

Spirited News

March 2026

The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church



Through this month of March, we continue with the season of Lent, culminating in a few worship services during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, in which we will remember and reflect on the final days of Jesus' life here on earth in the flesh. (Actually, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are on the first days of April this year, .)

As we begin Holy Week, we will recall not only that "hurrah" event of Jesus entry into Jerusalem, with the people laying their coats and palm branches on the road for Jesus and/or his donkey to walk on. We will also recall the suffering / passion of our Lord in the days that immediately followed. Jesus entered Jerusalem that week knowing full well that the reason he was going there was not simply to be praised, but to be the One who would free them and us from oppression. The people who stood alongside the road into Jerusalem and laid coats and palm branches in front of Jesus shouted "Hosanna", which literally means, "Save us, Lord." The salvation they had in mind, however, was not likely the salvation that Jesus planned for them and us. The salvation they had in mind did not include a cross and freedom from the oppression of sin, but more likely had to do with freedom from oppression by the Romans.

When we worship on Maundy Thursday (April 2nd @ 7:00 pm) we will recall and celebrate the gift that Jesus gives to us in the sacrament that goes by different names: Holy Communion, the Last Supper, the Lord's Supper, Eucharist, and the Sacrament of the Table. We celebrate and receive that gift often as we remember that "on the night in which he was betrayed", Jesus took bread / a cup of wine, gave it to his disciple, and said "this is my body / this is my blood...do this in remembrance of me for the forgiveness of sin." As we come to receive the gift of his presence in the bread and wine, we come as sinners needing grace; we come to him needing to have his presence in our lives and to forgive us for the ways that we (like Judas) have betrayed him. "In the night in which he was betrayed," ...the betrayers (you and me) come looking for hope, forgiveness, and grace. (There will also be six young people who will receive their first Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday this year (April 2nd). These six will have three First Communion classes on Sundays after worship during Lent, beginning on March 1st.)

The next night, Good Friday, we will recall an event that does not seem to have been so “good” for our Lord. It certainly was more than good for us. Because of what Jesus did that day as he died on the cross, we have our only hope for salvation. Good Friday was the darkest day; filled with the most despair that Jesus ever experienced. As he was crucified and hung on the cross, all the sin of the whole world was upon him. He experienced the fullness of what it means to be forsaken by God the Father. In that utter isolation from God, Jesus paid the ultimate price for our betrayal of God; for the ways that we, by our sin, have turned our backs on God, and so, have a desperate need for God’s forgiveness. Our Good Friday worship service will be at Heritage Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm this year. And so, this month, more fully I suppose than other months, we will recall and celebrate and humbly receive the hope that is ours through our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a hope that we cling to by the faith that God gives to you and me. It is a hope that we have through Christ even in the midst of a world that is racked by news of terrorism, and news of despair that will seek to overwhelm us when sin rears its ugly head in our lives, and in our families, and in our communities, and in our world. This month, as always, we look with faith to our Savior to deliver us from evil, for His is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen! God bless us with faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim



March 1st 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church - 5th to 12th grades

The Chosen Series Bible Study Season 1 - Episode 3/Light snack will be provided.

March 15th 4:00 pm -6:00 pm Skate City – All youth– Families invited/Bring a friend. Any student attending younger than middle school will need an adult present during the event. The Church will pay admission and skate rental for all youth. Hot dog, chips and a drink will be included for the kids.

March 29th 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church - 5th to 12th grades

The Chosen Series Bible Study Season 1 - Episode 4/Light snack will be provided

*The Church has Season 1 on DVD or you can stream it on Prime if you have missed an episode and want to catch up.

Continental Youth Gathering 2026

From July 7–10, 2026, youth 12-18 and leaders from across the NALC will gather at St. John Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Virginia for four unforgettable days of worship, service, learning, and joy in Christ. This gathering is the heartbeat of our shared youth ministry.

·July 7, 2026 (8:00 a.m.)–July 10, 2026 (11:00 p.m.)

·Registration Deadline: April 15, 2026

·Cost: \$275.00 per person, which includes the program costs, background check for everyone 18+, supplies, t-shirts, drawstring bags, excursions, missions, and most food (lunches, dinners and evening snacks.)

·Transportation and lodging on own.

·Need 1 adult chaperone for 1-7 kids.

More information is on the NALC website. Spirit of Truth youth that would like to attend should talk to Pastor Jim as the Church will help cover a portion of the cost.

