

Spirited News August 2026

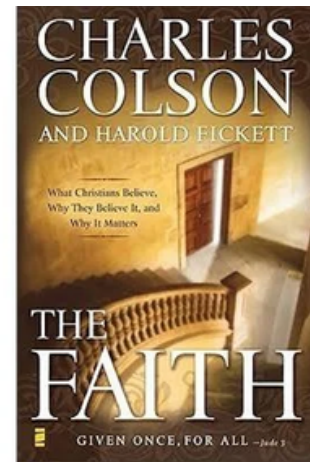
The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church

Thank you Spirit of Truth Family!

We greatly appreciate all your support and prayers in sending us off to camp. We all had a fabulous time creating memories, meeting new friends and most of all deepening our faith in Jesus. This year's theme was "To Know His Name" and we learned all the different names for our Father. Thanks again for helping contribute to our amazing time at camp! Logan, Marcus, Kenly, Cope and Avery!!!!







Rightly understood and rightly communicated, the Christian faith is one of great joy. It is an invitation to God's kingdom, where tears are replaced by laughter and longing hearts find their purpose and their home. This is the heart of the gospel: God's search to reclaim us and love us as his own. But have we truly grasped this? Those of us who have disdained Christianity as a religion of bigotry—have we repudiated the genuine article or merely demonstrated our own prejudice and ignorance? Those of us who are Christians—have we deeply apprehended the mission of Jesus, and do our ways and character faithfully reflect his beauty? From the nature of God, to the human condition, to the work of Jesus, to God's coming kingdom, and all that lies between, how well do we understand the foundational truths of Christianity and their implications? *The Faith* is a book for our troubled times and for decades to come, for Christians and non-Christians alike. Colson considered *The Faith* to be his legacy book to the Christian world: a thought-provoking, soul-searching, and powerful manifesto of the great, historical central truths of Christianity that have sustained believers through the centuries. Brought to immediacy with vivid, true stories, here is what Christianity is really about and why it is a religion of hope, redemption, and beauty.

Young At Hearts will be Thursday, Sept. 3 at Risen Savior Catholic Church. Program at 11:30 with Patty from Therapy Dogs Organization and lunch at 12 pm. Lunch is BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, chips and Shenandoah Apple Cake. We will be providing the cake, if you can help make one, please let Alice know, 605-351-8226. RSVP to Risen Savior, 605-582-6902.

Birthdays in August

Linda Granberg	6	Sam Klein	21
Tim Elbert	7	Riley Petersen	21
Krista Leidholt	8	Derrick Flier	22
Daniel Clow	10	Connie Matsuda	23
Nathan Freitag	14	Candy Scheibe	23
Cora Shumate	10	Tim Scherb	23
Sherri Shoenfish	11	Jayden Clark	24
Avery McHolm	12	Trev Dawley	25
Amy DeJong	13	Emmelene Engebretson	27
Pam Myers	13	Tessa Henderson	27
Jerry Merkouris	14	Max Krumvieda	27
Jay Lunstra	17	Sharon Stillman	27
Judy Krull	18	Barbara Dawley	28
Trey DeJong	21	Dan Feste	29

Anniversaries in August

Randy and Donna Postma	2	Burnie and Judy Burkman	12
Steve and Lisa Swenson	2	Keith and Pam Myers	12
Rick and Virginia Larsen	4	Lars and Clarissa Linstad	27
Mark and Pat Buysse	6	Jim and Sue Olson	30
Caleb and Kourtney Flier	10	Chuck and Deb Park	30
Roy and Bobbi Toole	11		

MISSIONS

Offerings

Feeding South Dakota—This is a hunger relief organization dedicated to ending hunger. This organization provides temporary food assistance. Our church participates with the backpack program which is part of this organization. Every March our church is responsible for picking up the backpacks in Sioux Falls and taking them to one of the Brandon Elementary Schools where they are distributed to qualified students to provide food over the weekend.
<https://www.feedingsouthdakota.org>

LifeLight—A Mission driven ministry that provides Gospel focused music festivals and events to gather people to hear the message of Jesus. LifeLight is scheduled to be in Sioux Falls on Labor Day weekend.
LIFELIGHT.ORG

In August the Mission team is also planning our annual sweet corn giveaway. Prayer Breakfast which is held at the Brandon High School. This is scheduled for August 21, 2026.

Spirit of Truth quilters will not meet in August. See you quilters in September.



JOLLY WIDOWS



The Jolly Widows will meet on Wednesday, August 12th at Applebee's on 10th Street in Sioux Falls at 11:30 am.

The attendance for June was 437.

Blessing Box donations needed in August 2026

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

Ramen packets
Cake mix
Canned tomatoes
Fruit 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 May 19, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Leidholt. Rick Larsen gave a devotion and prayer.

