



# South Canyon Lutheran Church

700 44th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-343-4887

Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs: 9:00am- 4:00 pm  
Fridays: 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
info@sclc-rc.org

## Holy Week Services

Sunday, April 13-Palm Sunday  
Palm Processional

9:00 am Worship with Choir Cantata  
10:00 am Pancake Breakfast



Thursday, April 17-Maundy Thursday  
7:00 pm Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

Friday, April 18-Good Friday  
7:00 pm Worship Service

Saturday, April 20  
2:00 pm– 6:00 pm Easter Vigil Stations

Sunday, April 21-Easter Sunday  
9:00 & 11:00 am Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

## How

### Social Media:



facebook.com/south canyon lutheran

<https://onrealm.org/SouthCanyonLuth>

## Services Online

We are live on Sundays at 9:00 am here:



South Canyon Lutheran YouTube



facebook.com/south canyon lutheran

# IN THE NEWS

# April 2025

## Worship Service Times

- Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
- Saturdays at 5:30 pm
- Sundays at 9:00 am
- Communion is offered on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays & prior Saturday nights

### Get Text & Email Alerts:

Call the church office to get set up with our app-based platform so you can receive text. Let us know if you have an email where you would like to receive newsletters and other information, including Weekly Connections.

### Download our Realm App:

We have a wonderful app for downloading. Call the church office to learn how!

### Call or Email our Main Office:

Main Office: 605.343.4887

info@sclc-rc.org

### NEED TO CATCH UP?

Catch all the livestream and videos on our website or on YouTube at any time. Go to our website: [sclc-rc.org](http://sclc-rc.org) and click on box to join us online.

Services are archived for viewing.



*Mary stood weeping outside of the tomb...  
Jesus said to her, "woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"*

John 21: 11a, 15-16 (NRSV)

*Whom are you looking for?* As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, this question seems to still hang in the air. Whom are you looking for? As you look at the empty cross and then turn your head to look around you, whom are you looking for? As you sing the joyous alleluias but then turn around to leave the building, whom are you looking for? As you wake up Monday morning and begin your week, whom are you looking for? Who are those around you looking for?

The crowd that welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday were looking for a king with a crown on his head to overthrow the Romans so that the Jews could take their 'rightful' place once again, living their life without fear and cruel oppression. Their hope came crashing down as they saw Jesus hanging on the cross. This was not the king and savior they were looking for. Mary and her companions headed to the tomb to honor their teacher and friend by anointing his body with spices. They were looking for a dead man but instead found an empty tomb and in their grief did not recognize Jesus when he arrived in an unexpected place in an unexpected way.

Whom are you looking for this Easter season? Are you looking for someone to 'save' you and the world from all the problems? Are you looking for someone to restore the former glory that was the church and your people? Are you looking for hope and joy among your grief? Are you looking for this man, Jesus, thinking if you find him your life will be great and nothing bad will happen? Are you looking for him among the dead or among the living? Among those who appear to be the holiest or among those who society feels needs 'cleansing' the most? Whom are you looking for this Easter season? Will you recognize him when you see him? When he calls your name?

You see, sometimes when we are looking for someone with a preconceived notion of where we will find them and what they will look like, we miss the gift of the person standing right beside us. We miss seeing Jesus, who is with us in the grief and confusion and hurting of this world. When we walk forward with our head down and ears closed, we miss looking into the eyes of the 'gardener' and seeing the love of God shining into our souls. When we stay stuck looking in the past, we miss the joy and new life that has emerged all around us in places we least expect it. Grieving what we have lost does not take away the joy of what is emerging in our lives.

*Whom are you looking for?* Jesus is alive. He is present with you and with all of us. Calling you by name. Moving you to new life. Encouraging you to open your eyes and ears to see him where you least expect to find him, encountering him in the least expected ways. The good news of the resurrection continues.

Jesus lives. New life continues. We are not alone!

*Whom are you looking for?* I pray you recognize Jesus is standing right beside you, calling your name.

