy		Maverick Bitzan	
<b>Sound System</b>	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen	Caleb/Jim/Owen

**We need a Communion Asst. for the 16<sup>th</sup>, Ushers for the 30<sup>th</sup>, Acolytes for the 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Contact the church office if you are willing to help!**

## **Mission of the Month**



The December Mission of the Month is the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf. The Parkers Prairie Food Shelf is open on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3:30-6:30 in the Church basement. If you know someone in need, please pass this schedule on to them. Folks in the Parkers Prairie and Miltona area are eligible to use the food shelf. If you need immediate assistance, please call the church office at 218-338-5731 and we will try to help you with your needs. The food shelf is run by community volunteers. A new program was started here in October. Folks 60 years and older are eligible to receive up to 4 frozen nutritious meals monthly. Everyone 60 years and beyond are eligible for the meals. As winter comes upon us, we see an increase in clients needing to use the food shelf. Checks can be written out to FELC with “food shelf” in the memo line

## October Financials

General Fund	10/05	10/12	10/19	10/26
Sunday Offering	\$1,300	\$1,191.00	\$501.00	\$538.00
Vanco	\$122.35			\$20.00
Electronic Giving	\$535.00 (1st)		\$835.00 (15 <sup>th</sup> )	
Elmo Contribution		\$1,403.53		
Mission of the Month	\$15.00 LSS \$10.00 S.S.	\$25.00 LSS	\$15.00 LSS	
General Fund Total	\$1,866.35	\$2,594.53	\$1,320.00	\$558.00
Building Fund	\$91.00		\$516.00	



Convenient ways to give to First Lutheran through our Vanco online giving platform: You can give online at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZX4X/home> or scan the QR Code below. This is a safe and secure way of giving online.

## Prayer Ventures for November 2025

- 1 All Saints Day** Today we remember, honor and pray for saints, those people of faith in the cloud of witnesses — past and present, known and unknown — who have died and now rest in the mercy of God.
- 2 All Saints Sunday** Who have you lost in your life? A family member, spouse, friend, neighbor, co-worker, a fellow congregant? Reflect on their significance in your life and community, and give thanks, praying that their memory and influence endure.
- 3** “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27-28). Ask God for the faith and courage to follow Jesus when he implores us to resist human nature and social influences that drive us to vengeance, malice and judgment. Pray that our words, actions and decisions reflect God’s boundless love for us—for humanity.
- 4** Pray for the Spirit to temper our emotions and actions when we experience conflicts of opinions, values, religious belief or political ideology. Ask God to help us relate to one another without violence or belligerence—despite our differences—and to engage one another with attention, respect, attentive listening, dialogue and, when possible, reconciliation and compromise.

**5** The Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills is the new secretary of the ELCA. Ask the Spirit to strengthen and prepare Rev. Mills for her ministry of supporting and equipping ELCA leaders in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.

**6** Praise God for helping us respond with love and generosity to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of our church that manages our generosity, resources and partnerships with other organizations for maximum immediate and long-term impacts.

**7** Give thanks to God for the promise of an eternal inheritance, attained not by the quality of our faith or good deeds but through God’s undeserved gift of love and redemption through Jesus Christ, our one true Saviour.

**8** “Dear Lord God, I want to preach so that you are glorified. I want to speak of you, praise you, praise your name. Although I probably cannot make it turn out well, won’t you make it turn out well?” (Martin Luther). Pray that we will have an unquenchable desire to tell others about our faith and God’s boundless love—in our own words, inspired by the Spirit.

**9** We are children of God and children of the resurrection! Pray for the Spirit to help us comprehend and celebrate our life in Christ, which is not limited to our short life on earth but extends into eternity with God.

**10** Remember in prayer those attending the Outdoor Ministries Connection Great Gathering in Lake Junaluska, N.C., an ecumenical conference for outdoor ministry leaders and board members to help them strengthen their networks, develop their skills and be inspired for ministry with children, youth and adults.

**11** *Veterans Day* Remember and pray for military veterans who have engaged in the causes of pursuing peace and justice, defending freedom and responding to natural disasters. Give thanks for their sacrifices and service on our behalf.

