

Spirited News

February 2026

The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church

LENT 2026

It seems like we just got done celebrating the birth of Jesus, and now already we are about ready to begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday will be on February 18th with a worship service at 7:00 pm. On the Wednesdays that follow (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25), we will have a light supper that will be served from 5:30 until 6:15 pm. (You are invited to arrive for the meal anytime between 5:30 and 6:15.) We will begin the mid-week Lenten worship services at 6:30.



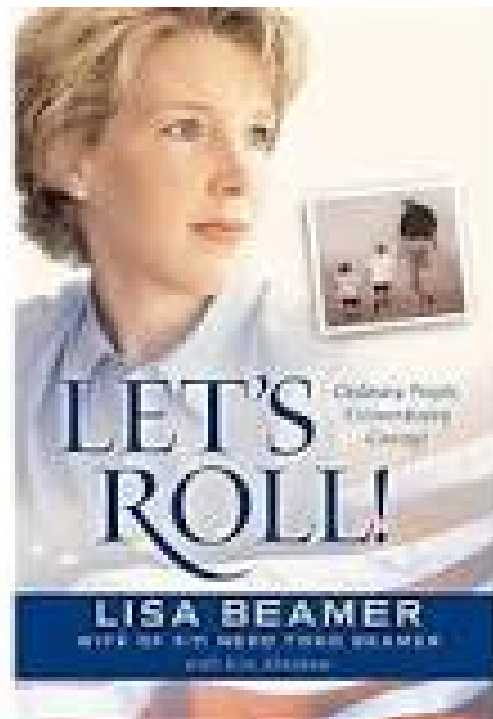
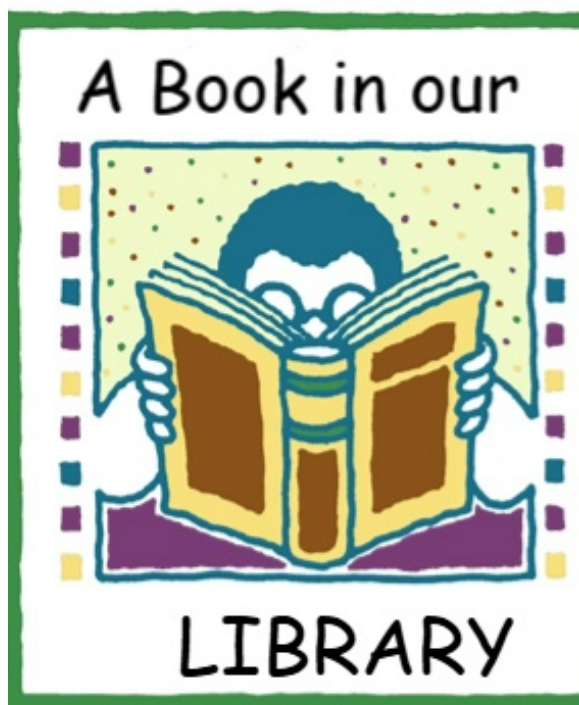
The theme this year will be "Telling Their Stories: Encounters with Jesus". We will hear from five biblical characters (John, the disciple; Peter, the disciple; Malchus, a servant who was at the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was arrested; Nicodemus, a religious leader/Pharisee; and Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea), each portrayed by someone from Spirit of Truth. During Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday on March 29th through Good Friday on April 3rd, our worship will include: a special guest on Palm Sunday (Jimmy the donkey), Holy Communion/First Communion on Maundy Thursday, and worship at Heritage Lutheran Church with our sister congregation on Good Friday.

Lenten Schedule

Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes	7:00 pm
Feb. 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"	6:30 pm
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

God bless you during this Lenten season with an even greater awareness of what our LORD has done for us through his suffering, through his crucifixion.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim Steen



What's it about? Inspiring true story of heroism on 9/11 Flight 93, Todd Beamer's sacrifice, and his wife Lisa's resilience amidst tragedy.

Faith & Fellowship

Spirit of Truth quilters will meet on Wednesday, February 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 Wednesday, February 18th at 11:30 am at The Alibi located at 7400 E. Oak Grove Trail in Sioux Falls.

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026 after the worship service. Please plan to attend. The alternate weather date is Sunday, February 8, 2026.

ANNUAL MEETING



Happy Valentine's Day

Birthdays in February

Evelyn Garcia	February 1st	Oscar Castle	February 21st
Phyllis Lunstra	February 1st	Nathan Mutschelknaus	February 21st
Nancy Bahr	February 3rd	Mia Nelson	February 21st
Hanna Mutschelknaus	February 3rd	Jim Erickson	February 26th
Hannah Paauw	February 3rd		
Morgan Johnson	February 4th		
Elena Garcia	February 7th		
Brady DeJong	February 8th		
Noretta Feste	February 8th		
Sasha Krumvieda	February 9th		
Rayna Vanderwalker	February 12th		
Marcella Flier	February 13th		
Burnie Burkman	February 14th		
Ehtan Clow	February 15th		
Susan Olson	February 15th		
Logan Postma	February 17th		
Tony Irvine	February 18th		

Anniversaries in February

Steve and Linda Tischler	February 6th
Rob and Rochelle Hanson	February 14th
Hank and Twyla Trumble	February 17th
Nathan and Crystal Freitag	February 24th

MISSIONS

Offerings

Blessing Box—The Blessing Box at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church.

Healing Hope Ministries—Healing Hope Ministries offers faith based specialized child loss grief retreats, small groups and education to support bereaved mothers/and or whole families mourning the loss of a child of all ages.