Lenten Schedule

February 25	Light meal served: 5:30-6:15 pm	“Telling Their Story: John”	6:30 pm
March 4	Light meal served: 5:30-6:15 pm	“Telling Their Story: Peter”	6:30 pm
March 11	Light meal served: 5:30-6:15 pm	“Telling Their Story: Malchus	6:30 pm
March 18	Light meal served: 5:30-6:15 pm	“Telling Their Story: Nicodemus”	6:30pm
March 25	Light meal served: 5:30-6:15 pm	“Telling Their Story: Pilate”	6:30 pm
March 29 Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday 9:30 am			
April 2	Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion/First Communion for youth)		6:30 pm
April 3	Good Friday worship @ Heritage Lutheran Church		7:00 pm
April 5	Resurrection of Our Lord		7:00 am & 9:30 am

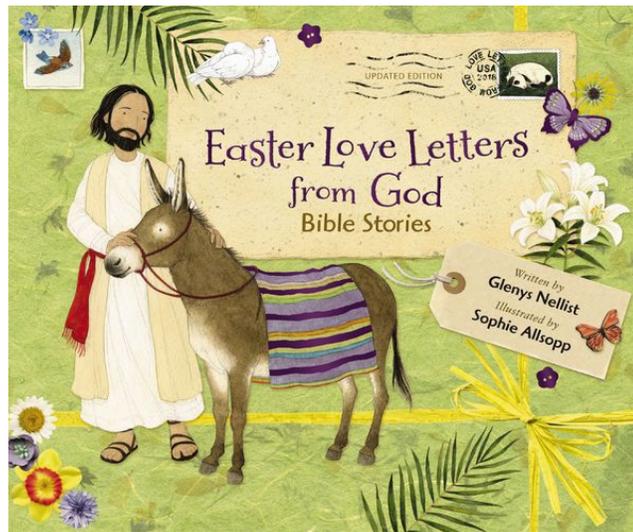
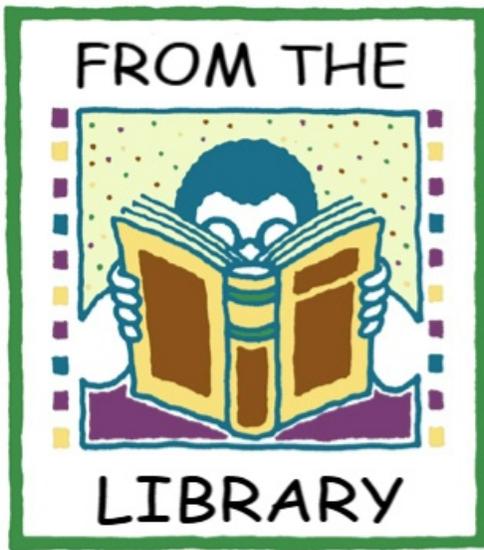
Spirit of Truth quilters will meet on Wednesday, March 11th at 9:30 am. They will have morning coffee and a potluck lunch at noon. All quilters are welcome.



JOLLY WIDOWS



The JOLLY WIDOWS will meet on March 18th at The Gruff in Brandon at 11:30 am.



Are you looking for a way to teach your child about Holy Week and Easter? What if your child could also read a personal letter from God to make the lessons come alive? Easter Love Letters from God: Updated Edition, contains seven beautifully illustrated Bible stories, each accompanied by a special Bible verse and an encouraging letter to your child.

Easter Love Letters from God is part of the Love Letters from God series written by Glenys Nellist. Unique features include: Seven letters from God, endearing text that applies each Easter story directly to your child's life and helps grow their faith, gorgeous and bright illustrations by Sophie Allsopp. The wondrous stories leading up to Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday are perfect for ages 4-8 and are great for Easter baskets or as an addition to your child's home library.



Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

Birthdays in March

Krista Bjorum	2	Rochelle Hanson	16
Lillian Sprecher	2	Gary Krull	17
Roy Toole	3	Joleigh Stephens	17
Lila VerMeer	3	Jeff DeJong	18
Stephanie Burkman	5	Heather Burkman	22
Eleanor Burkman	7	Paul Gulbrandson	25
Gabriella Klein	7	MalibuRose Brill	26
Jane Andersen	8	Ashley Smith	26
Elijah Klein	10	Christy Petersen	28
Helen Paetow	10	Megan Knutson	30
James Vanderwalker, Jr.	14	Sara Rief	30
Amanda Feste	15	Jordyn Freitag	31
Karla Arlt	16		

Anniversaries in March

Tony and Kristen Irvine	18
Bruce and Diane Schroeder	26

Update on NALC Constitution amendments

Dear Pastors and Congregational Leaders,

Thank you for your faithful leadership and participation in the ratification process for the proposed constitutional amendments approved at the Mission Convocation in Pittsburgh last August.

As of February 13, 2026, a total of 335 congregations (62%) submitted votes. 50% of NALC congregations (543 as of August 8, 2025) that were members at the time of the Mission Convocation must vote in order for the amendments to be ratified. We are grateful for the time, care, and prayerful discernment your congregations gave to this important work of our church body.

