

# *Spirited News*

*May 2026*

*The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church*

This month all sorts of young people will be finishing their last days in high school, or college, or some type of education and there will be celebrations of their accomplishments with a graduation ceremony. I encourage you to congratulate those who are graduating, as they finish their current endeavors and move on to new ventures in their lives.

Graduation is something that we do not do only once or twice in our lives, but is something that we might do over and over and over and....every day of our lives. There is a sense in the Christian life in which we are encouraged to graduate often, to new and deeper understanding and awareness of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ; to take new steps of faith and trust as followers of Christ.

When someone graduates, maybe we consider that person's graduation as a sort of completion, finishing what has taken some years for them to accomplish. However, if we consider the word "graduate", there is a sense of incompleteness; of the graduation as a sort of "step" in the process of moving on to where they will eventually be. Graduation is a part of that progression or advancement, a "gradual" moving toward a new and different place in life.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, God promises us that through the Holy Spirit, God will take us from one degree of glory to another; that being a follower of Jesus is not a stagnant sort of thing, but rather it is to live in the process of God taking us to greater and greater depths of faith; to greater depth of awareness of the presence and the grace of God in our lives and in the Church.

In writing his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Romans, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God." (Romans 12:2) God does that transforming in our lives – not all at once, but "gradually"; graduating from being like infants in our faith and discipleship to being more and more mature as disciples; becoming more and more like Christ.



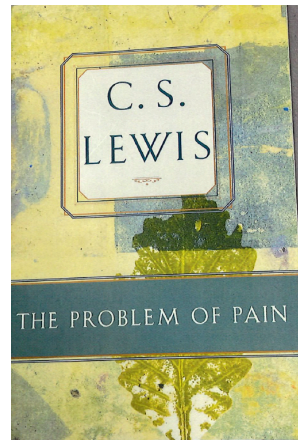
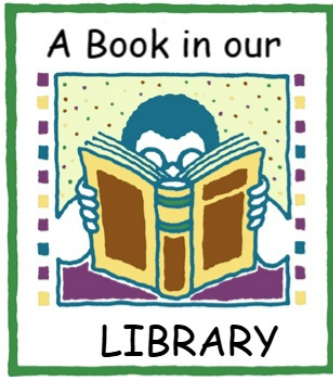
In writing his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul told the people in Corinth, "And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18) The life of the Christian is one where we go through one graduation after another – accomplished in us by God, doing His work in us through the Word of God, Jesus Christ.

This "graduation" (growing to become more and more like Christ) is often one in which we are not aware of what God has in mind for us, or where God is leading us. It is always, however, one where we can trust God in the midst of it. In the green hymnal, which we used to use for worship, there is a prayer that is one of my favorite written prayers: "Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 153)

As God calls us and leads us, may we recognize God's presence blessing us with greater and deeper faith, leading us to "graduate" from one degree of faith in Christ to another.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim





C.S. Lewis, the master apologist, tackles the question that has plagued humanity for centuries. If God is both omnipotent and good, how can we explain the pain and suffering that people experience daily: And what of the suffering of animals, who neither deserve pain nor can be improved by it? With compassion and insight, C.S. Lewis proposes reasonable answers to these critical theological problems, sharing his wisdom with those who seek true understanding.

C.S. Lewis was a professor of medieval and Renaissance literature at Oxford and Cambridge universities who wrote more than thirty books in his lifetime, many of which we have in our library. He died in 1963.

Spirit of Truth quilters will meet on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. They will have morning coffee and a potluck lunch at noon. All quilters are welcome.



A sign up sheet for delivering MEALS ON WHEELS in June will be put out on the greeting table on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please consider helping up with this mission project. Thank you.

## JOLLY WIDOWS



LUNCHEON

The JOLLY WIDOWS will meet on May 20<sup>th</sup> at The Attic in Sioux Falls at 11:30 am. The address is on 41<sup>st</sup> Street by the Goodwill Store.

## **Birthdays in May**

Nichole Hansen	1	Miles Krumvieda	16
Mark Haigh	2	Keith Myers	17
Crystal Freitag	3	Deb Park	17
Daniel Hart	4	Michael Hofer	18
Devan Jellis	5	Nicholas Staeffler	21
Amy Garcia	6	Patricia Haigh	25
Kristen Irvine	7	Jami Andersen	27
Bailey Hanisch	11	Myles Johnson	27
Dan Mutschelknaus	12	Leah Jellis	29
Deb Paauw	13	Courtney Tjeerdsma	29
Caitlyn Hanson	14	Linda Tischler	30