Happy Easter,

**Pastor Deb Grismer**



# Ministry of the Month - Lutheran Social Services

## Support LSS Through South Dakota CARES!

This month, your donations to **Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota (LSS)** can go even further! Gifts made online at [SouthDakotaCARES.org](https://SouthDakotaCARES.org), as well as cash and check donations, will be matched **until April 30—or until funds run out**. Cash, check or online donations made through South Canyon Lutheran Church will be given to LSS before April 30 so they can be part of the matching funds also.

LSS is one of the largest private non-profit human services agencies in South Dakota, deeply rooted in the mission of the ELCA Lutheran Church. For over 100 years, LSS has served as the hands and feet of Christ, caring for, supporting, and strengthening individuals, families, and communities.

Each year, LSS hosts **South Dakota CARES**, a statewide day of giving that brings South Dakotans together to celebrate impact, share inspiring stories, and maximize generosity through matching gifts. Locally, LSS serves the Black Hills through 12 service programs across 5 locations, offering vital resources such as:

- Affordable mental health care
- Alternatives to detention for youth
- Support for young adults transitioning out of foster care

### How You Can Help:

LSS is in need of individual single serve and snack pack items:

- Ready-to-eat stews/soups, tuna/chicken salad
- Fruit snacks, fruit cups, cup noodles
- Peanut butter packets, cookie/cracker packages

Are you a Thrivent member? This is a great opportunity to apply for a Thrivent Action Grant to support LSS. If you need help with the application, call the church at 605-343-4887.

## Join us for Lent at SCLC

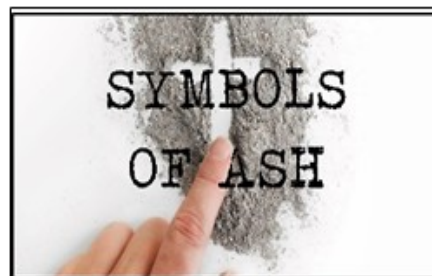
All are invited to participate in worship as we journey through Lent and deepen our faith. Devotional booklets are available to pick up.

Worship: Saturday at 5:30 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am, Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon and 6:00 pm



### Lenten Weekend Worship Series

The story of Lent, the story of our faith, is a story of messy middles and nuanced surprises. So this Lent, we are remembering that faith is more complex than this or that, black or white, true or false storytelling. This Lent, we are guided by the Gospel of Luke to find God and to stretch our own understanding beyond the twofold, easy answers our world so often gives. Join us this Lent as we look at everything in between.



### Midweek Lenten Series

Wednesdays  
Through April 9  
Based on a book by  
Chris Paavola

There is power in touch. Like touching the bread and wine of communion, or touching the waters of baptism, the ash of Ash Wednesday provides an opportunity for us to tangibly interact with our faith. This Lenten season we will interact with the seven Biblical uses and symbols of ash that will both challenge and comfort our faith. The whole community is invited to be a part of these midweek services.

# thrivent®

See the Thrivent Action Teams in use. Last month the church was able to use the Thrivent Action Teams to purchase food items for Stevens and Central High School, help with high school free lunch and provide fleece for the blankets for our youth's Love Thy Neighbor Wednesday Night Project.



# thrivent®

If you are a Thrivent member and would like to learn how you can help sponsor a project, contact the church office at 605-343-4887

# ***Congratulations to our 1st Communicants!***

**Aeva      Colton**  
**Zoey      Chase**  
**Avery      Ayla**

On February 22, the 1st Communicants and their families gathered for a meal and to learn about Holy Communion as well as decorate their chalices and make bread. A bread tasting survey was held between three different types of communion bread with flat bread being named the favorite. The bread that was made has been used in worship. Thank you to everyone who helped with this important milestone.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEDNESDAY MEALS

5:00 - 5:45pm

- April 2 - Chicken Marsala
- April 9 - Mexican Night
- April 16 - NO Meal or Worship
- April 23 - Meatloaf
- April 30 - Gizzy's Pizza Party

Each week we also have lettuce salad, veggies, desserts, and hot dogs.