Ratification Results

Based on the votes received, the following outcomes are confirmed:

- Amendment One: Constitutional and Bylaws / Scrivener's Errors - Approved — 334 for, 1 against
- Amendment Two: Article on the North American Lutheran Seminary -Approved — 325 for, 10 against
- Amendment Three: Article 16 — Legal and Financial Matters -Approved — 334 for, 1 against

If you want to view the updated constitution please go to <https://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NALC-Constitution2025-Ratified.pdf>

There will also be a printed copy available in the office.

MISSIONS

Offerings

Salvation Army - Provides financial assistance to help individuals and families make ends meet during times of financial crisis. Their mission is caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities and working for justice.

Navigator Program - An international interdenominational Christian ministry sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and helps others to do the same. The Navigator Program provides Life to Life discipleship on college campuses, military bases, workplaces, inner cities, local communities in 115 countries around the world.

We will be collecting items for Goodie Boxes for the military and college students.

Our church is responsible to deliver Backpacks for the SD backpack program to elementary schools in the Brandon Valley schools during the month of March.

Thank you

Spirit of Truth, Thank you so much for your wonderful Christmas donations to our residents. You truly helped make Christmas special for them! Thank you again! Bethany Home Brandon

Blessing Box donations needed in March 2026

**Last names A—D
Last names E—I
Last names J—P
Last names R—Z**

**Pudding cups
Canned green beans
Microwave popcorn
Ketchup**

Please keep your dollar amount as close to \$2.00 or under per item as possible!

If you would prefer to donate funds instead of buying groceries, there are brown envelopes on the entrance table for that purpose.

There will always be a box in the Welcome Desk area for these donations.

Blessings, Your Evangelism Team



Blessing Box

Spirit of Truth Board of Deacons Meeting –
approved minutes January 20, 2026

Present: Tana Clark, Lynne Erickson, Linda Granberg, Linda Hoeck, Rick Larsen, Dan Larson, Phil Leidholt, Lisa Swenson, and Pastor Jim Steen. Excused: Doug Clark and Mike Top.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Leidholt. Linda Granberg gave devotions and prayer.

Secretary’s Minutes: A motion was made by Lynne Erickson, seconded by Linda Granberg to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025 as distributed. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Larsen reported that as of December 31st, we have about \$75,293 on hand to pay our bills. Our net income for the year is about \$75,649. The building fund account has a balance of \$69,648.40.

Balance 12/31/25

General Fund Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 75,293.31
Money given to Building Funds (Subaccount)	69,648.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	5,862.37
Money dedicated to Women’s Team (Subaccount)	2,468.10
Money given to Memorials (Subaccount)	8,927.20
Money dedicated to Quilting Team (Subaccount)	379.13
Money Collected by Sunday School (Subaccount)	688.61
Money received from Thrivent (Subaccount)	10,545.89
Money dedicated to Youth (Subaccount)	294.29
Money dedicated to Blessing Box (Subaccount)	4,283.85
Checking Account Balance	\$178,191.11
 December 2025 Tithes	
Empower Sioux Falls	\$ 1,499.78
Center of Hope	1,499.78
NALC	7899.87

A motion to approve the report as presented was made by Linda Hoeck, seconded by Lisa Swenson. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Steen will hold a children’s sermon seminar after worship on Sunday, February 8th. Youth activities have been scheduled – some with Heritage Lutheran. Men have been secured to do the Lenten monologues.

Old Business: Audit - Jerry Kerkhove is doing our audit which will focus on budget and inventory.

Bank CD – We have moved \$75,000 into a CD at the rate of 3.02% for 7 months.

Ad in Destination Brandon magazine – Last year we had a quarter page ad (this year's price is \$600). Motion was made by Linda Hoeck, seconded by Rick Larsen to approve this ad with a few changes in wording and the addition of our phone number. Motion carried.

New Business: Annual meeting prep – The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1st after the worship service. Phil Leidholt and Rick Larsen will oversee most of the items on the agenda, but deacons were asked to be present if there are questions pertaining to their area of responsibility. President Leidholt will speak to the usage of video songs in the worship service and our continued focus on a building drive for future needs. There will be time for public comments.

Team Reports: Education – Tana Clark reported Jimmy the donkey will be present on Palm Sunday with the Sunday school children following him with palm branches.

Mission – Linda Granberg stated a mission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27th at 6:30 pm.

Worship and Music – Dan Larson submitted a written report that covered Christmas poinsettias and all the activities from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Claudia Abraham will be playing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Rhett Johnson will be playing the other Sundays.

The next meeting will be on February 10, 2026, at 7:30 pm with Pastor Jim providing devotions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Hoeck, Secretary



Spirit of Truth
Lutheran Church

112 East Annabelle Street
Brandon, SD 57005
605-582-5030

www.spiritoftruthsd.org

The entire worship service can be viewed each week through Alliance Communications Cable: Channel 18, Digital Channel 21 on Fridays @ 6:30 pm.

They are also live-streamed on our [YouTube](#) page every Sunday.

If you would like to receive the link, please let the office know. It is sent out via email on Friday mornings.