## **Anniversaries in May**

Merlin and Sharon Stillman	4	Shorty and Linda Grotewold	24
Brandon and Lisa Hanisch	16	Ken and Darlene Satter	29
Daniel and Tamie Clow	18		

# MISSIONS

## Offerings

**Spiritual Orphans Network** - This organization connects Christians from North America with people in former communist countries. The program provides short term missionaries that provide an English Bible Camp experience sharing the words of Jesus Christ. Full time residential missionaries work to rebuild the church and reclaim Christian heritage and culture. Christian education is provided for children ages K-12.  
<https://sonetwork.org>

**Simba Educational Ministries** - Simba is a nonprofit that provides Christ centered education, family care and missions in Kenya. They help raise servant leaders. Their mission is to walk alongside children, families and communities in Kenya to foster spiritual, educational and economical empowerment.  
[www.simbaministries.org](http://www.simbaministries.org)

Reminder of our church sponsored rummage sale May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> which will be held at Mike and Ardell Bonde's home.  
Please contact the Bonde's when you would like to bring your donated items to their garage.  
Phone: 605-770-0291  
Address: 125 E. Leighton, Brandon, SD





# CLASS OF 2026

**Graduates from High School: Gabriella Hanson, Miles Krumvieda and Lillian Sprecher.  
Graduates from College: Nichole Hansen, Danny Hartog and Hannah Sprecher.**

We are proud to celebrate Miles on his graduation from high school this spring. He has been an active member of our church family, and we are grateful for the positive spirit and dedication he brings to our community. During his senior year, he earned above a 3.9 GPA, reflecting his hard work and commitment. Miles also participates in tennis, showing dedication and sportsmanship, and enjoys riding his motorcycle in his free time.

In the fall, he plans to attend Dakota State University to study Information Technology. We look forward to seeing how God will guide him in this next chapter. Please join us in congratulating Miles and keeping him in your prayers.



### Danny Hartog's College Spirit of Truth Graduation bibliography

Danny Hartog, oldest daughter of Tim and Shannon Hansen, will graduate from Dakota State University in Madison, SD, on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Danny is a Brandon Valley High School alumni from the class of 2008.

After marriage, having two children, and working in the daycare and education fields for a few years, Danny decided to pursue her college education in 2020 to obtain an Elementary Education degree online.

She is graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with minors in Reading, Educational Technology, and English as a New Language. She is graduating with a 3.484 GPA and has been on the Dean's list numerous semesters.

As a parent, I am so proud of Danny as she was able to accomplish this life long goal while going to school online full time, working full-time, having a third baby and raising all three amazing kids!

She hopes to find a job locally either working for the Brandon Valley or Garretson School district.

I love you so much Danny and I know that Dad, your angel, is just as proud up in heaven! Congratulations!

Submitted by: (Mother) Shannon Hansen

### Nichole's Spirit of Truth Church College Graduation bibliography

Nichole Hansen, youngest daughter of Tim and Shannon Hansen, will graduate from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Nichole is a Brandon Valley High School alumni from the class of 2022.

After high school, Nichole decided to pursue her college education in the fall of 2022 to obtain a degree in Public Relations and Journalism.

Nichole had many college accomplishments as she did work study all of the years she was in college. She also was a member of band and choir and got to go on numerous spring trips across the country, visiting Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Phoenix, and New Mexico. She also participated in pep band and in the last year was the Director's Assistant. The music department has stated that they would greatly miss her, and she was a joy to watch at concerts, for her family!

She is graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Journalism. She has a 3.89 GPA and has been on the Dean's list numerous semesters.

As a parent, I am so proud of Nichole as she was able to accomplish this lifelong goal while working part-time at Bath and Body Works and at Olive Garden, both in Sioux Falls, on weekends.

She has obtained a job at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD and has already been working there for a few months.

I love you so much Nichole! I know that Dad, your angel, is just as proud of you in Heaven! Congratulations!

## **Blessing Box** donations needed in May

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

**Canned pears**  
**Canned peaches**  
**Cake mix**  
**Pudding 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*

Spirit of Truth Board of Deacons Meeting –  
**approved** minutes March 17, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Leidholt who then gave devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Minutes: A motion was made by Tana Clark, seconded by Rick Larsen to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Larsen reported we are similar to last month. The \$75,000 for the CD has not been taken out of QuickBooks yet. We have a net income of \$10,708.84 which will change once the CD purchase is removed.