Meals on Wednesday nights is a time to reconnect with your family, church family and meet new people! Come join us!!!



## High School Free Lunch

Tuesday, April 29

We will be serving a Loaded Potato Bar with hearty & flavorful toppings, veggie trays with dip, and of course, our phenomenal homemade desserts made by our talented congregation members. We enjoyed having School of Mines volleyball players who joined us as we served breakfast for lunch in March. A few of the School of Mines students athletes will return in April, but we need several volunteers to cover both shifts. Please look for the sign up sheet in the Koinonia Room or talk with Diane.

Thank you!

## Save the Dates!!!!

VBS - June 23-26

Open to children Pre-school through 5th grade

\*Many volunteers also needed. Contact Miss Mona for more information



## Easter Plants

Easter plants are available to order now. Grab a postcard on the table in the back of the sanctuary and turn into the office, purchase online through our website or contact the office at 605-343-4887. Orders need to be placed by April 14. Cost: \$15



LOSD SUMMER 2025

**GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR**

*LO Day Camp is returning to SCLC!*

July 7 - 9 - All Day

For kids going into 1st - 6th Grades Fall '25  
1/2 Day Preschool option also available

## Piecemakers

The Piecemakers have been generously blessed with gifts of fabric! As a result, we are working on cleaning and organizing our closets. We have boxes of fabric pieces that need to be cut into squares. Even if you can't come on Thursday mornings, this would be a way to be a part of our group. Several bags are on our stand next to the entry going downstairs. Thanks to all of you who have been taking fabric home to cut and sew!

## Stavkirke Scholarship

Chapel in the Hills has established the *Stavkirke Scholarship*. This scholarship is for graduating students in the Black Hills area who will be attending a South Dakota secondary institution.

An application form is available online at

[www.chapel-in-the-hills.org](http://www.chapel-in-the-hills.org) or see Miss Mona or Teri or Mandy in the church office. Applications must be received by April 15, 2025.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

Beginning in May  
Must be 16 years old

**MEN: PLAY TUESDAY  
LADIES: PLAY MONDAY  
FEE: \$30**

Sign up in the Koinonia Room  
For more information Contact Butch  
or Call the church office

OFFICE: 605-343-4887

**SWING**



**Thrivent Community Action Cards**

Did you know that most Thrivent members have two opportunities to help their community in a year? These might include helping with snacks for area schools, yarn for prayer shawls, free lunch supplies, VBS and many other ideas. Please check in with Kristi or Pastor Deb on the various ideas to help with events at church too!



**GOLF SEASON IS STARTING!**

TUESDAY NIGHTS BEGINNING IN MAY. COME WHENEVER YOU CAN OR EVERY WEEK!  
SIGN UP IN THE KOINONIA ROOM OR CONTACT THE OFFICE.

(605) 343-4887



**OUTLAW RANCH EVENTS AND RETREATS**



**Easter Vigil**  
April 19, 2025

Led by Pastors Jeremy Duprey and Laura Beall

The Easter Vigil service is a celebration of Jesus' passage from death to life using deep symbols (new fire, spreading light, waters of baptism, etc.) and profound stories (creation, flood, dry bones, etc.) that proclaim God's salvation and love! We will explore these symbols and stories in creative ways at Outlaw Ranch. If the weather is nice we will be moving around the camp, so bring your outdoor shoes and walking sticks. This vigil will be an interactive experience for children/students and their families, and anyone else who joins us in the celebratory fun!

Lunch will begin at noon. The interactive service will be from 1-3.  
Cost is \$15.00 (includes lunch)

To register contact Outlaw Ranch: 605-673-4040  
or register online at <https://www.losd.org/easter-vigil>



**KIDS FAIR**  
Youth & Family Services

**APRIL 5-6**  
**VOLUNTEER!**

Use your time to support kids and families in our community.

