

Spirited News

June 2026

The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church

Colleen and I have received terrific blessings during the almost six years that we have been part of the family of faith with you at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church. We have been blessed as you have given of yourselves – sharing your faith, your prayers, your friendship, and your lives with us as we have fellowshiped together, worshiped together, laughed and cried together. You have impacted our lives, as I pray, we have impacted yours with the presence of God.



Some people have a hard time of saying “goodbye”. Maybe it is because they consider “goodbye” as so final. I hope that will not be the case – that it will not be “final”. Our connection as brothers and sisters in Christ is an eternal connection. We will always know that Christ connects us as family and we can always pray for one another – just as we have hundreds of times prayed with one another. As St. Paul wrote to the congregation in Philippi, **“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”** (Phillippians 1:3) And I hope there will be times ahead when God will bring us together face to face, and it will be as if we were never away from one another.

Besides all that, I think it is appropriate to say “Goodbye” when you know the origin of the word ‘goodbye’. It is actually a contraction of a few words, put together: “God Be with You.” (Or to say in more of an old English style: “GOD BE w/ YE”.) And that has always been my prayer for all the people of Spirit of Truth; that GOD would BE with YOU.

God be with you when you are relaxing or working around the house. God be with you when you are traveling. God be with you as you gather with loved ones, with family and friends. God be with you as you struggle with some hard times that He is bringing you through. God be with you as you are rejoicing and celebrating events in your lives: births, graduations, marriages,.... God be with you as you spend time with one another in worship, Bible study, and prayer. God be with you as you live out your lives as children of our Heavenly Father.

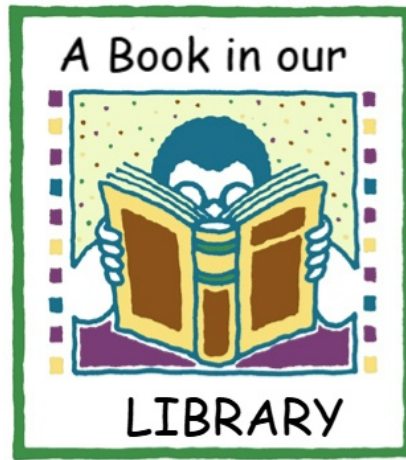
And so, as difficult as it is to say "goodbye", I do so with the full meaning of the origin of that word, GOD BE WITH YOU, Goodbye.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Jim Steen

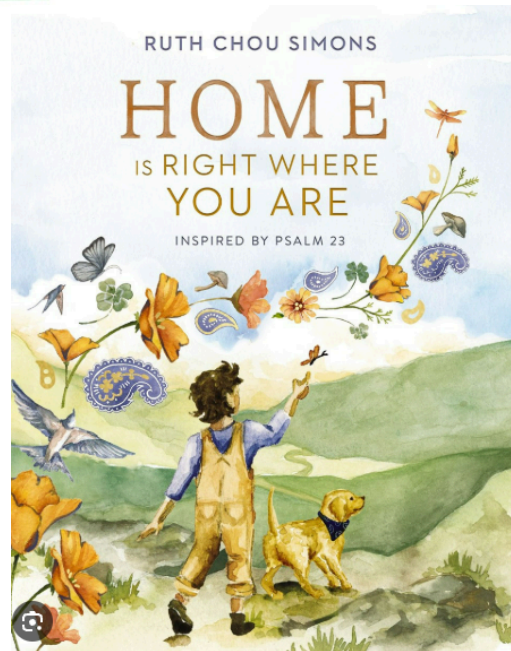
Reception of New Members - May 3, 2026

Andrew, Stacey, Henry, and Penny Adam, Larry Anderson, Mark and Pat Buysse, Randy and Donna Postma and James and Mondae Vanderwalker





Bestselling author and artist Ruth Chou Simons shares a message of comfort and peace inspired by Psalm 23: when you are with God, home is always right where you are. Ruth shares from her heart the words she's spoken over her own six children, from their very young days into adulthood.



The Spirit of Truth quilters will be quilting on Wednesday June 10th at 9:30 am. We will have morning coffee and a potluck at noon. Looking forward to having all you quilters join us.



JOLLY WIDOWS



The JOLLY WIDOWS will meet on June 17th at The Willows Restaurant at 11:30 am. The restaurant is located at 8000 East Arrowhead Parkway.

Birthdays in June

Keller Erickson	3	Jason Jellis	13
William Engebretson	5	Chuck Park	14
James Vanderwalker Sr.	5	Kathy Scholten	14
Taylor Engebretson	7	Grant Ellis	15
Jassiel Garcia	8	Bruce Schroeder	15
LeRoy Downs	9	Merlin Stillman	16
Ron Meland	10	Claudia Abraham	17
Gabriel Petersen	10	Carly Scherb	17
Mike Bonde	11	Darlene Satter	23
Sophia Swenson	11	Sydney Hanson	24
Kaitlin Arlt	12	Cameron McLaughlin	24
Mike Leidholt	12	Mark Buysse	27
		Annastyn Erickson	27

Anniversaries in June

Tim and Deb Paauw	3	James and Mondae Vanderwalker	9
Jassiel and Amy Garcia	4	Wayne and Deb Krumvieda	20
Jason and Jennifer Klein	4	Dan and Bev Hart	26
Derrick and Kim Flier	6		

MISSIONS

Offerings

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp—This camp is a year-round ministry featuring youth camps, family camps, Eldersiversity camps, adult retreats, youth recharges and family-friendly events. The mission and ministry of Ingham Okoboji is to know Jesus Christ and to make Christ known to all. Their website is: <https://vacationokoboji.com/>

