



Pictured above is the First Lutheran Church's World Music Drummers who are the newest music group in the First Lutheran Church. Rev. Karen Anne Nies (far left in the picture), a former music teacher, organized the group. The drummers played for the 125th anniversary of the church during the congregational service.

(Photo by Scott Wagar)

■ **FLC** Ctd. from 1A

“After WWII, Lutheran World Relief began to give aid to people devastated by wars or natural disasters regardless of race, religion or nationality,” Pritchard said. “The women of First Lutheran continued to support these efforts by sending packets of school supplies for students, personal care packets for hygiene, infant starter kits and quilts.

“Divided into monthly work groups the women also supported bereaved families by providing lunch for funerals, purchasing kitchen supplies and equipment for the church and fair stand, making and donating quilts, and providing a free clothing center for the community. The largest project for the women (with help from the men) has been the sales of meals and pies at the county fair (originating in 1900).”

A quilting committee was founded in 1935 where several women made blocks at home and then came together to sew the blocks into a quilt that would be sold at a bazaar for \$63.70. “This way to create quilts continued until the 1960’s when they were given a place in the church to work,” Prichard said. “Since 1983 a committee has created and donated a special quilt (or more) for the Camp Metigoshe auction.

“These are sold for \$1,000 or more and 250 to 300 quilts are made each year and are given to the Lutheran World Relief, the ambulance squad, hospitals, nursing homes and individuals affected by disasters.”

Shelia Benson who was the president of the Luther League along with her mother, Faye Benson, established a clothing center in 1971 at the Adam’s house next to Benson Law’s Office to provide clothing to anyone in need.

The store was moved to the First Lutheran Church’s basement in 1973 and still continues today where anyone can stop in the store on Tuesday and Thursday to get items they need at no charge. Items include clothing of all sizes and household items.

The women of the church also support local missions like the Bottineau Cheer Box, Bottineau County Food Pantry, Bottineau’s ministerial association, Girl Scouts, Turtle Mountain Cancer Support, Camp of Metigoshe ministry and activities for SMP Health – St. Andrew’s and the Good Samaritan Society – Bottineau. State missions include the Anne Carlson Center in Jamestown, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, Heartview in Cando, Ronald McDonald House in Bismarck, North Dakota Hospital Christmas Gift and North Dakota Adult and Teen Challenge. World Missions include the Braille Center, Lutheran World

Relief, Mission Action, Goats for Haiti, U.S. Disaster Relief and African Relief through Synod Central.

MUSIC

Nancy Olson and Sheila Bertch stated through *Reflection on These Moments in Time: First Lutheran Church 125 Years*, that the church’s worship service at the First Lutheran Church holds a strong musical heritage that dates back to Martin Luther.

“Congregational hymn singing, dating back to the Protestant Reformation, has been an essential way to proclaim the Word of God,” stated Olson and Bertch. “Instruments, especially the organ, have elevated the liturgical and hymn praise.

In 1909, Miss Alice Frykman was the Sunday School organist and Irene Elton and Mrs. Cyrus McKeen served as the church’s organists.

During the annual meeting of 1945, Ethil Brandvold and Elaine Everson were elected the organists, while Miss A. Lindberg was elected as the new assistant organist in 1949. New hymnals, *The Lutheran Hymnaries*, were purchased in 1946. Rev. Eldred Nesset, stated in his annual report in 1947 that, “...the choir had grown and progressed to a very satisfactory statis.”

Rev. E.S. Estrem was the new

choir director until January of 1955 when Irene Hanson was appointed choir director and organ chairman.

This year, Rev. Karen Anne Nies, added to the church’s music department when she organized a children’s drumming group which performed during the church’s 125th anniversary service.

The church also purchased a new pipe organ in 1955 at a cost of \$9,737. The original pipe organ was a 1909 Seybold-Pipestone organ that was won by the church congregation in a Christmas promotion by some of the business owners in downtown Bottineau along with the Bottineau Courant.

The contest showed how important music was to the First Lutheran congregation because the contest called for shoppers to purchase merchandise where in turn they would receive one vote for every penny spent and 100 votes for every dollar spent. At the end of the contest, the First Lutheran Congregation had over one million votes, receiving 1,766,393 votes, winning the organ.

The First Lutheran’s Ladies aid society and musical department have shown how much they love God and their church through the work they have done in the past 125 years, simply because of their Christian spirit in assisting others through Christ’s love.

■ **STRONG** Ctd. from 1A

police, EMT, and other mental health professionals, aiming to strengthen a statewide CISM group to support areas in need.”