Volunteers are needed to help with:  
★ Ticket sales ★ Line control ★ Staffing attractions  
★ Face painting ★ Monitoring doors ★ And more!

Volunteers need only be 13 years or older. To learn more or to sign up today, contact YFS at (605) 342-4195 or scan the code to sign up online.

[www.YouthAndFamilyServices.org](http://www.YouthAndFamilyServices.org)  
Proceeds from Kids Fair are used to support YFS programs.



**Welcome**

We are excited to introduce Mandy Mertes as the newest member of the South Canyon Lutheran Church team! Mandy has joined us as a part-time member of our office team.

Born and raised in Rapid City, Mandy and her husband, Nathan, recently moved out of town, expanding their family with horses and chickens—a true reflection of their love for the outdoors and a more rural lifestyle.

Mandy and Nathan are the proud parents of two children, Owen (14) and Paisley (11), both of whom are active participants in Saturday night worship. We're grateful for their dedication to our worship services and look forward to the continued contributions of this wonderful family.



# Director of Worship



April 2025



I am stunned that it is April and our program year is drawing to a close. April 30<sup>th</sup> is our last Wednesday worship which means it's Pizza Party Time! in honor of Gizzy's love of pizza. But before we celebrate with pizza, there is much happening in April.

Wednesday Lenten Services continue through April 9 with a light lunch following the noon service and our 5:00 p.m. fellowship and dinner preceding the 6:00 p.m. service.

Kid's Choir's last rehearsal will be April 25. (Remember that the 4<sup>th</sup> is an early out day so we will meet at 1:45 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and at 3:45 on the 11<sup>th</sup>.)

## HOLY WEEK

Our **Lenten Cantata** Sunday is **April 13<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday**. Come and celebrate the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and then remember the grace and love shown to us through the story of the crucifixion. This service in song is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to worship.

There is **no Wednesday Worship, April 16**, during Holy Week. Both the **Maundy Thursday, April 17, and Good Friday, April 18**, worship services are at **7:00 p.m.** Journey with us as we gather in the "Upper Room" (Fellowship Hall) to celebrate fellowship and communion and then head to the sanctuary to experience the arrest of Jesus in the Garden for the Maundy Thursday service. Then come on Good Friday as we remember the crucifixion of our Lord through scripture and song.

There is **no regular Saturday 5:30 worship on April 19**. Instead, the congregation is invited to travel through the **Easter Vigil Stations** displayed throughout the main floor of the church. The interactive stations are designed for reflective meditation for individuals or thoughtful enlightenment for families and children. The church will be open between **2:00 – 6:00 p.m.** for you to experience this unique opportunity of reflection.

**Celebrate the Risen Lord April 20** with communion at either of our **Easter Sunday services; 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** The sanctuary will be decorated with Easter lilies, spring flowers and new banners, there will be special music and the procession of the cross. Easter flowers are available for purchase on Realm or stop by the church office during the week to pay for your flowers.

**DAKOTA Choral UNION**  
Celebrating 40 years of performance in the Black Hills

# INTO THE LIGHT

A Dakota Choral Union Spring Concert  
Featuring winners of the 2025 Young Vocal Artists Competition  
Artistic Director & Conductor | Ellen Shirley  
Collaborative Pianist | Andrew Belsaas

**3:00 pm, Sunday, April 27, 2025**  
South Canyon Lutheran Church  
700 S. 44th St, Rapid City, SD

\$10 at the door. Free for Children 18 & under and students with school ID.  
dakotachoralunion.org

This project is partially funded by the Rapid City Arts Council in partnership with the City of Rapid City.

I'd also like to invite you to the Dakota Choral Union's final concert of the season Sunday, April 27, at 3:00 p.m. at SCLC. Even though I try to separate the messages of church music from most of the music I program for the Dakota Choral Union concerts, I consider several pieces on this program an extension of the music we heard on Palm Sunday and Easter. The program also features members of our Hand Bell choir and the winners of the Young Vocal Artists Competition that was held here on Saturday, March 22. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Children and students are free.