**12** Pray for the ELCA Church Council as it gathers to advise, guide and support our churchwide organization in its mission and presence in the world to spread the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**13** Pray for those who suffer memory loss and dementia, and for the spouses, families and others who surround them with love, care and support. Give thanks for health care workers and care providers involved in memory care, treatment and research.

**14** “As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped” (Psalm 17:4-5). Pray that it be so!

**15** Pray for the families and spouses of veterans and those currently serving our country in the military, that their faith will be strong and resilient, they are supported during times of deployment and that they are surrounded by gratitude and encouragement.

**16** Pray that our faith in God’s enduring promises about our future is strong and that we respond to God’s persistent call to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to love and serve our neighbors. Ask the Spirit to free us from fixation, fear, prediction of signs and speculation about when and how Jesus will return, bringing God’s kingdom to Earth.

**17** Pray for the Spirit to teach and embolden us to be tireless advocates and bearers of peace, mercy and compassion into our communities, nation and world.

**18** Pray for the ELCA initiative Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel. Ask God to bless and further its work with partners in the Holy Land and congregations in the United States to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in establishing and supporting the justice required for peace.

**19** How has God’s presence and activity in the world surprised you? Pray that we might open our hearts and minds to work of the Spirit that we don’t expect, imagine or even understand.



**20** Praise God for the 20 new ELCA missionaries now serving alongside our global companions in 11 countries as pastors, teachers, Horizon International interns, ministry coordinators and other roles.

**21** “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord” (Psalm 98:4-6). Let joy and praise permeate your prayers today. Acknowledge God as the source of all good things, especially the boundless, life-giving love we experience through Jesus Christ.

**22** Give thanks to God and pray for those who attend to our physical, emotional, social and spiritual health, helping us to live life as fully as possible: doctors, nurses, medical technicians, hospice workers, researchers, pharmacists, therapists, social workers and others.

**23** Lift up prayers of thanksgiving for 25 years of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, which has sent over a thousand young adults on yearlong journeys of global fellowship, ministry and service with our companion ministries. Pray that we continue to generously support for the YAGM program, that it might thrive as young adults continue to do God’s work in the world.

**24.** In 2024, 673 million people in the world faced hunger; 2.3 billion people experienced moderate or severe food insecurity; and 2.6 billion people could not afford a healthy diet. Pray for our neighbors here and throughout the world who suffer hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Ask the Spirit to inspire us to support and join existing endeavors and to develop new ministries that will provide relief and address the root causes of hunger.

**25** Ask God to help us be grateful, wise and effective stewards of creation, understanding our connection to all living things and teaching others to care for our environment and natural resources — life-sustaining gifts from God entrusted to our use and care.

**26** Give thanks for ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, the Lutheran World Federation and other partner agencies that work on our behalf to address the causes of hunger and poverty worldwide and to provide our neighbors with relief, care, support and hope.

**27** *Thanksgiving Day* Praise God for the gifts that sustain our body and spirit — food, shelter, family, friends, faith communities, the bounty of creation, God’s love and forgiveness, and so much more. Remember and give thanks for those who plant, cultivate, harvest, prepare and deliver the food that nourishes us.

**28** Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who lack safe shelter and wonder how their basic, daily needs will be met. Ask God to help us be attentive to their immediate and long-term needs and be diligent in seeking solutions to the dearth of affordable housing and access to social services in our communities — solutions that respect the value, rights and dignity of our neighbors in need.

**29** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). Have faith that God listens to prayerful conversations that express our gratitude, needs, worries, questions, excitement and hopes — today and every day!

**30** *First Sunday of Advent* Pray that, in the upcoming month, we will turn our attention to anticipating and rejoicing in the gift of God’s son, Jesus Christ, brought into the world to shine a light on God’s awesome love and forgiveness.

## November 2025

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation Olson family	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>NO</b> Sunday School 10 am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 3 pm -5:30 JAM</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation Uecker family 7 pm Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>NO</b> Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Communion	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 3:30 -5:30 pm Prairie Food Shelf	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Confirmation Douma family	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 NO Confirmation</b> 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship	<b>27</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship						