

Spirited News September 2026

The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church

Call Committee Update

We are pleased to let you know the call committee has been working with the NALC call committee Coordinator Pastor Shelly Schultz and the NALC SD Dean Pastor Tom Christenson to initiate the call of a pastor to our church. We are in the process of completing the Spirit of Truth profile, a document that will be reviewed by individuals seeking their next call to a congregation.

As a part of completing this document, Pastor Tom will be coming to hold an open forum with the congregation. During the forum he will review the formalities of the NALC call process, as well as request input from all of us regarding hopes and vision for the future of the congregation as well as specific ideas on a person that would be a good fit to lead the congregation ideals as well as a good fit for the overall community.

We will be taking notes on the open dialogue to ensure your inputs are included in the final document.

Pastor Tom is able to be with us following church services on September 13th. This is also Sunday School Rally Sunday and installation of Sunday school and Confirmation teachers. He will leave his congregation following his service and arrive in Brandon at 11:30. There will be a light brunch offered following services to enjoy as we wait for his safe arrival. Please mark your calendars and plan to join the forum discussion and enjoy the light brunch.

Sunday September 13th - Congregation open forum with Pastor Tom Christenson.

We look forward to hearing everyone's input. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Call Committee:

Kerry Ellis – 605-582-8154

Linda Hoeck – 605-759-5387

Deanna Larson – 605-261-0582

Phil Leidholt – 605-951-8763

Connie Matsuda – 605-940-9499

Heather Postma – 605-351-0161

Deb Paauw – 605-201-7720

Hank Trumble – 605-961-7630

In God's Love,
Spirit of Truth Call Committee



Sunday school starts on September 13, 2026. Children in preschool through 8th grade are welcome and encouraged to attend. Sunday school begins at 10:45 am. Confirmation begins on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm.

Spirit of Truth quilters will meet on Wednesday, September 9th 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, September 16th at El Tapatío at 11:30 am in Brandon.

The attendance for July was 327.

Birthdays in September		Tana Clark	18
Jim Steen	1	Iselin Lindstad	18
Harper Year	1	Allison Rief	20
Arianna Vanderwalker	3	Nathan Risty	22
Kerry Ellis	4	Sylvia Swenson	22
Lars Lindstad	7	Taylor Dawley	23
Tayjah Grotewold	8	Mark Mutschelknaus	24
Sonja Hanson	9	Barb Swanson	24
Elizabeth Klein	10	Andee Year	24
Joy Nelson	10	Lisa Hanisch	25
Harper Risty	11	Dan Larson	28
Emily Rief	12	Abbey Erickson	29
Cadence Freitag	13	Doug Clark	30
Mary Scherb	15	Lara Ellis	30
Anniversaries in September		Jason and Christina Jellis	15
Dan and Deanna Larson	1	Dan and Amanda Feste	17
Rob and Joy Nelson	1	Aaron & Taylor Engebretson	19
Jim and Roberta Bruget	3	David and Sonja Hanson	19
William and Ashley Smith	4	Dan and Heather Burkman	22
Doug and Tana Clark	5	Brian and Brenda Bjorum	24
Jim and Colleen Steen	5	Trev and Barbara Dawley	25
Jim and Nancy Bahr	12	Jeff and Amy DeJong	26

Blessing Box donations needed in September 2026

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

Mustard
Ketchup
Jelly
Syrup

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 July 21, 2026

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

Secretary's Minutes: A motion was made by Rick Larsen, seconded by Lisa Swenson to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Larsen stated the June reports are not ready for the meeting, but he reported our year-to-date net income is about \$8,000. We have about \$118,686 in our checking account. We are not currently paying the regular pastor salary and benefits but are paying for pulpit supply costs.

Balance 05/31/2026

General Fund Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 64,501.72
Money given to Building Funds (Subaccount)	17,377.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	5,374.62
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)	2,726.02
Balance Sheet	\$109,043.23
Checking Account Total	109,169.54
Checks not posted	- 126.31
Balance Sheet total	\$109,043.23
CD 6547	\$ 75,000.00

May 2026 Tithes

The Salvation Army	\$ 915.79
Navigators	915.79
NALC	567.47
Union Gospel Mission (rummage sale proceeds)	\$1,846.25

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

Old Business: Call Committee – President Leidholt reported he has been in contact with the NALC Call Process Coordinator (CPC). She said when the call committee has selected a chairperson, a time can be scheduled for the committee and the CPC to discuss the next steps. Deanna Larson has agreed to be the Chairperson of the Call Committee, and she will schedule that meeting.

New Business: Online NALC Convocation - Linda Hoeck received several emails about the convocation on Friday, August 7 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. We are now allowed two lay delegates (cost \$25.00 per delegate). Mike Top made a motion that if we have two delegates wishing to attend, we pay their registration fee, and the motion was seconded by Dan Larson. Motion carried. Phil Leidholt will attend and we will ask if anyone in the congregation is interested in attending.

Recharge weekend at Okoboji camp – Linda Hoeck received an email for this event. It will be held in November, and we will check with parents and students to see if anyone is interested in attending. Rick Larsen stated that Thrivent funds are usually used to pay for this event.

Visitor cards – Linda Hoeck stated she felt that we need to have a better way to contact visitors. She distributed a printed card that can be used. It gives the visitor a place to put their entire address and check if they are interested in attending Sunday school or Bible studies. These cards then can be given to the appropriate person to reach out to the visitor. A motion was made by Lisa Swenson, seconded by Mike Top to cover the cost of one hundred cards (\$66.00). Motion carried.

Contacts for Brandon Police Department – President Leidholt stated the police department maintains a list of people to call in the event of an emergency. Our previous people were Pastor Steen, Jim Erickson, and Phil Leidholt. Phil will remain on the list, and he asked for another volunteer. Lisa Swenson volunteered. When we have a new Pastor in place, they will be added to the list.

Advertising Opportunity – Lynne Erickson stated we received an email asking if we wanted to advertise in the Brandon Fine Arts book as we have in the past. She showed the previous ad which was a quarter page for \$190. She asked if we should also include the Blessing Box in our ad. This would probably add an extra cost for a small business card size with the cost unsure at this point. A motion was made by Mike Top, seconded by Rick Larsen, that we pay for the ads up to a cost of \$250. Motion carried.

Weed Control – Mike Top stated the Property Team is looking for a professional to control our weeds in the grass. He will secure bids and bring them to the next meeting.

Team Reports: Education – Tana Clark submitted a written report that included a recap of Vacation Bible School and proposed dates for Sunday school, confirmation, Bible presentation and Christmas program and practices.

Worship and Music – Dan Larson stated he had a conversation about having backup sermons available in case there is not a pastor available. This would need an additional computer for the sound booth. He has been working on securing pulpit supply and has people secured into the fall and will continue the process. Getting someone for Christmas Eve has also been discussed.

Evangelism – Lynne Erickson stated that last Sunday when she was leaving the double doors were not locked. A discussion was held on how best to take care of this issue.

The next meeting will be on August 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm with Mike Top providing devotions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Hoeck, Secretary

MISSIONS

Offerings

ILT (Institute of Lutheran Theology) is a fully accredited Lutheran institution of higher education that provides this education through online technology. It is a growing college, seminary and graduate school. Their website is: ilt.edu

Two radio stations: 96.5 and K-LOV provide uplifting Contemporary Christian music and share the hope of Jesus.

One half of the tithe will go to ILT and the other half will be divided between the two radio stations.

The mission team will be collecting items for the Goodie boxes for the college students and those in the military. We plan to pack the goodie boxes for college kids and military on October 4th.



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.