## Save the Date

**May 18, 2025 following worship**  
**Reports due to church office by April 25th**

Mark your calendar for our semi-annual meeting! We will have a great time learning about all of the ministries of our congregation as well as electing Council members and other fun stuff. We may even have food to follow. Whoo hoo!!!

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## It's Call Process Time Again

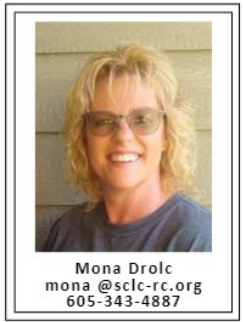
The Council has approved moving forward in calling an Associate Pastor to serve at SCLC. Thank you to those who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee: **Tim Shirley, Larry Thompson, Jim Haar, Joleen Wilson, Eric Porisch, Nichole Morse and Pastor Deb.**





# Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

## April Activities



### Spark Sunday - 10:05am

Pre-K (4 yrs old) to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** - Holy Week with **Easter Egg**

**Hunt after Class**

13<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday - **No Classes**

20<sup>th</sup> - Easter - **No Classes**

27<sup>th</sup> - Last Spark Sunday School

### Whirly Wednesday - 6:40pm

Pre-K (4 yrs old) to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Parable of the Lost Sheep

9<sup>th</sup> - Holy Week

16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Break - **No Classes**

23<sup>rd</sup> - He Has Risen!

30<sup>th</sup> - Last Wednesday Night- Gizzy Pizza Party



### Middle School Youth Group - 6:40pm Wednesday (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Love Thy Neighbor Community Care Project - Making Crosses

9<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Campfire Conversations/8<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social with HS

16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Break - **No Classes**

23<sup>rd</sup> - Prayer Journals

30<sup>th</sup> - Last Wednesday Night- GIZZY Pizza Party



### High School Youth Group - 6:40 Wednesday (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Bible Study

9<sup>th</sup> - Ice Cream Social with 8th Grade 6:40/Youth Board 7:30pm

13<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Break - **No Classes**

23<sup>rd</sup> - Campfire Conversations

30<sup>th</sup> - Last Wednesday Night- GIZZY Pizza Party



### 9th Grade Confirmation - 6:40 Wednesday

Your meeting times for **April** are: the **2nd** is Learning Night led by Eric, **9th** is quilt tying night with Mentor & Parents, **13th** - Pancake Breakfast, **16th** - Easter Break **No Classes**, **23rd** is Celebration and Presentation of Faith Statement Projects with Parents and Mentors, **27th** is **Affirmation of Baptism**, **30th** is the Last Wednesday Night - GIZZY Pizza Party!

### SPECIAL EVENTS:



**Sunday, April 6th** Easter Egg Hunt Ages Pre-K to 5th Grade

**Sunday, April 13th** Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, April 27th** Affirmation of Baptism/Cinnamon-Caramel Rolls

### Future Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, May 4th:** 2025 Senior Breakfast at 10:00 hosted by the Junior Class of SCLC

# Greetings from Friend-Ship Preschool! Here are some things we have been up to for the month of March:

Our Preschool 3s class has been exploring space for the past several weeks. Our students are out of this world!



Pre-Kindergarten has been learning all about the pond habitat! We have been creating pond murals that include all of God's pond creatures.



Friend-Ship Preschool is registering for the 2025-2026 school year!! Please check out our website, [www.friendshippreschoolslc.com](http://www.friendshippreschoolslc.com) for additional information on registering. To set up a tour, please call the church office. We look forward to meeting you!

# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm-Bell Choir	2 7:30am-Men's Bible Study <b>12noon - Lent Worship</b> 5pm-Meal-Chicken Marsala 6pm - Worship 7:10pm-Sanctuary Choir	3 9am-Piecemakers	4 1:45 - Kid's Choir	5 5:30pm-Worship
6 9am-Worship (live streamed) 10am - Spark Sunday School with Egg Hunt to follow	7 1pm-2:30pm Staff Meeting  6pm-DCU practice	8  6:30pm-Bell Choir	9 7:30am-Men's Bible Study 9am-Elizabeth Circle Bible <b>12noon - Lent Worship</b> 5pm-Meal-Mexican Night 6pm - Worship 6:40pm-Whirly Wednesday 7:10pm-Sanctuary Choir	10 9am-Piecemakers	11  3:45 - Kid's Choir	12 9-11am- Cantata Practice  5:30pm-Worship with communion
13 Palm Sunday 9am-Worship with Choir Cantata (Live Streamed) 10am - Pancake Breakfast No Spark Sunday School	14 1pm-2:30pm Staff Meeting  6pm-DCU practice	15  6pm - Church Council Meeting 6:30pm-Bell Choir	16 7:30am-Men's Bible Study  No Wednesday meal, worship or activities 7:10pm-Sanctuary Choir	17 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  9am-Piecemakers  <b>7pm - Worship with communion</b>	18 <b>Good Friday</b>   <b>7pm - Worship</b>	19 8:30am-Book Club   2pm-6pm Easter Vigil Stations
20 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9am-Worship with communion (Live Streamed) 11am - Worship with communion No Spark Sunday School	21 <b>Easter Monday</b> Office & Building Closed  6pm-DCU practice	22  6:30pm-Bell Choir	23 7:30am-Men's Bible Study 5pm-Meal-Meatloaf 6pm - Worship 6:40pm-Whirly Wednesday	24 9am-Piecemakers	25  3:34 - Kid's Choir	26 8:30-11am DCU Practice  5:30pm-Worship with communion
27 9 am-Worship (live streamed) with communion Affirmation of Baptism 10am - <b>Last</b> Spark Sunday School  3pm- DCU concert at SCLC	28 1pm-2:30pm Staff Meeting	29	30 7:30am-Men's Bible Study 5pm-Meal-Gizzy's Pizza Party 6pm - Worship 6:40pm- <b>Last</b> Whirly Wednesday 7:10pm-Sanctuary Choir			



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700 44th Street,  
Rapid City, SD 57702

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Website: [www.sclc-rc.org](http://www.sclc-rc.org)

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## April 2025 SCLC Canyon News

### South Canyon Lutheran Church

700 44th St.  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-343-4887  
[info@sclc-rc.org](mailto:info@sclc-rc.org)  
The office is open  
Monday-Thursday,  
9 AM to 4 PM  
Fridays 9 AM to Noon



**Pastor Deb Grismer**, Senior Pastor

**Ellen Shirley**, Director of Worship & Music

**Kristi Wellendorf**, Office Manager

**Mona Drolc**, Children, Youth & Family Ministry

**Teri Belton**, Admin Assistant

**Mandy Mertes**, Admin Assistant

**Michelle Gab**, Kitchen Coordinator

## CONTACT information



**Marsha Mertes**, Pianist

**Mary Weidenbach**, Choir Accompanist

**Lori Brey**, Nursery Attendant

**Mark Meier**, Custodian

### Friend-Ship Preschool

Phone: 605-343-4887  
Fax: 605-355-0435  
[info@sclc-rc.org](mailto:info@sclc-rc.org)

**Preschool 3's** - 8:45 AM 11:15 AM

**Pre-Kindergarten 3 day:**  
M, W, F - 8:45 AM to 12 PM

**Pre-Kindergarten 5 day:**  
M-F - 8:45 AM to 12 PM

### Friend-Ship Preschool Staff

**Rana Holland**, Preschool Director

**Julie Kokesh**, Preschool Teacher

**Laura Mason**, Preschool Teacher

**Dawn Dockter**, Preschool Teacher

### *Ministry of the Month*

Lutheran Social Services

April 2025

**LET US KNOW IF YOU NO  
LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE  
A PAPER NEWSLETTER  
CALL 605-343-4887 or  
email: [info@sclc.org](mailto:info@sclc.org)**