**Balance 2/28/2026**

<b>General Fund</b> Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 75,766.18
Money given to Building Funds (Subaccount)	1,956.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	5,962.89
Money dedicated to Women's Team (Subaccount)	2,768.10
Money given at 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)	10,857.89
Money dedicated to Youth (Subaccount)	294.29
Money dedicated to Blessing Box (Subaccount)	4,158.80
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>\$111,759.49</b>
Checking Account Total	111,759.49
Checks not posted	0
Balance Sheet Total	111,759.49
CD 6547	\$75,000.00
<b>February 2026 Tithes</b>	
Blessing Box	\$ 1,091.19
Healing Hope Ministries	1,091.19
NALC	657.71

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steen reported the Good Friday worship will be held at Heritage Lutheran. He will be meeting with Krista Leidholt tomorrow to plan additional youth events.

**Old Business: Audit** – Rick Larsen stated the audit has been completed and our financial records are in good shape. A few recommendations were given in the audit report. We will explore the setting up of an audit team to review the financial records several times during the year. We will continue to use QuickBooks as our financial program. There was a question about personnel costs. Once the Board of Deacons approves the proposed personnel costs for the upcoming year, those will be sent to BradyMartz so they can begin using them as of January 1. The recommendation was to capitalize purchases greater than \$500.00. The weekly deposit procedure will remain the same. A motion was made by Linda Hoeck, seconded by Tana Clark to accept the audit report and to implement the fixed asset amount and the change in personnel costs reported to our payroll company. Motion carried. The auditor completed our audit and did not charge us – since audits can cost several thousand dollars a discussion was held concerning a gift for the auditor. A motion was made by Mike Top, seconded by Lisa Swenson to purchase a \$500.00 gift card to be given to the auditor. The auditor would like to do an audit every other year.

**Dishwasher** – Mike Top reported the dishwasher is in and he will pick it up and contact the contractor to install it. There were several items on the quote that we do not need so they will be removed but chemicals needed will be added.

**Deacon Teams Overview** – This will be carried over to the April meeting.

**Money Market for building funds** – President Leidholt did some research about the types of money market accounts and what protection there is for them. One is protected up to \$250,000 by the FDIC and the other is not insured and is based on the open market. He will write a letter to be sent to the congregation further explaining this. We want to be fiducially responsible with the church's money.

**New Business: Easter Ad** – The proposed ad for Easter was distributed. It will be 3 x 6 and in color for a cost of \$190.00. A motion to approve this ad was made by Mike Top, seconded by Tana Clark. Motion carried.

**Offering envelopes** – Linda Hoeck found some offering envelopes specifically for Easter. They will be put out on Palm Sunday – Easter Sunday. Once we have figures on the Lenten and Easter offering, the Board will decide what cause to designate for them.

**Temple talk** – Tana Clark presented a request on behalf of her niece who has established an organization to help with adoptions in other countries, specifically India. She is requesting a day to do a temple talk. The mission is faith based so it falls in line with our mission statement.

**Prayer concerns on our website** – Linda Hoeck stated the bulletin, announcement sheet and newsletter are now on our website. The announcement sheet will not have the specific prayer concerns on due to full names being used and possible privacy issues.

**Team Reports: Stewardship** – In the absence of Doug Clark, Tana Clark reported the Stewardship Team will meet this Sunday to determine a meeting date to review the church roster, discuss time and talent sheets and a copy of the mortgage being burned.

**Property** – Mike Top stated the group looking at future building endeavors had nothing new to report at this time.

The next meeting will be on April 21, 2026, at 7:00 pm with Lisa Swenson providing devotions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda J. Hoeck, Secretary

# Youth Group News

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Eastway Bowl – 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 for lane fees for the youth that are bowling and pizza will be provided for the kids.

\*\*Parent Meeting during the bowling event to decide youth plans for the summer.\*\*

May 17<sup>th</sup> 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church - 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
The Chosen Series Bible study episode 6/light snack

May 31<sup>st</sup> 1:00 - 2:30 pm at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church - 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Lunch and Q&A gathering with One Plus God Ministry staff.

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



☀️ Join Us for Mission Jesus: Vacation Bible School 2026! ☀️

Get ready to embark on an unforgettable adventure—Mission Jesus! Spirit of Truth Church invites all kids to a fun-filled, faith-building Vacation Bible School, happening June 22–25 from 5:30–7:30 pm.

Mission Jesus is all about discovering the unique plans Jesus has for each of us, and learning how to live with purpose, love, and faith every day.

Kids will experience:

- ☀️ Uplifting music
- 📖 Engaging Bible lessons
- 🎨 Creative crafts
- 🎯 High-energy games

🎉 And plenty of fun along the way!

Bring your friends, bring your excitement, and come ready to grow, learn, and celebrate the incredible mission Jesus has given us. We can't wait to see you there!



Spirit of Truth  
Lutheran Church

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

[www.spiritoftruthsd.org](http://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.