Union Gospel Mission—Union Gospel Mission is a 501c3 nonprofit emergency shelter located in Sioux Falls. They provide shelter, food, clothing, restoring confidence and stability, discipleship, Bible Studies and Nightly Chapel Services, to support their clients side by side on their journey. Their website is: <http://ugmsiouxfalls.com/>

The month of June is also our month to deliver meals on wheels.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Drivers needed! What is your responsibility? Meals are picked up at the Split Rock Tower Apartment building on Teakwood Ave next to Helping Hand. Drivers and helpers should be there about 11:30/11:45 A.M. Just inside the door of Split Rock Towers are two bags, one for hot and one for cold food. The Active Generation driver will exchange the bags daily and give you a new list of people who are to get meals for that day. Names and directions to each place are on that list. There usually are 2 to 3 meals within Split Rock Towers that should be delivered first. When done delivering the meals, please return the bags with the list of people to the entryway of Split Rock Towers. Depending on the number of people on the list, it will take approximately 1-1 1/2 hours of your time. We have discovered that it helps to have two people doing this, one can do the driving while the other is getting the plastic bag ready with the meal for the next stop. For any new people both Kay Burkhart (605-201-8838) and Alice Jacobson (605-351-8226) are willing to ride with you or to have you ride with us. Please prayerfully consider helping with this awesome ministry to the residence of our community.

Blessing Box donations needed in June 2026

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

Pork and beans
Pasta noodles
Canned tuna
Kid's juice

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.

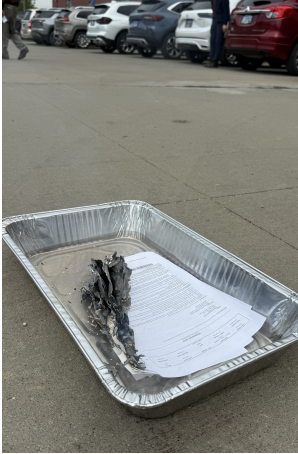
Blessings, Your Evangelism Team



Blessing Box

Faith & Fellowship

Mortgage Burning on Sunday, May 17, 2026



Our float at the Loyalty Day parade

Adopt-a-Highway



Spirit of Truth Board of Deacons Meeting –
approved minutes April 21, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. Lisa Swenson gave a devotion and prayer.

Secretary’s Minutes: A motion was made by Rick Larsen, seconded by Lynne Erickson to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Larsen reported there is \$74961.96 in our checking account to pay bills. Checks written that are not posted to the balance sheet total \$9443.37. Most of those expenses were connected to the dishwasher. Lenten offerings totaled \$3051.00. Our CD has been incorporated into the accounting software program and our net income for the year to date is \$8408.00.

Balance3/31/2026

General Fund Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 74,961.96
Money given to Building Funds (Subaccount)	5,985.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	6,020.33
Money dedicated to Women’s Team (Subaccount)	\$768.10
Money given to Memorials (Subaccount)	4,022.37
Money dedicated to Quilting Team (Subaccount)	379.13
Money Collected by Sunday School (Subaccount)	688.61
Money received from Thrivent (Subaccount)	12,149.89
Money dedicated to Youth (Subaccount)	294.29
Money dedicated to Blessing Box (Subaccount)	3,891.38
Balance Sheet	\$109,161.46
Checking Account Total	118,604.83
Checks not posted	9,443.37
Balance Sheet total	\$109,161.46
CD 6547	\$75,000.00
 March 2026 Tithes	
One Plus God	\$989.13
Go Serve B Global	989.13
NALC	593.48
Lent Offering	3,051.00

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steen reported six youth received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday: Mission Sunday will be May 31st with two representatives from One Plus God here that day. Confirmation will be held on June 7th and he recommended three youth: Malibu Brill, Logan Postma and Harper Risty. He received a communication from a pastor willing to provide interim pastoral services. He has been choosing the hymns for the Sundays that Rhett plays so someone will need to take on that responsibility beginning for July. The Worship and Music team will meet to discuss this.

Old Business: Deacon Teams Overview – The duties for each team are in the by-laws but are general in nature and not specific. Some deacons have a calendar that lists duties or events and when they are to be completed. There is a type of volunteer handbook being worked on. One of the Finance Team duties is to distribute quarterly and annual financial statements of giving. Treasurer Rick Larsen would like this changed to semiannually and annually.

New Business: Confirmation Recommendation: Tana Clark made a motion, seconded by Lynne Erickson to have Malibu Brill, Logan Postma, and Harper Risty confirmed on June 7th. Motion carried.

Call Committee – Per our constitution, seven voting members are needed. Composition of the committee should include a variety of ages, long-term members, and short-term members. Names were submitted. Lisa Swenson will contact Phil Leidholt with these names and ask him to do a temple talk to inform the congregation of what is happening with the committee since they will have to elect members of this committee.

Team Reports: Education - Tana Clark will be doing VBS this summer and anyone willing to help should contact her.

Evangelism – Lynne Erickson stated graduating seniors will be honored this Sunday. They are looking for some volunteers to walk the Loyalty Day parade on May 3rd. She asked about the June 14th service being held in the park. She will pursue getting the required permit.

Missions – Linda Granberg asked about a date for the Adopt-a-Highway. Someone will be needed to head this project.

Property – Mike Top stated striping the parking lot will take place soon.

Stewardship – Doug Clark is wanting to schedule a mortgage burning. Possible dates are May 17th or in the fall.

Worship and Music – Dan Larson stated this team will be meeting soon to discuss music selection.

The next meeting will be on May 19, 2026, at 7:00 pm with Rick Larsen providing devotions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Hoeck, Secretary



Spirit of Truth
Lutheran Church

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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.