

The newsletter of Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church

Call Committee update

The Call Committee conducted a Bible study based on the following scriptures:

Matthew 28:16-20

Mark 16:15

Luke 24:44-53

John 10:7-18

John 20:20-23

John 21:15-19

Acts 6:1-7

Galatians 1:11-17

Galatians 5:13-6:2

Ephesians 4:11-16

1 John 4:1-7

After studying these passages the committee spent time reflecting and discussing the following questions:

1. How has our ministry been going?
2. What is the clear vision of the ministry God has for us in the community at this time?
3. What was the nature of the relationship between our last pastor and congregation? Positive? Struggling? Cooperative? Tense?
4. How did our congregation work together with our last pastor? An equal partnership? Fruitful? All using their gifts and talents fully?
5. How might our congregation prepare for the coming of our next pastor, in light of these Bible passages? What needs to change in our congregation to create a healthy cooperative spirit between pastor and congregation? How can we effect these changes?

These questions were part of the congregational forum held on Sunday, September 13, 2026.

The committee is now working to complete the congregational profile. When this is completed, it will be sent to the appropriate person at the NALC where pastors looking for a different parish can review it.

Our policy regarding children in church

If your kids are loud, please still come to church.

If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.

If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.

If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.

If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.

If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or has to make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.

If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church.

If you feel like you spent the entire service managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.

If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church.

If you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.

Because children do not learn how to be part of the Church by staying home until they can sit quietly.

They learn by being here.

They learn the hymns and songs by hearing us sing them.

They learn the prayers by hearing us pray them.

They learn to worship by watching us worship.

They learn that church is home because we make room for them here.

The wiggles, whispers, dropped crayons, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the Church

They are evidence that the Church is alive.

So bring the babies. Bring the toddlers. Bring the big kids. Come late. Sit in the back. Sit in the front. Step out when you need to and come right back in.

Just come.

Children are not simply the future of the Church. They are part of the Church right now.

Credit to Pastor Mark Schlamann

Birthdays in October

Rob Nelson	2	Avery Postma	7
Quinn Stockland	2	Roxy Arp	9
Jeff Arlt	3	Rob Hanson	10
Bonnie Lien	3	James Bruget	13
Steve Swenson	3	Rick Larsen	17
Terri Risty	4	Jacob Scherb	17
Lynne Erickson	5	Vidaleen Lindstad	20
Wayne Krumvieda	5	Wade Year	27
Brandon Hanisch	6	Stacey Adam	29
Kaitlyn Nelson	7	Jason Jacobson	29
		Ron Abraham	30

Anniversaries in October

David & Sara Rief	3	Jerry & Paula Merkouris	12
Erik & Stephanie Burkman	8	Jon & Megan Knutson	16
Rick & Helen Paetow	11	Dan & Amy Mutschelknaus	24

MISSIONS

Offerings

St Dysmas Christmas Sack program. Each inmate is provided with a Christmas sack. This gift is organized by the Chaplain advisory committee who raise funds to finance the Christmas sacks.

Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare

A Christian transitional home that provides support for men and women re-entering society after incarceration. This organization provides safe housing, faith based mentoring and practical support including assistance with job searches and local church connections.

<https://kingdomboundaries.org>

Spirit of Truth quilters will meet on Wednesday, October 14th at 9:30 am. They will have morning coffee and a potluck lunch at noon. All quilters are welcome.



JOLLY WIDOWS



Jolly Widows will meet Wednesday, October 28th at the Alibi in Sioux Falls at 11:30 am. It is off of 6 Mile Road north of Arrowhead Parkway.

Annual building drive fund starts October 1st and ends November 30th.

Attendance for August was 454.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please let those who are providing pulpit supply for us know how much they are appreciated.

Blessing Box donations needed in October 2026

Last names A—D

Last names E—I

Last names J—P

Last names R—Z

Soup

Microwave popcorn

Pudding cups

Small bags of chips

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 August 18, 2026

The Spirit of Truth Lutheran Board of Deacons meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Leidholt. Mike Top gave a devotion and prayer.

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

Secretary's Minutes: A motion was made by Linda Granberg, seconded by Mike Top to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026, meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Larsen reported as of the end of June we had about \$66,000 to pay bills and our net income was about \$16,000. At the end of July, we have about \$71,000 to pay bills and our net income is about \$22,929. We are paying about \$225.00 per month for pulpit supply. A new subaccount has been created for Missions.

Balance 7/31/2026

General Fund Nondedicated money (Subaccount)	\$ 71,555.53
Money given to Building Funds (Subaccount)	24,900.40
Money dedicated to Jamaica Team (Subaccount)	5,374.62
Money dedicated to Women's Team (Subaccount)	768.10
Money given to Memorials (Subaccount)	3,991.76
Money dedicated to Quilting Team (Subaccount)	379.13
Money Collected by Sunday School (Subaccount)	688.61
Money received from Thrivent (Subaccount)	14,250.89
Money dedicated to Youth (Subaccount)	294.29
Money dedicated to Blessing Box (Subaccount)	2,013.33
Money dedicated to Missions (Subaccount)	129.24

Balance Sheet

\$124,355.90

Checking Account Total	124,355.90
Checks not posted	- 0.00
Balance Sheet total	\$124,355.90
CD 6547	\$75,000.00

July 2026 Tithes

Sola Publishing	\$ 1,032.60
Hands of Faith Ministries	1,032.60
NALC	619.56

A motion to approve the reports for June and July as presented was made by Mike Top and seconded by Lisa Swenson. Motion carried.

Old Business: Call Committee – President Leidholt stated the Call Committee has met with the NALC Call Process Coordinator. The committee will go through a Bible study. A congregation workshop will be held on September 13th at about 11:30 am. A light brunch will be served between when the worship service ends and the facilitator arrives. Congregation members will be asked to give their input on the needs for a new pastor. He stressed that confidentiality is very important and names of possible candidates will not be shared until we are focused on one candidate.

Online NALC Convocation – President Leidholt reported the convocation was held via Zoom and lasted about 3 hours. The NALC Seminary is doing well with increasing enrollment. This was the last on-line convocation as they will be held every two years in the future.

Weed Control – Mike Top reported he had secured three bids for weed control. They were: 1. about \$70.75/application with 6 applications, 2. about \$58.03/application with 6 applications, 3. about \$75.00/application with 4 applications. The last bid came from the company that does our snow removal. After some discussion, a motion was made by Rick Larsen, seconded by Linda Hoeck to approve the bid from our snow removal company. Motion carried.

New Business: CD Renewal – Treasurer Larsen stated our CD was up for renewal this month. We have received interest of \$1,306.85. He recommended that we renew the certificate and add \$25,000 from our Building Fund subaccount to the CD. A Motion was made by Mike Top, seconded by Dan Larson to renew the certificate and add \$25,000 from our Building Fund subaccount. Motion carried.

Team Reports: Personnel – Lisa Swenson stated that Pastor Jim Steen retired and his last day was June 14, 2026. As of June 14, 2026, he had not yet used any of his allowable 4 weeks annual vacation. Because of this we had his payroll and benefits run through June 30, 2026.

Worship and Music – Dan Larson reported he has secured pulpit supply through the end of the year except for the Sunday after Thanksgiving and the Sunday after Christmas. He will be checking with Rhett Johnson to ensure he will continue to play for us. A suggestion was made at the team meeting that the contemporary song be played before the prelude so the congregation becomes more familiar with it. Another possibility was to use the same song several times during a month.

The next meeting will be September 22, 2026, at 7:00 pm with Linda Hoeck providing devotions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 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.