Secretary's Minutes: A correction of Harper Year to Harper Risty needs to be made in the list of confirmation students. A motion was made by Rick Larsen, seconded by Mike Top to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting as corrected. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Larsen reported there is about \$77,979 in our checking account to pay bills and with the subaccounts added the balance is about \$111,963. There were no checks written that are not posted to the balance sheet. Lenten offerings totaled \$3051 and were put in the Missions subaccount. Our income year to date is about \$96,425 and expenses are about \$86,457 so our net income is about \$9,968.

Balance 4/30/2026

General Fund Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 77,979.18
Money given to Building Fund (Subaccount)	6,335.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	5,297.77
Money dedicated to Women's Team (Subaccount)	768.10
Money given to Memorials (Subaccount)	3,976.76
Money dedicated to Quilting Team (Subaccount)	379.13
Money collected by Sunday School (Subaccount)	688.61
Money received from Thrivent (Subaccount)	13,082.89
Money dedicated to Youth (Subaccount)	294.29
Money dedicated to Blessing Box (Subaccount)	3,161.05
Balance Sheet	\$111,963.18
Checking Account Total	111,963.18
Checks not posted	.00
Balance Sheet total	\$111,963.18
CD 6547	\$ 75,000.00
April 2026 Tithes	
Spiritual Orphans Network	\$1,020.95
Simba Educational Ministries	1,020.95
NALC	312.57
Lent Offering to Missions Subaccount	3,051.00

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steen stated Mission Sunday will be May 31, 2026. More details can be found in the Mission Team report. He is putting together things that will need to be passed to either an interim pastor or some lay people of the congregation. He shared a conversation he had with Jason Klein about our building and Jason will be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this further.

Old Business: Call Committee – There have been seven people who have agreed to be on the Call Committee. There will be a special meeting on June 21, 2026, so the congregation can vote on the people. Rick Larsen will conduct the meeting as both President Leidholt and Vice President Top will be unable to attend.

New Business: Weekly attendance and offering in weekly announcements – Rick Larsen was approached by a member of the congregation who asked if the weekly attendance and offering could be put in the weekly announcements. We will re-visit this issue when it is budget time. In the meantime, the finance report is in the monthly newsletter, and monthly attendance will be added to the newsletter.

Church deep cleaning – Lynne Erickson brought up the subject of a deep cleaning of the church. It was last done in September 2025, and this year should include the upstairs storage area. If members have something stored up there, they want to save, it should be clearly labeled by August 1st. The materials that are upstairs will be sorted through and things not needed will either be given to a suitable place or put in the garbage. Deep cleaning of the main floor will be held on September 26th.

Pastor get together – Lynne Erickson did some research into a catered meal for June 14th, but it can be expensive and there is not a clear place where funding would be taken from. After some discussion, it was decided to have a potluck and put a sign-up sheet out. If we are short in a certain area, people will be asked to bring what is needed.

VBS Ad – Linda Hoeck received a question from the Brandon Journal asking if we were going to have an ad for VBS this year. The ad was passed around. The cost of the ad would be \$225. A motion was made by Lisa Swenson, seconded by Tana Clark to put the ad in the paper. Motion carried.

Team Reports: Evangelism – Lynne Erickson reported the rummage sale profit was \$1846 which will be given to the Union Gospel Mission to help with their current fiscal crisis.

Missions – Linda Granberg submitted a written report that covered the Adopt-a-Highway project, having a special offering to help the farmers and ranchers in Nebraska getting much needed hay delivered to them, Mission Sunday plans, and tithes for the remainder of the year.

Worship and Music – Dan Larson submitted a written report from their meeting last Sunday. They discussed the call committee, interim pastoral support, summer worship services, Pastor Jim's retirement Sunday and music for services.

The next meeting will be July 21, 2026, at 7:00 pm with Phil Leidholt providing devotions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda J. Hoeck, Secretary

18th Annual

BRANDON AREA

PRAYER

Breakfast



Hosted at Brandon Valley High School

Light Breakfast served @ 6:30 AM in the High School Commons
Program @ 7:00 AM in the Performing Arts Center

◆ Tickets: **\$10** each or **\$100** for event sponsor

FRIDAY

AUG 21

Guest Speakers
Isaiah Neve,
Ketty Paula, &
Kirk Strand



*A Message
of Hope
for
Every Age*

To be a sponsor or to purchase tickets please contact:

Paul VanDeBerg (605)413-9892, Laura Kuehl (605)360-9446,
Nik Aamlid (605)789-9735, or Carla Gross (605)359-6430



Sponsored by the BV Ministerial Association

For tickets, please call Alice Jacobson at 605-351-8226.



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.