In February we will be collecting paper products for the Brandon/Garretson food pantries.

Thank you

Thank you for the card and the box of snacks. I really appreciate you thinking of me while I'm at school! Emily Wright.

Thank you for your generous support to the residents of Bethany Home. The gifts were so appreciated by myself and the other residents in Plum Creek. We all appreciate your prayers. Your congregation is a blessing to so many. Kathy and Family

Hello-Thank you so much for your donation of hats, scarves, gloves. These items are so helpful for us to have. We have students that forget items at home, or parents that need a little help to get everything their child needs. Thank you for your kindness. Sandy Cummings

Spirit of Truth Family! Thank You! Thank You! We so needed a restock of winter wear and you nailed it. The need is great in our building and so many of our little friends will be warm and cozy because of you! Thank you for your love-The Inspiration Elem Gang

Dear Spirit of Truth Church, Thank you for your generous donation of hats and gloves to Fred Assam Elementary. Your thoughtfulness helps ensure our students stay warm and comfortable during the winter months. We truly appreciate your generosity and support of our students and school community. Sincerely in Education, Fred Assam Elementary

Blessing Box donations needed in February 2026

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

**Canned corn
Tomato soup
Soup crackers
Applesauce cups**

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

Youth Group News

Planned Youth Events

February 1st 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church - 5th to 12th grades
The Chosen Series Bible study / light snack

February 15th 5:00 pm – 11:00 pm at Heritage Lutheran Church - 6th to 12th grades
Lock – In Spirit of Truth will need to provide a chaperone.

February 25th 5:30 pm at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church - All youth
serving Lenten supper – Will need additional adult volunteers to help in the kitchen and to
provide food items.

High school Bible study at Heritage Lutheran Church - Wednesdays
6:30 pm - Light meal
6:50 pm Bible study – text from Romans

First Communion classes will be held on
March 1st, 8th and 15th at 10:45 am.

Spirit of Truth Board of Deacons Meeting –
approved minutes December 16, 2025

Present: Tana Clark, Lynne Erickson, Linda Granberg, Linda Hoeck, Rick Larsen, Dan Larson, Phil Leidholt, Lisa Swenson, and Mike Top, and Pastor Jim Steen.
Excused: Doug Clark.
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Leidholt. Lynne Erickson gave devotion and prayer.

Secretary’s Minutes: A motion was made by Lynne Erickson, seconded by Linda Granberg to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Larsen reported that as of November 30th, we have about \$53,534 on hand to pay our bills. Our net income for the year so far is about \$58,336. The building fund account has a balance of \$63,859.

Balance 11/30/25

General Fund Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 53,534.57
Money given to Building Fund (Subaccount)	63,859.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	6,139.29
Money dedicated to Women’s Team (Subaccount)	2,129.72
Money given to Memorials (Subaccount)	8,927.20
Money dedicated to Quilting Team (Subaccount)	179.13
Money collected by Sunday School (Subaccount)	688.61
Money received from Thrivent (Subaccount)	11,330.89
Money dedicated to Youth (Subaccount)	394.29
Money dedicated to Blessing Box (Subaccount)	5,258.55
Checking Account Balance	\$152,441.57

November 2025 Tithes	\$ 1,000.00
Gift card	1,000.00
Gift card	264.56
St. Francis House	679.37
NALC	

A motion to approve the report as presented was made by Mike Top, seconded by Tana Clark. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steen reviewed his written report.

Old Business: Website – Training was given by Phil Brinks. There were three people in attendance, and he showed us methods to change and add things. There will be a spot to put the upcoming bulletin, announcement sheet, and newsletter on the website.

Budget- We are still waiting for next year's mileage amount. A motion was made by Mike Top, seconded by Lisa Swenson to approve the proposed budget for 2026 and present it to the congregation at the annual meeting for their approval.

Video song: Tana Clark brought a proposal from the youth ministry brainstorming session to have one video song incorporated into each service. Those present at that session felt this music might be more inviting to people.

New Business: Deacon end of year reports – President Leidholt asked that reports from each Deacon be in the office by January 15th so there is sufficient time to put together and email out to the congregation. There will also be a section outlining the proposed amendments to the NALC constitution that each congregation must vote on and submit to the NALC by February 8th.

Outgoing deacons – The positions of Lynne Erickson (Evangelism), Lisa Swenson (Personnel) and Mike Top (Properties) will expire in 2026. President Leidholt asked that if any of these deacons choose not to run again, they should let him know as soon as possible.

Bank CD – Treasurer Larsen recommended putting \$66,000 to \$70,000 in a CD sometime after January 1st. This would give us some interest on our money as opposed to the 0% we are currently earning on our money. A motion was made by Mike Top, seconded by Lisa Swenson to approve this recommendation. Motion carried.

Audit – Treasurer Larsen has secured someone to do an audit of our church financial records. This will probably be done after January 1st at no cost.

Part time Children's Ministry position – Tana Clark stated at the Youth Ministry brainstorming session the possibility of having a part time youth position to work with youth and other duties. The title is yet to be determined. Personnel Deacon Lisa Swenson will collaborate with Tana Clark to write a job description. The possibility of some type of internship with the seminary and/or local colleges was also discussed.

Team Reports: Evangelism - The new brochures are ready to put in the Blessing Box and for deacons to use wherever the need. The tear off pads for the Blessing Box have also been printed and are ready to distribute.

The next meeting will be on January 20, 2026, with Linda Granberg providing devotions. The February meeting will be on the 10th at 7:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Hoeck, Secretary



Spirit of Truth
Lutheran Church

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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.