Strong, along with ambulance team member, Katie Tamburrino, were able to attend and gain certification.

Outside of the certification which will assist the BAS, the ambulance service has expanded its training and preparedness efforts.

“The squad has planned two large-scale, multi-agency training events each year for roughly the past five years, focusing on realistic scenarios based on regional risks,” Strong said. “These exercises often include incidents not previously seen in the area, as well as high-risk, high-frequency emergencies such as multi-patient motor-vehicle collisions.

Rolla-born former governor remembered

Gov. Kelly Armstrong issued the following statement regarding the passing of former North Dakota Gov. Allen I. Olson, who served as the 28th governor of North Dakota from 1981 to 1984 and as the state’s attorney general from 1972 to 1980. Olson died Friday, Dec. 26, at age 87.

“Governor Olson served North Dakota with dignity and a steady hand as our state’s top law enforcement officer and chief executive,” Armstrong said. “His dedication to the well-being of our citizens and his contributions to natural resources management brought lasting benefits to the people of North Dakota. Kjersti and I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to his family, friends and former colleagues throughout North Dakota.”

Born in Rolla and raised on a farm near Sarges, Olson earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Dakota. He served in the U.S. Army as a Judge Advocate General’s Corps lawyer and as chief of military justice in

“The service continues to support its substations and partner agencies. Upham Ambulance, a substation, receives coverage support from Bottineau when staffing gaps occur. Ski Patrol became a substation two years ago, allowing the team to provide a higher level of care at the ski hill, along with improved funding for equipment.”

Emergency response teams in the area that has received the service in EMR training include Upham Ambulance, Willow City, Bottineau Fire, Metigoshe Fire, Souris Fire, and the Bottineau County Sheriff’s Office. Strong added that the service has strengthened interagency response across the region.

Like all rural ambulance services, local volunteers still play an important role in ambulance services.

“Like many rural EMS agencies, Bottineau has undergone



Ashley Strong (Submitted photo)

a transition toward increased paid coverage,” Strong said. “However, volunteers remain essential. With long-distance patient transfers becoming more frequent, maintaining enough staff to respond to 911 calls continues to rely on community members willing to serve.”

Munich, Germany. In 1967 he returned to North Dakota and served as assistant director of the Legislative Research Committee (now Legislative Council) from 1967 to 1969, directing the state’s first study of strip mining, soil banks and land reclamation, according to the State Historical Society. Olson worked in private practice from 1969 until his first successful run for attorney general in 1972. He was re-elected to a second term in 1976 and then elected governor in November 1980, serving one term.

During his time as governor,

Gov. Armstrong’s Office

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BOTTINEAU COUNTY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
Surface Only
Bottineau County, North Dakota
1 Parcel of land as further described below.

This parcel is located in Bottineau County. Please see description below.
Seller reserves 100% of remaining mineral rights under property being sold.
Buyer will take possession after January 21, 2026.
Seller pays 2025 taxes. Buyer responsible for 2026 real estate taxes & thereafter.
Property description of Bottineau County real estate for sale:
Township 162N, Range 79N
Section 28: W1/2NW1/4, E1/2SW1/4,SE1/4 (less Ref-uge) 162-79-28
Tillable: 217 acres; Pasture & Farmstead: 23 acres

	Wheat	Barley	Canola
Base:	54.40	54.40	108.80
Yield:	42	76	1809

Persons interested may submit written bids to BENSON LAW OFFICE, P.C., at 616 Main Street, Bottineau, North Dakota 58318 on or before 12:00 P.M. (noon) on the 21st day of January 2026. Said real estate shall be sold as one parcel.
All bids shall be marked on the outside of the sealed envelope "Klabo Land Sale"
The opening of the bids will take place starting at 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 21, 2023, in the Benson Law Office at 616 W. Main St., Bottineau ND. All bidders will have the right to orally raise their bids at the time of bid opening.
The owner reserves the right to notify any successful bidders, if there be any, for a period of five (5) days after the date of the Bid Opening. The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The successful bidder will be required to submit 10% of the purchase price as earnest money with the balance payable in 30 days. The seller shall provide an updated abstract and warranty deed at the time of the closing.
To obtain further information contact Swain Benson at 701-228-3655.
Dated: December 22, 2025.

Swain Benson
BENSON LAW OFFICE, P.C.
616 Main Street
Bottineau, ND 58318
701-228-3655

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A Weekly COMMUNITY Event
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Friday-Sunday
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TICKETS:
Adults \$8
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